

Malverne PRIDE

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proposed Budget Protects All Programs Carries 2nd Lowest Tax Levy Increase in 15+ Years

Dear Members of the School Community,

The Board would like to thank those who helped us refine our proposed budget this year by voicing their opinions in person at one of the many budget forums, or by filling out the survey that was available on the district's website earlier in the year. The input garnered through these sessions, as well as through much deliberation by the Board and administration, has led us to the 2013-14 budget we present in this newsletter. This proposed budget has an increase of 5.45% over last year and carries a 3.66% tax levy increase, which is within our New York State tax cap guidelines. The budget also represents the second lowest tax levy increase in more than 15 years for Malverne residents.

Our district has really strived, through long-term planning and fiscal responsibility, to always do more with less. You will see from the lengthy list of honors on page 6, as compared to the chart of tax levy increases on page 3, that our district is doing just that. Not only have our students been succeeding at higher levels than ever before, but the "fat" has been trimmed and our district is operating as efficiently and affordably as ever.

The key components of this year's budget includes:

- More than \$400,000 to integrate more technology into the classrooms. iPads are currently under consideration as one of the options for purchase. \$200,000 of this will be offset by the use of district reserves.
- \$1.7 million will be applied from the fund balance in order to offset some of the tax

levy burden to residents

- Preservation of ALL core program
- Continued support of clubs and cocurricular activities
- Addition of a new BioTech science lab at the high school. This one-time \$15,000 installation will result in an annual savings of at least \$15,000 in future budgets as students were being bused out of the district for lab use.

As you can see, \$400,000 is being allotted to purchase additional technology equipment which would serve the need of creating 21st century scholars in the classroom, as well as help meet the State's pending PARCC requirement for testing. Under this mandate, the district would be required to have enough computers for all students in any one grade, with the understanding that students will eventually perform assessment tests through computers instead of on paper. By utilizing reserve funds for these expenses, it will ease the tax burden in future years.

In our drive to maintain our taxpayers investment in its facilities, the Board is also seeking voter approval in proposition two to expend \$1.6 million from reserves for upgrades to our middle and high school. More details on specifically what this money will be used for can be found on page 3.

Our district is making every effort to keep our students on the cutting edge. The Board has also made an investment in moving our community forward by upgrading its website a few months ago. The new and improved site contains more information in an easily accessible format. Every single Board presentation is



available on the site, as well as a detailed and line-by-line look at the budget. To see how the proposed budget affects the structure of a typical day for our students, visit the website at www.malverne.k12.ny.us and click on the proposed budget category. If you cannot join us for a Board meeting, please do take advantage of this invaluable resource that is right at your fingertips, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you do have any questions regarding the budget, feel free to contact us or to join us at the budget hearing on Tuesday, May 14 at 8pm in the high school library. As always, we urge everyone to Be Part of our Pride. Vote on Tuesday, May 21. The information is below.

Sincerely,

Malverne Board of Education

Marguerite O'Connor, President
Danielle Hopkins, 1st Vice President
Michael Taylor, 2nd Vice President
Josephine Bottitta, Trustee
Gina Genti, Trustee

VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 21
Howard T. Herber Middle School
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Please exercise your right to vote!

*All budget materials and presentations
are available on the district's website at
www.malverne.k12.ny.us.*

Malverne School District

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Malverne, NY 11565

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2013-14 Budget Summary

EXPENDITURES

	2012-13 BUDGET	2013-14 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$5,400,159	\$5,592,918	\$192,759	3.57%
INSTRUCTION	\$29,453,251	\$30,351,474	\$898,223	3.05%
TRANSPORTATION	\$2,800,211	\$2,624,000	(\$176,211)	-6.29%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$10,400,615	\$11,417,511	\$1,016,896	9.78%
DEBT SERVICE	\$448,531	\$1,185,306	\$736,775	164.26%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$95,000	\$73,000	(\$22,000)	-23.16%

