

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2021

2021-2022 BUDGET ISSUE

2021-22 Proposed Budget

Proposed Budget Total	\$56,026,338
Percent Change from 2020-21	1.90%

2021-22 Projected Tax Levy

Projected 2021-22 Tax Levy	\$35,997,924
Percent Change from 2020-21	1.52%

Note: The Projected Tax Levy falls within the amount allowed by the Property Tax Cap Legislation and does not require an override to be enacted.

The Proposed Budget is currently higher than the contingent budget cap. By law, a contingent budget would require the elimination of certain equipment items and increased charges for use of school facilities by the public. A contingent budget would also require significant program reductions to be considered in the areas of Kindergarten, Athletics, Arts, Guidance, Extracurricular Activities, and class size increases. A contingent budget would save the owner of a \$250,000 home with the Basic STAR \$5.84 per month.

2021-22 Projected Tax Bill

Based on a home assessed at \$250,000 and located in the Town of Red Hook. Final tax bills will vary from these projections based on property assessments, STAR rates, and equalization rates established in each of the five towns located within the school district's boundaries.

Projected School Tax Bill

	Monthly	Annually
No STAR	\$468.75	\$5,625.00
Basic STAR	\$398.34	\$4,780.13
Enhanced STAR	\$302.81	\$3,633.75
Enhanced STAR with Senior Aged (Income < \$29,000)	\$68.44	\$821.25

The Red Hook Central School District has consistently operated under a budget that places the district in the lower half in a ranking of school districts in the region based on per pupil expenditures. Even with this ongoing efficient and conservative expenditure philosophy, lagging state aid puts pressure on local property owners to provide the revenue necessary to maintain the current educational program. For 2021-22, the implementation of the property tax cap combined with the current difficult economic environment will again present the community with an important decision about the quality of local public education.

The tax levy affiliated with the proposed budget falls within the tax cap limitations. By law, if the proposed budget fails to gain voter approval after two attempts, the Board must adopt a contingent operating budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. A contingent budget would require program eliminations in order to comply with law. Non-contingent items such as necessary educational equipment would be eliminated. Public use of the facilities would be required by law to be curtailed.

Annual District Election

When:

Tuesday,
May 18, 2021
Noon to 9 pm

Where:

Mill Road Elementary School,
3-5 Cafeteria

Vote Includes:

2021-22 Budget
Election of Two School Board Members
Bus & Vehicle Proposition
Tivoli Library Proposition
Student Board Member Proposition
Expansion of Board of Education
from Five to Seven Members

School Board Election

Two terms on the school board are on the ballot. One three-year term (7/1/21-6/30/24) and one partial term (5/19/21-6/30/23.) The following individuals have filed petitions for election to the school board:

Jackie Berry
Karen Christensen
Kate Kortbus
Jennifer Mañón
Ariadne Montare
Laura Y. Roberts
Marcella Stabile

For More Information:

(845) 758-2241, Ext. 53100
www.redhookcentralschools.org

AT A GLANCE

2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Original
2020-21
Budget

Proposed
2021-22
Budget

Comparison
2021-22
2020-21

PROGRAM
COMPONENT

In-Service Training	105,500	155,500	50,000
Teaching Regular School	15,291,973	15,444,750	152,777
Teaching Special Needs	7,465,711	7,753,054	287,343
Adult Education	40,000	40,000	-
Instructional Media	1,567,232	1,572,155	4,923
Guidance	709,169	721,907	12,738
Health Services	381,645	392,910	11,265
Pupil Personnel Services	4,750	4,750	-
Clubs, Student Activities	171,900	171,900	-
Interscholastic Athletics	403,500	406,500	3,000
Pupil Transportation	2,298,248	2,388,033	89,785
Census	6,100	6,100	-
Employee Benefits	13,681,261	13,840,430	159,169
Interfund Transfers	200,000	200,000	-
Total Program	42,326,989	43,097,989	771,000

