

# Budget News

Winter 2015

## Remember these April dates!

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
12	13	<b>14</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b> Budget Presentation & Meet-the-Candidates			18
26	27	<b>28</b>	<b>BOCES Budget Vote &amp; Election</b>		1	2

The 2015 Annual Meeting of Western Suffolk BOCES will be held at 8 PM on Tuesday, April 14 in the Large Conference Room at BOCES Central Administration, 507 Deer Park Rd., Dix Hills, at which time component board members may ask questions about the BOCES budget. A "Meet the Candidate" session will also be scheduled that evening for board members to listen to and question those seeking to fill two seats on the Western Suffolk BOCES Board.

Board members of the 18 school districts in Babylon, Smithtown, and Huntington townships will vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and elect two members to the BOCES Board on Tuesday, April 28. Voting takes place in each district.

In accordance with state law, each district may cast one vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and one vote for each vacant seat during balloting scheduled in each district. A majority of the boards within this BOCES must vote "yes" for the budget to pass. The two candidates receiving the most votes will serve three-year terms.

**Q**  
**A**

(cont'd from inside)

**Q.** What has impacted the administrative budget?

**A.** The decline in revenues is due to the continued low interest rates on our deposits and a change in how NYSHIP credits refunds for Medicare Part D.

**Q.** What happens if the BOCES administrative budget is defeated?

**A.** The Western Suffolk BOCES Board must adopt a contingency administrative budget that may not exceed the amount in the previous year. Expenditures for health insurance benefits for retirees are exempt.

**Q.** How does a BOCES fund capital projects?

**A.** The BOCES Board must authorize the funds for each specific capital project which are accounted for in the Capital Projects Fund. Unlike local districts, BOCES does not have the authority to issue bonds or to create capital reserve funds to finance unspecified future renovations or other capital projects. BOCES must pay for repairs through annual charges to school districts in the capital budget or through appropriations from program budgets. In general, BOCES capital projects are smaller than those in the local districts.

**Q.** What capital projects are planned?

**A.** Needs vary across the BOCES and the following capital projects that BOCES has planned will address the facility needs in different buildings: lighting renovations, energy conservation initiatives, upgrading of public address and fire alarm systems, renovations of parking lots, window replacements, bathroom renovations and interior wall reconstruction.

The fact that this BOCES owns rather than rents most of our facilities will keep our capital costs below most BOCES in the state.

**Q.** How are program budgets determined?

**A.** Program budgets change throughout the year to accommodate districts' requests for services. Each district pays **ONLY** for the services it requests. For 2015-16, tuition increases for high school students in career and technical education at Wilson Tech and for special education programs will range from 1.3 to 1.6%. BOCES has held the average tuition increase over the past five years to 1.75%.

**Details of the BOCES Budget 2015-16 are posted at [www.wsbores.org/budget](http://www.wsbores.org/budget).**

## Charges/Pupil Among Lowest in NYS

The combined administrative and capital charge per pupil for Western Suffolk BOCES is among the lowest in New York State according to the NYS Education Department's 2013-14 annual summary of BOCES' budgets.

"When the high regional costs on Long Island are considered, it is significant that the combined administrative and capital charge per pupil for this BOCES is below most other BOCES in the state," noted Maryann Zumpano, president of the Western Suffolk BOCES Board.

For copies of the proposed BOCES 2015-2016 Tentative Budget, call 549-4900 x224. Or, go to [www.wsbores.org/budget](http://www.wsbores.org/budget).

## Administrative Charge Up 1.3% due to Reduced Revenues

The Western Suffolk BOCES budget for 2015-16 results in a 1.3% increase in the administrative charge and no increase in the capital charge which is in line with district tax cap data for local school districts. Over the past five years, the average increase of the BOCES administrative charge has been 1.4%.

BOCES reduced the administrative budget for operating costs by 2.5% due to reductions in the costs for the NYS retirement systems for current employees and lower salary costs from staff turnover. Higher costs for the post-retirement benefits of a larger pool of retirees, however, led to an increase in the overall administrative budget. Miscellaneous revenues have continued to decline. The administrative charge, which is analogous to the tax rate in local districts, is set by subtracting revenues from the administrative budget.