TOTAL	\$48,597,767	\$51,244,209	\$2,646,442	5.45%
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REVENUES

	2012-13 BUDGET	2013-14 PROPOSED BUDGET	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
DISTRICT GENERATED	\$618,093	\$520,227	(\$97,866)	-15.83%
USE OF FUND BALANCE/RESERVES	\$1,700,000	\$1,900,000	\$200,000	11.76%
STATE AID	\$7,059,648	\$7,566,569	\$506,921	7.18%
BOCES STATE AID	\$460,118	\$509,307	\$49,189	10.69%
BUILDING AID	\$178,783	\$756,133	\$577,350	322.93%
TAX LEVY	\$38,581,125	\$39,991,973	\$1,410,848	3.66%

TOTAL	\$48,597,767	\$51,244,209	\$2,646,442	5.45%
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TAX LEVY: The levy is the amount of money that is needed to meet the school district budget after applying State Aid and other income. In total, the amount needed for expenses from taxpayers is increasing by \$1,410,848 or 3.66%. Individual homeowners' tax increases will vary in dollar amount based on their home. Factors that affect the individual school taxes are: shift in assessment values; reassessment of properties; changes in proportions of tax responsibilities, including a shift of the tax responsibility from commercial property and utilities to single-family homeowners (not controlled by the school district); and changes in STAR tax reduction.

PLEASE NOTE: State law requires that school districts provide a detailed budget, as well as a three-part (administrative, program and capital) breakdown. In compliance, this information is available in each school building and the public libraries.

The Tax Cap: Its Impact on the Budget

The installation of a tax cap has forced districts to build their budgets "in reverse." Whereas any business would start a budget by carrying over what it had, adding what it needs, and then reducing where possible, the tax cap has made districts start with the exact same budget it operated under the year before; reductions are then immediately forced in order to meet the cap number. The cap creates a system where districts offer the best program they can given the cap restrictions.

It is also important to note that the commonly referred to "2% property tax cap" it is not technically a 2% restriction. Rather, it is a calculated percentage that may fall below or above 2% and still be within a district's allowable "cap" guidelines. These calculations

are determined by the state, and the formula has been finalized with school districts since March. This tax levy limit applies only to the school district's tax levy, NOT to tax rate or individual tax bill. For the complete calculations on how Malverne's tax levy limit was established, see the chart below.

The allowable cap for Malverne in the 2013-14 school budget is 3.66%. This means that we can ask for voters to approve the proposed tax levy increase and still be within our cap guidelines. This proposed budget will still require the standard majority vote of 50% + 1 (not a 60% supermajority) in order to pass. Just because we are within the tax cap limit does not mean we automatically pass a budget! Voter approval is still required.

Calculations for the 2013-14 Tax Levy Limit

Tax levy 2012-13		\$38,581,125
Tax base growth factor per SBA schedule	x	1.0007
		\$38,608,132
PILOT - received 2012-13	+	\$247,797
		\$38,855,929
Prior year exemptions (capital levy)	-	(\$95,560)
Adjusted prior year levy		\$38,760,369
Allowable growth factor 2%	+	\$775,207
Total		\$39,535,576
PILOT for coming year	-	\$281,808
Tax levy limit		\$39,253,768
Current year exemptions (capital levy and ERS)	+	\$738,205
Tax levy 2013-14		\$39,991,973
Increase/(Decrease)		\$1,410,848
Percentage change		3.66%

Proposed 2013-14 Budget Has 2nd Lowest Tax Levy Increase in 15 Years

Year	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Tax Levy % INCREASE	4.47%	4.82%	7.75%	8.37%	10.52%	5.56%	5.96%

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Tax Levy	5.48%	5.28%	3.97%	3.84%	3.93%	4.96%	2.44%	3.66%



What Is Proposition #2?

