

WARREN HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

89 Bowerstown Road, Washington, NJ 07882 Phone: 908-689-3143 Fax: 908-689-4814

Earl C. Clymer, III
Superintendent

Estrella M. Molinet
Business Administrator

Dennis Mack
Director of Human Resources



Dawn A. Moore
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction

Annette Walters
Assistant Superintendent
for Personnel & Special Education

www.warrenhills.org

Separate Proposal Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: Why do we have a Separate Proposal question?

A: The items listed in the Separate Proposal were removed in order to balance the 2017-2018 School Year Budget.

Q: Why were they removed?

A: Our initial budget was impacted by increases of more than \$1,000,000 in contractual obligations including but not limited to insurances, transportation, workmen's compensation costs and healthcare benefits and program increases. We received a 0% increase in state aid and are limited by the 2% cap on tax levy (local taxes) increase (\$651,468).

Q: Why these specific items?

A: The State of New Jersey requires all school districts to budget for items considered "Thorough & Efficient" (T&E) to the educational process. Items considered "T&E" are teachers, curriculum and certain forms of professional development related to the curriculum. Items such as athletics and field trips are not considered "T&E" and can be considered part of a Separate Proposal.

Q: What items are listed in the separate proposal?

A: 3 Middle School "B" Level Sports – Field Hockey, Girls Soccer & Boys Soccer

- Freshman Girls & Boys Soccer
- Full-time Athletic Secretary
- Freshman Girls & Boys Basketball
- Freshman Baseball
- Freshman Softball
- Freshman Girls & Boys Lacrosse
- Technology Infrastructure
 - Projectors
 - Laptop Carts
 - Hardware & Software Items
 - *LinkIt* Data Analysis Software
 - *ThoughtExchange* Survey Software

The Warren Hills Regional School District challenges and empowers a dynamic, diverse student body in a supportive learning environment by providing academic and co-curricular opportunities to become successful, productive members of the global community.

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Q: What is the estimated total tax increase for items listed in the Separate Proposal?

A: Franklin Twp. = \$33.94; Mansfield Twp. = \$32.88; Washington Borough = \$40.83; Washington Twp. = \$36.91 – These numbers are based on \$100,000 assessed value.

Q: What items in the Separate Proposal will permanently increase the tax levy?

A: Specific Middle School “B” level and Freshman level sports

- 3 Middle School “B” Level Sports – Field Hockey, Girls Soccer & Boys Soccer
- Freshman Girls & Boys Soccer
- Full-time Athletic Secretary
- Freshman Girls & Boys Basketball
- Freshman Baseball
- Freshman Softball
- Freshman Girls & Boys Lacrosse

Q: What is the estimated impact on my taxes regarding the permanent increase of the tax levy?

A: Franklin Twp. = \$7.85; Mansfield Twp. = \$7.61; Washington Borough = \$9.45; Washington Twp. = \$8.54 – These numbers are based on \$100,000 assessed value.

Q: What items in the Separate Proposal are a one-time only increase for the 2017-2018 School Year?

A: Technology Infrastructure

- Projectors
- Laptop Carts
- Hardware & Software Items
- *LinkIt* Data Analysis Software
- *ThoughtExchange* Survey Software

Q: What is the estimated impact on my taxes regarding the one-time only increase of the tax levy?

A: Franklin Twp. = \$26.09; Mansfield Twp. = \$25.27; Washington Borough = \$31.38; Washington Twp. = \$28.37 – These numbers are based on \$100,000 assessed value.

Q: What if the Separate Proposal is not passed in the November 7th General Election?

A: All the items listed in the question would not run during the 2017-2018 School Year. These items may not be supported in the 2018-2019 School budget.

Q: What if the Separate Proposal is passed in the November 7th General Election?

A: Per New Jersey Law and Code, the items listed in the Separate Proposal question would be eligible for implementation as of January 1, 2018.

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Q: If the Separate Proposal is approved in the November 7th General Election, what happens to the money approved for the Fall sports that have already concluded?

A: The funds for the Fall sports programs will be placed in an audited excess account and returned to the tax payers as relief for the 2018-2019 budget.

Q: There have been many facilities improvement projects this past year. Where do the funds to support those projects come from?

A: The district maintains restricted accounts known as Capitol Reserve and Maintenance Reserve, which are required by the State of New Jersey. The funds accrued in these accounts are specifically for facility maintenance and improvement projects. A portion of the yearly Undesignated Surplus funds are used to build the Capitol and Maintenance Reserve accounts from year to year. The remainder of the Undesignated Surplus is used as tax relief for our communities.

Q: Can you give examples of projects completed under the Capitol Reserve and Maintenance Reserve accounts?

A: Projects funded by these accounts include but are not limited to, Roof Replacement, Room Renovations, Safety and Security Systems and the Thor Lightning Prediction System. All of these projects meet the criteria of a Capitol Reserve and/or Maintenance Reserve Project.

Please visit our District homepage at www.warrenhills.org for more information including the Approved Budget, the Tri-Fold Flier and the Community Presentation PowerPoint. The Approved Budget PowerPoint is located under the *Board of Education* tab.

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