

Good evening and thank you, again, to Ms. Mahar and Dr. Lutinski for their budget presentation. Tonight, the board will be approving the 2024-2025 budget. We are proud to be endorsing another tax-cap compliant budget that prioritizes valuable programs and experiences for our students and staff.

As a reminder, May 21 is the date for the community to come out to approve our budget, to approve the use of the capital reserve funds to make infrastructure improvements, and to elect two members of the board of education.

Anyone who is interested in running for a seat on the board of education can pick up a nominating packet from our district clerk, Mary Ellen Chiera, in the district office. Completed petitions are due by 4PM on Monday, April 22nd. Note that even though school is not in session that day, the district office will be open for 12-month employees. Please reach out to Mary Ellen Chiera if you have any questions.

Last week, students in grades three through eight sat for the English Language Arts exams. Third and fourth graders took paper and pencil tests, while fifth through eighth graders took computer-based tests. The administration of all the exams went smoothly thanks to the careful preparations of our staff.

Participation in the ELA exams increased from last year but was still not 100%. We urge all eligible students to take next month's state test in mathematics. Results of these assessments help our staff understand how well students are meeting the New York

State Next Generation standards. Participation rates also impact our rating on New York State accountability reports.

The state tests have evolved quite a bit over the last decade. We no longer consider them “high stakes” in the sense that they impact a teacher’s rating or compensation; efforts to reduce student stress around testing include removing time limits and vastly reducing the amount of class time spent on test prep. If you have questions or concerns about your child sitting for the math exam, please reach out to your building principal.

As always, we thank you for your support.

Dr Lutinski, your report please...