Voter approval is required whenever a district seeks to utilize funds from its Capital Reserve Fund. A Capital Reserve Fund was established in Malverne by the voters in 2009. It is funded annually with monies from the budget to enable the district to make necessary capital improvements and safety upgrades without having to borrow funds. The passage of Proposition #2 simply enables the Board of Education to utilize money that the district has already saved and results in **NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE TAXPAYER**. Also, these capital expenditures produce state aidable reimbursements.

Proposition #2 seeks approval for the Board to expend \$1,600,000 from the current Capital Reserve Fund to perform necessary capital work at the middle and high schools.

- The proposed expenditures for these monies are:
- Malverne High School - replacement of the old public address and clock system and upgrades to bathrooms and classrooms
 - Howard T. Herber Middle School - replacement of antiquated public address system, upgrades to bathrooms and classrooms, cafeteria expansion and upgrades, and sound and video upgrades at the auditorium.

The current bathrooms at each of these buildings are more than 30 years old and in dire need of updating. These much-needed upgrades will continue to ensure the safety of our students and staff and would otherwise need to be funded through the annual budget.

Did You Know?

- As a result of the capital improvements bond, Malverne’s building aid has increased, resulting in more money to delegate to programs.
- Taxpayers are responsible for a lesser percentage of the proposed budget as a result of the building and state aid.
- The proposed budget only calls for a total reduction in staff of 0.75 from last year and actually includes increases in certified staff for several areas.



ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR

	2012-13 BUDGET	2013-14 PROPOSED
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$10,800	\$10,800
Includes necessary Board of Education expenses such as conferences and in-service workshops for Board members, publications, legislative meetings and supplies.		
DISTRICT CLERK	\$18,300	\$18,300
Includes salary and supplies for district clerk, as well as update of legal reference material.		
DISTRICT MEETING	\$26,800	\$27,999
Salaries for election workers; expenses for legal notices, voting machines, printing and supplies.		
CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR	\$362,761	\$366,173
Salaries of superintendent and secretary; expenses for seminars and required conferences, professional subscriptions, supplies and materials.		
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	\$505,616	\$492,393
Salaries of business administrator, account clerks; software maintenance for payroll and payable functions and all materials relating to fiscal management; fees for annual independent audit required by law; salary of part-time treasurer and fee for financial advisor service relating to tax anticipation notes and investments.		
LEGAL SERVICES	\$260,000	\$337,500
Retainers for legal and labor counsel as well as non-retainer issues, such as legal actions by and against the district.		
TAX CERT (NEW)	\$100,000	\$200,000
A tax certiorari is the process by which a taxpayer seeks to lower its assessment. For 2012-13 Nassau County has shifted the responsibility to pay tax certiorari settlements for all petitions, judgments and small claims refunds to the district.		
GENERAL SERVICES/PERSONNEL	\$274,642	\$ 276,805
Salaries for support staff. Also includes service contracts, postage, districtwide printing, meeting expenses, employment advertising and central office supplies.		
COMMUNITY-SCHOOL RELATIONS	\$79,675	\$ 94,950
Includes public relations service plus printing and distributing the <i>Pride</i> newsletter, calendar and individual school brochures.		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	\$3,178,413	\$ 3,158,635
Salaries of assistant superintendent of district operations, support services, secretary, custodians and cleaners, maintenance and ground staff. Funds for districtwide equipment, utilities, security, telephone and supplies.		
DATA PROCESSING	\$95,821	\$ 97,163
Supports administrative software for generation of report cards, student schedules, recording of attendance and other administrative functions.		
DISTRICT INSURANCE	\$231,400	\$ 238,600
Premiums for general liability, student liability and umbrella policies. By participating in an Insurance Reciprocal, the district is self-insured in many areas.		
SCHOOL DISTRICT DUES	\$11,000	\$ 10,600
Professional dues for local, regional, state and national education organizations.		
BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES	\$244,931	\$ 263,000
Each district pays a proportional share of administrative costs and rental of facilities used to provide BOCES services.		
SUPERVISOR OF CURRICULUM	\$383,723	\$ 446,976
Salaries for deputy superintendent and support staff. Also for contract with Teacher Registry providing substitute teachers and for districtwide BOCES educational services.		
SUPERVISION – PRINCIPALS’ OFFICES	\$1,766,762	\$ 1,808,523
Salaries for building principals, assistant principals, dean and clerical positions. Also includes postage, service contracts, duplicating and clerical supplies.		
IN-SERVICE TRAINING	\$56,272	\$ 69,099
Provides continued training for district staff at seminars and workshops.		
TEACHING REGULAR SCHOOL	\$15,372,456	\$ 16,078,622
Salaries for teachers, department chairs, substitutes, aides, monitors and teaching assistants. Also includes funds for homebound instruction and foster child tuition, BOCES, public and nonpublic school textbooks, supplies and materials.		

