

# 2025–26 Budget Overview and Discussion

Presentation to the Bethlehem Central  
School District Board of Education  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025



1

## ACADEMICS

INSTRUCTIONAL AND  
ASSESSMENT  
PRACTICES THAT ARE  
ALIGNED TO A  
STRONG AND  
RELEVANT  
CURRICULUM.



2

## CHARACTER

POSITIVE  
CHARACTER TRAITS  
ARE ESSENTIAL TO  
BECOMING  
CONTRIBUTING  
MEMBERS OF  
SOCIETY.



3

## COMMUNITY

STRENGTHENING  
FAMILY, SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS  
THROUGH  
TRANSPARENT  
COMMUNICATION.



4

## WELLNESS

ENHANCING SOCIAL-  
EMOTIONAL WELLNESS  
AND BALANCE FOR  
STUDENTS AND STAFF  
BY SUPPORTING  
ACTIVE, HEALTHY  
LIFESTYLES AND  
PROMOTING POSITIVE  
BEHAVIOR.

*Our mission...*

TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL,  
DISCOVER THEIR PURPOSE, AND BE ENGAGED COMMUNITY MEMBERS.



# BUDGET OVERVIEW

John McPhillips  
Chief Business and Financial Officer



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

AS OF 3/5/25

	Expenditures	Revenue	Gap
Baseline as of - 2/26/25	\$117,465,695	\$(111,152,595)	\$6,313,100
Administrative - 2/26/25	40,500	(3,461,000)	
Transportation - 2/26/25	(489,250)		
Technology - 2/26/25	(294,894)		
Operations & Maintenance - 2/26/25	(34,100)		
Athletics - 3/5/25	2,850		
Instructional Programs- 3/5/25	(480,165)		
Student Support Services - 3/5/25	(271,700)		
<b>ADJUSTED BASELINE</b>	<b>\$115,938,936</b>	<b>\$(114,613,595)</b>	<b>\$1,325,341</b>
<b>CURRENT TAX LEVY INCREASE</b>			<b>2.30%</b>

# ADMINISTRATIVE

## ADDITIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Digitalization of Employee Records - BOCES - Year 2 of 2		\$40,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$40,500</b>



# TRANSPORTATION

## ADDITIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
EV Bus Charge Management Software		\$22,750
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$22,750</b>

## REDUCTIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Bus Drivers	5	\$(347,000)
Bus Attendants	3	(165,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$(512,000)</b>



# TECHNOLOGY

## REDUCTIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Data Web Architect (10 months)	1	\$(109,494)
Destiny Library		\$(10,400)
BOCES IPA		\$(175,000)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$(294,894)</b>





# OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

## ADDITIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Account Clerk I / Clerical Assistant	1.0	\$64,500
Green Team Garden Upgrades and Upkeep		5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$69,500</b>

## REDUCTIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Senior Account Clerk	1	\$(103,600)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$(103,600)</b>





# ATHLETICS

## ADDITIONS

Description	Cost
Athletic Training - Ergometer and Taping Table	\$2,850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,850</b>



# K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

## ADDITIONS

Description	Cost
Bookworms - Complete Implementation	\$50,000
Arts and Education Supplemental Allocation	5,000
BOCES Library Services	39,270
Odyssey of the Mind Assistant - Level A Stipend	1,200
Middle School Yearbook Co-Advisor - Level A Stipend	1,200
Pickleball Club - Level A Stipend	1,200
Ultimate Frisbee Advisor - Change from Level B Stipend to Level C Stipend	500
Ski Club Advisor - Level A Stipend	1,200
French Honor Society - Level A Stipend	1,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,770</b>

# K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

## REDUCTIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Elementary Classroom Teachers	2.0	\$(207,200)
BOCES Library Coordinator		(9,935)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$(217,135)</b>



# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## REDUCTIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Social Worker	1.0	\$(103,600)
Speech Therapist	1.0	(103,600)
Clerical Assistant	1.0	(64,500)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$(271,700)</b>



# K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM UPDATES

David Hurst, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent



# K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

## HOME INSTRUCTION FOLLOW-UP

EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW BY DEPARTMENT		
A.2330.150-08-0000	Inst Sal/Home Instruction Tutors	\$15,000
A 2330.405-08-0000	Travel/Home Instruction Tutors	\$500
A 2330.449-08-0000	Inst-out placed students	\$25,000
		<b>\$40,500</b>

SALARY AND POSITION INFORMATION		
A.2330.150-08-0000	Inst Sal/Home Instruction Tutors	<b>\$15,000</b>



# K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

## ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS

Description	FTE	Cost
Acoustic Jams - Level A Stipend		\$(1,200)
Social Studies Teacher	1.0	(103,600)
English Teacher	1.0	(103,600)
Physics Teacher	0.5	(51,800)
Elementary Teacher	1.0	(103,600)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$(363,800)</b>





# K-12 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

## UPDATED BUDGET IMPACT

	Amount
Total Additions	\$100,770
Less: Reductions (03.05.2025)	(217,135)
Less: Reductions (03.19.2025)	(363,800)
<b>NET DECREASE</b>	<b>\$(480,165)</b>



