Dear Community Members,

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Board of Education and central administration are presenting a proposed 2017-18 school budget that is once again within the property tax cap while preserving all academic offerings, extracurricular opportunities, clubs, sports and staffing.

In addition to maintaining the program, the district will roll out a redesign of the seventh-grade curriculum. The redesign will focus on math acceleration, additional learning opportunities in earth science and the integration of the humanities courses. A computer coding course will be offered to incoming seventh graders, advancing the district’s technology education offerings. The proposed budget also aims to provide program enhancements such as the addition of technology in the science laboratories, support for increased enrollment in AP and college-level coursework, and a continued reinvestment in the Meadowbrook Alternative Program which includes more course offerings.

More than half of the work proposed under the facilities bond has been completed including, but not limited to, the installation of HVAC units, science lab redesigns, the installation of state-of-the-art kitchen equipment for the Culinary and Hospitality Applied Management Program, and construction of new bathrooms.

Debt service on bond payments will have a significant impact on the proposed budget, resulting in a tax levy cap that is higher than previous years. We continue to plan for the future, therefore, given the information we have at this time, we anticipate that the 2018-19 tax levy increase will be below 2 percent. As residents may know, the tax levy cap for each district varies based on a specific formula established by the state. Our district’s allowable tax levy cap for 2017-18 was set at 3.23 percent based on this formula. Due to an increase in state aid, as well as allocations from the district’s fund balance, the district is able to present a budget that carries a tax levy increase of 2.98 percent, which is below the allowable cap.

In addition to the proposed budget, voters will have the opportunity to vote on a second proposition that addresses the utilization of the district’s capital reserve fund for certain capital improvements (see page 3 for details). If approved, this will not increase taxes, as the money already exists within the district’s capital reserve fund.

And while we continue to be a top-rated district within both the state and nation, based on various academic-based criteria and other statistical measures, our primary focus has been and will always be on the students of Bellmore-Merrick. The programmatic enhancements and the rebuilding of our physical plants have been initiated with our students’ well-being and educational advancement as the focus of our decision making.

For more information on the proposed budget, visit the district’s website at www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us. The district will host a budget hearing on Wednesday, May 3 at 8 p.m. at the Brookside Administration Building. All community residents are encouraged to attend. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16 at your designated polling location.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support of the district.

Regards,

John DeTommaso,
Superintendent of Schools

Janet Goller,
Board of Education President

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Vice President

Marion Blane, Trustee

JoAnn DeLauter, Trustee

Wendy Gargiulo, Trustee

Lisa Katz, Trustee

Nina Lanci, Trustee

Gina Piskin, Trustee

Remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16 at your designated voting location.
ESTIMATED REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>23,931,354</td>
<td>25,470,227</td>
<td>1,538,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILOT</td>
<td>1,923,682</td>
<td>1,923,682</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education, Other Tuitions &amp; Services</td>
<td>1,575,000</td>
<td>1,585,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Facilities</td>
<td>1,009,693</td>
<td>1,734,462</td>
<td>724,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>576,380</td>
<td>462,689</td>
<td>(113,691)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Reserves5</td>
<td>2,545,385</td>
<td>2,623,600</td>
<td>78,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>5,652,807</td>
<td>6,023,347</td>
<td>370,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$37,214,301</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,823,007</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,608,706</strong></td>
</tr>
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PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy1</td>
<td>$110,549,481</td>
<td>$113,843,856</td>
<td>$3,294,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Increase</td>
<td>1.51%</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$147,763,782</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,666,863</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,903,081</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education (includes voting machines)</td>
<td>169,347</td>
<td>172,088</td>
<td>2,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>391,669</td>
<td>418,854</td>
<td>27,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>1,159,633</td>
<td>1,243,074</td>
<td>83,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>707,286</td>
<td>754,679</td>
<td>47,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Services</td>
<td>671,111</td>
<td>678,383</td>
<td>7,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Items (includes insurance)</td>
<td>781,000</td>
<td>781,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOCES Administration</td>
<td>883,331</td>
<td>890,000</td>
<td>6,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Supervision</td>
<td>9,314,610</td>
<td>9,747,515</td>
<td>432,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>4,151,969</td>
<td>4,293,810</td>
<td>141,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administration</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,229,956</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,979,403</strong></td>
<td><strong>$749,447</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular School</td>
<td>49,773,531</td>
<td>50,768,000</td>
<td>994,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>18,611,945</td>
<td>19,176,369</td>
<td>560,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Education</td>
<td>1,130,022</td>
<td>1,176,040</td>
<td>46,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Media</td>
<td>3,665,578</td>
<td>3,648,120</td>
<td>(17,458)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Support Services</td>
<td>6,686,945</td>
<td>6,852,895</td>
<td>165,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services</td>
<td>687,500</td>
<td>599,000</td>
<td>(88,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation2</td>
<td>7,072,350</td>
<td>7,175,642</td>
<td>103,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>25,549,754</td>
<td>25,734,168</td>
<td>184,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program</strong></td>
<td><strong>$113,177,625</strong></td>
<td><strong>$115,126,234</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,948,609</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
<td>74.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAPITAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>9,538,089</td>
<td>9,810,905</td>
<td>272,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bus</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>50,200</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Safety</td>
<td>769,993</td>
<td>991,698</td>
<td>221,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund Transfer to Capital3</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service4</td>
<td>2,771,619</td>
<td>5,285,397</td>
<td>2,513,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>3,128,500</td>
<td>3,323,026</td>
<td>194,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,356,201</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,561,226</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,205,025</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Total</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Incr/(Decr)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$147,763,782</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,666,863</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,903,081</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Increase</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Tax levy is an estimate at this time; the actual levy is set in August each year.
2. Year one of a two year extension of the main transportation contract valued at approximately $3,035,000.
3. Interfund transfer to capital monies – these monies will be used for concrete/asphalt work and abatements. If necessary, these monies may be used for any capital emergency project that arises during the year.
4. Debt service includes intended lease (not to exceed five years) of office equipment; postage and folding machines, copiers; technology; music instruments; TANS and BANS, bond payments and EPC lease.
5. Appropriated reserves of $2,023,600 (ERS) and $600,000 (EBALR) will be used to fund the budget.