CAPITAL
COMPONENT

Operation and Maintenance	2,990,269	2,992,437	2,168
Refund on Real Prop. Tax/Assessments	30,000	31,000	1,000
School Bus Purchase	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	1,205,941	1,217,507	11,566
Debt Service	2,305,869	2,348,160	42,291
Interfund Transfer	100,000	100,000	-
Total Capital	6,632,079	6,689,104	57,025

ADMINISTRATIVE
COMPONENT

Board of Education	69,084	94,542	25,458
Central Administration	295,996	306,471	10,475
Finance	690,675	712,106	21,431
Legal/Central Services	242,200	242,200	-
BOCES Admin. Fees/District Insurance	491,150	491,150	-
Supervision	2,765,158	2,902,619	137,461
Employee Benefits	1,470,816	1,490,157	19,341
Total Administration	6,025,079	6,239,245	214,166
Total Budget	54,984,147	56,026,338	1,042,191

STUDENT DATA

Class of 2020 (2016 Cohort) Post-Graduation Plans

54% to 4-year college 1% to military service
 26% to 2-year college 18% to undecided or other
 1% to employment

RHHS Class of 2020 Graduation Rate

92% of the Class of 2020 earned a diploma
 63% of those graduates earned a Regents Diploma
 with Advanced Designation
 36% of those graduates earned a Regents Diploma

FUNDING

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

	2020-21	2021-22
State Aid	16,096,526	16,708,414
Fund Balance	2,200,000	2,350,000
Property Tax	35,460,000	35,997,924
Miscellaneous	1,227,621	970,000
	54,984,147	56,026,338

PROTOCOLS FOR MAY 18, 2021 VOTE

The Red Hook Central School District will follow guidance from the New York State Board of Elections regarding mask wearing, social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting of voting equipment, and queuing of voters waiting to enter the building for the May 18 vote.

A line will form outside of the building on the Mill Road Intermediate 3 5 side. Voters will wait outside before being escorted into the building in small groups. Once each group is finished with the voting process, the area will be cleaned and disinfected before the next group is escorted in. There will be tents outside of the building, sample ballots for voters to review, and an information table for those who have questions. Once inside the building, voters will check in at the appropriate inspectors' table (based on last name) and be given a ballot to fill out. After casting their ballot, voters will

exit the building following the established traffic flow markers.

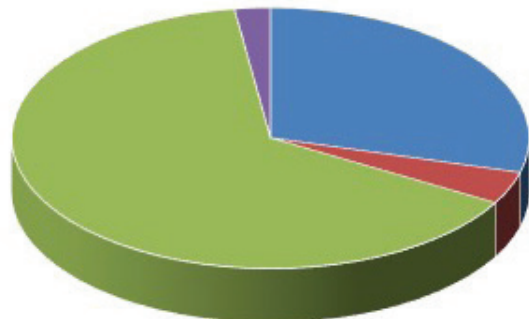
An Executive Order from Governor Cuomo allows voters who do not want to vote in person due to the COVID pandemic to request an absentee ballot. Voters wishing to request an absentee ballot due to COVID concerns should select the "temporary illness or physical disability" option on the absentee ballot application. Voting information, including the forms necessary to obtain a ballot, are available on the Board of Education page on the District's website at: <https://www.redhookcentralschools.org/domain/38>

If you have questions about the voting process, please contact the District Clerk at 845 758 2241 ext. 55010.

2021-2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

2021-2022 Revenue Breakdown

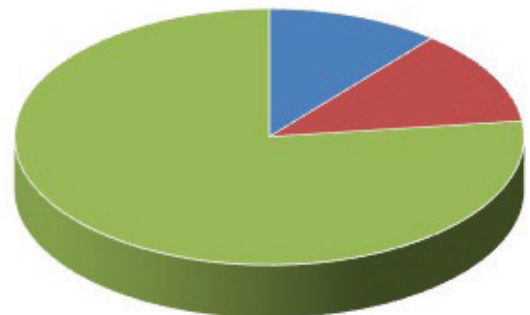
State Aid	16,708,414
Fund Balance	2,350,000
Property Tax	35,997,924
Miscellaneous	970,000
	56,026,338



