

BKW Budget Update

March 18, 2024

Timeline in this budget cycle

- January 16- Executive Budget proposal-changes in inflation factor and elimination of “save harmless.”
- BKW impact- Foundation Aid reduction of \$ 624,000
- January 16-March 15-
 - Two public Board meeting discussion of BKW budget development, aid reductions, potential program impact, and tax cap calculation
 - Introduction of bi-weekly budget updates through Parent Square
 - Budget Advisory Committee meeting
 - Eleven separate advocacy meetings or press items
 - Release of Senate and Assembly respective one house budgets

District active in advocacy events:

1. January 22- Assembly Republican Press Conference opposing Executive Budget
2. January 23- Congressman Tonko
3. January 26- CRB Advocacy group Legislative Breakfast
4. February 8- Melinda Person, Pres. of NYSUT & Assemblyman Chris Tague- seeing outstanding programs at stake at BKW
5. February 28- AE article-"BKW Superintendent lays out various paths in uncertain budget cycle."
6. March 1- Separate meetings with Assemblymember Fahy & Senator Neil Breslin
7. March 7- Separate meetings with- Senator Ashby & Assemblymember Walsh
8. March 8- Separate meetings with- Senator Oberacker & Assemblyman

One House Budgets from Senate and Assembly adopted:

Both proposals include:

- Restoration of all save harmless Foundation Aid cuts
- Rejecting the proposed adjustment to Foundation Aid inflation factor
- Provision of 3% minimum increase in Foundation Aid for all districts
- Additional PK funding allocation
- Increase in aidable BOCES salary cap from \$30,000 to \$60,000

The two bills are not identical, but they are the formal response to the Governor's proposal and represent the beginning of the "home stretch" of the State budget cycle. The State budget is due by April 1. There is anticipation that it will be late due to the Easter holiday. With a session from April 1 to April 19, the final State budget could be as late as April 19.

So, where are we at this point:

- 1) Insurance cost for 2024-25- Premium negotiation update due next week
- 2) Salary status- all accounted for for the 2024-25 fiscal year
- 3) Revenue & Expense scenarios- Multiple versions to allow us options when the final State budget is settled. “Plan for the worst, WORK for the best.”
- 4) Tax Cap calculation with or without bus purchase (debt service reserve 150K)
- 5) Goal is to **maintain current programs**, while **adjusting where necessary** or where it is wise in anticipation of eventual new foundation aid formula
- 6) Manage tightly to recoup fund balance
- 7) Maintain 3-5 year perspective- impact of retirements (24-26), Building Condition Survey (24), Potential capital project (25) Electric Vehicle mandate (27)
- 8) More detail on expenses, revenues, tax levy, and programs/services at March 25 board meeting

Acknowledgements:

- BOE- Understanding of big picture, role, importance of advocacy, specific expertise applied to committee work and recommendations
- Stacy, Supervisors, Business Office, Administrators- Flexibility and out-of-the box thinking
- Community members who have reached out to advocate or just to express support

Stay tuned- We still have work to do, and it will be in a very tight window of time.

Thank you!