PROPOSITION

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of $153,666,863 to be raised through taxation in the several districts included within the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.
Districtwide Points of Pride

ACADEMICS
• Rachel Jozwik of Mepham and Claire Kelly, Jennifer Rakhimov and Michael Sternbach all of Kennedy were named scholars in the 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search.
• Kennedy senior Perri Zilberman has been named a semifinalist in the 2016 Siemens Competition.
• Calhoun’s Alaina Anderson, Kennedy’s Maximilian Bazil and Mepham’s Rachel Jozwick, all seniors, were named finalists in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program.
• Maximilian Bazil and Claire Kelly, Advanced Science Research senior students at Kennedy, were selected as recipients of the 2016 Child Mind Institute Rising Scientist Award.
• Kennedy senior Jennifer Rakhimov has been selected as one of the top finalists for the 2017 Neuroscience Research Prize.
• Seniors Sara Samir of Calhoun and Maximilian Bazil of Kennedy were selected as Coca-Cola Scholar semifinalists.
• Kennedy freshman Hugh Cheung was named a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics for the 2016-17 school year by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students.
• Merrick Avenue eighth-grader Jasper Seabold participated in the American Math Competition, was the top scorer at MAMS and scored in the top 5 percent of the nation on this exam.
• Grand Avenue eighth-grader Breana Raechel competed at the 2017 Hofstra Long Island Regional Scripps Spelling Bee participated in the final round on Feb. 12.
• Mepham’s Virtual Enterprise team, TrueView VR earned semifinal status in the 7th Annual Long Island Virtual Enterprise Business Plan and Trade Show.

ARTS
• The district hosted its first Vocal Music Showcase, featuring the five premiere choral groups in our schools.
• Immanuel Mellis of Mepham was recognized for being named a 2016 Young Composer by the New York State School Music Association.
• David Bekore, a senior at Calhoun, has been named a national winner in the 2016 National Council of Teachers of English Awards in Writing.
• Kennedy student Alixandra Wilens was awarded a Gold Key from the national Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

ATHLETICS
• Calhoun boys soccer won the Long Island Class AA Championship.
• Kennedy boys volleyball won the Nassau County Class B Championship.
• Mepham varsity kickline team was named Grand Champions at the National Dance Alliance Regional Dance Competition.
• Kennedy senior Cayla Conley set a new school pole vault record of 7’6”.
• Mepham girls basketball team finished their regular season undefeated and was named Conference Champions.
• Calhoun boys varsity basketball team was named Conference Champions for the first time since 1971.
• Mepham freshman Yousef Ibrahim followed up an undefeated season in diving by taking first place in both the Division Championships and the Nassau County Championship.
• Calhoun's varsity cheerleading squad was named Nassau County Division 1 Co-Ed champions.
• Kennedy’s Taylor Bruno became the first female in the school’s history to win a wrestling match; she won in overtime by the score of 6-4.

ALTRUISM
• Mepham’s Leo Club, the first in the district, inducted more than 50 members into their group. The club was also recognized by the district Lion’s Club and its officers were honored.
• Mepham installed American and military flags along the school lawn as part of a service-based project for the senior class.
• Student Ambassadors, students, teachers and staff spent hours organizing, labeling and stocking the district’s Community Cupboard as part of the district’s One Voice, One Message initiative.
• The Grand Avenue SADD Club collected coffee mugs to donate to the Interfaith Nutrition Network’s Freeport site.
• Calhoun senior Hadi Aziz traveled to Tanzania to check on the newly-created consultation and birthing rooms at a health center. The fundraising for the work was made possible by the 2016 Senior Experience’s annual fashion show.
• Kennedy’s government classes donated more than $1,300 to Adopt-a-Battalion after several fundraising efforts.