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR

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	2012-13 BUDGET	2013-14 PROPOSED
SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$7,153,692	\$6,983,771
Salaries for the director, teachers and clerical assistants. Also includes BOCES and out-of-district special placement tuition, supplies, and cost of mandated services based on student need.		
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$406,350	\$306,495
Funds tuition for BOCES Nassau Tech.		
SUMMER PROGRAMS	\$135,728	\$51,689
Provides funding for Regents summer school and summer band cap.		
RESOURCE CENTER LIBRARY	\$455,142	\$459,721
Salaries for librarians and library clerk; expenses for equipment repair, books, periodicals, references, updating library software and audio-visual resources.		
COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$681,721	\$1,168,782
Provides for educational software, supplies, and network maintenance. Includes salaries of network manager and computer technicians.		
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$936,626	\$931,965
Salaries for director, guidance counselors, drug and alcohol counselors, registrar and clerical positions. Also includes testing materials, postage and supplies.		
HEALTH, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	\$1,445,407	\$1,341,172
Salaries of nurses, psychologists and social workers for district schools, including Our Lady of Lourdes and Grace Lutheran; also includes cost of health-related supplies and health services for nonpublic students attending schools outside the district.		
STUDENT ACTIVITIES	\$217,525	\$243,063
Salaries for club advisors, activity supervision, student publications, and supplies and materials.		
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	\$441,847	\$461,596
Includes coaches' stipends and cost of supervision at games, uniforms, officials' and scheduling fees, supplies, equipment replacement and repair.		
TRANSPORTATION	\$2,800,211	\$2,624,000
Provides for handicapped transportation, K-5 in-district transportation as prescribed by law and Academic Intervention Services required by the New York State Education Department. Also provides for occupational education program at BOCES and services for nonpublic school students.		
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$10,400,615	\$11,417,511
Retirement, Social Security, Workers' Compensation Insurance and contractual health, life and dental insurance benefits.		
DEBT SERVICE	\$448,531	\$1,185,306
Principal and interest payments for Energy Performance Plan, Bond, Interest payment for Tax Anticipation Notes, providing cash until tax revenues are received.		
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$95,000	\$73,000
General fund support of funded programs, including the school lunch fund and the special aid fund.		
TOTAL BUDGET	\$48,597,767	\$51,244,209