Six districts will see declines in their combined administrative and capital charges, the largest decline is \$3,596 in Elwood. Twelve will see increases, the largest increase is \$10,903 in Copiague. This charge is distributed to the districts based on a weighted 3-year average

of their daily student attendance. See page 3 of this newsletter for each district's charge.

### Capital Charge Frozen for 5<sup>th</sup> Year

The capital charge will remain frozen for the fifth year in a row. The capital budget is based on the cost of renting facilities plus the cost of maintaining and repairing BOCES facilities. Owning rather than renting most buildings for BOCES programs has helped control costs in the capital budget.

The BOCES Board will present the budget and answer questions at its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 14 in the Large Conference Room at the Central Administration Office, 507 Deer Park Rd., Dix Hills. By law, the 18 Boards of Education within Western Suffolk BOCES will vote on the BOCES administrative budget April 28 when local boards will also elect two members to serve three-year terms on the BOCES Board.

### 90.5% of Budget Goes to Programs

The total proposed Tentative BOCES budget for 2015-16 is \$155,289,803. Of this, 90.5% is driven by the programs and services that local school districts request. Of the remainder, 2.7% are costs of administration; 4.7% for postretirement benefits; and 2.1% for the capital budget.

## BOCES Contributes to Districts' Efficiency Plans

BOCES efforts to reduce costs will help local districts as they calculate savings for their Government Efficiency Plans. For example, the one-year salary freeze that every BOCES employee has taken has helped BOCES contain administrative charges as well as tuition charges for both career and technical education and special education programs.

Since 2011-12, the estimated reduction in annual costs that BOCES has achieved by reducing the growth of personnel costs including salary and related retirement and social security costs is in excess of \$2.25 million. This represents approximately a 1.8% annual reduction in costs for both administration and program tuitions. BOCES projects the cumulative reduction through 2015-16 to be \$6.6 million.



- ✓ froze salaries for one year for all employees
- ✓ lowered salary tables for new employees
- ✓ reduced the Board's share of health insurance for employees

# Western Suffolk BOCES Budget

Copies of the entire budget including details on the administrative, capital and program budgets are available in the Superintendent's office of each of the component districts; in the office of the BOCES District Clerk; or at: [www.wsbores.org/budget](http://www.wsbores.org/budget).

## Western Suffolk BOCES Board & Officers

Maryann Zumpano  
President

Ilene Herz, Esq.  
Vice President

Mildred Browne  
Sydney Finkelstein  
Salvatore Marinello  
Jeannette Santos  
Peter Wunsch

Michael Flynn  
Chief Operating Officer

Maureen Donohue-Whitley  
District Superintendent



631/549-4900  
[www.wsbores.org](http://www.wsbores.org)

## Administrative & Capital Budgets

	2014-2015	2015-2016	
<b>Central Administration</b>			
<b>Personnel</b>			
Executive Officer	123,263	123,263	
Other certified personnel	412,740	420,778	
Non-certified personnel	1,693,326	1,647,747	
Benefits for active employees	1,194,312	1,104,435	
<b>Non-Personnel</b>			
Equipment	2,500	2,500	
Supplies and materials	20,000	20,000	
Contracted Services	350,275	330,250	
BOCES internal services	565,363	604,698	
Subtotal Central Admin.	\$4,361,779	\$4,253,671	(\$108,108)
<b>Post-Retirement Benefits</b>			
Other Post-Retirement Benefits*	\$7,005,264	\$7,342,532	\$337,268
<b>Total Administrative Budget</b>	<b>\$11,367,043</b>	<b>\$11,596,203</b>	<b>\$229,160</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Charges to Non-Comp. Dist.	115,000	120,000	
Interest on Deposits	125,000	75,000	
Rental of Facilities	3,500	3,500	
Special Aid Funds	35,000	50,000	
Miscellaneous	306,551	180,000	
Total Revenues	585,051	428,500	
Transfers from Program Budgets*	7,005,264	7,342,532	
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>(\$7,590,315)</b>	<b>(\$7,771,032)</b>	<b>(\$180,717)</b>
<b>Total Admin. Charge to Districts</b>	<b>\$3,776,728</b>	<b>\$3,825,171</b>	<b>+\$48,443</b>
<b>Capital Budget</b>			
Rental of Facilities	\$566,000	\$566,000	
Capital Projects Fund	2,635,000	2,635,000	
	3,201,000	3,201,000	
<b>Revenues</b>			
Transfers from Program Budgets	(150,000)	(150,000)	
Unexpended Funds	(500,000)	(500,000)	
<b>Total Capital Charge to Districts</b>	<b>+\$2,551,000</b>	<b>+\$2,551,000</b>	<b>+0</b>

