

# **2025-2026 General Fund Budget Development Update**

***March 11, 2025***

## Next Steps (from February 4 meeting):

Following the Board-approved Budget Development Calendar, we will:

- Prepare the Program component presentation.
- Refine the Capital and Admin budgets.
- Refine the Revenue Budget.
- Prioritize budget requests based on alignment with district goals and available revenue.
- Provide communications to faculty, staff, and community.
- Continue the development of long-range plans.

# The Pillars of Our Work:

**Our Mission:** The Dobbs Ferry School District strives to develop independent, curious, and open-minded learners who think critically, work collaboratively, act ethically, and are knowledgeable about the world around them.

**Our Vision:** Independent Thinkers Prepared to Change the World.

Critical, interdependent elements of our vision include our *Strategic Points of Focus*.

# Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Curriculum Development and Implementation**: By creating, adapting, and/or adopting rigorous Tier 1 curriculum that aligns with the International Baccalaureate standards; contains diverse perspectives and experiences; reflects and develops/enhances students' on grade-level abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking, mathematical understandings, and, as a result, their ability to think critically, we will continuously work to improve student outcomes.
- **Instruction**: By developing/enhancing our instructional staff's teaching abilities through an understanding of how students learn, research-informed instructional techniques and frameworks including the Response to Intervention (RtI)/Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model, and effective feedback models from peers and supervisors, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- **Assessments**: By developing and enhancing clear understandings of the design and purpose(s) of effective assessments and how they can be utilized to improve instruction, by carefully selecting those assessments that we will use to measure student learning, and by supporting the data literacy of faculty and administration, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.

# Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Positive School Climate and Culture**: By developing a welcoming school environment that is reflective of the diversity present in the larger community where all students feel included in what they encounter at school, including in their classroom resources, in differing historical perspectives that they learn about, in equitable opportunities for engagement, advancement and achievement, and the adults they interact with each day; by providing explicit instruction and structured interventions in social-emotional learning and executive functions that have a sound basis in educational research; by aligning our work with the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile; and by developing/enhancing our staff's abilities to identify, understand, and improve positive student behavior, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- **Recruitment, Retention, and Development of Personnel**: By investing in promising culturally relevant practices for employee recruitment; by intentionally recruiting well-qualified staff that reflect our student demographics; and by providing ongoing, targeted professional learning opportunities and proven methods of evaluation and feedback, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.

# Our Strategic Points of Focus:

- **Family and Community Communications and Engagement**: By engaging in consistent and meaningful two-way communication with parents and families, and by inviting parents, families, and the community to participate in important initiatives, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.
- **Long-Range Planning for District Facilities and Finances**: By developing long-range financial and facilities plans that allow us to continue to provide excellent programs and opportunities for students in safe, secure, and welcoming environments, we will cause continuous improvement in student outcomes.

# Major Cost Drivers of the District Budget:

- Staffing based on student needs and current labor contracts
- Health care costs for active and retired employees
- Legal settlement
- Curriculum-based instructional materials to support new reading and mathematics curricula
- Services to students with disabilities
- Employee retirement contribution rates
- Debt service on facilities projects
- Transportation costs

# The Administrative Budget Component

## Includes\*:

- Office and central administrative expenses including travel expenses;
- All compensation, salaries, and benefits of all school administrators and supervisors;
- All expenditures associated with the operation of the Board of Education, the office of the Superintendent of Schools, general administration, and the school business office;
- Any consulting costs not directly related to direct student services and programs, planning, and all other administrative activities.

***\*From Policy 6100***



# The Preliminary 2025-26 Administrative Budget

Current Year	2025-26	Change
\$6,142,869	\$7,096,173	15.52% +\$953,313

## **Projected cost increases due to:**

1. Salary and benefits of District Office administrators and staff
2. Health insurance of District Office administrators and staff
3. General liability insurance premiums
4. Legal Settlement

# The Capital Budget Component Includes\*:

- All transportation capital costs including debt service and lease expenditures;
- Facilities lease expenditures, annual debt service, and total debt for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district;
- Costs of construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of school buildings; and
- All expenditures associated with custodial salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, and maintenance and repair of school facilities.

***\*From Policy 6100***

# The Preliminary 2025-26

## Capital Budget

Current Year	2025-26	Change
\$7,107,622	\$7,571,949	6.53% +\$464,327

### **Projected cost increases due to:**

1. Salary and benefits
2. Utility services
3. Maintenance initiatives
4. Contractual cost increases (cleaning, landscaping, security)

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## The Program Budget Component Includes\*:

- Salaries and benefits of teachers and staff;
- Teaching materials and supplies;
- Athletics and student clubs;
- Instructional technology;
- BOCES programs;
- Pupil transportation; and
- Special education costs.

***\*From Policy 6100***

# The Preliminary 2025-26 Program Budget:

Current Year	2025-26	Change
\$44,343,926	\$46,060,597	5.44% +\$1,716,671

## **Projected costs increases due to:**

1. Salaries and benefits of current staffing in all buildings
2. ERS/TRS pension rates
3. Out-of-district programs for students with disabilities
4. Transportation contract costs and BOCES program and service costs
5. Continuation of Illustrative Mathematics and Bookworms curriculum implementation, and Primary Project support program.
6. Beginning K-5 SEL curriculum implementation (TBD)
7. Additional clubs and athletic teams

# Initiatives and Investments Under Consideration in the Program Budget Component:

- Staff adjustments, professional development, and instructional materials to support K-12 literacy initiatives
- Continued development of MTSS plans and professional development
- Continued support for English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students
- Additional support for student clubs and athletics

# Key Elements of the Revenue Budget:

- State aid including expense-based aids
- County sales tax
- Anticipated interest earnings
- Current fund balance and use of District reserves
- Tax base growth factor
- Tax cap projections

# Preliminary Revenues

Revenue Source	2024-25 Adopted	2025-26 Preliminary	Variance	
			\$	%
<b>Property Taxes</b>	44,437,288	44,437,288*	0	3.62%
<b>State Aid</b>	8,943,727	8,943,009	-718	-0.01%
<b>Tuitions</b>	1,093,500	1,093,500	0	0.00%
<b>Sales Taxes</b>	975,000	1,000,000	25,000	2.56%
<b>Health Services</b>	593,000	593,000	0	0.00%
<b>Interest</b>	400,000	450,000	50,000	12.50%
<b>Other</b>	337,000	347,000	10,000	2.97%
<b>Appropriated Reserves</b>	814,893	650,000	-164,893	-20.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,594,408</b>	<b>57,513,797</b>	<b>-80,611</b>	<b>-.00139%</b>

\* Tax levy TBD



## Next Steps:

1. Meet with the Board Finance Committee to present revised Capital, Administrative, Program, and Revenue Budgets.
2. Update the *District Budget Information* webpage.
3. Provide communications to faculty, staff, and community.
4. Continue the development of long-range plans.