



Longwood Life

community unity...be a part of the pride!

SPECIAL BUDGET EDITION

MAY 2019

A Message from Your Board of Education

Dear Longwood Community,

On Thursday, April 11, the Board of Education adopted a 2019-20 budget that will be presented to the voters on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. The \$255,500,000 proposed budget seeks a 2.0% tax levy increase, one of the lowest increases in the district's history. In 2009-10, the district issued a 1.78% tax levy due to the drastic cutbacks from the loss of state aid. We are proud to report that all positions and programs have been reinstated since those difficult economic times.

This year's budget proposal again demonstrates our enduring support of a comprehensive educational program that continues to provide innovative learning opportunities for our students to enhance their academic experience, as well as a rigorous curriculum that prepares our students to be college and career ready.

The Board of Education and Central Administration have worked to create a fiscally responsible spending plan that offers a balance of a continued commitment to a comprehensive education for our students while maintaining an affordable value for our residents. We continue to find creative ways to operate efficiently navigating the unpredictable federal budget, the tax cap law, unfunded mandates, and the ongoing decrease in state aid all while maintaining our commitment to provide more significant opportunities for our students.

Please take some time to review the information contained in this newsletter. More details can be found on our website at www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us. Remember, your vote – every vote – counts! As always, we extend our sincere thanks to you for your ongoing support of our students and our schools.

Sincerely,

Frank Muraca
Board of Education President

Dr. Michael R. Lonergan
Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Poll Hours:

7:00 am - 9:00 pm

2019-20 Proposed Budget:
\$255,500,000

Budget Increase: **2.2%**

Tax Levy Increase: **2.0%**

Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act requires school districts in Suffolk County to provide all election information in both English and Spanish.

In accordance with this act, print materials produced by Longwood Schools pertaining to the 2019-20 School District Election and Budget Vote will be distributed in both languages.



Longwood
Central School District

Board of Education

Frank Muraca, President
Paul Infranco, Vice President
Maureen E. Silvestri
Daniel Tomaszewski
Penelope Blizzard-McGrath
David W. Pfister
Victoria Molloy

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michael R. Lonergan

Current Resident



Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 2
Middle Island
New York 11953

****MANWSS**

2019-20 Proposed Budget

Projected Expenses

Budget 2018-19 Budget 2019-20

Administrative (Instructional Support)

Board of Education	\$ 196,196	\$ 207,903
Includes District Clerk/Secretary, memberships, conferences, district meetings and supplies.		
Central Administration	2,568,090	2,811,007
Includes the Office of Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent for District Operations, auditor, treasurer, legal services, clerical staff, contracted services and supplies, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and personnel office.		
Central Services	3,177,683	3,634,957
Includes Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel & Community Services, public information, clerical staff, contracted services, records management, printing, mailing, supplies, equipment, AV technicians and BOCES services.		
Special Items	2,349,095	2,461,318
Includes insurance and BOCES administrative costs.		
Building Administration & Curriculum Development	10,434,971	11,310,983
Includes Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Learning, directors, coordinators, principals, asst. principals, clerical staff, retirement, memberships, in-service education, educational conferences, equipment and supplies.		
Benefits	6,437,327	6,645,508
Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability and worker's compensation; and unemployment insurance.		
Subtotal	<u>\$ 25,163,362</u>	<u>\$ 27,071,676</u>
<u>Program (Instruction and Service)</u>		
Legal	\$ 184,500	\$ 189,000
Includes District Attorney fees, legal research, court costs, etc.		
Teaching	63,597,783	66,328,344
Includes elementary and secondary teachers, staff assistants, substitute teachers, home tutoring, clerical staff, contracted services, textbooks, testing materials, equipment, supplies, BOCES services, memberships & conferences.		
Charter School Tuition	1,140,000	1,200,000
Pupil Personnel Services	57,403,040	58,372,349
Includes K-12 special education teachers, PCEN teachers, teaching and staff assistants, school counselors, nurses, speech & hearing teachers, psychologists, social workers, testing materials, clerical staff, contractual services, health services for students attending private and parochial schools, textbooks, teaching materials, equipment, memberships, supplies, BOCES services, tuition paid to other districts, drivers' education and attendance services.		
Instructional Support	3,231,868	3,332,858
Includes library/media specialists, library services, technology, computer hardware and software, supplies, library books, memberships, conferences and equipment.		
Sports and Activities	1,936,914	1,992,798
Includes co-curricular program, club advisors, interscholastic programs, coaches' salaries, officials, medical and security fees, participation fees, equipment, supplies and clerical staff.		
Pupil Transportation	14,754,407	15,692,674
Includes clerical, computer services, all bus contracts (including BOCES; private, parochial and special schools; field trips; interscholastic and co-curricular); central registration, materials and supplies.		
Charter School Transportation	250,000	340,000
Benefits	47,686,545	47,223,569
Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.		
Interfund Transfers	450,000	450,000
The District shared costs for summer special education program.		
Subtotal	<u>\$190,635,057</u>	<u>\$195,121,592</u>
<u>Capital (Buildings & Grounds)</u>		
Operations/Maintenance	\$ 13,668,203	\$ 14,391,947
Includes Director of Plant Facilities, custodians, maintenance staff, groundsman, equipment, security guards, utilities, clerical staff, maintenance of buildings & grounds, vehicles, contracted services, supplies, judgments and claims.		
Capital Project	450,000	450,000
Districtwide HVAC and Sitework		
Debt Service	15,404,907	13,850,957
Includes principal and interest on school construction bonds, public library construction bonds, interest on Tax Anticipation Notes. Please note that this component of the budget includes payments on lease purchases of copier equipment.		
Benefits	4,678,471	4,613,828
Includes retirement costs, social security, health/dental/life insurance, disability, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.		
Subtotal	<u>\$ 34,201,581</u>	<u>\$ 33,306,732</u>
Total School Budget	<u>\$250,000,000</u>	<u>\$255,500,000</u>