Be Part of the PRIDE

Success In Our Schools

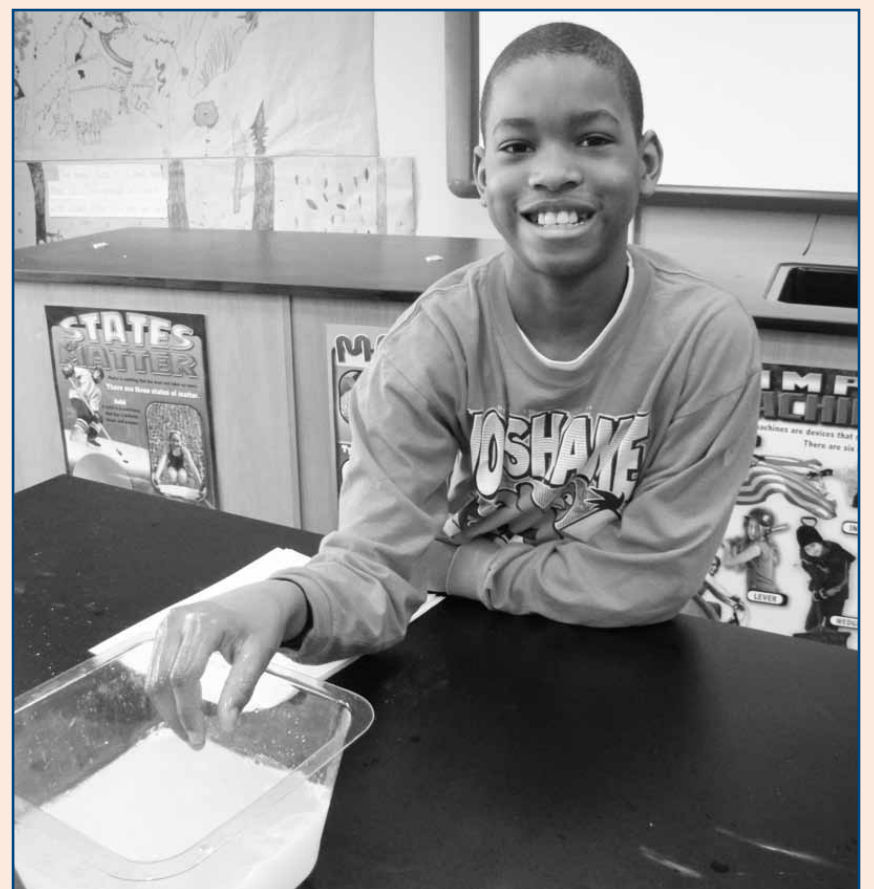
- The Malverne School District has been named by NAMM as One of the Best Communities for Music Education. Malverne was one of only 307 schools in the nation chosen for this honor.
- Malverne High School was recognized as an Advanced Placement "School of Excellence" for improved AP exam enrollment and performance. Scores of 4 or 5 on these exams have increased 700% since 2008.
- Malverne School District was identified by the Manhattan Institute as a "Top Achiever" when compared to all school districts in Nassau, Westchester and Suffolk counties, based upon specific performance criteria.
- Thanks to voter approval, the district recently completed a \$14 million bond issue for new construction including additional classroom wings for each elementary school and an all-weather, state-of-the-art sports stadium at the high school.
- Davison Avenue Intermediate School has been recognized by Know Your Schools-For NY Kids Project for Best Practices in helping our students achieve at higher levels.
- Howard T. Herber Middle School's science research class was crowned New York State Disney Planet Challenge Champions in 2012 and the Middle School was named "Best L.I. School for Science Research" by Brookhaven Labs.
- "The Pride of Malverne" Marching Band has successfully competed at the highest level of New York State competition, being crowned NYS champions for two consecutive years.
- The Malverne High School Robotics Team represented the Eastern States Sector as a regional winner in the International Robotics Competition in St. Louis, MO in 2011 and earned the Entrepreneurship Award in 2012.
- Malverne High School has been named a Blue Star School by WISE for students' superior performance in our financial literacy program.
- Most of the students who graduate from Malverne High School will attend the college of their choice in September.
- 96% of our graduates earned a Regents diploma in 2012
- A districtwide Dare to Dream program has been adopted, which challenged students to follow their dreams as a career-education experience.
- Before and after school elementary enrichment programs were completed in reading, science, math, technology and exploratory foreign language.
- The "Malverne Mules" athletic teams have been recognized for team competition, sportsmanship and league titles in a variety of sports.
- The district has been recognized for its model character education program.

What's Included in the Proposed Budget for Non-Public School Students?

In addition to providing programs and services for the students enrolled in the Malverne School District, the district provides numerous resources for the more than 700 students who attend non-public schools.

