

EAST MORICHES UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

9 Adelaide Avenue

East Moriches, New York 11940

(631) 878-0162

WWW.EMOSCHOOLS.ORG



2017 – 2018 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

and

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

1:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m

East Moriches Elementary School Cafetorium

Please take time out of your busy schedule to vote.

Dear Residents:

It is once again time to propose a school budget to our community. Your Board continued to work hard at keeping the school budget costs reasonable and at the same time making sure the children receive a program that meets our community's expectations. It is a delicate balance between ensuring that costs are contained and approving expenses that allow the school district to maintain its outstanding reputation by providing the students educational quality. Since 2012 the average tax levy increase has been 2.30% and an average tax rate of 2.25%. This year the anticipated tax levy is 1.76% and a tax rate of 1.86%. As reported in Newsday on March 17, 2017, the Suffolk County average tax levy is 2.13%. The Board is pleased to present to the community an anticipated school tax levy amount below the County average while providing enhanced programs for the September 2017 school year. This proposed budget only grew 1.91% over the current year's budget.

The proposed budget continues to provide all the existing programs and services. It also includes a fully funded universal pre-school program and continues to expand the language other than English program to the elementary school students. The East Moriches program is rich with academic opportunities that challenge our students and provide a solid foundation to prepare for high school. The Board also recognizes that our staff and faculty members work very hard to provide daily lessons that far exceed that of other schools in a safe and well-maintained environment. If approved, the budget provides improved fiscal stability reflected by the positive rating given by the New York State Comptroller's Office Fiscal Monitoring System. The Comptroller's budget review resulted in approval without any recommendations. The Board is very pleased that the District's fiscal health is strong.

We wish all of our Eagles success on the field and in the classroom as we plan for the upcoming school year. We hope to see you at a Board meeting or any one of the many programs and events scheduled for this spring. In closing, we would like to say thank you for your past support, and we urge you to vote on May 16th from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the elementary school.

Sincerely,
East Moriches Board of Education
Michael Griffin, President
Joann Lapinski, Vice President
Jennifer Burke
Lori Pagano
Lisa Pesce

VOTER INFORMATION

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Budget Hearing	Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Elementary School Cafetorium
“Meet the Candidates” Night	Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Elementary School Cafetorium
Last Day to Register to Vote:	Thursday, May 11, 2017
Budget Vote and Election	Tuesday, May 16, 2017- 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Elementary School Cafetorium

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To vote in school district elections you must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- a resident of the district for at least 30 days
- at least 18 years of age
- registered to vote in *either* the general or the school election

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Written applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk seven days before the election on May 16, 2017. If an absentee voter intends to pick up the ballot in person, that application must be received at least one day before the election. All completed absentee ballots must be filed with the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

Did You Know?

Tax Relief

Senior Citizens (65 or older) whose annual income is under \$36,399 may receive tax relief of between 5% and 50%. BOE Policy 4601

Physically Disabled residents who make improvements to property to facilitate the use and accessibility of their residence may have such improvements exempt from taxation. BOE Policy 4603

Volunteer Companies (Firefighters’ and Ambulance Workers’): Resident members of at least 5 years may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes equal to 10% of assessed valuation. BOE Policy 4602

“STAR”: *All resident* property owners are eligible for tax relief under the New York State STAR program. If you have already applied, you need not do so again. Senior citizens whose adjusted gross income is under \$84,550 (in 2016) and under \$86,000 (in 2017) are entitled to an enhanced STAR reduction and must re-apply each year.

If you feel that you may be entitled to any of the above, please contact the Brookhaven Town Assessor’s Office at 451-9051 for information or forms or log onto www.brookhaven.org.

Expenditures

	2015-16 Approved Budget	2016-2017 Proposed Budget
General Support	\$2,006,292	\$2,057,283
Instruction	\$18,512,591	\$18,931,163
Transportation	\$1,208,230	\$1,284,230
Employee Benefits	\$3,396,863	\$3,593,381
Debt Service	\$1,705,849	\$1,476,742
Interfund Transfer	\$45,000	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$26,874,825	\$27,387,799

REVENUE

State Aid	\$6,921,877	\$7,276,832
Tax Levy	\$19,609,982	\$19,954,994
Miscellaneous	\$294,402	\$155,973
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$48,564	\$0
Reserve for Retirement Contribution	\$0	\$0
Reserve for Unemployment	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$26,874,825	\$27,387,799

PROPOSITION I: To adopt the annual budget of said School District for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation of the taxable property of the District at a tax levy increase of 1.76%

PROPOSITON II: To designate high schools of the following school districts as receiving high schools for the residents of East Moriches Union Free School District for up to five (5) years beginning July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2022 for the grades set forth after each high school: Center Moriches, grades 9-12; Eastport South-Manor, grades 9-12; Westhampton Beach, grades 9-12.

PROPOSITION III: That the Board of Education of the East Moriches Union Free School District be authorized to contract with the Suffolk Cooperative Library System for a period of one year only, commencing July 1, 2017 for direct access library services, for a sum not to exceed \$794,017.00, in addition to the sum set forth in Proposition I, and to raise the requisite portion thereof by taxation on the taxable property of the district.

PROPOSITION IV: (a) That the Board of Education of the East Moriches Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to construct improvements to the heating, ventilation and air condition system at the Middle School (the "Project"); the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed \$1,925,000 and (b) that such amount is hereby appropriated from available funds of the District and hereby authorized to pay the cost of the Project.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
One 3-Year Term, 7/1/17 to 6/30/20

VOTE FOR ONE MEMBER

Michael Griffin