

Brooklyn Board of Education

Summary of Proposed Estimate of Expenditures 2018-19

Board of Education Mission Statement: The Brooklyn School will foster a drive for learning within each student that will allow that student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its education programs and services to meet the needs of all students and to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

Budget development: The budget being considered by the Board of Education (BOE) was developed based on continuing the fine work of the Brooklyn Public Schools. Administration has presented this budget to the BOE and believe this is what is needed to bring Brooklyn to the next level.

Budget highlights:

BES Staffing: Class sizes range from PK: 18 max, K-4: 18-20. We will have 5 kindergarten classes; 4 first grades; 4 second grades; 5 third grades; 4 fourth grades. The budget has full-time PE, art, music, library media specialist and a **NEW** STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) teachers. Students K-4 will have access to the new STEAM class as a special. A **NEW** part-time para clerk is in the budget.

BMS Staffing: Class sizes range from 17-23. We will have 5 fifth grades, 4 sixth grades, 5 seventh and eighth grades. The budget has full-time band, chorus, art, Spanish and library media specialist teachers. A **NEW** half time math interventionist is in the budget to support students and teachers. A **NEW** part-time para clerk is in the budget.

Programming: The STEAM program at BES is **NEW**. We are creating a new special education program this year which will continue into next year. Creating this program will allow us to offer appropriate programming for students and keep them in the least restrictive setting, as required by law. We will hire a **NEW** school psychologist. This was in the budget last year and was not filled. We need this position to address student needs. This position will be shared between BES and BMS. **CUTS** for the 18-19 school year include the reduction of a health teacher at BES and Tech Ed at BES made in the middle of the current school year.

Other requests: **Technology** requests made by BES and BMS are designed to expand the use of technology and prepare students for learning in 21st century. The cost of hardware and software will be part of the capital improvement budget on the town side.

Curriculum development and instruction is based on the Connecticut State Standards and supports the preparation of students to be successful in high school and beyond.

Other information about the budget: **Insurance rates:** after years of moderate rate increases, Brooklyn's rates are projected at a 15% increase. Due to the reduction of staff and new contracts, there is a slight reduction in expenses. **Unemployment:** there is an increase due to the layoffs that occurred during the current year. **Transportation:** budget has increased by \$107,000 which included the reduction of two buses made in January 2018 when BES and BMS were put on the same schedule. The current budget is underfunded for transportation. The recommendation is to keep the current schedule next year. **High School Tuition:** budget has increased by \$283,000 and is based on the actual student costs. The current budget was underfunded by \$207,000. **Special Education Tuition:** There are three line items in the budget. The total change in this account is an increase of \$544,555. The current budget is underfunded by \$465,000.

What is the total dollar amount of the budget? **\$18,275,083 for 2018-19**
\$17,593,353 approved 2017-18

What is the total dollar amount of the increase? **\$682,083 or a 3.88% increase**
Brooklyn 2017-18 anticipated expenditures are \$18,473,353. Our proposed budget is \$197,918 less, or a decrease of 1.07%.

What does this mean to my family and my taxes? The Town of Brooklyn Assessor and Tax Collector's website has a calculator where you could figure out what your taxes are based on the value of your property. Brooklyn's current mill rate is 27.09.

Example: If your property is valued at \$200,000 you are taxed on 70% of the value = \$140,000

You pay taxes: \$140,000 X 27.09 (current mill rate) = \$3,792.60 is your annual tax bill

If your taxes increased by 1 mill your rate would be:

You pay taxes: \$140,000 X 28.09 (mill rate increased by 1) = \$3,932.60/yr (\$140 increase)

Feel free to contact the Town Hall to ask additional questions or visit the website at:

<http://www.brooklynct.org/assessor/pages/property-tax-calculator> to access the calculator.

What should I do as a parent, tax payer? Please stay informed. Please share your agreement or disagreement with the budget. Please ask questions. Please talk to your neighbors, friends and family. **The budget will be voted on by the BOE on March 28th. There is a Town Meeting March 29th at 7:00PM. (Meeting canceled)** **The budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on April 11th.** Make sure that the Boards of Education and Finance are aware of your support or opposition to the proposed budget so that they can consider your thought and wishes. If they do not hear from you, they will not know what decisions you are looking for. When it comes time for the Town Meeting (date TBD) you will need to vote! I will send more information about this!

Please contact me if you have any questions! Thank you for your support!

Email questions to: budgetquestions@brooklynschools.org