Resources provided through the proposed budget for private and parochial students include:

- Bus transportation to eligible students
- Use of district buildings and athletic fields
- Textbooks
- Computer software
- Health services
- Special education services
- Library materials
- Pupil personnel services



Questions & Answers

Q. What is the proposed budget increase and associated tax impact?

A. The proposed 2013-2014 school budget carries an expenditure increase of 5.45% over the current year's budget. This translates to a tax levy increase of approximately 3.66%, which is the second lowest in more than 15 years.

Q. Does the school district set the tax rate?

A. No. The final "tax rate" is not set by the school district and may change as a result of assessment modifications and a tax shift of the adjusted base proportion imposed by the county government.

Q. Why is the proposed tax levy increase above the 2% tax cap?

A. Commonly referred to as a "2% property tax cap," it is not technically a 2% restriction. Rather, it is a calculated percentage that may fall below or above 2% and still be within a district's allowable "cap" guidelines. These calculations are determined by the state and allow for various deductions.

Q. What outside factors have influenced this year's budget development process?

A. Unfunded state mandates, combined with increased health insurance costs and contractual obligations, have been driving district expenses for the past few years. For Malverne, just three of this year's unfunded state mandates account for more than \$500,000 in the proposed budget. If a district does not comply with state mandates, it may be faced with a reduction in state aid.

Q. What is the district doing to control expenditures?

A. The district is committed to the maintenance of its current core academic, athletic and co-curricular programs. In order to address economic concerns and remain within the tax cap of 3.66%, the Board has reduced non-mandated budgetary expenditures significantly from last year. The proposed 2013-2014 budget also reflects a restructuring of supervisory positions and the assumption of more responsibility by those already on staff.



A Contingency BUDGET

If the proposed budget is defeated in May, the district has the option of putting up the same or a revised budget for a revote, or adopting a contingency budget.

If a proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, a district must adopt a contingent budget.

A contingency budget will prohibit spending in specific areas, including community use of buildings, certain salary increases, and new equipment purchases. More significantly, under the new law, a district that adopts a contingency budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount, resulting in a zero percent tax levy increase.

To get to 0%, we would need to cut an additional \$1,410,848 from the proposed budget. A reduction of this magnitude would result in cuts that will significantly impact program, athletics and clubs currently being offered to our students under the proposed budget.

Cuts of this magnitude would be devastating to our district.

A contingency budget would require \$1.4 million in cuts from the proposed budget.

VOTER INFORMATION

Qualifications

Only registered voters can participate in the Malverne Union Free School District budget vote. Anyone who is registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections is already registered.

A voter must be 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and a resident of the Malverne School District for a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote.

Registration

If you need to register, you may do so on Saturday, May 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, located at 301 Wicks Lane in Malverne. You may also register with the Nassau County Board of Elections in Mineola during business hours, Monday through Friday.

Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who are interested in casting absentee ballots must request an application from the district clerk by calling (516) 887-6483. When the district clerk's office receives a completed application, an absentee ballot will be sent to the voter.

Anyone who wishes to pick up an application for an absentee ballot may do so prior to May 21 at the Administration Building, located at 301 Wicks Lane (corner of Ocean Avenue), Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. All ballots must be filed with the district clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the election.

Persons designated "permanently disabled" by the Nassau County Board of Elections will automatically receive an absentee ballot.

If you are not registered to vote and you miss the in-person registration dates, you can visit the Board of Elections webpage at <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/VotingRegister.html> to download a registration form.



CANDIDATES FOR THE *Board of Education*

**Running For the Seat Currently
Occupied by Danielle Hopkins***

Four-Year Term
(July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2017)

**Danielle Hopkins
&
Jan Kasal**

**Running For the Seat Currently
Occupied by Gina Genti**

Four-Year Term
(July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2017)

John Tulley

*Listed in alphabetical order



**Scan this code to
go directly to the
budget page on
our website.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, May 14
Board of Education
Meeting and
Budget Hearing
8 p.m. at MHS Library

Tuesday, May 21
District Budget Vote
and Trustee Election
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. at
HTH Gym