



Notice is hereby given of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Town of Westfield, in the County of Union, New Jersey, at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of Monday, March 16, 2026 in Cafeteria B of Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield, New Jersey.

The Board will move immediately into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential by state and federal law, including negotiations. The public portion of the meeting will resume at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to transact the regular business of the Board and to transact any other business to come properly before the Board.

This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the Minutes that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act," the Westfield School Board on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 caused to be posted at the Office of the Board of Education located at 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, and delivered to The Westfield Leader, NJ.com, the Westfield Library, Town Clerk of Westfield, TAP into Westfield, District website and Patch.com, a meeting notice setting forth the time, date and location of this meeting.

## 1. ROLL CALL

**Board Members:** Robert Benacchio, Kent Diamond, Brendan Galligan, Charles Gelinias, Leila Morrelli, Sonal Patel, Kristen Sonnek-Schmelz, Julie Steinberg, Mary Wickens

**Staff:** Dr. Raymond González, Superintendent and Patricia Ramos, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**Student Representative:** Benjamin Zhou

## 2. FLAG SALUTE

## 3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education move into Private Session for the purpose of discussing matters rendered confidential by state and federal law including, negotiations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential and the results of the discussion will be made public as soon as practicable.

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITIONS

- RIS Spring Musical Performance - The Addams Family Musical: Young @ Part
- WHS Boys Winter Track and Field - North 2, Group 4 Sectional Champions

## 5. REPORT BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

- 2026-2027 Budget Development Overview Part 3

## 6. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT



**7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Report by the Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Committee Chairperson
- b. Report by the Finance and Facilities Committee Chairperson
- c. Report by the Policies, Personnel and Governance Committee Chairperson

**8. RECOGNIZE PUBLIC** (on agenda action items only)

During this portion of the meeting, District residents and staff are invited to address the Board of Education on agendas action items only. As a courtesy, allow current students/staff of Westfield Public Schools to speak first.

The Board requests that individuals sign in and state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable, for the record, the specific action item(s) they are commenting on, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board President or designee (not to individual members or staff). The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding personnel matters are discouraged and cannot be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. If a matter concerning a District staff member is of interest or concern to a resident, the matter should be referred to the responsible Building Principal, Superintendent of Schools, or the Board of Education, either by telephone, letter, or email. Although the Board may not respond to items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered.

Please note that if any member of the public becomes disruptive during the meeting the Board president may terminate the participant's statement. Continued disruptions may result in removal from the meeting or adjournment of the meeting.

Each speaker's statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.

**9. MINUTES**

- A. Approve February 10, 2026, regular Board meeting minutes and executive session minutes.

**BOARD ACTION AGENDA**

**10. GOVERNANCE**

- A. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2026, the Board of Education received a report from the superintendent containing the results of investigations conducted by each school regarding alleged incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB); and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15(b)(6)(c) states, the report also includes information on services provided, training established, discipline imposed, or other action taken or recommended by the superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the report presented by the superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education affirms that the findings of the



investigation and the actions comply with the district’s HIB policies and procedures for the following HIB incidents:

HIB		
1. 303018_EIS_01232026	2. 303016_EIS_01232026	3. 301866_EIS_01052026
4. 302932_FES_01222026	5. 303029_MES_01232026	6. 302143_WHS_01092026
7. 301439_WHS_12172025	8. 302728_WES_01202026	9. 302496_WES_01152026

B. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Westfield Board of Education acknowledges the essential role that arts education plays in stimulating creative thinking, cultural awareness, and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, Youth Art Month and Music In Our Schools Month are celebrated nationally during March, highlighting the importance of arts and music education for all children and encouraging support for quality school arts programs; and

WHEREAS, engagement in art and music education has been shown to increase students' cognitive abilities, enhance their problem-solving skills, and improve their academic performance across all subjects; and

WHEREAS, arts and music programs provide students with a means of expression that transcends language and cultural barriers, fostering an inclusive and supportive school community; and

WHEREAS, the talents and creativity of young artists and musicians in our schools deserve recognition and celebration, as they contribute significantly to the cultural vibrancy and well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Westfield Board of Education firmly believes in the value of providing students with a comprehensive education that includes robust arts and music programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westfield Board of Education hereby recognizes March as Youth Art Month and Music In Our Schools Month; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution becomes part of the official minutes of this meeting.

**11. PERSONNEL**

The following items, relative to personnel, are recommended to the Board of Education by the Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with Policy 3125 and state guidelines, pending school employee criminal history review.