● State Aid ● Fund Balance ● Property Tax ● Miscellaneous

2021-2022 Expenditures Breakdown

Operating Expenses	
Administration	6,239,245
Capital	6,689,104
Program	43,097,989
	56,026,338



● Administration ● Capital ● Program

CANDIDATES FOR 2021 RED HOOK SCHOOL BOARD

JACKIE BERRY

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

As a professor, and author, I constantly work to help young people become the best version of themselves. I like getting into the nitty-gritty of what they need to flourish and taking responsibility for their educational well-being. The Board of Education is a natural extension of this; I want to apply my natural passion to setting policies and guidelines that will provide a foundation for them to go forth and become producing members of society.



What is your connection to the school district?

I live in the school district and have a son enrolled in the 8th grade.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

My four degrees in higher education, and direct experience with trusting, impressionable kids, has given me a picture of exactly what colleges are looking for and also what kids need. My international experience has given me a unique view of our educational roles, responsibilities and opportunities in the world.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

It's difficult to narrow it down to one but I believe there is a lack of diversity, not just in the student body but in thought and opinion, and a lack of outreach to support students that may have differences of any kind. In addition, I would want to add more programs, and enhance others, that give students more opportunities to explore a variety of career options.

KAREN CHRISTENSEN

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

My main reason for running for the Board of Education is for the health, safety and well-being of all our students. It is my hope that we can return to a normal school day in the very near future. I have personally experienced the burdens and heartaches of our elementary students and their parents who have worked so diligently to complete the required work, and of our administration, teachers, and support staff during this past school year. They should all be applauded!



What is your connection to the school district?

I moved into the district in 1985. My grown children both graduated from Red Hook. They furthered their education and are now both Registered Nurses. I was involved with the district at the onset of my residency. Saving our sports programs was very important to me and I worked with other parents to raise funds for the Sports Booster Club. I was fortunate to be employed by the district in 1991 as Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools and District Clerk. I worked under the direction of three Superintendents and many board of education members. I enjoyed a good rapport with Administrators, Faculty Members, and Support Staff. I earned much respect from many community members and parents.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

I believe my experience working with the Board of Education and the district would be beneficial to the district and

the community. I have attended many board meetings and I organized several budget votes. The responsibilities of the Board of Education are very clear and understood by me.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

Our Students are of utmost importance to me. The overall effects of this the pandemic will be felt for years ahead. Planning of curriculum, adding emotional supports to support mental health issues and summer support to those students needing educational intervention. Equity in terms of instruction and necessary technical support to our students and parents that is pertinent to aid student achievement. Second, fiscal responsibility while maintaining all of our educational programs and extra-curricular activities. Third, working collaboratively with the Board of Education, our new Superintendent, our administrators, faculty, and support staff.

KATE KORTBUS

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

It is an honor to serve the district as a current board member. Despite the massive disruption of the pandemic, the board is working hard in partnership with our new Superintendent, Janet Warden, to broaden our instructional programming, bring new and innovative learning opportunities to our students and assess our current systems and protocols to make sure all students have equal access to achieving their highest potential. It is my passionate belief that children are our greatest asset and investing time and energy into their development is a big part of my life's work.



What is your connection to the school district?

I have been a Red Hook resident for 16 years and have four children in the district (8th, 7th, 4th and 2nd). In 2018, I was elected to the board and currently serve as the School Board President. Prior to board service, I was an active classroom volunteer and was the co-head for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon for four years. I was raised in a family that deeply valued community service and we are raising our children with similar values so they may learn by our example.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

I am an advocate for all students as they are the moral imperative that drives my commitment to this work. Our students reflect our community, a wonderfully diverse group that makes our student population unique. They have individual needs, strengths and desires that grow more critical in our complex world and society. Placing our students at the forefront of our decision making is the core of why I pursued the board in the first place.

We are a community of diverse opinions, voices and ideas. It is critical to have leaders in the district who can fairly represent the whole of who we are. It is imperative to have a neutral view with an open mind.

