



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

Dear North Shore Families,

I hope you are well and had a nice weekend.

Thank you for attending the District's many budget talks and Board of Education meetings throughout the year, asking questions, providing feedback, and engaging in a productive dialogue.

Please see a factual summary of the process, highlights and possible outcomes related to the 2024-25 budget, below. The District's sole goal in this process is to preserve the student experience, as efficiently as possible.

Budget Process:

Over the course of the 2023-2024 School Year, the District:

- Began budget planning early (over the summer) due to the loss of \$3.1 Million from LIPA and grant funding this year alone
- Engaged in, **7 BOE budget presentations and over 20 community meetings/listening sessions** related to the budget
- Continued **Community Budget Forums**, created a **Revenue Generation Committee**, and engaged in a **major Budget Review**
- **Visited legislators in Albany** with members of our Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and hosted with LAC and BOE a **Legislative Breakfast** with County & State legislators to secure more support for North Shore

Budget Highlights:

- **North Shore has one of the lowest budget-to-budget increases in Nassau County** (Click [HERE](#)). There are no increases in discretionary spending. The increases are largely due to inflation and mandatory costs (e.g., insurance, heat, fuel, contract services) which all school districts are facing.
- The 2024-25 budget proposes **\$2.5 Million in cuts** (in addition to \$2.7 Million cut last year).
- The District has planned and **uses millions in reserves each year** to help with LIPA revenue loss (**\$4 Million this year alone**).
- LIPA reached an agreement with Nassau County in June 2022 that North Shore was not a party to. **Only then did the District know that LIPA would be off the tax rolls and that it would lose over \$40 Million over 5 years.**

Important Points:

- **The proposed budget maintains current programs for students** (e.g., special education, athletics, and arts) and preserves class sizes at our elementary schools.
- Further cuts would lead to closing classroom sections at the elementary level and eliminating programs at the secondary level (secondary class sizes have already been increased).
- North Shore **does NOT have the highest tax levy** and there is NOT an extra LIPA tax levy. However, without the lost revenue from LIPA and grants this year, the District would have a .3% tax levy.
- North Shore is **under the tax cap by \$1.5 Million this year** like last year (under the cap by more than 53 of the 56 districts)
- The tax rate in North Shore is lower than many neighboring districts (Click [HERE](#))
- North Shore does NOT have the highest cost per pupil in Nassau County or on LI (Click [HERE](#)).
 - Costs per pupil are often higher in smaller districts since they have many of the same fixed costs as districts with the same amount of buildings but more students.

To clarify misinformation, the completed Budget Review was **posted several weeks ago as promised at the time of the report**. In this study, staffing information was only reported through June 2023. Since that time, the District has eliminated 48 positions and has cut \$5.2 Million, finding efficiencies as recommended.

Budget Scenarios:

Traditionally, North Shore's budget vote has been close. More so than our neighboring districts. In my recent Budget Talks, I have been asked, ***What if the Budget Fails?*** To help

answer this question, please see the chart below detailing the three possible scenarios:

If Budget Passes on 5/21	If Budget Fails on 5/21	If Budget Fails on 2nd Vote on 6/18, Forcing Contingency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student programs maintained with some larger class sizes at secondary level • Elementary class sizes remain the same • Current programs maintained including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Education - Academics - Athletics - Arts • Current electives continued at all levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new budget would be developed and voted on (6/18)* which would likely result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in classroom sections and teachers at elementary level • Increases in class size at all levels • Reductions in certain programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrichment & Clubs - Fine & Performing Arts - Sports Teams - New Electives (e.g., business courses) <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">*Please note a Board of Education can place the same budget up for a revote, develop a new budget for a vote, or it can go straight to a contingency budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would need to adopt a contingent budget which would require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% tax levy increase from 2023-24 • \$6 million in cuts • Elimination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20-30 teaching positions - Some Athletics, Music, Arts, Enrichment, and Extracurricular programs - 6-9 elementary class sections - Certain electives at secondary level - Field trips - Community Education and public use of fields

Please remember the Budget Vote/Election of Trustees is tomorrow, Tuesday, May 21, in the North Shore High School Gym from 7 am-10 pm.

Sincerely,
Dr. Chris Zublionis, Ed. D. - Superintendent of Schools