A. Accept with regret the retirements of the following employees:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	FIRST DAY OF RETIREMENT
1. Linda D'Onofrio	First Grade Teacher	TAM	7/1/26
2. Susan Kolesar	Health Teacher	WHS	7/1/26
3. Maria Martinez	Paraprofessional	WHS	7/1/26
4. Lori Swanson	Fifth Grade Teacher	TAM	7/1/26
5. Andrea Wohl	Achieve Teacher	WIL	7/1/26

B. Accept the resignations of the following employees:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	LAST DAY OF EMPLOYMENT
1. Marisa Corrigan	Special Education Teacher	RIS	4/17/26
2. Kristin Fiumara	Behaviorist	DISTRICT	4/23/26
3. Michele Saltalamacchia	Paraprofessional	WAS	3/6/26
4. Farrah Selvers	ELA Interventionist	RIS	4/20/26

C. Approve leaves of absence for the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	LOA w/pay and benefits	LOA w/o pay and with benefits (FMLA/NJFLA, if applicable)	LOA w/o pay or benefits	RETURN DATE
1. 2787	Custodian	EIS	2/5/26 - 3/6/26	-	-	3/9/26
2. 9065	Teacher	LIN	3/13/26 - 5/8/26	-	-	5/11/26
3. 6015	Teacher	WAS	3/2/26 - 4/13/26	-	-	4/14/26
4. 9624	Social Worker	DISTRICT	3/10/26 - 4/24/26	-	-	4/27/26
5. 1902	Custodian	JEF	-	3/2/26 - 5/25/26	-	5/26/26



6. 8475	Teacher	FRK	2/10/26 - 3/10/26	-	-	3/11/26
7. 1474	Teacher	JEF	3/2/26 - 3/13/26	-	-	3/16/26
8. 3594	Custodian	LIN	3/6/26 - 3/23/26	-	-	3/24/26
9. 9879	Administrator	DISTRICT	3/30/26 - 4/10/26	-	-	4/13/26
10. 3683	Paraprofessional	LIN	-	5/11/26 - 10/16/26	-	10/19/26

D. Approve **change** in leaves of absence for the following employees:

FROM						TO			
EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOA w/pay and benefits	LOA w/o pay and with benefits (if applicable)	EXTENDED LOA w/o pay or benefits	RETURN DATE	LOA w/pay and benefits	LOA w/o pay and with benefits (if applicable)	EXTENDED LOA w/o pay or benefits	RETURN DATE
1. 9501	Counselor	1/9/26 - 3/6/26	3/7/26 - 5/31/26	6/1/26 - 6/30/26	9/1/26	1/8/26 - 3/25/26	3/26/26 - 6/17/26	6/18/26 - 6/30/26	8/26/26
2. 4248	Teacher	3/23/26 - 4/27/26	4/28/26 - 9/21/26	9/22/26 - 11/12/26	11/13/26	2/12/26 - 3/13/26	3/16/26 - 6/5/26	6/8/26 - 6/30/26	8/26/26
3. 9315	Physical Therapist	12/15/25 - 3/9/26	-	-	3/10/26	12/15/25 - 4/3/26	-	-	4/6/26
4. 9084	Teacher	2/18/26 - 3/5/26	-	-	3/6/26	2/18/26 - 3/6/26	-	-	3/9/26
5. 8286	Teacher	12/1/25 - 1/30/26	2/2/26 - 4/27/26	4/28/26 - 6/30/26	9/1/26	12/1/25 - 2/18/26	2/19/26 - 5/13/26	5/14/26 - 6/30/26	8/26/26
6. 8307	Teacher	12/15/25 - 2/10/26	2/11/26 - 5/5/26	5/6/26 - 6/30/26	9/1/26	12/15/25 - 2/25/26	2/26/26 - 5/20/26	5/21/26 - 6/30/26	8/26/26
7. 9931	Teacher	2/17/26 - 3/13/26	-	-	3/16/26	2/17/26 - 3/5/26	-	-	3/6/26
8. 8479	Teacher	1/12/26 -	3/11/26 -	6/3/26 -	9/1/26	1/12/26 -	4/6/26 -	-	8/26/26



		<b>3/10/26</b>	<b>6/2/26</b>	6/30/26		<b>4/3/26</b>	<b>6/30/26</b>		
9. 2864	Teacher	1/22/26 - <b>3/9/26</b>	-	-	<b>3/10/26</b>	1/22/26 - <b>4/3/26</b>	-	-	<b>4/6/26</b>
10. 8428	Teacher	9/2/25 - 12/8/25	12/9/25 - 3/2/26	3/3/26 - <b>6/30/26</b>	<b>8/26/26</b>	9/2/25 - 12/8/25	12/9/25 - 3/2/26	3/3/26 - <b>6/30/27</b>	<b>9/1/27</b>
11. 2798	Teacher	2/6/26 - <b>4/6/26</b>	-	-	<b>4/7/26</b>	2/6/26 - <b>5/8/26</b>	-	-	<b>5/11/26</b>
12. 3141	Teacher	<b>3/23/26</b> - 4/29/26	4/30/26 - 9/28/26	9/29/26 - 1/3/27	1/4/27	<b>3/10/26</b> - 4/29/26	4/30/26 - 9/28/26	9/29/26 - 1/3/27	1/4/27
13. 1762	Teacher	2/2/26 - <b>3/10/26</b>	<b>3/11/26</b> - <b>5/26/26</b>	<b>5/27/26</b> - <b>6/30/26</b>	8/26/26	2/2/26 - <b>4/30/26</b>	<b>5/1/26</b> - 6/30/26	-	8/26/26
14. 9960	Paraprofessional	12/4/25 - <b>TBD</b>	-	-	<b>TBD</b>	12/4/25 - <b>4/24/26</b>	-	-	<b>4/27/26</b>

