



PLAINEDGE

0% TAX LEVY INCREASE

PRESS

Budget 2021
#WEAREPLAINEDGE

WWW.PLAINEDGESCHOOLS.ORG

A Message from the Board of Education & Superintendent of Schools

Dear Plainedge Community,

This year more than ever showed how our community, faculty, staff, and students came together as a family to respond to an unforeseen and devastating global crisis. We were in this together from the very beginning. Our goal is for every student to achieve success and be prepared for the future beyond our doors.

We are proud that our schools remained open for the entire 2020-2021 school year throughout the pandemic. We safely took incremental steps to return all students to in-person learning and operate extracurricular activities, sports, music performances, and other celebratory events. Our elementary students were in-person full time since day 1, while our secondary students transitioned from hybrid learning to full time in-person by March. We continue to amend our practices as we stay abreast of health and safety protocols to continue to afford every opportunity for our students to excel and partake in school activities.

The 2021-2022 proposed school district budget is \$97,640,675. This is in effect a budget to budget increase of 0%. The Board remains sensitive to the tax burden on the community, and the proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of 0%, which was under the initial New York State tax levy cap of 1.52%. There will be **NO Additional Tax Increase** for the Plainedge community this year. The budget addresses the priorities established for our students while remaining fiscally accountable to the community.

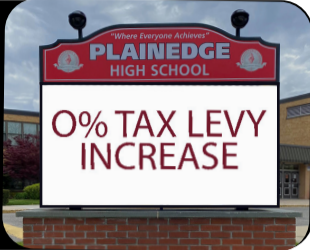
Propositions 2 and 3 expend funds from capital reserves to improve facilities, which carries **NO Additional Tax Increase** for Plainedge Residents.

Students continue to be at the heart of the proposed budget, which supports advanced practices and program enhancements while maintaining small class sizes. Our commitment to mental health with our Northwell Initiative coupled with our social-emotional learning programs continue to support all children in our schools. We are also expanding opportunities for special education students with additional classes, increased support staff and enhancements to our elective programs.

To learn more about the budget and propositions, please visit www.plainedgeschools.org. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you at the polls on May 18, 2021.

Catherine Flanagan, President
Raymond Paris, Vice President
Jennifer Maggio, Trustee
Dr. Lynnda Nadien, Trustee
Dr. Joseph Netto, Trustee
Sonny Spagnuolo, Trustee
Sisi Townson, Trustee
Dr. Edward A Salina, Jr., Superintendent

PREPARING OUR LEADERS OF TOMORROW



Highlights of 2021-2022 Budget

- 0% Tax Levy increase
- Enhance instructional technology through digital platforms
- Continue to support our multi-year literacy program and the Next Generation Science Curriculum with an emphasis on interdisciplinary student experiences
- Continued support of teacher professional development opportunities in curriculum and technology integration
- Expansion of science research in high school and college courses including AP Physics C and Applications of Biotechnology
- Continue to support our mobile device 1:1 program for our K-12 students
- Addition of Advisory Program at our nationally recognized Essential Elements Schools-to-Watch Middle School
- Preserves small class sizes (among lowest in Nassau County)
- Creation of state-of-the-art STREAM Advanced Research Center at PHS (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art, Math)
- Expansion of STEAM/STREAM and robotic opportunities for K-12 and Astronomy for K-5
- Expansion of Greenhouse and Tower Garden experiences for K-8 with a new addition of a middle school greenhouse
- Expansion and development of our Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) program and addition of ICT high school courses (Chemistry and Algebra 2)
- Expansion of STARS Morning and Afternoon Enrichment Academies, Summer Enrichment, and Summer Remedial

Approval of Proposition 2: Use of Capital Reserves = \$5,165,798



Approval of Proposition 2:
NO ADDITIONAL COST to the taxpayer allows the District to expend \$5,165,798 from Capital Reserve Funds:

- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS:
- Plainedge High School STREAM Advanced Research Center (Research, Robotics, STREAM)
 - Plainedge High School Athletics - Mens and Ladies Bathrooms/Showers
 - Plainedge High School All Purpose Turf Field (Outfield and Practice Field)
 - Plainedge Middle School Greenhouse
 - Eastplain Elementary Gymnasium Air Conditioning
 - Charles E. Schwarting Gymnasium Air Conditioning
 - John H. West Gymnasium Air Conditioning

Approval of Proposition 3: Use of Capital Reserves = \$1,012,856

Approval of Proposition 3:
NO ADDITIONAL COST to the taxpayer allows the District to expend \$1,012,856 from Capital Reserve Funds:

- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS:
- Plainedge Middle School Field Lighting
 - Plainedge High School Signage in Front of the Building
 - Plainedge High School Theater Sound and Lighting Upgrades
 - Security System Upgrades (video, access, signage)



PLAINEDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
241 Wyngate Drive
North Massapequa, NY 11758

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Bethpage, NY, 11714
PERMIT NO. 18

District Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

6:00 AM - 9:00 PM

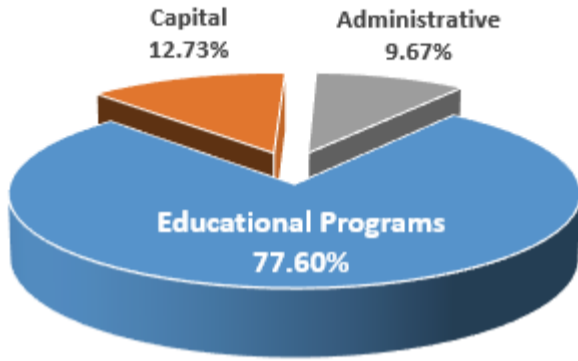
Plainedge High School Gymnasium

Proposed Budget Expenditures 2021-2022



Plainedge TV Studio

2021-2022 Proposed Budget Expenditures



* Transfer to Capital: \$2,229,071

Capital Fund transfer to finance asbestos abatement/floor replacement at Plainedge High School, Plainedge Middle School, Charles E. Schwarting Elementary School, John H. West Elementary School, Eastplain Elementary School as well as continuation of the Plainedge High School Window Project

What's On the Ballot?

For this election, residents will vote on the following:

- **Proposition 1:** The proposed 2021-2022 school budget
- **Proposition 2:** The proposal to expend capital reserve funds for districtwide facility upgrades
- **Proposition 3:** The proposal to expend funds from the Capital Reserve Fund III - Safety and Security reserves
- **Proposition 4:** The proposed 2021-2022 Plainedge Public Library Budget
- **Board of Education Trustees:** The election of three members to the Plainedge School District Board of Education
- **Plainedge Public Library Board Trustee:** The election of one member to the Plainedge Library Board

ADMINISTRATION/PROGRAM SUPPORT

	Proposed Budget 2021-2022	Current Budget 2020-2021
Board of Education	169,839	160,543
Central Administration	712,212	676,708
Finance	979,577	970,072
Legal	68,495	66,500
Central Services	178,636	100,124
Central Data Processing	926,908	810,613
Curriculum Development and Program Supervision	695,248	696,427
Building Supervision	2,971,690	2,938,050
Special Items	897,596	889,979
Employee Benefits	1,844,070	1,785,917

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION

\$9,444,271

\$9,094,933

PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

Teaching	30,347,109	30,377,439
Special Education	13,502,880	13,365,971
English Language Learners/Occupational Education	1,142,184	628,862
Special Schools	378,270	375,600
Instructional Media and Technology	2,740,905	2,782,211
Guidance/Testing Services	1,457,451	1,500,819
Health Services/Nurses	475,892	466,489
Psychological/Social Workers	1,214,855	1,159,292
Co-Curricular Activities	475,267	475,405
Interscholastic Athletics	1,080,005	1,066,606
Pupil Transportation	3,572,788	3,422,766
Legal	68,495	66,500
Community Service	771,355	813,100
Transfer to other Funds	155,000	155,000
Employee Benefits	18,384,775	18,279,355

TOTAL PROGRAM

\$75,767,231

\$74,935,415

CAPITAL PROGRAM

Operations and Maintenance	7,155,604	7,134,899
Debt Service	1,804,058	4,618,958
Transfer to Capital Fund (Capital Projects)*	2,229,071	500,000
Employee Benefits	1,240,440	1,220,063

TOTAL CAPITAL

\$12,429,173

\$13,473,920

TOTAL BUDGET

\$97,640,675

\$97,504,268

Questions & Answers

Q: What does the budget support?

A: The proposed budget preserves all curricular and co-curricular programs and athletic teams and also includes numerous new project-based learning initiatives.

This includes:

- Curriculum & technology integration
- Expansion of educational programs including more than 20 new elective courses implemented over the last five years
- Increased opportunities & enhancements in STEAM/STREAM & Robotics (K-12)
- Professional development
- Enhancement of all school facilities & athletic fields
- Teachers College Readers & Writers Workshop (K-8)
- The purchase of athletic supplies and equipment
- Additional mental health supports
- Increased special education staff & services
- 1:1 technology devices for all students & staff
- Supports Music & the Arts

Q: How does the district save on costs?