Percentage of Budget Increase

2.2%

Anticipated Revenue Budget - Where does the money come from?

<u>Category</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Revenue Percentage</u>
Real Estate Taxes	\$142,061,078	\$144,896,175	56.7
State & BOCES Aid	94,465,771	96,734,670	37.9
Applied Fund Balance	6,000,000	6,000,000	2.3
Reserves	1,600,000	1,500,000	.6
PILOT Payments	1,280,000	1,280,000	.5
Other Revenue	<u>4,593,151</u>	<u>5,089,155</u>	<u>2.0</u>
Total	<u>\$250,000,000</u>	<u>\$255,500,000</u>	<u>100%</u>



Percentage of Tax Levy Increase: 2.0%

Estimated Tax Rate per \$100 Assessed Value*: \$280.39

*Based upon the assessed value for 2018-19. The assessed value is subject to change for 2019-20.

Estimated Increase for Average Home (assessed at \$2,438): \$133.76

Budget Vote

Voter Registration: You may register in the Office of the District Clerk, located at 21 Everett Drive, Yaphank, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You can also register at Central Registration, located at 15 Everett Drive, Yaphank, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. or at any one of the schools during school hours. You can also register to vote through our website at www.longwood.k12.ny.us - visit the home page and follow the links to Voter Registration. Last day to register to vote is May 16, 2019.

Voter Eligibility: You must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote, and a resident of the Longwood School District for at least 30 days prior to May 21, 2019.

Absentee Ballots: Absentee Ballots will be provided to district residents who cannot personally appear because of illness or physical disability, or who are out of the county due to business, studies, or vacation. Contact the District Clerk for further information.

Polling Locations

11727 Coram, 11763 Medford, and
11766 Mt. Sinai
**CORAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
61 Coram Mt. Sinai Rd.
Coram, NY
Election District 1

11953 Middle Island and
11764 Miller Place
**WEST MIDDLE ISLAND
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
30 Swezey Lane
Middle Island, NY
Election District 2

11961 Ridge and
11786 Shoreham
**RIDGE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**
Intermediate Building
Multi-Purpose Room
105 Ridge Rd.
Ridge, NY
Election District 3

11980 Yaphank, 11973 Upton and
11967 Shirley/E. Yaphank
**CHARLES E. WALTERS ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL**
Primary Building
Cafeteria
15 Everett Dr.
Yaphank, NY
Election District 4

Board of Education

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, you will also be asked to vote for two board members for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2022.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. David W. Pfister | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Josephine M. Bailey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. William Massian | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Rhonda Stitham |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Maureen E. Silvestri | |

For information about the budget, visit our website at www.longwoodcsd.k12.ny.us



In spite of challenges, our students continue to excel in academics, the arts, athletics and community leadership:

Academics

The Class of 2018 earned more than \$15 million in scholarships and were accepted to the nation's top colleges and universities.

The Class of 2018 eligible graduation rates remain consistent at 97%.

The junior high school maintains its position as one of only 33 New York State elite schools designated as an Essential Elements School-to-Watch.

The high school Virtual Business Entrepreneur Program placed second among 1,500 students across 100 LI schools.

More than 460 high school students participated in Advanced Placement and credit bearing college courses in the 2018-19 school year.