E. Approve the appointment of the following employee who has successfully completed their probationary period:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE
Estafani Canizalez	Paraprofessional	LIN	3/5/26

F. Approve the following substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:

TEACHER	PARAPROFESSIONAL	CUSTODIAN
1. Sarah Kovacs	1. Matthew Tully	1. Claudia Diaz Rodriguez
2. Maryanne Molinelli	2. Deborah Zboyan	
3. Vladimir Pedroza Renteria		
4. Antonio Scott		
5. Jason Thorne		
6. Margaret Wnorowski		
7. Deborah Zboyan		

G. Approve appointments for the following employees for the 2026 STEM Summer Camp Program at an hourly rate of \$55 not to exceed \$7,750 for each position with funding provided by tuition charged to participants:



EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION
1. Jessica Herrera	STEM Summer Camp Co-Coordinator	EIS
2. Kevin Palmer	STEM Summer Camp Co-Coordinator	EIS
3. David Parke	STEM Summer Camp Co-Coordinator	EIS

H. Approve the following volunteer for the 2025-2026 school year:

NAME	EVENT/SPORT	EFFECTIVE
Alex Lipshitz	Baseball	Spring Season

I. Approve the following as a Student A/V Technician for the 2025-2026 school year who will be paid at the Board approved hourly rate of \$15.92 with funding provided by outside organization facility use fees:

STUDENT
Jaclyn Ng

J. Approve the following employee to provide Home Instruction for the 2025-2026 school year, at the Board approved rate of \$40 per hour:

EMPLOYEE	SUBJECT
Theresa Trinkle	Elementary Education

K. Approve compensation to the following employees for an additional percentage of their 2025-2026 salary for teaching an additional class, over and above the agreed upon teacher periods, per the WEA Agreement:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	RATE	EFFECTIVE
1. Amy Ainley	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	3/16/26 through 6/30/26
2. Kira Brady	Social Studies Teacher	RIS	20%	3/16/26 through 6/30/26
3. Dominick Ceccio	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	2/23/26 through 6/30/26
4. Michael Chiera	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	2/23/26 through 6/30/26
5. Michelle Cruz	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	3/16/26 through 6/30/26
6. Carmela Dasti	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	3/16/26 through 6/30/26



7. Tara Giblin	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	2/23/26 through 6/30/26
8. Christine Heisler	Math Teacher	RIS	20%	3/16/26 through 6/30/26
9. Julia Mirfield	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	2/23/26 through 6/30/26
10. Carlee Rickert	Special Education Teacher	RIS	22.5%	2/23/26 through 6/30/26
11. Kim Pentangelo	School Counselor	RIS	20%	2/23/26 through 6/30/26
12. David Yost	Social Studies Teacher	RIS	20%	3/16/26 through 6/30/26

L. Approve compensation to the following employees for providing mentoring support to novice teachers for the 2025-2026 school year:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	AMOUNT
1. Dr. Matthew Andzel	Health/Physical Education Teacher	WHS	\$300
2. Caitlyn Burns	Math Teacher	WHS	\$500
3. Caitlin Carotenuto	First Grade Teacher	JEF	\$50
4. Danielle Cristiano	Kindergarten Teacher	LIN	\$300
5. Jeanine Gottko	Fifth Grade Teacher	FRK	\$300
6. Katharine Hickey	English Teacher	WHS	\$150
7. Danielle Sarnowski	Art Teacher	MCK/JEF	\$100

M. Approve compensation to the following school nurses for the 2025-2026 school year to be paid at their per diem hourly rate:

EMPLOYEE	EVENT	LOCATION	DATES
1. Mary Beth Finn	Spring Concert Rehearsals	WIL	4/23/26, 4/30/26, 5/7/26, 5/14/26
2. Christine O'Connor	Orchestra Rehearsals	WAS	3/25/26, 4/15/26, 4/29/26
3. Tracy Pal	All-City Band Rehearsals	FRK	3/4/26, 3/11/26, 3/18/26, 3/19/26, 3/25/26, 3/26/26, 4/7/26, 4/8/26, 4/14/26, 4/15/26, 4/21/26, 4/22/26, 5/6/26, 5/13/26, 5/20/26, 5/27/26