I have deep respect for the faculty and staff at RHCS. Being on the board provides an intimate lens into the inner workings of our district and the excellence and expertise that surrounds our students every day. I have worked hard to achieve a strong working relationship with the faculty and staff based on trust and support and a clear understanding of governance of a school board. I was voted Board President and have helped navigate this incredibly challenged year alongside our new Superintendent. I am grateful to the board for their confidence in my ability to lead and for their partnership

in governing the district.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

While I am proud of the efforts our district put forth this year, the effects of COVID-19 on children will ripple for years to come. We are focused on lessons learned from the pandemic, supplemental programming both for summer and beyond and the essential focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our students and faculty as we take steps to get back to normalcy.

Two years ago, our District Leadership Team began essential equity work with a formal assessment within the district to evaluate how we treat all students in their pursuit of reaching their fullest potential. The work is difficult and requires self-reflection and dialogue within our school community and the community at large. Currently I am the BoE liaison working with Educational Elements on the Equity Leadership Team. We will need continued partnerships within our community, greater understanding and a greater ability to listen to one another in order to move the district forward.

Fiscal responsibility is a critical focus. 2020/21 has presented unforeseen expenses and surpluses. We need to prioritize curriculum and learning, enhanced academic and social emotional support, and capital projects while maintaining a balanced budget that does not pierce the tax cap. All schools will receive conditional federal stimulus monies as a 'one time' payment to help districts 'get back to normal'. Building consensus on how to best utilize this surplus is a district priority.

As a member of the communication committee, we continue to focus on our strategies to enhance communication with our families and community at large. One significant learning from this year is the district's commitment to improve communication with bi-lingual and non-English speaking families. Helping students reach their full potential requires strong partnerships with parents and guardians. Analyzing and building better communication strategies at all levels is a priority for the district.

JENNIFER MAÑÓN

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

As an RHCS parent and an educator, serving on the Board of Education would offer me the opportunity to bring my school and community engagement to the next level. I am eager to take on a more comprehensive role as a liaison between the school and our school community.

During this academic year, I have been an active member of the District Level Team and gained valuable insight into the evolving goals of our district, as well as the priorities and challenges for our schools. As a member of the Garden Committee, I appreciate the growing importance of supporting agricultural and environmental curriculum, particularly for our community. And



as a Board of Education member, I would aim to reflect, innovate and celebrate the work of our students, educators and administrators.

What is your connection to the school district?

As a RHCS family with daughters in 3rd grade at Mill Road and 6th grade at LAMS, we are fully invested in the present and future of our community. We have been active in a variety of civic/community activities, including food donations, local renovation projects and advocacy for children.

CANDIDATES FOR 2021 RED HOOK SCHOOL BOARD

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

Growing up between countries, cultures and languages, and being a bilingual Spanish speaker, has added critical dimension to my perspective. Over the course of my life and work, I have traveled around the country and the globe, which has given me an understanding of diverse points of view. It is this compassion, sense of advocacy and genuine interest in connecting with others that I hope to bring to my role on the Board of Education. I have a master's degree in Early Childhood Education, and I have been a teacher for 13 years, most recently at Bard Nursery School. I have an understanding of pedagogy, staffing, facilities and other administrative issues relevant to our school community. As an educator and parent, my philosophy is that childhood ought to be cherished as its own unique stage in life rather than an expressway to adulthood. Through the Board, I would aim to find ways to elevate children's distinct experiences, ideas and interests. An ever-present listener, I am committed to thoughtfully engaged thinking and dialogue at all stages of decision making and follow-through. As a life-long learner, I am ready to take the time to ask questions and continue learning. I understand that this opportunity means respecting all perspectives and hearing everyone's voice in order to fulfill this role successfully.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

Our most pressing issues change and evolve over time, which is something we've seen acutely with the COVID-19 pandemic. What never changes is our responsibility to our students and ensuring their safety and the highest quality education. With that in mind, I would like students to know that adults respect their individuality and that we are putting their interests, aspirations, education and safety at the forefront. I would set out to further support rigorous education that is thought-provoking, current, responsive and meaningful to our children.