The high school is one of only six Long Island schools chosen to participate in the Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Program which prepares students for careers in Computer Science.

The Robotics Team 564 received the Regional Chairman's Award and the Engineering Inspiration Award at the SBPLI FIRST Robotics competition at Hofstra.

Twenty high school students finished in the top five in an All-Island FBLA competition.

More than 50 percent of our junior high school students received honor roll and high honor roll status.

Eighty-six high school students participated in the BOCES Career and Technical Education program with increased student participation annually.

Arts

For the eleventh year, the district has been designated a Best Community for Music Education by NAMM.

A senior was named an Award of Merit recipient in the Long Island Scholar Artist program.

Five student musicians were chosen to participate in the All-State Music Festival with one student chosen for the second consecutive year.

Sixty-two students were selected for All-County ensembles in band, chorus, and orchestra.

The music education program was honored by Music for All with the inaugural "Advocacy in Action" Gold Award.

A junior won first place in the 2019 Congressional Art Show.



Athletics

The girls basketball team earned both the Suffolk County and Long Island Class AA Regional Championship titles.

The varsity cheerleaders won the Suffolk County Championship in Small Division I.

Interscholastic athletics consists of 69 teams, 40 at the high school and 29 at the junior high school. There are more than 1,800 participants in the

7-12 program each year, and more than 700 athletes continue to maintain honor roll status while participating in sports.

Eighty-two student-athletes received All-League, All-Division, All-County, All-State, and national qualifying honors.

Student-athletes signed letters of commitment to Division I, II, III colleges to continue their athletic careers.

Eighteen varsity teams have qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Team Award by maintaining an academic average of 90 or above.

Community Leadership

Our School-to-Business Partnerships with local businesses continues to enrich our Pathways to Learning Academies program. This innovative program was recognized at a national superintendent's conference.

Ridge Elementary is one of only three schools on Long Island named a "Leader in Me" Lighthouse School by Franklin Covey Education for its commitment and excellence to student outcomes.

The District has been awarded \$150,000 in competitive grant funding from the State Education Department for Family and Community Engagement Program for 2016-2020 as part of the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

The District maintains an outstanding financial credit rating of AA+.

Through our partnership with Brookhaven National Laboratories, K-12 students participate in cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM), research topics, contests, and summer programs.

Blessings in a Backpack now feeds close to 400 students at all elementary schools. This vital program provides students, in the federal free and reduced lunch program, with meals on weekends.

Expanding Student Learning Experiences While Maintaining Our Fiscal Responsibilities

Students Remain Our First Priority

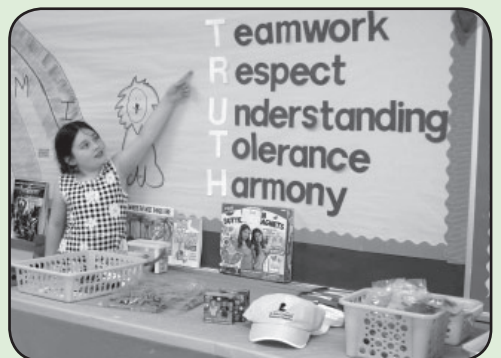
- Balance and sustain K-12 class size. The current K-4 class size average is 23 students.
- Support secondary level program “Pathways to Learning Academies.”
- Implementation of flexible seating districtwide.
- Enrich our partnerships with local SUNY colleges for credit-bearing courses within our Learning Academies, the early college entrance program, and early college high school program.
- Provide education and support for our students and families with comprehensive alcohol and substance abuse programs, as well as the expansion of our mental health and student wellness programs.
- Expansion of security measures, including reinforced vestibules.
- Enrichment of our Leader in Me Program that continues to strengthen our students self-advocacy and social emotional interpersonal skill.

Program Enhancement Priorities

- Maintain the use of our i-Ready instructional components and diagnostic tools.
- Enhancement of the \$3.2 million Empire State After-School Program for students 5-12.
- Support of new Central Registration Department with 24-hour online service and on-premise student registration.
- Free breakfast and lunch program for students districtwide.
- Creation of a state-of-the-art STEAM laboratory for students districtwide.
- Continue to enhance the development of external classroom learning experiences.
- Support of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) at all elementary schools.
- Provide a series of Parenting the Adolescent workshops in cooperation with the Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Continue implementation of four-year \$600,000 competitive grant funding for Family and Community Engagement Program as part of the My Brother’s Keeper initiative.
- Expand our federal-state grant application opportunities for additional revenue; to date in excess of \$4,652,000.
- Expand current levels of occupational education opportunities to high school juniors and seniors.
- Continue to support professional development for our staff and administrators to align with the higher learning standards.
- Reinstate the ESBOCES Employee Assistance Program.
- Expansion of Naviance College and Career Readiness for students in grades 7-12.

