

VOTE!

BY JUNE 9, 2020

ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY • NO IN-PERSON VOTING

Dear Neighbors,

We hope you and your families are safe and well. Although the current pandemic has been challenging for all of us, we have come together as a community in so many ways to support one another during these unprecedented times.

Throughout the extended school closure, the District has maintained ongoing contact with the members of our wonderful community, initiated remote instruction for all students, arranged childcare for healthcare workers and first responders, and provided daily meals for those in need. In all ways possible, we have attempted to provide a sense of “normalcy” during a period in all of our lives that is both frightening and isolating.

The District and the Board of Education quickly shifted all of our public meetings to a livestream format in an effort to keep the community informed of educational and budgetary decisions.

Per Governor Cuomo’s Executive Orders, the budget vote that was originally planned for May 19 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 9. As previously communicated, in-person voting is not permitted this year. Instead, all qualified voters will receive an absentee ballot via mail. The ballot will include a postage-paid and addressed envelope for you to easily return your completed ballot. Please note that all ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on June 9 in order to be counted.

The Board of Education and District Administration remained hard at work on the proposed 2020–2021 budget throughout the school closure. We are pleased to present a budget to the community that not only maintains all of the wonderful programs and services that you have come to expect from us as a premier school district, but provides the critical resources necessary to address learning both during and in the wake of the current pandemic.

Unfortunately, as of this writing, we are unsure if schools will reopen in the fall. The proposed budget includes provisions for us to manage the unknown during the new school year. These expenditures include professional development for staff to address student learning gaps, additional hardware and software to support remote learning, personal protective equipment, and mandated facility and classroom modifications.

The budget-to-budget and tax levy increases are 2.89%, which remains under our maximum allowable tax levy limit of 3.77%. The New York State budget includes a \$74,000 increase in state aid for next year. We will be able to lessen next year’s tax burden by approximately \$3 million by using available funds, including funds held in reserves. We also believe this financial approach allows us to preserve our Aaa credit rating. It is also important to know that Governor Cuomo has made reference to reducing our state aid on a quarterly/periodic basis throughout the 2020–2021 school year due to the pandemic and loss of state revenue, with a possible total reduction of up to 20% (or up to approximately \$2.5 million).

In addition, Proposition 2 will allow us to expend an existing \$2 million from our Long Range Capital Reserve Fund to complete projects at all facilities, without the need for additional tax levies (please see next page for a complete list of projects).

We invite you to learn more about the proposed budget by reviewing the information in this document and visiting our website at www.hewlett-woodmere.net. Please feel free to contact Mr. Louis Frontario at (516) 792-4803 if you have any questions.

Please remember that in-person voting is not permitted, and all ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 9.

Thank you for your continued support of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. We wish you and your families continued good health.

Sincerely, *Hewlett-Woodmere Board of Education*
 Mitchell A. Greebel, *President*; Melissa Gates, *Vice President*
 Paul Critti, Cheryl May, Judy Menashe, Debra Sheinin, Daniela R. Simon



The school budget vote and school board elections will be **BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY**. There is **NO IN-PERSON** voting. The District will mail each qualified voter in Hewlett-Woodmere an absentee ballot with a postage-paid envelope to return the ballot. All ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on June 9, 2020 with the attestation on the envelope signed by the qualified voter.

Estimated Tax Levy Increase: 2.89%*

**Complies with New York State limit. For 2020–2021, the District’s maximum allowable limit is 3.77%.*

Budget-to-Budget Increase: 2.89 %

VOTER INFORMATION

Residents are qualified to vote if they are:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or older
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the election
- No person shall have the right to register for or vote at any school meeting or election who would not be qualified to register for or vote in an election in accordance with the provisions of section 5-106 of the election law.

➔ If you are uncertain about whether you are registered for General Elections, go to <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>

Reminder: there is NO IN-PERSON VOTING

“This document is printed in both English and Spanish in compliance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”