



**Watervliet**  
CITY SCHOOLS

# Proposed 2025-26 Budget

Budget Workshop #2

WJSHS Conference Room

March 25, 2025 @ 6:00 PM



## Recap of Workshop #1

- SY 2024-25 Budget Overview
- Fund Balance for SYE 6/30/24: \$8.85M
  - Unreserved Fund Balance: \$1.41M
  - Reserves: \$7.48M
- Executive Budget Proposal
  - Estimated foundation aid increase of \$3.09M & reduction in building aid of \$1.28M
- Budget Development
  - Identifying student needs
  - Green Island Tuitioning Impact
  - Monitoring “debt bubble”
  - Supporting placements for students with disabilities
  - Needed security and technology updates
  - Understanding increased UPK program costs



## SY 2025-26 Executive Budget Proposal – State Aid Run

	2025-26 Executive Budget	2024-25 Enacted Budget	Difference
Foundation Aid	\$ 27,747,183	\$ 24,657,285	\$ 3,089,898
UPK (Special Aid Fund)	752,433	752,433	-
Expenditure Driven Aid	<u>5,526,305</u>	<u>4,972,562</u>	<u>553,743</u>
Subtotal	\$ 34,025,921	\$ 30,382,280	\$ 3,643,641
Building Aid	<u>1,425,597</u>	<u>2,706,866</u>	<u>(1,281,269)</u>
Total	\$ 35,451,518	\$ 33,089,146	\$ 2,362,372
% Increase in Foundation Aid : 12.5%			
% Increase in Total State Aid: 7.1%			

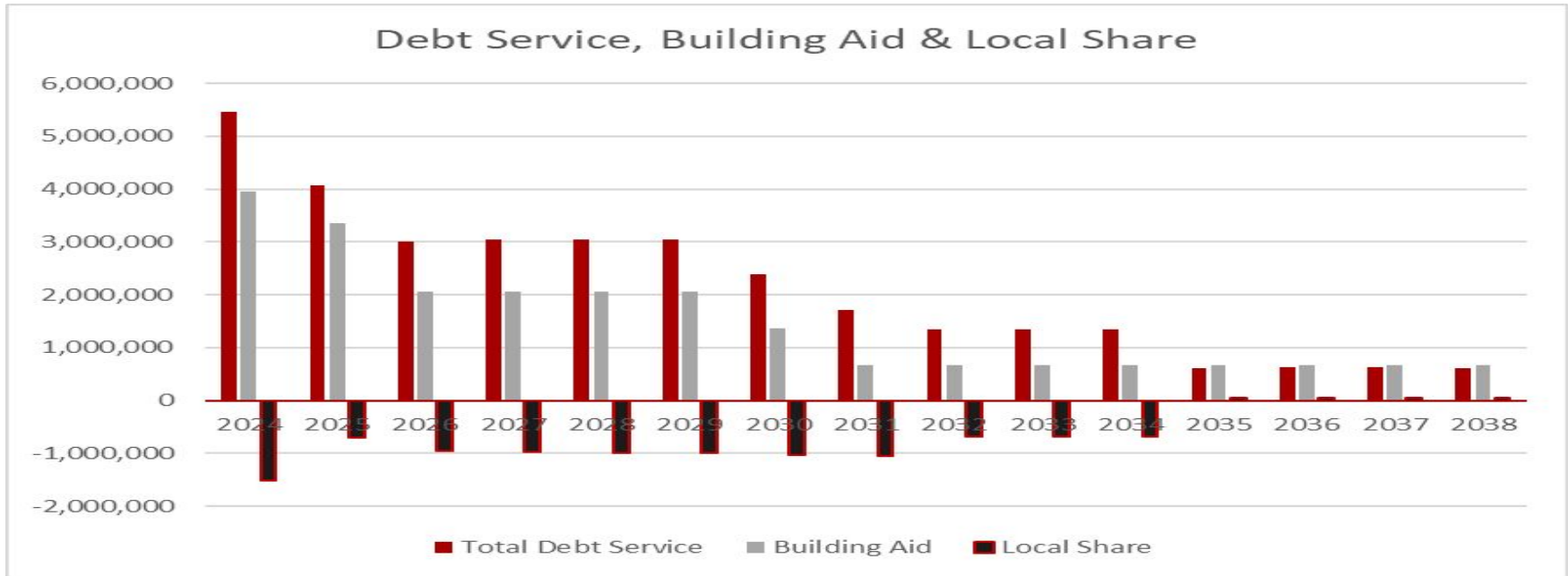


## 2025-26 Budget Development

- Understanding the proposed Foundation Aid
- Continuing to identify student needs in academic areas
- Identifying facility and infrastructure needs
- Examining Green Island tuitioning plan impact (Revenue & Expense)
  - Athletics, Transportation, & Staffing
- Expanding the Riverside Collaborative for students with disabilities with Green Island UFSD, Cohoes CSD, and Menands UFSD
- Monitoring “debt bubble”
- Understanding increased UPK program costs