Maintaining Our Facilities

- Implementation of the final phases of our Capital Improvement Project.
- Maintain school building security utilizing advanced technology.
- Enhance our technology infrastructure and hardware with the Smart Bond Act.
- Renovation for the future student service center, aligned to complement our Capital Improvement Plan.
- Creation and modification of the high school entrance and exit infrastructure to address traffic congestion.



School Board Candidates

The PTA Council submitted the following questions to each school board candidate to provide information and goals of each candidate. The profiles are printed as submitted by the candidates, without editing. Candidates appear in the same order as they will appear on the ballot. School board members serve three-year terms and receive no pay or benefits for their services. By law, they are required to be qualified voters in the school district where they reside, be residents for a minimum of one year, and be able to read and write. Each candidate has submitted a Candidate Nominating Petition signed by no less than 53 qualified voters to the District Clerk.



1. David W. Pfister

Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools:
(2-MS/JHS)

Education: B.S., M.S. Organizational Management, and M.B.A.

Professional or Business Experience: IT Executive with 20+ Years public-sector Business/

Management Experience in large enterprise and mid-size organizations, manage personnel and large capita/operating budgets, and strong project/vendor/contract management experience.

Longwood School District community involvement and the number of years served:

Longwood BOE
Technology/Safety/Policy/Legislative Committees
Early College HS Steering Committee
Middle Island Civic and Neighborhood Watch (Co-Founder)
LYSA STEM/JR FIRST LEGO (Co-Founder)
Cub/Boy Scout Leader
Active PTA/PTSA

Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate: Longwood invested millions in technology – our community needs someone ensuring money is spent wisely. I bring a technology-focused view on Cloud, Security, Privacy, and STEM; technology I understand, manage professionally, and am recognized as an industry leader.

www.dwp4boe.com for qualifications.

What are your first three priorities for the Longwood School District?

Addressing Community Overdevelopment - increases in students without developers paying fair share limits our ability to expand programs and control class size without increasing taxes.

Managing Technology Investments for educational programs and daily operations.

Mental Health – Additional investments in mental health programs

How would you accomplish these priorities?

Community Overdevelopment - Work with developers before they build. Ensure a “seat at the table” with Brookhaven when new construction impacting our schools is proposed. Fight PILOTs (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) that do not adequately fund students from developments.

Technology Investments - Continue seizing opportunities to improve technology while controlling spending. Provide new opportunities for students and drive business process improvements. Build additional technology partnerships.

Mental Health - Longwood was ahead of the curve when we appointed a Director of Mental Health. Continue resource investments ensuring students have adequate and proactive support systems. We must continue focusing efforts on ensuring that all students have access to the support and resources needed.



2. William Massian

Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools: 2

Education: LHS Graduate

Continued my education within my industries completing various certification programs and in my field through hands-on training opportunities

Professional or Business Experience: Self-employed (Construction& Facility Maintenance)

Longwood School District community involvement and the number of years served:

Countless hours of volunteering for district
Lysa Travel Coach
Budget, Legislative, Safety, Committees
Septa, PTA, past PTA Council, PTA BOD
Cofounder of Longwood Education Art Foundation

Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate: Please visit William Massian for Board of Education on Facebook for more information

What are your first three priorities for the Longwood School District?

1. Help to restore the community’s faith in the BOE re-establishing proper checks and balances in order to: help increase the morale of district employees; bring better understanding of the CSEA workers’ jobs to the BOE; and encourage the support of MITA by listening and relaying their struggles in the classrooms due to NYS requirements and administrative decisions.

2. To reduce class sizes in order to deliver a more personal experience for each student and ensure proper placement and classification of children. It is imperative that each child has the opportunity to live up to their full potential and receives necessary services.

3. Strengthen support of career pathways rather than funneling all students down the college path toward student loan debt when there are many well-paying trade jobs available.

How would you accomplish these priorities?

If elected, I would be eager to establish a respectful working relationship with the administration and fellow Board members. I will work tirelessly to bring community concerns to the forefront and keep the community in the loop as decisions are made.



3. Maureen E. Silvestri

Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools: Four sons attended Longwood with three grandchildren currently attending

Education: HS

Professional/Business Experience: I have advocated for the children and taxpayers of this community for 25 years. I served on the Safety,

Long Range Planning, and Transportation Committees along with the Coalition for Shared Services, Drug-Free Schools, and Community Act Advisory Council. I chaired the Policy Committee and was the past president of the PTA Council.