\*The costs for Other Post-Retirement Benefits are funded from program budgets in current/prior years.



The following answers are meant to clarify the most frequently asked questions about the BOCES budget.

**Q.** What are the main parts of the BOCES Budget?

- A.** The BOCES Budget is really three different budgets:
- **Administrative Budget** contains the costs of central administration and the post-retirement benefits for retirees from the agency.
  - **Capital Budget** contains the costs for rental of facilities and the capital projects fund.
  - **Program Budgets** contain all costs associated with staffing the BOCES programs and services that districts request.

**Q.** How much state aid do districts receive for BOCES services?

- A.** Based on last year's use of BOCES services, districts will directly receive \$26.8 million in state aid this year.

**Q.** Why do districts only vote on the administrative portion of the BOCES budget?

- A.** Chapter 295 of the Laws of 1993 specifically limits the vote to the administrative portion.

**Q.** How is my district's share of the Administrative Charge calculated? Why does my share change?

- A.** By agreement with our participating school districts, the charge for the administrative function is distributed among the 18 districts based upon the 3-year average of their Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance. Any change is based on the change in the percentage of a district's student attendance (RWADA) compared to the other 17 districts. Districts with the greatest growth in enrollments may see the largest increases.

(continued on next page)

## What's my district's share?

\*based on 3 year average of Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA)

	BOCES Admin Charges*			BOCES Capital Charges*			Total Change
	2014-15	2015-16	Difference	2014-15	2015-16	Difference	
Amityville	126,256	132,106	5,850	85,280	88,101	2,821	8,671
Babylon	75,119	74,843	(276)	50,740	49,913	(827)	(1,103)
Cold Spring Hbr	84,485	85,213	728	57,066	56,829	(237)	491
Commack	320,946	323,870	2,924	216,784	215,988	(796)	2,128
Copiague	213,234	220,869	7,635	144,029	147,297	3,268	10,903
Deer Park	180,830	185,658	4,828	122,142	123,815	1,673	6,501
Elwood	110,356	108,765	(1,591)	74,540	72,535	(2,005)	(3,596)
Half Hollow Hills	419,066	419,663	597	283,059	279,873	(3,186)	(2,589)
Harborfields	151,409	151,970	561	102,270	101,349	(921)	(360)
Huntington	182,491	184,913	2,422	123,264	123,318	54	2,476
Kings Park	165,798	168,751	2,953	111,989	112,540	551	3,504
Lindenhurst	285,407	287,737	2,330	192,779	191,891	(888)	1,442
North Babylon	206,209	209,688	3,479	139,285	139,841	556	4,035
Npt-East Northport	264,900	265,398	498	178,927	176,993	(1,934)	(1,436)
Smithtown	460,081	462,222	2,141	310,763	308,255	(2,508)	(367)
South Huntington	256,780	264,312	7,532	173,442	176,269	2,827	10,359
West Babylon	187,666	189,755	2,089	126,759	126,547	(212)	1,877
Wyandanch	85,695	89,438	3,743	57,882	59,646	1,764	5,507
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,776,728</b>	<b>\$3,825,171</b>	<b>\$48,443</b>	<b>\$2,551,000</b>	<b>\$2,551,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>48,443</b>

Note: Numbers have been rounded to the nearest dollar.