# BUDGET OVERVIEW CONTINUED

John McPhillips  
Chief Business and Financial Officer



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

AS OF 3/19/25 - SLIDE 1 OF 2

	Expenditures	Revenue	Gap
Baseline as of 2/26/25	\$117,465,695	\$(111,152,595)	\$6,313,100
Administrative	40,500	(3,461,000)	
Transportation	(489,250)		
Technology	(294,894)		
Operations & Maintenance	(34,100)		
Athletics	2,850		
Instructional Programs	(116,365)		
Student Support Services	(271,700)		

# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

AS OF 3/19/25 - SLIDE 2 OF 2

	Expenditures	Revenue	Gap
Instructional Programs - Additional	(363,800)		
Transfer - Capital Reserve	475,000		
Transfer - Food Service	210,000		
State Aid - Building Aid		(475,000)	
Fund Balance / Reserves		(715,241)	
<b>ADJUSTED BASELINE</b>	<b>\$116,623,936</b>	<b>\$(115,803,836)</b>	<b>\$820,100</b>
<b>CURRENT TAX LEVY INCREASE</b>			<b>1.12%</b>

# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## SUMMARY OF BUDGETED EXPENDITURES (BY TYPE)

Description	Budget 2024-25	Baseline Budget 2025-26	Adjusted Budget 2025-26
Salaries	\$57,710,932	\$60,805,858	\$59,304,129
Fringe Benefits	28,969,521	30,863,257	30,863,257
Debt Service	10,622,267	9,197,339	9,197,339
BOCES Services	5,326,865	5,602,057	5,506,827
Equipment/Supplies & Contractual	10,973,949	10,582,184	10,652,384
Transfers/Capital Outlay	434,000	415,000	1,100,000
<b>TOTAL - INCREASE OF \$2,586,402 or 2.27%</b>	<b>\$114,037,534</b>	<b>\$117,465,695</b>	<b>\$116,623,936</b>



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## BUDGET SUMMARY BY PROGRAM AREA

Description	Baseline 2024-25	Baseline 2025-26	Adjusted Budget 2025-26
Administrative - 2/26/25	\$3,944,902	\$3,871,218	\$4,596,718
Instructional Programs - 3/5/25	35,134,522	37,561,212	37,081,047
Student Support Services - 3/5/25	17,457,579	18,354,400	18,082,700
Transportation - 2/26/25	6,573,404	6,947,876	6,458,626
Operations and Maintenance - 2/26/25	5,699,226	5,851,608	5,817,508
Athletics - 3/5/25	1,235,737	1,322,279	1,325,129
Technology - 2/26/25	3,729,209	3,496,506	3,201,612
Fringe Benefits - 2/26/25	29,640,688	30,863,257	30,863,257
Debt Service - 2/26/25	10,622,267	9,197,339	9,197,339
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,037,534</b>	<b>\$117,465,695</b>	<b>\$116,623,936</b>

# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## SUMMARY OF BUDGETED REVENUES

Description	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Adjusted Budget 2025-26
School Taxes	\$73,128,537	\$73,128,537	\$73,948,637
PILOT Payments	3,855,000	163,000	3,624,000
State Aid	33,381,560	34,141,508	34,616,508
Other Revenue	3,672,437	3,719,550	3,719,550
Use of Fund Balance / Reserves	0	0	715,241
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,037,534</b>	<b>\$111,152,595</b>	<b>\$116,623,936</b>





# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## STATE AID ESTIMATE - FEBRUARY 2025\*