## Building Aid & Debt Service (\$ in Millions)





## Capital Tax Levy Exclusion

- For school districts, the local portion of capital expenditures is excludable from the tax levy limit
- Local Portion: Capital Expenditures > Building Aid
- “Debt Bubble”: Beginning in the 2023-24 SY, debt service is greater than Building Aid
  - Net Expenditures are estimated to be \$1.2M over revenues in 2025-26 SY
- Established Capital Reserve in May 2024 to mitigate local share as needed
  - \$6.5M currently in Capital Reserve
- 2024-25 budget included an additional \$1M in debt service payment
- Recommend \$1M in debt service payment in 2025-26



## Example of Tax Cap Calculation w/Capital Levy Exclusion

	<u>Capital Levy Exclusion</u>	<u>No Exclusion</u>
Tax Levy	\$ 7,732,052	\$ 7,732,052
Tax Base Growth Factor	1.0022	1.0022
PILOTS Receivable – Current Year	\$ 221,000	\$ 221,000
Capital Tax Levy – Prior Year	(\$ 742,962)	-
Allowable Levy Growth Factor	1.0200	1.0200
PILOTS Receivable – Budget Year	(\$ 230,000)	(\$ 230,000)
Available Carryover	\$ 117,885	\$ 117,885
<b>Exclusions (Capital Levy)</b>	1,666,322	-
Total Tax Levy Limit	\$ 8,925,850	\$ 8,017,349
Difference	\$ 908,501	

\*Demonstrative purposes only.



## Fund Balance & Reserves

Fiscal Year-End Fund Balance As Of June 30, 2024		
Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023		\$ 3,305,000
Net Revenues/Expenditures		<u>2,600,000</u>
Subtotal		\$ 5,905,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve		<u>(4,500,000)</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024		\$ 1,405,000
Reserves		<u>7,480,000</u>
Total Fund Balance for SYE June 30, 2024		\$ 8,885,000





## 2025-26 Budget Considerations

- Maintain all current programs and personnel
- Focus on student subgroups and achievement
- Increased costs projected for employee and retiree health insurance
- UPK program costs continue to increase and grant funds cannot cover all expenses
- Debt bubble due to building aid received vs. debt payments
- Required technology infrastructure and security upgrades
- Adjacent land purchase possibilities (voter approval required)
- Decision regarding Tax Levy increase



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**1100 16th St.  
Watervliet**





## Green Island Tuitioning

- 60 incoming grade 9-12 students
- Estimated revenue - \$479,216\*
- First year expenses - \$312,250\*
- Difference allows for additional electives to be offered
- Potential space for alternative education (EVOLVE) program
- Additional foundation aid expected with enrollment in future budget years
- Transportation at net neutral financial impact
  - Requires voter approval to lease 66-passenger school bus



## Proposed 2025-26 Budget Recommendations

- **New Staff**
  - School Counselor, Speech Therapist (PT), Special Education Teacher, Art Teacher (PT)
  - Increase professional development coaching through BOCES for teachers
- **Athletics**
  - Athletic Director (0.8 FTE TOSA and 0.2 FTE PE)
  - Contractual coaching stipend increases & supplies
- **Technology**
  - Required upgrade for desktop computers, hard-drives, printers, etc.
  - Security system updates (cameras & weapon detection system)
  - Online hall pass software for WJSHS



## Proposed 2025-26 Budget Recommendations

- Transportation
  - Lease of new 66-passenger school bus
  - Bus Driver
- UPK
  - Shift administrative costs to district due to increased agency costs
- EVOLVE
  - Consider location change
- Other
  - Health Insurance Increase of 15%
  - Maintain \$1M debt service payments



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Questions??? Public Comments... Suggestions...





## Upcoming Budget Workshops

### Budget Workshop #3

- Wed., April 2 @ 6 PM – PTA Mtg. in WJSHS Cafeteria

### Budget Presentation and Adoption

- Tues., April 8 @ 6 PM

### Budget Hearing

- Tues., May 6 @ 6 PM

*Budget information available:*

<http://watervlietcityschools.org/budget/>

### Annual School Budget Vote & Election

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

**11 am – 8 pm**

Polling Sites:

District I: Elks Club, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 5<sup>th</sup> St.

District II: Watervliet Elementary  
School, 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 25<sup>th</sup> St.