PROPOSITION #2 - $1.51 Million Expenditure from Capital Reserve Fund

In addition to voting on the proposed budget for 2017-18, residents will have the opportunity to vote on a second proposition to expend $1.51 million from the district’s capital reserve fund. This fund was established by voters in May 2016 to finance future building renovations and potential infrastructure needs, as identified in the district’s five-year plan.

Projects include districtwide paving and concrete work, track resurfacing, floor and ceiling tile replacement, roof replacement and/or resurfacing, tennis court refurbishment, turf replacement, door replacement, abatements, electrical and plumbing upgrades, fuel tank replacement and related work, structural work (brick, concrete and steel) and ADA compliance.

Please note that the money requested for expenditure ($1.51 million) will not fund all of these improvements. The Board, in conjunction with district administrators, will prioritize the projects based on greatest need.

In order to move forward, however, the proposition must be approved by the public. Since the money is being drawn from the capital reserve funds, there will be no additional tax impact for residents if the proposition is approved.
**Voting Information**

On Tuesday, May 16, residents can vote at their designated locations as follows:

**Bellmore Union Free School District**
- C.A. Reinhard Early Childhood Center from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 2750 South St. Marks Avenue, Bellmore
- Reinhard Early Childhood Center Tuesday, May 2, 4-8 p.m.

**Merrick Union Free School District**
- All schools on school days, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**North Bellmore Union Free School District**
- Administrative office at 2616 Martin Ave. and all district schools School days, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Harold D. Fayette School School days, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**North Merrick Union Free School District**
- North Merrick Public Library from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., 1691 Meadowbrook Road, North Merrick
- Wednesday, May 3, 4-8 p.m.

**Absentee Ballots**

Absentee ballot applications can be obtained at the elementary component districts. Absentee ballot applications must be returned seven days before the vote to the component district clerk.

**Budget Hearing**

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Wednesday, May 3 at 8 p.m. at the Brookside Administration Building, located at 1260 Meadowbrook Road in North Merrick.

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**Questions & Answers**

Q. What is the estimated tax levy increase?

A. Due to an increase in state aid, as well as allocations from the district’s fund balance, the district is able to present a budget that carries a tax levy increase of 2.98 percent. This is below the district’s allowable cap of 3.23 percent for 2017-18.

Q. What does the budget support?

A: This spending plan will support the expansion of curriculum offerings such as research and writing-based academic programs at the middle school level. The budget will continue to support facility upgrades to all of the buildings. Projects will be prioritized and executed accordingly.

Q. What happens if voters do not approve the budget?

A: If voters defeat the proposed budget, the district has two options: put the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopt a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted. If that were to occur, state law mandates that the tax levy increase over the current year be capped at zero percent. The Board would have to make serious cuts in programs and services, including class size, athletics, co-curricular clubs and supplies.

Q. Are you using reserves to offset the budget?

A: Yes. The district is using $6 million from the fund balance, $2 million of Employees Retirement System and $600,000 of Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve funds in order to lessen the burden on our taxpayers. These monies may only be used for their stated purpose. The ERS reserve will be used to pay our required contribution to the NYS Employees’ Retirement System, and EBALR will be used to make contractually required termination payments to employees retiring from the district.

Q. Will residents be eligible for the property tax rebate as included in the state’s budget?

A: Yes. Since the district’s proposed budget is within the tax levy cap, qualifying homeowners will be eligible for the property tax relief credit. Beginning this year, the property tax relief credit will be a percentage of a homeowner’s STAR benefit.

Q. Where can I acquire more information about the district’s proposed budget?

A: Complete copies of the 2017-18 proposed budget are available in individual schools and the district office, and can be downloaded from the district’s website, www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us.

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**Voter Registration**

You can register in person until five days preceding the vote at the following component district locations:

**Bellmore Union Free School District**
- Winthrop Avenue School School days, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Reinhard Early Childhood Center Tuesday, May 2, 4-8 p.m.

**Merrick Union Free School District**
- All schools on school days, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**North Bellmore Union Free School District**
- Administrative office at 2616 Martin Ave. and all district schools School days, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**North Merrick Union Free School District**
- Harold D. Fayette School School days, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 3, 4-8 p.m.

**Board of Education**

Janet Goller, President  Dr. Nancy Kaplan, Vice President
Marion Blane  JoAnn DeLauter  Wendy Gargiulo
Nina Lanci  Gina Piskin  Lisa Katz
John DeTommaso, Superintendent of Schools

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**Voter Eligibility**

To be eligible to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older, and live in the Central High School District.