Maureen E. Silvestri (continued)

Longwood School District community involvement and number of years served:

My 27 years of dedicated service and experience as a member of the Board of Education qualify me as its longest senior member. My years as a volunteer in our school community provide me with a solid understanding of the district along with its priorities.

Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate:

I represent all of the children, citizens, and groups fairly, and I'm accessible to all citizens of our community and the district. My years on the Budget Committee make me the right candidate to make tough choices. While we strive for higher standards, we must also make sure that they are challenging and appropriate.

What are your first three Priorities for the Longwood School District:

To ensure a quality education for all students and to make sure that our staff receives continual professional development.

To make sure that we evaluate and maintain safety for our students and staff, and increase mental health support.

To continue to be a fiscal watchdog. We must provide quality education at a price we can afford.

How would you accomplish these priorities:

In these challenging times, we must never lose sight that our students are more than the sum of any test. We must continue to provide our staff with the resources they need to meet these challenges.

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4. Josephine M Bailey

Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools: One

Education: BS in Psychology; Master in Education.

Professional or Business Experience:

20 + yrs. Little Flower Union Free School District

20 + yrs. Administrator at a Residential Treatment Center for emotional disturbed youth

10 + yrs. Town of Brookhaven - Recreation councilor

5 + yrs. Family Service Leagues a case worker

Longwood School District community involvement and the number of years served: 1yrs.-Safety Committee; 1 yrs.-Policy Committee; 2 yrs.-NAACP; 2 yrs. Coram Civic Association; 3 yrs. Gordon Heights Chamber of Commerce; 5 yrs. Gordon Heights Civic Association (presently Vice President); 6 yrs. KoCares Inc., Dare to Dream young entrepreneurs group, Community Youth Program serving the surrounding community around the Longwood District; 7 yrs. Youth Coordinator of the Feed My Sheep Baptist Church.

Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate: I've spent my life as a community based educator and organizer. I'm an active listener who takes in a variety of ideas and opinions to formulate an informed decision. I have extensive experience in the education field.

What are your first three priorities for the Longwood School District?

First priority create and maintain a safe environment for our students and faculty at Longwood School District.

Second priority working with students both in and outside of school.

Third priority implementing and/or strengthening any and all anti-bullying programs.

How would you accomplish these priorities?

First though Community involvement with the surrounding community in the school district.

Second promoting better awareness of children at risk for mental issues (depression, self-harm, suicide) etc.

Third by promoting social skills in elementary school (how to make friends, be a friend, advocate for oneself).



5. Rhonda Stitham

Number of children attending/attended Longwood Schools: (2) Charles E. Walters

Education:

Concordia University, Ed.D, 2018

Liberty University, Education Specialist 2014

Dowling College, M.A Education, 2000

Lynchburg College, Bachelor of Arts in Education, 1994

Professional or Business Experience: Educator for over 20 years with a background in STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics), English Language Learners, and Elementary Education. I am currently an Enrichment Instructor for grades 2-5 as well as an Academic Intervention Instructor for grades 1-2.

Longwood School District community involvement and the number of years served:

- Coach for LYSA Basketball and Soccer 4 years
- Longwood Legislative Committee 1 year
- Long Island Harvest 2 years
- NY State PTA member/CEW PTA member 4 years

Explain what makes you the most qualified candidate:

As an advocator for children for over 20 years, I am well-versed in current educational issues and I focus on meeting the needs of children to help them succeed and grow. As an educated practitioner I help challenge gifted students as well as provide academic intervention services for those in need. Being an educator as well as being a parent of current students gives me a unique perspective and the ability to communicate effectively with parents, community members, teachers and staff to gain ideas and collaborate for what is best for our district.

What are your first three priorities for the Longwood School District?

Transparency from all stakeholders

Fair and balanced evaluation for all students and teachers

A safe and secure space for all children to learn

How would you accomplish these priorities?

Collaboration with BOE, teachers, students, administrators and community

Form committee of stakeholders to evaluate grading and evaluations

Enhance security in all buildings through the use of personnel and security monitoring

Dates to Remember

Longwood Day

May 11: 9am to 5pm at LHS

Board Recognition Ceremony and Board Meeting

June 13: 7:00pm at LHS

Relay for Life

May 11: 11am to 11pm at LHS

Last Day of School

June 27

Budget Vote and Board Election

May 21: 7am to 9pm
All Elementary Schools

Board of Education Meeting

June 27: 7 pm at LHS

Memorial Day - Schools Closed

May 23 - 28

LHS Graduation

June 29: 9 am
(Raindate June 30)