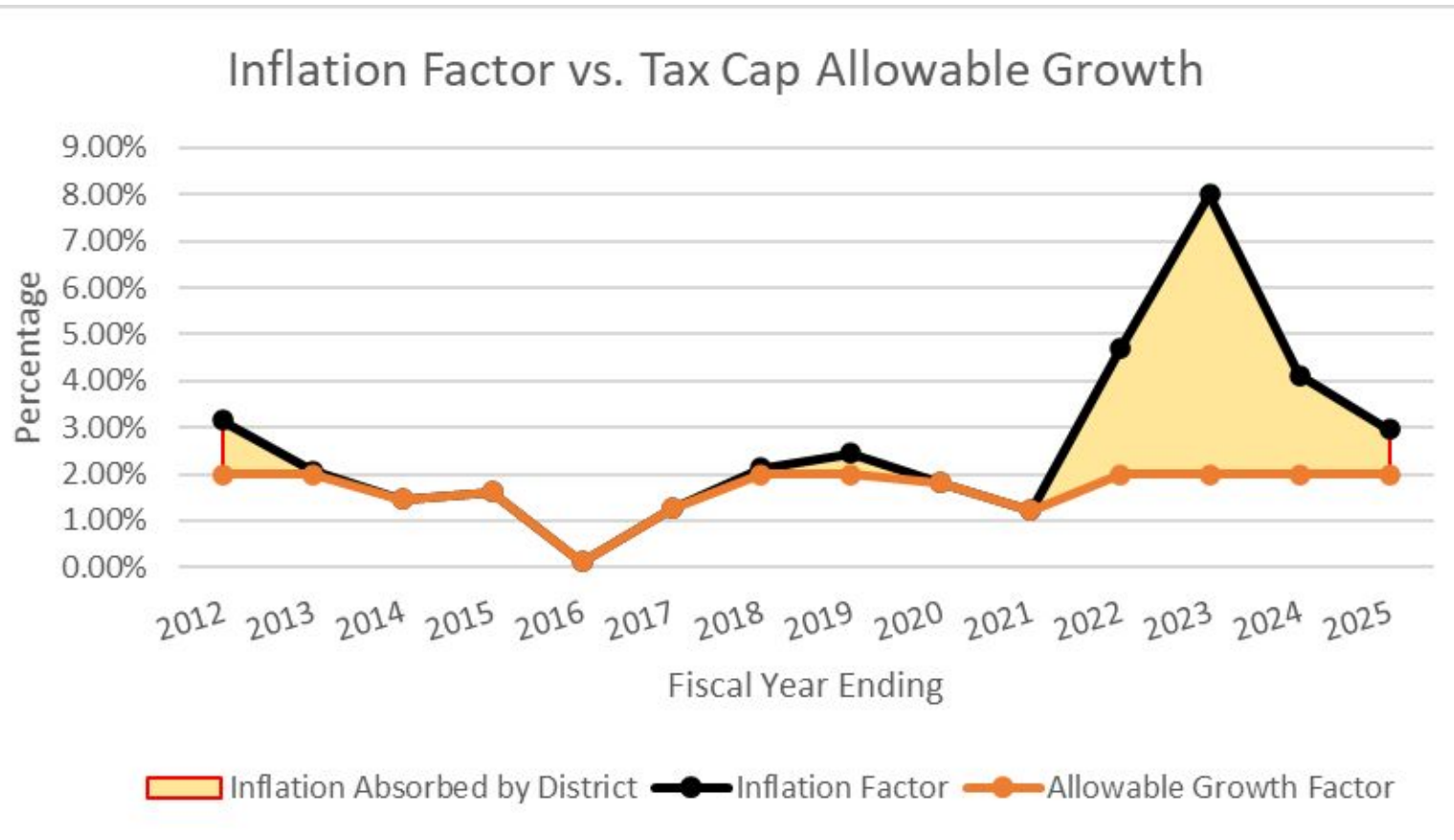
Description	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Executive Proposal
Foundation Aid	\$19,097,272	\$19,629,911
Other Aid Items (BOCES/special ed)	4,040,978	4.150.376
Transportation	4,880,951	5.055.212
Building Aid	5,362,359	5,781,009
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED STATE AID</b>	<b>\$33,381,560</b>	<b>\$34,616,508</b>
<b>Increase in Budgeted Aid - 3.70%</b>		<b>\$1,234,948</b>

\* Does not Include Universal Pre-K Allocation of \$1,269,000



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## INFLATION IMPACT TO THE DISTRICT



- The District experienced significant inflationary pressures over the last four fiscal years of 4.7%, 8.0%, 4.1%, and 3.0% → compounds to a 21.2% increase.
- The Tax Cap provides for a maximum, capped inflationary increase of 2%. → compounds to a 8.2% increase.
- Any difference is absorbed by the District by prioritizing service delivery and operational needs.
- Resource management and strategic planning have been and remain critical.



