



CHUFSD Approves Budget for 2022-23 School Year; Public Vote to be Held on May 17

CROTON-ON-HUDSON, NY, April 20, 2022 -- The Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District unanimously approved the budget that will be presented to voters for the 2022-23 school year at its meeting last evening. The \$52,672,111 budget involves a proposed tax levy increase of 1.92%, which is within the allowable levy limit and is below the median tax levy increase in Westchester County.

“The budget is developed with the goal of striking a balance between providing an increased range of opportunities to educate, challenge, and support our students across all schools while being cognizant of the needs of our taxpayers,” said Superintendent Stephen Walker. “This budget was also developed with the goal of demonstrating our commitment to continuously look ahead, so that we can seize opportunities and evolve our curriculum and programming to prepare students for their future after they leave our district.”

Among the stated budget themes for this year are to: advance the whole child experience for our students; enhance the professional learning of faculty and staff members; re-envision learning environments; and engage technology to support teaching, learning, and innovation. (See more details about the 2022-23 budget at www.chufsd.org/budget.)

In addition to the budget, the ballot will also include three propositions, as well as the Croton Free Library Budget Vote and the Board of Education Trustee election. A sample ballot can be viewed [here](#). The propositions are as follows:

- Proposition 1: School Budget Proposition for 2022-23 in the amount of \$52,672,111
- Proposition 2: Bus Bond Proposition: To purchase one 66-passenger electric school bus and one 20-passenger mini-bus, at an amount not to exceed \$447,800.
- Proposition 3: Capital Reserve Fund (Transportation): To enable the district to allocate excess fund balance to a new Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$2 million. The creation of this reserve fund will have no tax impact and will allow the district to purchase transportation vehicles in accordance with our fleet replacement plan and make infrastructure upgrades to our transportation department as we move toward an electric transportation fleet. This proposition will not result in additional taxes.
- Proposition 4: Repair Reserve Fund: To authorize the district to allocate up to \$100,000 from our unassigned fund balance, with no tax impact, to a Repair Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding repairs of capital improvements or equipment. This proposition will not result in additional taxes.
- Proposition 5: Croton Free Library Budget Levy in the amount of \$915,861
- Board of Education Candidate Seats: Two (2) School Board Member positions in the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District will be filled by election on May 17, 2022. At that election, voters will select two trustees beginning three-year terms from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. Each position is at-large, to be elected by all participating voters.

“With the New York State budget legislation requiring that all schools in our State purchase only zero-emission vehicles beginning in 2027, this year’s propositions would be consistent with the legislation’s purpose of environmental sustainability and with our district’s continued efforts to transition over time to an electric transportation fleet, by adding a second 66-passenger electric school bus to our fleet, while respecting our community’s taxpayers,” shared Superintendent Walker.

“The input from our school-community stakeholders is integral to the development of our annual budget and the work that we are doing which is focused on providing a high quality education for each and every student,” said Assistant Superintendent for Business Denise Harrington-Cohen.

Voting will take place in person on May 17, 2022, from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Eligible voters will vote at Croton-Harmon High School located at 36 Old Post Road, South. A special registration will be held on

Thursday, April 21, 2022 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 10 Gerstein Street. In addition, this year anyone with concerns related to COVID-19 is eligible to vote by absentee ballot and can request an application for an absentee ballot from the district clerk by emailing tracey.borges@chufsd.org. Note that original copies of applications for absentee ballots must be submitted to the district clerk at least seven days before the vote/election (May 10, 2022) if the ballot will be mailed to the voter and by the day before the vote/election (May 16, 2022) if the ballot will be personally picked up by the voter. Please further note that the absentee ballot must be received by the district clerk by May 17, 2022 by 5:00 PM.