In thinking about the wider school community, I would prioritize exploring new ways to bridge connections between families and school life through more robust communication, accessibility and transparency.

ARIADNE MONTARE

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

I have had concerns and ideas about improving public education for several years while shepherding my two children through the public school system. With all the changes



brought about by the COVID crisis, now is the time to address structural changes to how we educate our children. Having a seat on the Board of Education is my way of promoting that change.

What is your connection to the school district?

My son is a junior at the high school. I also gave a presentation to juniors and seniors a couple of years back on how to plan for funding college through student loans.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

I bring my skills as a negotiator and consensus builder developed over many years as an attorney. I believe these skills are important for interacting with the community and reaching agreement with the Board on pending issues.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

I believe systemic change is needed to improve the quality of education being given to our students. The changes brought about by the COVID crisis have shined a light on what is working and not working in the current structure. With the anticipated influx of federal funds, we have the opportunity to make fundamental changes - such as restructuring the school day and year - bring schooling out of the 19th century and into the 21st. As to specific issues, we need to improve the provision of mental health services to our students and address the needs of children who are both intellectually gifted and suffer from a mental or physical disability ("twice exceptional" students).

LAURA Y. ROBERTS

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

I believe an informed community is an engaged community. My goal in joining the Board is to improve communication and transparency, thus fostering deeper engagement between our schools and Red Hook as a whole. My own experience as a teacher, parent and student means I can bring a unique perspective to the Board, as well as an ability to speak to and for a broad range of stakeholders.



What is your connection to the school district?

I have lived in Red Hook for over thirteen years and grew up in the Hudson Valley. My daughter is a sixth grader at LAMS, the same school her grandparents attended when it was the only school building in Red Hook. I appreciate Red Hook's history, while also being able to envision a school that strives to better serve our community.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

I have worked in education for over twenty-five years, and I am a lifelong learner. I'm an excellent communicator, and deeply committed to engaging and informing the community about our district's challenges and its successes. A librarian, tutor and soccer coach, I connect well with children, parents, and other adults. I know the value of listening and the importance of taking action, and when to balance the two.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

I believe that RHCS, like school districts across the country, can and should make meaningful progress in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We should also prioritize access to education, ensuring that our schools meet the needs of all of the students who live in the district. The Board can address these issues by supporting our teachers and by engaging in direct, substantive conversations with the different groups who comprise our community.

MARCELLA STABILE

Why are you interested in becoming a Board of Education member?

I am interested in becoming a Board of Education member because I have a personal interest in preserving and improving the quality of our school structure. I believe that I can help influence the fiscal health of the district and where voter taxpayer money is spent.



What is your connection to the school district?

My connection to the school district started 17 years ago when I moved to Red Hook. I am a mother and I am raising two children in the Red Hook School District since kindergarten; my daughter is a freshman at the Red Hook High school and my son is a fourth grader at Mill Road elementary.

What skills and/or attributes would you bring to the board?

I have worked in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years in multiple capacities. During my tenure as an Executive Director, I was responsible to and worked closely with a Board of Directors and in my current job position I have been active in establishing strategic direction and priorities for the organization.

What do you consider the most important issue(s) in the school district?

I believe the most important issues in the school district are how to better serve each child and their individual needs and their families. I believe that the Board actions must be transparent and accountable to the public and to be effective, the board must work with the community, school staff and stakeholders.

Follow Us on Social Media for Good News and Important Updates!

Instagram @redhookcsd

Twitter @rhcsd

Facebook – Red Hook Central School District

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION #2: SCHOOL BUS & VEHICLE PURCHASE

This proposition seeks voter approval authorizing the purchase of school buses and school vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$390,000. These vehicles will replace two, 2006 65-passenger buses, and one 2007 Ford Taurus. Financing of these vehicles does not impact the 2021-22 budget. A home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$6.14 annually for the school years 2022-2023 through 2026-2027.