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

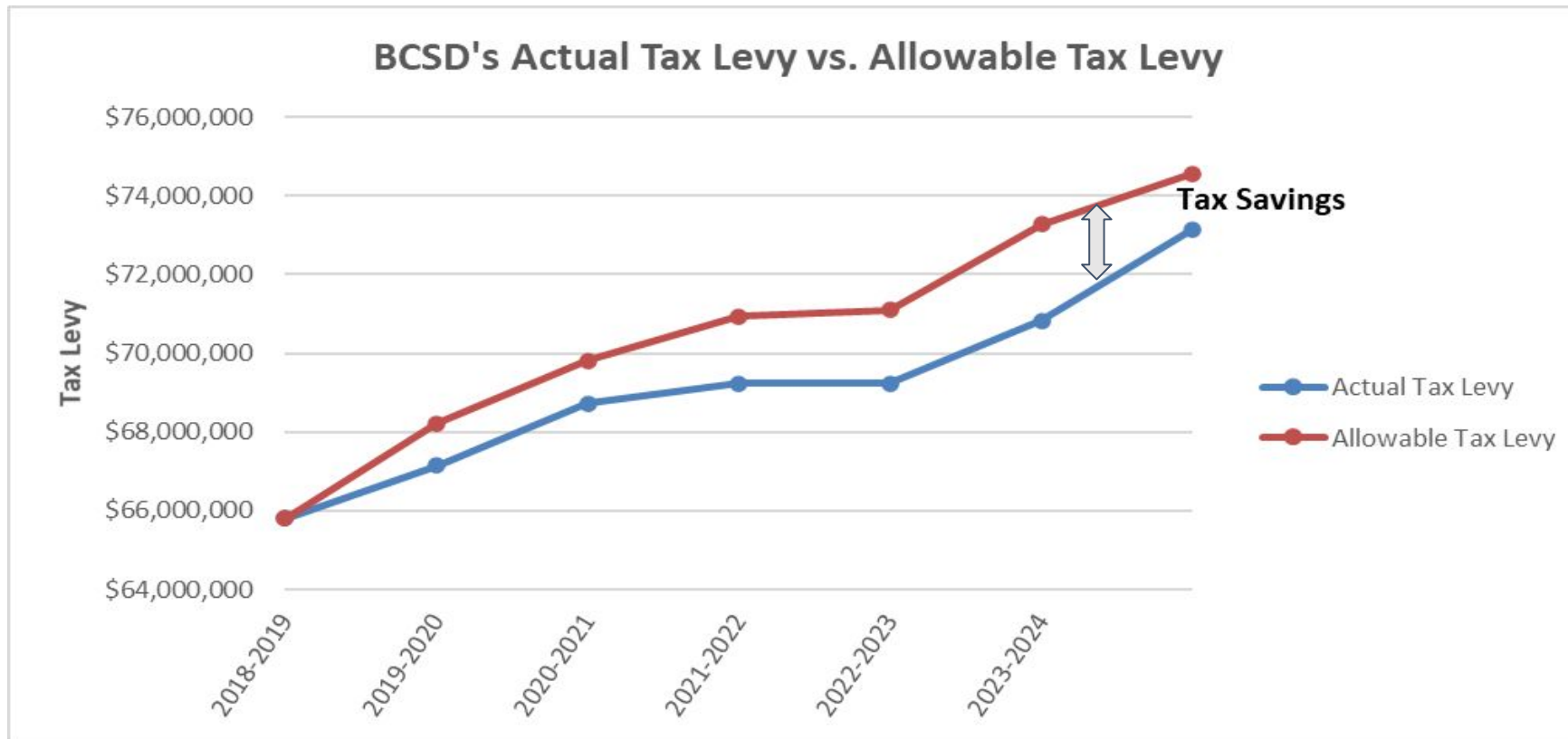
## SUMMARY OF BUDGETED REVENUES

Description	Budget 2023-24	Budget 2024-25	Budget 2025-26
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	\$71,368,606	\$74,568,545	\$73,948,637
Taxes Levied	70,824,965	73,128,537	73,948,637
Year to Year Tax Levy Increase \$	\$1,591,965	\$2,320,572	820,100
Allowable Tax Levy Increase %	3.08%	4.15%	1.12%
Actual Tax Levy Increase %	2.30%	3.25%	1.12%
Unused Allowable Tax Levy	\$543,641	\$634,121	\$0
Allowable Tax Levy Not Levied - Last Three FYs			\$1,177,762



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## TAX LEVY COMPARISON



\$# million in cumulative savings over the course of the last six budget cycles.

Represents fiscal stewardship by the District to minimize impact to real property taxpayers.



# ESTIMATED IMPACT TO TAX RATE

## TOWNS OF BETHLEHEM AND NEW SCOTLAND

- Influenced by Assessed Value in and between the Towns;
- Impacted by changes in Equalization Rates;
- Calendar Challenge:
  - Equalization Rates → Available February 2025;
  - Taxable Status Date → March 1, 2025;
  - Preliminary Assessment Roll → May 1, 2025;
  - Final Assessment Roll → July 1, 2025;
  - School District Budget Process Finalized in late March/Early April;
- 2024 Assessment Roll - Database of Record.



# 2025-26 PRELIMINARY TAX RATES

PROPOSED TAX REVENUE WILL INCREASE BY \$820,000 OR 1.12%

	Current Equalization Rate	2024 Final Tax Rate/\$1,000	2025 Estimated Tax Rate/\$1,000	% Inc (Dec)
Bethlehem	64% (was 71%)	\$22.27	\$22.57	1.35%
New Scotland	65% (was 70%)	\$22.59	\$22.22	(1.64)%

**Bethlehem:** Results in a \$30 increase per \$100,000 of assessed value

**New Scotland:** Results in a \$37 decrease per \$100,000 of assessed value



# FUND BALANCE & RESERVES

Fund	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/24
Encumbrances	\$243,569	\$334,243	\$342,442
Workers' Comp	840,000	840,000	780,000
Employee Benefits	1,400,000	1,400,000	3,320,000
Tax Certiorari	500,000	500,000	500,000
Retirement (ERS/TRS)	5,305,000	5,305,000	6,025,000
2015 Capital Reserve	5,100,000	0	0
2019 Capital Reserve	10,000,000	1,700,000	0
2022 Capital Reserve	6,200,000	12,200,000	14,327,760
Debt Service	1,647,095	1,486,372	1,634,632
Bus Reserve (Established May 2024)	0	0	0
Appropriated Fund Balance	0	0	0
Undesignated (< 4% budget)	4,330,441	4,255,409	4,557,223
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,566,105</b>	<b>\$28,021,024</b>	<b>\$31,487,057</b>