A: The District continually looks for efficiency. We utilize Nassau BOCES for many of our purchases resulting in cost savings and significant additional revenue in the form of State Aid. When possible, the District utilizes Cooperative Governmental bids for goods and services. We maximize savings through E-Rate, which provides discounts for telecommunication, Internet access, and internal connections. The District maintains a strong Aa2 bond rating.

Q: How is the tax levy limit calculated and why is our limit lower this year?

A: There is an eight-step formula for determining the tax levy limit and it takes several factors into account. Decreases in the Consumer Price Index, Tax Base Growth Factor, Capital Tax Levy and an increase in projected PILOTs specifically impacted this year's tax levy limit.

Q: Will there be in-person voting?

A: Yes, voting will be held in-person in the High School gymnasium on May 18th. Absentee ballots are only available by request. Please see "Voter Eligibility and Registration" for details.

2021-2022 Board of Education Elections

District residents will be asked to elect three individuals to the Board of Education, each for a term of three years beginning July 1, 2021. Board of Education Trustees are unpaid volunteers elected by the residents of the Plainedge Community.

Candidates for Seat 1



Dr. Lynnda Nadien (Incumbent)

Dr. Lynnda Nadien has served as a Plainedge School Board Trustee for the past three years. She and her family have lived in Plainedge for twenty years. Dr. Nadien has made service her signature and firmly believes all children deserve the best possible educational experiences to enhance their opportunities for future accomplishments.

Dr. Nadien has been an educator for more than 30 years, and has received on-going recognition for her work related to character education, literacy, and multicultural education. She is currently an elementary school principal and serves on the Advisory Board for SUNY Old Westbury and the Alumni Board at Nassau Community College. She is a published author, a college radio host at 90.3 WHPC, and an adjunct professor at SUNY Old Westbury. Dr. Nadien received her Mental Health First Aide Certificate in October of 2020.

Dr. Nadien takes pride in her work as a school board member and seeks opportunities to advance her skills by continuing to participate in workshops and presentations offered by the New York State School Boards Association. Being well prepared for a board position by keeping informed of the latest educational practices and mandates is a fundamental requisite to achieving success on a school board.

Dr. Nadien will continue to work with the community at large to foster dialogue that enables the best educational opportunities for every child and a safe and healthy school environment. As we navigate the future of our school systems nationwide, Dr. Nadien is committed to keeping the Plainedge schools on the path to full achievement for all children, families and the community.



Keith Gambetta

Keith Gambetta has been a resident of the district since 2001. He has more than 30 years of community business and public sector experience. He and his wife Rachel have three children currently attending Plainedge Union Free School District.

Mr. Gambetta has previous experience working with a variety of small businesses, large corporations and municipal employers. He has been identified by others as a team player and as someone that comes to sound decisions and actions based on facts and data; for being transparent, impartial and accountable to those he serves. His collaborative approach to problem solving has afforded him positions in compliance and financial assessment.

Mr. Gambetta believes that the role of the board of education is to ensure that the administration operates in a manner that reflects sound and cost-efficient management principles with the goal of ensuring that all students are provided an equal opportunity to learn and thrive. He believes it is our duty as parents and community members to be committed to creating an education system that promotes effective delivery of education services. He will not hesitate to ask the hard questions for the constituents that the board serves.

Candidates for Seat 2



Dr. Joseph Netto (Incumbent)

For the past 15 years, Dr. Joseph Netto has been a proud resident of the Plainedge School District. He has served on the Board of Education for the last 4 years and is seeking reelection so that he can continue to work with his fellow volunteer Trustees to create outstanding educational opportunities for all students in the district.

Originally from Westchester, Dr. Netto and his wife Marie didn't search for long when they were looking for a place to raise their family. Marie, a Long Island educator, grew up in North Massapequa and has fond memories of her time in the Plainedge schools. As a father to Plainedge Middle School student, Michela, and Schwarting Elementary student, James, Dr. Netto can often be found on the sidelines cheering his children and all of their teammates on as they play soccer, baseball, basketball, tennis or volleyball.