4. Jayne Ruotolo	All-City Band Rehearsals	MCK	3/18/26, 3/25/26, 4/8/26, 4/15/26, 4/22/26, 4/25/26, 4/29/26 5/6/26, 5/7/26, 5/13/26, 5/14/26, 5/20/26, 5/21/26, 5/27/26, 5/28/26
5. Jayne Ruotolo	Orchestra Rehearsals	MCK	3/12/26, 3/16/26, 3/17/26, 3/19/26, 3/24/26, 4/7/26, 4/9/26, 4/13/26, 4/14/26, 4/16/26, 4/20/26, 4/23/26, 4/27/26, 4/28/26, 4/30/26, 5/4/26

N. Approve compensation to the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year Spring Musical to be paid from ticket sales proceeds:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	EVENT	AMOUNT
1. David Anthony	Pit Orchestra	WHS	Spring Musical	\$500
2. Gabriel Batiz	Pit Orchestra	WHS	Spring Musical	\$700
3. Eric Borghi	Pit Orchestra	WHS	Spring Musical	\$200
4. John Brzozowski	Pit Orchestra	WHS	Spring Musical	\$700
5. Rick Merino	Pit Orchestra	WHS	Spring Musical	\$700
6. Craig Stanton	Pit Orchestra	WHS	Spring Musical	\$700

O. Approve compensation to the following employee for the 2025-2026 school year:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	STIPEND AMOUNT
Justin Leath	Paraprofessional	JEF	County Substitute Certification* \$350

\*Per the WISSA Agreement

P. Approve compensation to the following substitute teachers for proctoring make up exams during the period of 1/30/26 through 2/6/26 at WHS and will be paid at their hourly rate:

EMPLOYEE	TOTAL HOURS
1. Arlette Engel	15 hours
2. Carol Petersen	4 hours
3. James Petersen	15 hours



4. Joseph Vaszily	3 hours
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Q. Approve the **correction** in the start date for the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year:

FROM				TO
EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE	EFFECTIVE
1. Kristen Accardi	Paraprofessional	FRK	<b>3/2/26</b>	<b>3/9/26</b>
2. Vladimir Pedroza Renteria	Spanish Teacher	EIS	<b>TBD</b>	<b>3/2/26</b>

R. Approve the **correction** in salary for the following employee for the 2025-2026 school year:

FROM				TO	
EMPLOYEE	POSITION	STEP	SALARY	STEP	SALARY
Vladimir Pedroza Renteria	.8 Spanish Teacher	<b>B/2</b>	<b>\$63,435</b>	<b>M/2</b>	<b>\$66,235</b>

S. Approve the **correction** in end date for the following employee for the 2025-2026 school year:

FROM				TO
EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE	EFFECTIVE
Diana Fiore	Spanish Teacher	EIS	<b>3/10/26</b>	<b>2/27/26</b>

T. Approve the Final Memorandum of Agreement signed on 2/11/26, with the Westfield Supportive Staff Association (WSSA) and corresponding salary guides developed by the WSSA for a successor contract commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

U. Approve the following appointment for the 2025-2026 school year, effective 3/17/26 or soon thereafter:

EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	GUIDE/STEP	TENURE TRACK	BASE SALARY	STIPENDS/DIFFERENTIAL	TOTAL SALARY
Kristen Camillo	Confidential Secretary to the Deputy Superintendent	ADM	-	-	\$66,000	-	\$66,000

V. Approve **change** in assignment for the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year, effective 3/23/26:



FROM					TO			
EMPLOYEE	POSITION	LOCATION	GUIDE/STEP	SALARY	POSITION	LOCATION	GUIDE/STEP	SALARY
1. Judi Lynch	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>ADM</b>	12FAC/E	\$60,627*	<b>Secretary, replacing 9252</b>	<b>WIL</b>	12FAC/E	\$60,627*
2. Michelle Varano	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>WIL</b>	<b>12FAC/5</b>	\$52,178*	<b>Secretary, replacing 6859</b>	<b>WHS</b>	<b>12CY/5</b>	\$52,178*

\*Includes longevity and education stipends

**12. FINANCE & FACILITIES**

A. Approve the tentative 2026-2027 Budget:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUES	DEBT SERVICE	TOTAL
2026-2027 Total Expenditures	\$142,527,444	\$1,991,000	2,215,170	146,733,614
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$14,083,984	\$1,991,000	773,535	16,848,519
Taxes to be Raised	\$128,443,460	0	1,441,635	129,882,095

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2026-2027 School Year using the 2026-2027 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

And to advertise said tentative budget in the *Westfield Leader* in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing be held on 4/7/26, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Westfield Board of Education requests the approval of a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$1,265,000. The district intends to utilize these funds for the following capital projects:

- McKinley Boiler condensate tank replacement
- Edison auditorium lighting and sound replacement
- Edison field improvements
- Edison asbestos floor abatement and new floors
- Roosevelt Intermediate floor replacements
- Roosevelt Intermediate auditorium lighting and sound replacement
- Roosevelt Intermediate sidewalk repairs
- Westfield High School asbestos floor abatement and new floors
- Westfield High School courtyard upgrades
- Westfield High School gym and cafeteria upgrades



- Districtwide security enhancements

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Westfield Board of Education includes in the budget the appropriation of surplus in the amount of \$1,500,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Westfield Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$5,206,337. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

B. Approve 2026-2027 Maximum Expenditures for Professional Services:

RESOLVED that the Westfield Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the business Administrator, approves an annual maximum expenditure for professional services for the 2026-2027 school year, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)1, upon notification if it becomes necessary to exceed the maximum amount, as indicated below, the Board of Education may adopt an increase in said dollar amount through formal Board action.

SERVICES	AMOUNT
1. Accounting/Auditing	\$70,000
2. Architectural	\$300,000
3. Engineering	\$200,000
4. Legal	\$350,000
5. Public Relations	\$50,000
6. School Physician	\$50,000

C. Approve Maximum Travel for 2026-2027:

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined by; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1, to a maximum expenditure of \$500,000 for 2026-2027, for all staff and Board members and the maximum travel expenditure amount for 2025-2026 is \$500,000, of which \$55,518 has been spent and \$48,200 is encumbered as of 3/1/26.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

D. Approve Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2026-2027:

WHEREAS, the Westfield Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and



WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$218 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$500,000 for all staff and board members for 2026-2027 school year and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

- E. Approve payment of bills for February, for a total amount of \$15,871,046.95. ATTACHMENT
- F. Approve the following Budget Transfers for the month ending 2/28/26. ATTACHMENT
- G. Approve Board Secretary's report for the month ending 2/28/26. ATTACHMENT
- H. Approve the following Treasurer's report for the month ending 2/28/26. ATTACHMENT
- I. Approve the Monthly Budgetary Line Item Status certification:  
RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary for the Westfield Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, as of 2/28/26 that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(a); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Westfield Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4 that after review of the Board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(b).

- J. Approve in accordance with Policy 6471, travel expenses for Board members, administrators and teachers travel requests. ATTACHMENT
- K. Approve the following resolution awarding a contract for the Westfield Electric Service Replacement Package 1:

WHEREAS, bids were publicly advertised and received in accordance with the requirements of the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, nine bids were opened on February 18, 2026 and reviewed, and it was determined that TSUJ Corp. of Wayne, New Jersey, submitted the lowest responsible bid for the project with a total extended bid price of \$1,810,477; and

WHEREAS, the administration and project professionals have reviewed the bid submission and recommend the award of the contract to TSUJ Corp.;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the bid results and awards the contract for the Westfield Electric Service Upgrade – Package 1 which covers electric upgrades to Franklin Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Washington Elementary, and Edison Intermediate to TSUJ Corp. of Wayne, New Jersey, as the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with the bid specifications and applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

- L. Approve the following resolution awarding a contract for the Westfield Electric Service Replacement Package 2:

WHEREAS, bids were publicly advertised and received in accordance with the requirements of the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, eight bids were opened on February 19, 2026 and reviewed, and it was determined that TSUJ Corp. of Wayne, New Jersey, submitted the lowest responsible bid for the project with a total extended bid price of \$2,132,477; and

WHEREAS, the administration and project professionals have reviewed the bid submission and recommend the award of the contract to TSUJ Corp.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the bid results and awards the contract for the Westfield Electric Service Upgrade – Package 2 which covers electric upgrades to Tamaques Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Roosevelt Intermediate and Westfield High School to TSUJ Corp. of Wayne, New Jersey, as the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with the bid specifications and applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

- M. Approve the following withdrawal out of the maintenance reserve account:

AMOUNT	PURPOSE
\$225,000	repairs for 2 boilers at LIN

- N. Approve cancellation of the following prior school years' outstanding Warrant Account check:

DATE	CHECK #	AMOUNT
5/20/25	503330	\$600

- O. Approve cancellation of the following current school years' outstanding Warrant Account check:



DATE	CHECK #	AMOUNT
7/30/25	6177	\$60

P. Approve the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WESTFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth-Ocean Education Services Commission (MOESC), hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on 3/16/26 the governing body of the Westfield Board of Education, County of Union, State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

**TITLE**

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Monmouth-Ocean Education Services Commission (MOESC),

**AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), the Westfield Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Monmouth-Ocean Education Services Commission (MOESC), the Lead Agency.

**CONTRACTING UNIT**

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Q. Approve resolution/agreement between Union County Educational Services Commission and the Westfield Board of Education for participation in coordinated transportation services for the 2026-2027 school year.

R. Accept the following donations:



DONOR	AMOUNT/ ITEM	PURPOSE
1. Albert Anthony Kayal Foundation	\$2,500	to fund a presentation held by Dr. Michael Fowlin “You Don’t Know Me Until You Know Me”, for WHS students
2. JEF School PTO	\$10,950	to purchase 6 permanent outdoor basketball hoops for JEF school playground
3. Anonymous	\$500	For the RIS Math Department
4. Anonymous	\$500	For the RIS Drama Department

S. Accept a \$5,000 grant, awarded to Dr. Kim Leegan, WHS Social Studies teacher and recipient of a NJEA/WEA Pride Grant to fund part of the Hate Ends Now: Cattle Car Exhibit at WHS.

T. Approve a settlement agreement between the parents of the following student and the Westfield Public School District:

STUDENT	SCHOOL YEAR
3301148	2025-2026

U. Approve the following out-of-district placements for the 2025-2026 school year or as noted:

STUDENT	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE	TUITION
1. 3021009	Rutgers Day School	2/10/26	\$103,968 (10-mo)
2. 2416019	Summit Senior High School	-	\$64,062 (10-mo); \$5,202 (ESY 2025)
3. 2510199	Summit Senior High School	-	\$28,575 (10-mo); \$1,873 (ESY 2025)
4. 2516017	Summit Senior High School	-	\$84,381 (10-mo); \$8,117 (ESY 2025)
5. 3301297	Celebrate the Children	4/13/26	\$24,232 (10-mo); \$10,920 (aide)

V. Approve **corrections/changes** to the following 2025-2026 10-mo out-of-district placements:

STUDENT	SCHOOL	TUITION/COST	REASON	EFFECTIVE
1. 2630008	Fusion Global Academy (virtual)	<b>\$25,775</b> (\$3,725 increase)	<b>newly added classes</b>	<b>3/4/26</b>
2. 3101042	The Capstone Center	<b>\$227,462.50</b> (\$51,150 increase);	<b>rate increase</b>	<b>2/2/26</b>

**13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & PROGRAMS**

A. Approve the following district field trips for the 2025-2026 school year:



PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
1. WHS: 2026 America's AI Youth Festival – DAY of AI	Boston, Ma. Cambridge, Ma.
2. WHS: Mandarin Classes & Mandarin Club	Laura Pels Theatre: New York, NY
3. WHS: Mandarin Classes & Mandarin Club	New Pacific Palace: Brooklyn, NY
4. WHS: Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band	Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School: Bridgewater, NJ
5. WHS: Youth & Government Club	Hilton East Brunswick: East Brunswick, NJ

B. Approve the following Intern/Student Teacher candidates for the 2025-2026 school year:

NAME	SUBJECT/DEPT COOPERATING TEACHER	UNIV/COLLEGE	PLACEMENT DATE	TERM TYPE
Olivia Cornwell	World Languages: Multilingual Education MCK Marie Moran	Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Education	3/18/26 through 4/18/26	Intern: 50 hours of Observation

**14. NOTES FOR THE RECORD**

- Suspension Report

INCIDENT #	DATE(S) OF SUSPENSION
T-1	March 3-5, 2026
T-2	March 3-6, 2026
T-3	March 3 & 4, 2026
Wi-1	February 13, 2026
E-6	February 12, 2026
E-7	February 26, 2026
R-9	February 9-11, 2026
R-10	March 11, 2026
HS-21	February 13, 18-20, & 23, 2026
HS-22	February 18, 2026



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HS-23	February 20, 2026
HS-24	March 2-4, 2026
HS-15	March 10-12, 2026

**15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**16. NEW BUSINESS**

**17. LIAISON REPORTS**

**18. RECOGNIZE PUBLIC** (for comments)

During this portion of the meeting, members of the public are invited to address the Board of Education on any topic. As a courtesy, allow current students/staff of Westfield Public Schools to speak first.

The Board requests that individuals sign in and state their name, municipality of residence, and group affiliation, if applicable, for the record, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board President or designee (not to individual board members or staff). The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding personnel matters are discouraged and cannot be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. If a matter concerning a District staff member is of interest or concern to a resident, the matter should be referred to the responsible Building Principal, Superintendent of Schools, or the Board of Education, either by telephone, letter, or email. Although the Board may not respond to items raised during the public forum, all public comments will be considered.

Please note that if any member of the public becomes disruptive during the meeting the Board president may terminate the participant's statement. Continued disruptions may result in removal from the meeting or adjournment of the meeting.

Each speaker's statement will be limited to three (3) minutes in duration.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

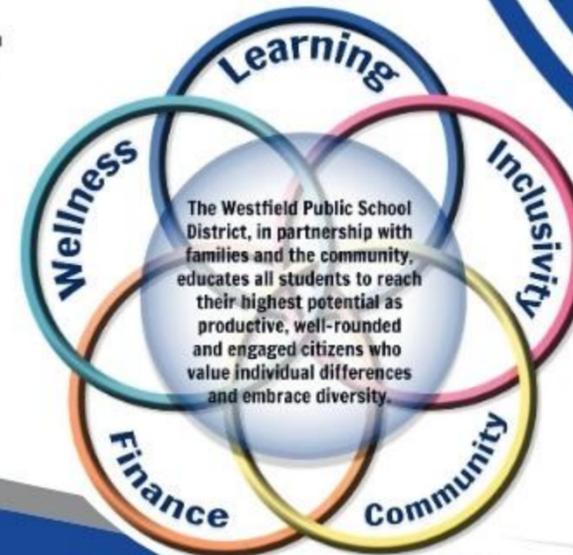
# 2026-2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Part 3: March 16, 2026

Presented by:

**Dr. Raymond González, Superintendent**

**Mrs. Patricia Ramos, Business Administrator**



# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

2026-2027

- Updates: What's happened since last time?
- Highlights: How did we get to where we are?
- Estimated tax impact