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## CAPITAL RESERVE STATUS

Capital Reserves						
	Expiration Date	Maximum Funding Limit	Amount Funded as of 6/30/2024	Available Funding Remaining 2024	Current Available Balance	Funding Limit Remaining
2015 Capital	6/30/25	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
2019 Capital	6/30/29	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	0	0
2022 Capital*	6/30/32	20,000,000	17,228,260	14,327,760	14,327,760	2,771,740
<b>Total Capital Reserves</b>		<b>\$40,000,000</b>	<b>\$17,228,260</b>	<b>\$14,327,760</b>	<b>\$14,327,760</b>	<b>\$2,771,740</b>

**\*2022 Capital Reserve Max Limit Anticipated to be Met in 2025**



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## FUND BALANCE - §1318 REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

As of June 30, 2024	
Voter Approved Expenditure Budget for Next FY	\$114,037,537
4% Maximum Threshold	4,561,501
Assigned Fund Balance (Encumbrances)	342,442
Nonspendable	8,598
Unassigned Fund Balance	4,561,499
Total Fund Balance	\$4,912,539
Maximum Threshold as of June 2025	\$4,664,957



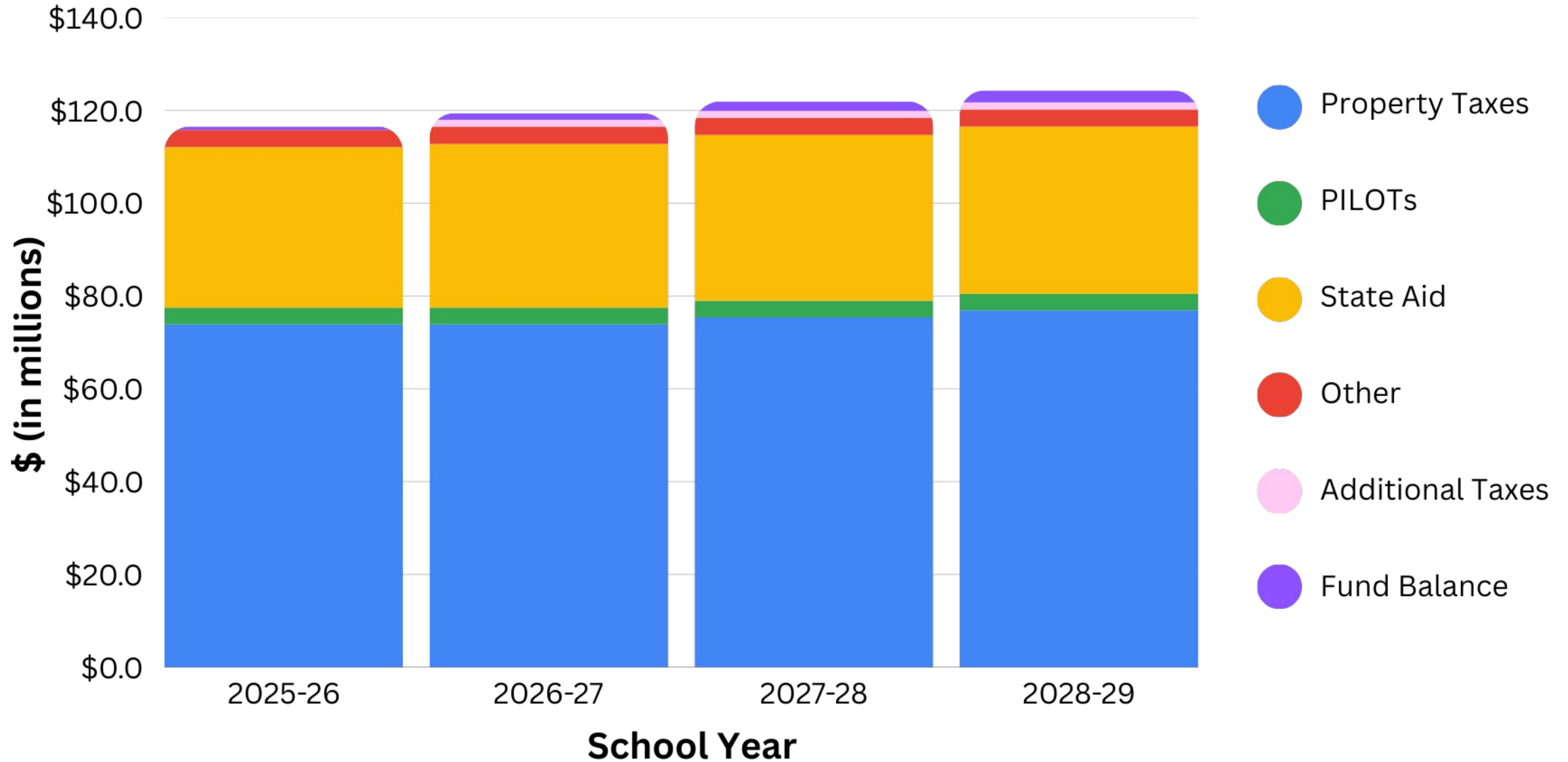
# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## REVENUE | MULTI-YEAR PROJECTION

DESCRIPTION ( <i>in millions</i> )	2025-26	2026-27	2025-26	2026-27
School Taxes (Assumed + 2% per year)	\$74.0	\$75.4	\$76.9	\$78.5
PILOT Payments	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
State Aid, (Assumed + 2% per year)	34.6	35.3	35.6	36.0
All Other Revenue	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8
Use of Fund Balance/Reserves	0.7	1.4	2.0	2.6
Revenues	116.6	119.5	121.9	124.5
Expenditures	116.6	119.5	121.9	124.5
Surplus (Deficit)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



# REVENUE



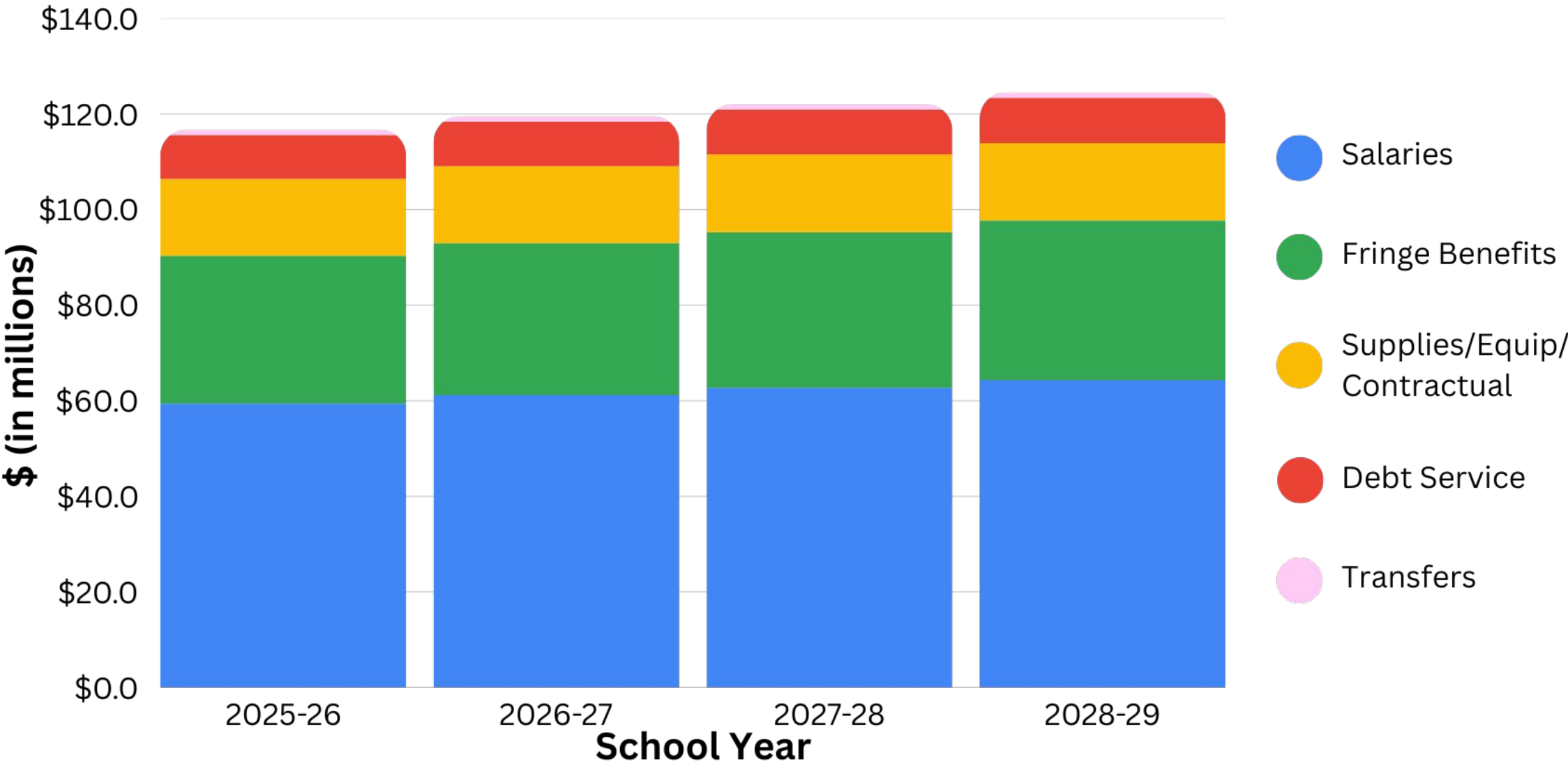
# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## APPROPRIATIONS | MULTI-YEAR PROJECTION

DESCRIPTION ( <i>in millions</i> )	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Salaries (Assumed + 3% per year)	\$59.4	\$61.2	\$62.7	\$64.3
Fringe Benefits	30.9	31.8	32.6	33.4
Supplies/Purchased Services	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.2
Debt Service	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5
Transfers	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.1
Appropriation	116.6	119.5	121.9	124.5
Revenue	116.6	119.5	121.9	124.5
Surplus (Deficit)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

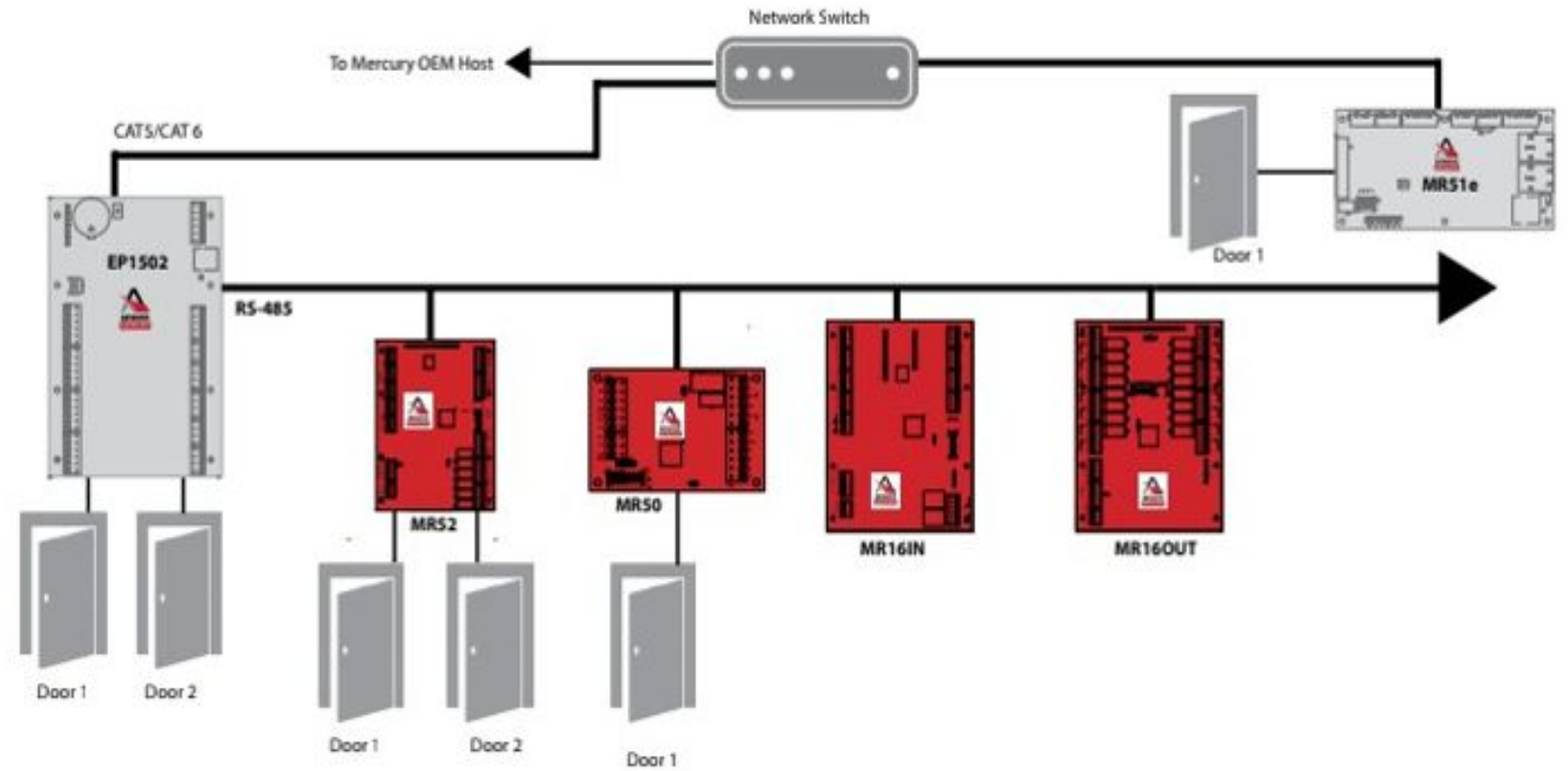


# APPROPRIATIONS



# CAPITAL OUTLAY

## HAMAGRAEL ELEMENTARY | AVIGILON DOOR STATUS MONITORING SYSTEM (ADSMS)





# CAPITAL OUTLAY

- Automatic Alert Notifications
- Improve the safety and security of BCSD Schools
- High School is complete, MS was approved for the 2024-2025 COP - the MS system is currently being installed & will be completed by May 2025
- Installation of the system at the remaining Elementary Schools using future Capital Outlay Projects or Operating Budget



## ExteriorAlerts

Door held open

To: ExteriorAlerts

Source: MR62e\_Door01

Date/Time: 12/07/2023 13:21:12 (UTC-05:00)

Event Type: Door held open

Event: Door held open

Priority: 10



# BALLOT PROPOSITIONS



# TRANSPORTATION

## BUS PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bethlehem Central School District is hereby authorized to (1) acquire up to 3 large (70-72 passenger diesel) school buses and up to 3 small (24-30 passenger gasoline) school buses at a total cost not to exceed \$814,770 which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, (2) expend such sums for such purpose, (3) levy the tax necessary therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account federal and state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$814,770 or enter into a lease-purchase agreement at a principal amount not to exceed \$814,770 to acquire such buses.