Recommended vehicle purchases as part of the district's 10-year plan:

Estimated Cost Not to Exceed	\$390,000
Two (2) 65-Passenger Buses	\$230,000
One (1) Wheelchair Van	\$70,000
One (1) Maintenance Vehicle	\$90,000

PROPOSITION #3: TIVOLI FREE LIBRARY

The Tivoli Free Library is requesting that its annual appropriation be increased by \$3,500, to the total amount of \$85,100. This funding is separate and apart from the Red Hook Central School District's annual budget. It is raised annually by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, and, by law, must be included as part of the school tax bill if approved by the voters.

PROPOSITION #4: STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

This proposition seeks voter approval to allow a high school student to continue to serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Red Hook Central School District Board of Education subject to the requirements of the Education Law.

PROPOSITION #5: SEVEN MEMBER BOARD OF EDUCATION

This proposition seeks voter approval to increase the membership of the Board of Education from the current five (5) members to seven (7) members in accordance with the provisions of applicable New York State Education Law effective commencing with the 2021-2022 school year.

If this proposition is approved by the voters, the school district will be authorized to conduct a special election in accordance with law at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 54,984,147	\$56,026,338	\$55,688,414
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 1,042,191	\$ 704,267
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.90 %	1.28%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$35,460,000	\$35,997,924	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$	\$	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$	\$	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$	\$	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$35,460,000	\$35,997,924	\$35,460,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 298,558	\$ 348,758	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$35,161,737	\$35,827,777	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$35,161,442	\$35,649,166	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 295	\$ 178,611	
Administrative Component	\$ 6,025,079	\$ 6,239,245	\$ 6,106,661
Program Component	\$42,326,989	\$43,097,989	\$42,892,649
Capital Component	\$ 6,632,079	\$ 6,689,104	\$ 6,689,104

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

1. Most instructional equipment will be removed from the budget as required by law.
2. Necessary Transfer to Capital Project will be cancelled as required by law.
3. Groups seeking to use school facilities will be required to pay applicable use charges as required by law.
4. Program reductions in areas such as Athletics, Kindergarten, Arts, Guidance, Student Support Services, and Extra Curricular Activities would need to be considered. Class size increases would be a likely result.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Vehicle Proposition (Does Not Impact 21-22 Tax Levy or Levy Limit)	\$ 390,000
	\$
	\$
	\$

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 784

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Red Hook Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia County, New York, will be held at Mill Road Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Mill Road 3-5 Cafeteria, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Application for Absentee Ballots

The District Clerk must receive an absentee ballot application at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter OR the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person. After May 11, 2021, absentee ballots may be obtained by appearing in person at the District Clerk's office. An absentee voter's ballot MUST be received in the district office by 5 pm the date of the election (May 18, 2021) to be counted in the election results. Absentee ballot applications are available on the district website - www.redhookcentralschools.org/domain/38.

2021-2022 BUDGET ISSUE

RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

9 MILL ROAD • RED HOOK, NY 12571

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 255
Newburgh, NY

Janet Warden, Superintendent of Schools

Thank you again for making Red Hook a wonderful community to live, learn and work in.

It has been a privilege to lead the Red Hook School District this year as your new superintendent. I am looking forward to a full reopening in the fall that increases student engagement and celebrates innovation.

The proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year is fiscally responsible, below the mandated tax cap, and focused on preserving our unique PreK - 12 academic programming. The proposed budget will allow us to add support services for students in the areas of mental health and academic intervention. We will continue our commitment to the equity, inclusivity and diversity work started this year, and look to increase community engagement and communication. To that end, our leadership team is examining the district's mission, vision, core values and goals to ensure our students are gaining essential 21st century skills.

the school district's most important asset, our students.

Thank you for your support of our school district during a difficult year. Our educational community - faculty, support staff, administrators, students, parents, board members - has worked tirelessly to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of what school looked like this year. We learned a lot about ourselves as an organization as we maintained our commitments to

Dear Families and Community Members,

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT