

Dear Wainscott School District Taxpayers and Wainscott Residents:

Your Board of Trustees are pleased to propose a budget for 2026-2027 of \$4,982,252 an \$8,110 decrease from last year's budget. The proposed 2026-27 budget will result in no increase in next year's tax levy and our taxes rates for 2026-27 for both East Hampton Town and Southampton Town residents will remain the same. 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 2026-2027 budget.

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.

For example, in our Schoolhouse our staff has successfully reinstated our highly impactful individualized instruction program, in an open class format that promotes a highly collaborative and caring learning environment. This historic format has served Wainscott School students well for many decades. COVID -19 pandemic regulations had forced us into a multiple classroom format.

Our student population remains stable and consistent with historic levels. We currently educate seventeen students in our preK-3 program in our Schoolhouse and pay tuition for seventy-six students to attend 4-12 programs at one of our receiving districts (East Hampton, Sag Harbor and Bridgehampton) or one of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' programs. We project similar student populations for the 2026-2027 school year.

The District's financial situation continues to improve. We continue to move closer to our goal of restoring our financial reserves to historic levels after they were nearly depleted because of the one off, unanticipated increase in tuition students in 2023-2024 caused by the COVID -19 pandemic.

We believe the proposed 2026-2027 Budget will continue our progress toward our goal of placing the District on a more stable and sustainable financial footing.

We are also happy to announce that we have expanded our partnership with the East Hampton School District. The Trustees have approved two new Intermunicipal Agreements with that District.

In the first Agreement, East Hampton has agreed to provide our daily and field trip transportation for next year at substantial savings to our District. We have also secured three one -year options to extend the Agreement at a fixed increased rate that would result in total savings of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars over the next four-year period.

In the second Agreement, the East Hampton School District has agreed to provide us custodial services for the Schoolhouse and the Old Schoolhouse. Although we only anticipate a slight decrease in our current costs for those services, the Trustees believe that our custodial needs will be better served by East Hampton's professional staff.

The Trustees wish to acknowledge and thank our administration and staff for their continued focus on and dedication to our students and their families. They are the ones that create the wonderful atmosphere and setting in which our students thrive.

The Trustees urge all qualified voters to take part in the budget vote and District Election that will take place on Tuesday May 19, 2026, between 2:00pm 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.