# ESTABLISHMENT – CAPITAL RESERVE

## BALLOT PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund, designated as the 2025 Capital Reserve Fund, in accordance with Education Law § 3651(1), for the purpose of paying the cost of future building projects, in a maximum amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 to be raised by annual transfer of unexpended operating funds, for a probable term of ten (10) years, effective immediately and expiring June 30, 2035, provided that, pursuant to Education Law § 3651(3), no expenditure shall be made from such fund except upon authorization of the voters of the District for the purposes specified herein?



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## POTENTIAL BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

- District Operating Budget
- Bus Proposition
- 2025 Capital Reserve
- Bethlehem Public Library Operating Budget
- 2 District Board of Education Seats
- 2 Library Board of Trustee Seats



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

On May 20, voters in the Bethlehem Central School District will elect *two* members of the Board of Education for a 3-year term, expiring June 30, 2028.

Nominating petitions became available beginning February 20 from the District Clerk, Brittany Barrett. All petitions are due by April 21 at 5 pm.



**Robert Tietjen**

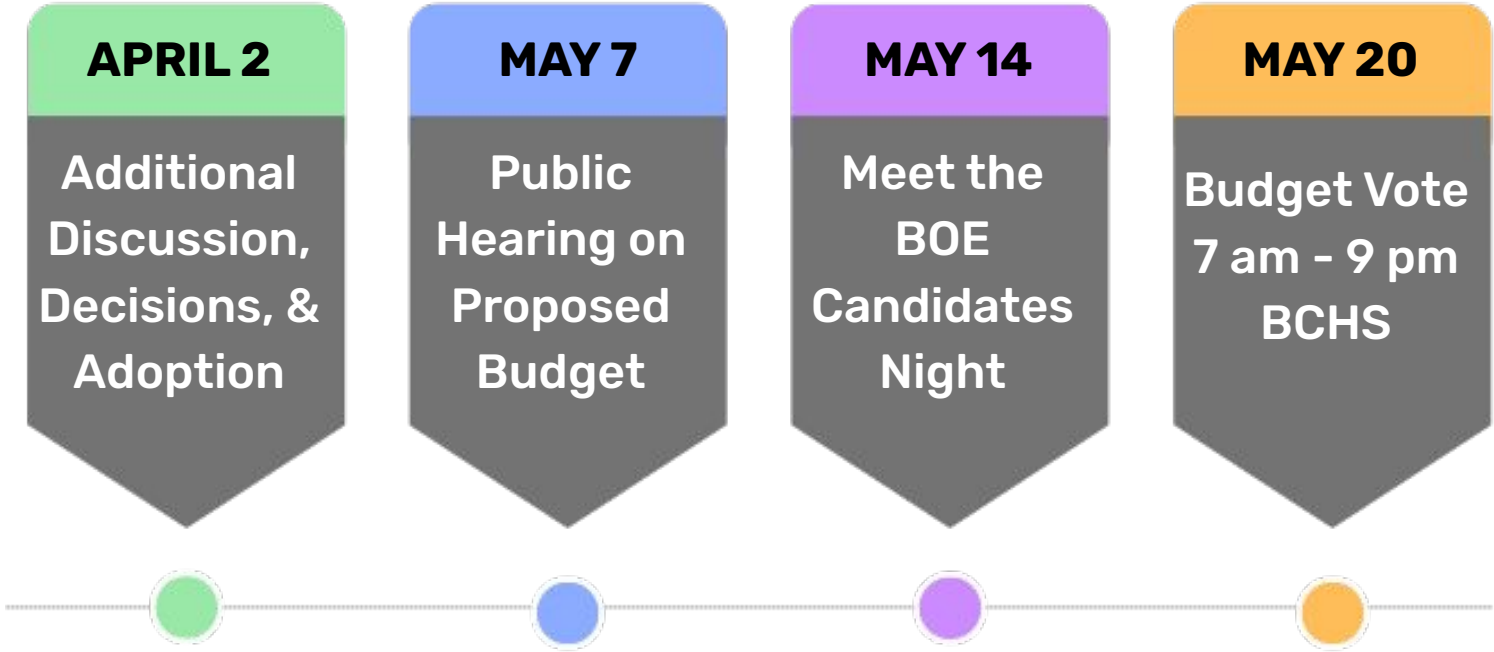


**John Walston**



# 2025-26 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## FUTURE MEETINGS



All meetings begin at 7 pm in the Bethlehem Central High School Room D-122, unless otherwise noted.