Dr. Netto is a certified School Psychologist who holds a Ph.D. in Clinical and School Psychology from Hofstra University. In his career as an educator, Dr. Netto has worked for the last 15 years in a reputable Long Island school district as an integral member of the mental health team. He serves on his district's Professional Development Advisory Committee, and he has led numerous workshops for staff, parents, and aspiring educators on a range of topics related to mental health and social emotional learning. Additionally, Dr. Netto is an adjunct professor at both Brooklyn College and Hofstra University where he leads newly certified educational professionals in the New York State workshop on the Dignity for All Students Act.

Dr. Netto is passionate about providing an exceptional education for all students while maintaining fiscal accountability. This mission has been the guiding force behind many of the initiatives, programs, and policies that the current Board of Education has supported and approved. Throughout his time on the Board, Dr. Netto has been a champion and advocate for the needs of every Plainedge student and community member. A compassionate and empathetic listener by trade and character, Dr. Netto welcomes dialogue with his fellow community members in order to make Plainedge the best district for all students.

As a school psychologist, Dr. Netto understands how schools work, and he has been instrumental in bringing significant improvements to Plainedge. An award winning partnership with Northwell Health that focuses on the mental well-being of our children, elementary class size caps, full time ICT in all elementary schools, and top notch security and facility upgrades are just a few of the ways that Dr. Netto has helped enhance our schools. He has been proud to serve as a board member in a community where his wife has been a lifelong resident, and where his children are receiving such a wonderful education. Dr. Netto's dedication to Plainedge is unwavering, and he would be honored to continue to represent this community on Plainedge's Board of Education.



Daniel Murray

Mr. Murray has been a resident of the Plainedge Community for 18 yrs. He is retired from Federal Law Enforcement and has 2 kids in PHS. He has been a coach in PYBL and CYO basketball. He has advocated for all students and athletes to be given opportunities. He is running for the BOE Trustee position on the platform of transparency and accountability. He believes the community should have more of a role in the direction of key issues that impact students and athletes. Communication has always been a vital key in every relationship and the BOE and the Administration need to make every effort to get the message out to the community that it serves and listen to the community's concerns. If elected, it would be an honor and privilege to serve the Plainedge Community and work to make Plainedge the best it can be.

Candidates for Seat 3



Sisi Townson (Incumbent)

Sisi Townson has served as a Plainedge School Board Trustee for the past six years. She is a 19-year Plainedge resident and the mother of a child in the high school. She is a first generation immigrant who came to the United States at the age of 8 and acquired a love of learning from her teachers. Ms. Townson began her career in a corporate travel agency and is now the co-owner of a highly successful, woman-owned, Long Island travel entertainment business. This has provided Ms. Townson great insight into running an organization and as a result, her success was featured in USA Today in 2002. Ms. Townson's knowledge in business has been instrumental in guiding her in her role as a Board Trustee to balance both fiscal and educational accountability with the goal of providing the very best educational programs for the children of Plainedge.

Ms. Townson served as the Charles E. Schwarting Elementary School PTA President and Plainedge Middle School PTA President, and on multiple PTA Committees. Today, she continues to serve in her capacity as a Board Trustee and as a member of the Board of Education Policy Review Committee. Along with balancing both her family life and business life, she is committed to her involvement in her church, school, and the community. Ms. Townson has been instrumental in creating awareness about the challenges of implementing the NYSED Next Generation Learning Standards and the deficiencies in the manner that NYS tests our children.

She has been an advocate for creating and expanding educational opportunities for all children in areas such as STEAM, the arts, music, extra-curricular, and athletics. Ms. Townson is dedicated to continuing to advocate for all children and their families, and members of the Plainedge community. She would be honored to continue to serve as a Board of Education Trustee in Plainedge.



Gina Moscato

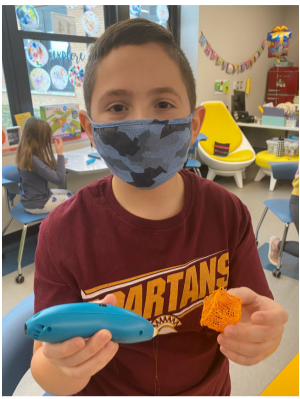
Ms. Moscato, Plainedge alumni class of 93, is a lifelong resident of Plainedge. She and her husband have three children that attend Plainedge High School. She is a Social Worker, LMSW, with 25 years of experience advocating for children's social and emotional growth. Additionally, she has years of experience working with special education students and ensuring their educational needs are met.

As a Board of Education trustee, her focus will be on fiscal responsibility and academics, as well as providing transparency and accountability to the community. She will work tirelessly to enrich extracurriculars, such as sports, music, and fine arts to the betterment of our community.

Ms. Moscato served as PTA President of Schwarting Elementary and Plainedge Middle School. In that capacity, she chaired numerous committees. She was a strong advocate for our athletes and musicians this year. Based on her involvement with her children's schools and activities, she is the embodiment of "Plainedge Pride".



2020-2021 POINTS OF PRIDE



Amazing Achievements

- Plainedge successfully implemented an in-person Extended School Year Program during the summer pandemic of 2020
- Plainedge High School (PHS) students placed second in the National High School Ethics Bowl, beating elite teams from across the region
- A PHS Class of 2021 Advanced Research Program student was named a Regeneron Science Talent Search semifinalist
- PHS Forensics Club designed and implemented a Forensics Challenge
- Two AP Art students participated in the virtual GO APE Art Exhibit
- The District celebrated National Day on Writing and World Read Aloud Day
- Plainedge Middle School (PMS) competed in the Brookhaven National Lab Department of Energy Science Bowl with a semifinal finish
- In a regional competition, the 8th grade Investment Class had five top ten teams
- Math Olympiads successfully participated in virtual contests
- Bright Futures/Career Awareness - All middle and elementary school students participated in activities promoting future career options
- K-5 students participated in the Great Kindness Challenge
- Two students were accepted to NYSMMA All-Eastern and two for All-State
- Three students participated in The Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA) and the New York State Band Directors Association (NYBDA) Festival
- In collaboration with Rocco's Voice and a Plainedge parent, elementary students participated in the Little Big Sister Author Event to celebrate Autism Awareness
- Best Buddies hosted annual events and celebrations virtually
- PHS girls volleyball, football and girls soccer teams have qualified for playoffs and Girls Varsity Soccer are undefeated Conference A2 Champions
- Six winter season teams were recognized as NY State Scholar Athlete teams

District Distinctions

- We reopened all of our schools safely while ensuring continuity of instruction for students both in-person and remotely
- Rolled out over 3,000 devices for our 1:1 program K-12 and our advanced Poly Systems in classrooms for remote and hybrid learning
- Incorporated technology-based instructional tools, including but not limited to, EdPuzzle, FlipGrid, Screencastify, Jamboard, Padlet, Google Slides, Google Docs, Kami, digital book libraries, MyOn, and Google/Zoom Breakout rooms to support individual and group learning for in-person, hybrid, and remote students
- Installed HUDL System in High School & Middle School Gymnasiums & High School Athletic Stadium to live stream athletic events
- Plainedge TV Studio continues to create innovative student productions and presented virtually at a state conference
- Implemented a K-5 Social-Emotional Literacy (SEL) program, Competent Kids Caring Community (CKCC)
- Vocational Counseling Program in the High School - PAES Lab & ACCES-VR
- Out-of-this-world experiences for Grades K-5 with our Astronomy program through STEAM
- Continued to expand and support the District's STEAM programs (ex. - animation and video game creations) and Robotics initiatives
- Mindfulness Health Curriculum continues to be a districtwide focus
- Offered virtual field trips K-12 and virtual college fairs and visits
- Plainedge received the award for **What is Great in Our State** from the New York State Office of Mental Health through our Northwell Mental Health Partnership
- Plainedge School District was awarded a BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION 2021 by the NAAM foundation, for the second consecutive year



Voter Eligibility and Registration

If you are registered to vote with the Nassau County Board of Elections or with the school district, you are eligible to vote in the 2021-2022 School District Budget and Board Election. Residents may register any school day until May 13, 2021 (five days before the vote) 9:00 AM-3:30 PM at the Central Administration Office, located at 241 Wyngate Drive, North Massapequa. For further information, call the District Clerk's Office at (516) 992-7450.

In order to vote in the School District Budget and Board Election, a person must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or older
- A resident of the district for 30 days prior to voting
- A registered voter in either the school district, state or national elections

Absentee Ballots

The submission of absentee ballot applications must be received by the District Clerk seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter (May 11, 2021), or the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person (May 17, 2021). For further information, call the District Clerk's Office at (516) 992-7450.

Kindergarten Registration

Did you register for kindergarten? You can still register your child for kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. Children must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2021. Registration forms are available at www.plainedgeschools.org and all elementary schools. Please call (516) 992-7450 if you have questions.

Remember to Vote!

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 • 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM Plainedge High School Gymnasium

Follow Us!

#WeArePlainedge



The Plainedge Board of Education

Catherine Flanagan, President

Raymond Paris, Vice President

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