

4/21/25

Dear Wainscott School District Taxpayers and Wainscott Residents:

Your Board of Trustees are pleased to propose a budget for 2025-2026 of \$4,990,362 a 2.40% increase from last year's budget. The proposed 2025-26 budget will result in a 2.59 % increase in our tax levy and a corresponding increase in our tax rate from \$265.18 to \$ 272.12 per thousand assessed valuation in East Hampton and from \$1.64 to \$1.68 per thousand assessed valuation in Southampton. The proposed tax levy will not pierce the District's effective statutory Tax Cap. Therefore, only a simple majority is needed to approve our proposed 2025-2026 budget.

We believe the proposed 2025-2026 **budget** will extend the considerable progress made during the last two years toward placing the District on a more stable and sustainable financial footing.

Your Trustees are pleased to report that the District continued to make great strides in its programming and financial condition since 2023-2024, the most difficult and disruptive annual budget vote and Trustee election in our District's 293-year history. We also continue to reverse the negative impacts on our programming and student performance resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, the reduction in the number of anticipated students in our in-house Pre-K to third grade program to more historical levels will permit us to reinstate our highly impactful individualized instruction program , in an open class format that promotes a highly collaborative and caring learning environment in our Schoolhouse. COVID -19 pandemic regulations forced us into a separate classroom format.

In addition, next year's fourth graders will continue their education at one of our three receiving District's (East Hampton, Sag Harbor or Bridgehampton) on a tuition basis.

We are also pleased to announce that we have expanded our partnership with the Bridgehampton Childcare and Recreation Center's After School Program to include next year's 4-year-old Pre-K students. That Program presently provides affordable transportation to the Center for our K – 3 students for afterschool learning and care. The Trustees believe that this expansion will make our in-house Pre-K program more attractive to our families who require a full day program and aftercare.

Finally, we are pleased to report that our students continue to close the achievement gaps in math and reading, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank our administration and staff for their continued focus and dedication to our students and their families through the recent challenges faced by the District.

**The Trustees urge all qualified voters to take part in the budget vote and District Election that will take place on Tuesday May 20, 2025, between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm in the New Schoolhouse.** Voting can be in person, by absentee ballot or an early mail ballot. The District has posted on its website a complete description of the "Qualified Voter" requirements, timelines and procedures (including the requisite applications and affidavits) for voting by absentee ballot, voting by early mail ballot or in person voting on election day.

As always, your Board of Trustees thank you for your continued support and understanding.



Sincerely yours,

David E. Eagan, President  
Kelly Anderson  
William A. Babinski, Jr.