Next Steps



# 2026-2027 STATE AID

2025-2026 State Aid: \$8,900,108

2026-2027 State Aid: \$9,434,114



**Increase:** \$ 534,006 = 6%

\*In the proposed budget, the increase is used to offset taxes for 26/27



# 2026-2027 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

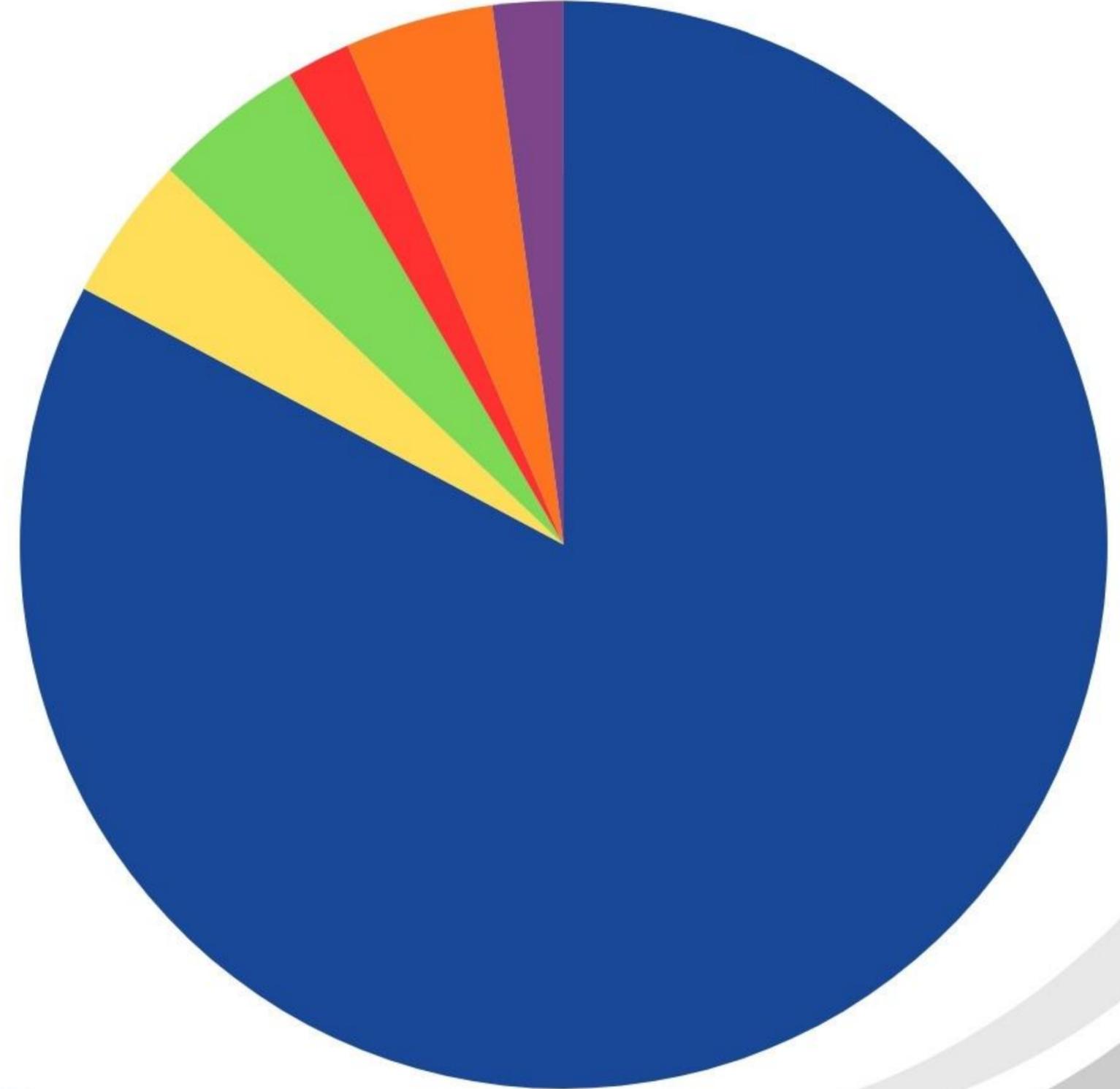
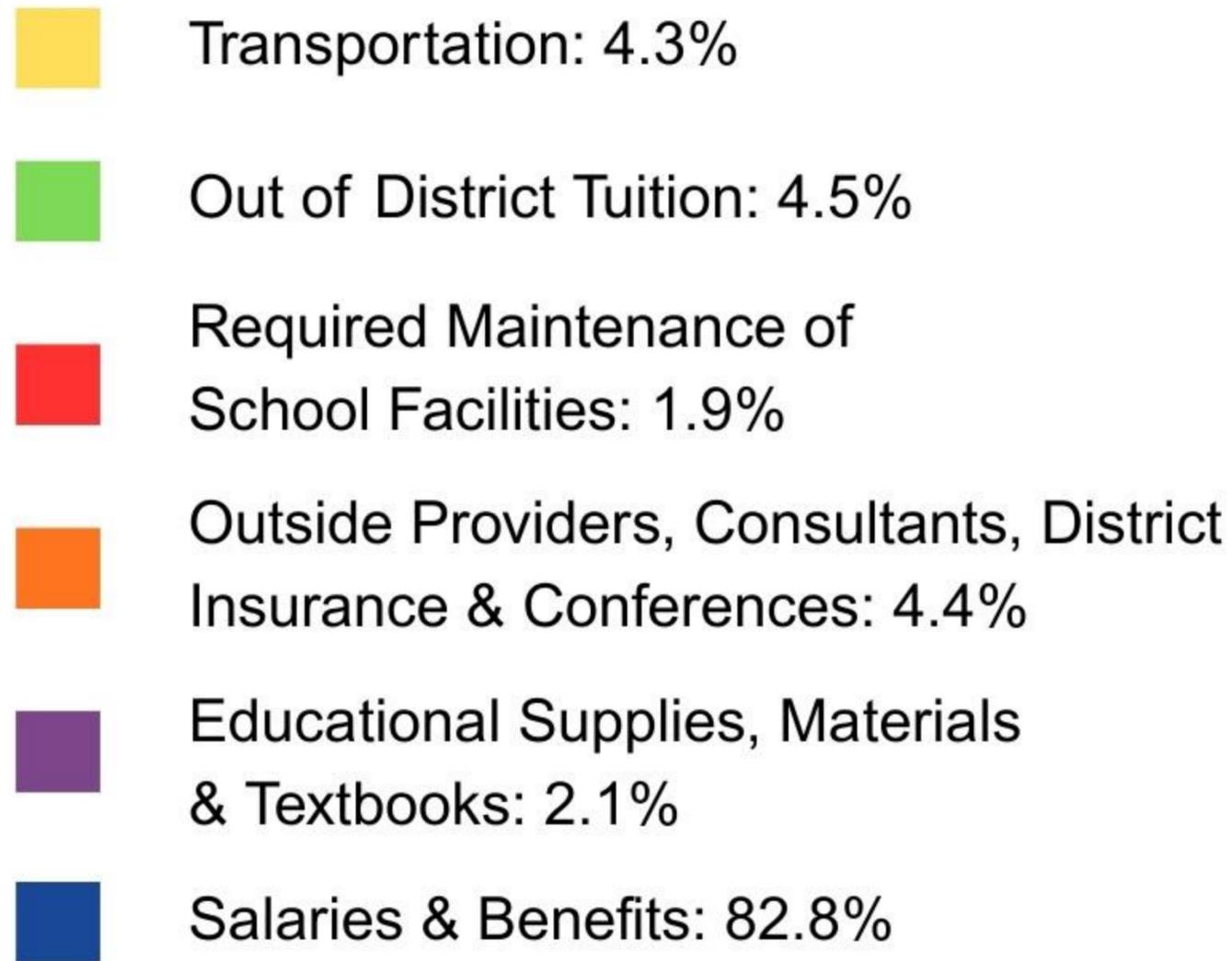
## Proposed → Preliminary Budget Reductions

In order to present a budget that is within the adjusted tax levy cap, the following modifications/reductions were made to the original proposal:

- 3rd Grade Furniture
- Professional Services
- Technology Equipment/Supplies
- Staff Adjustments
- Property/liability insurance
- Supply line reductions
- No additional staff for program expansion

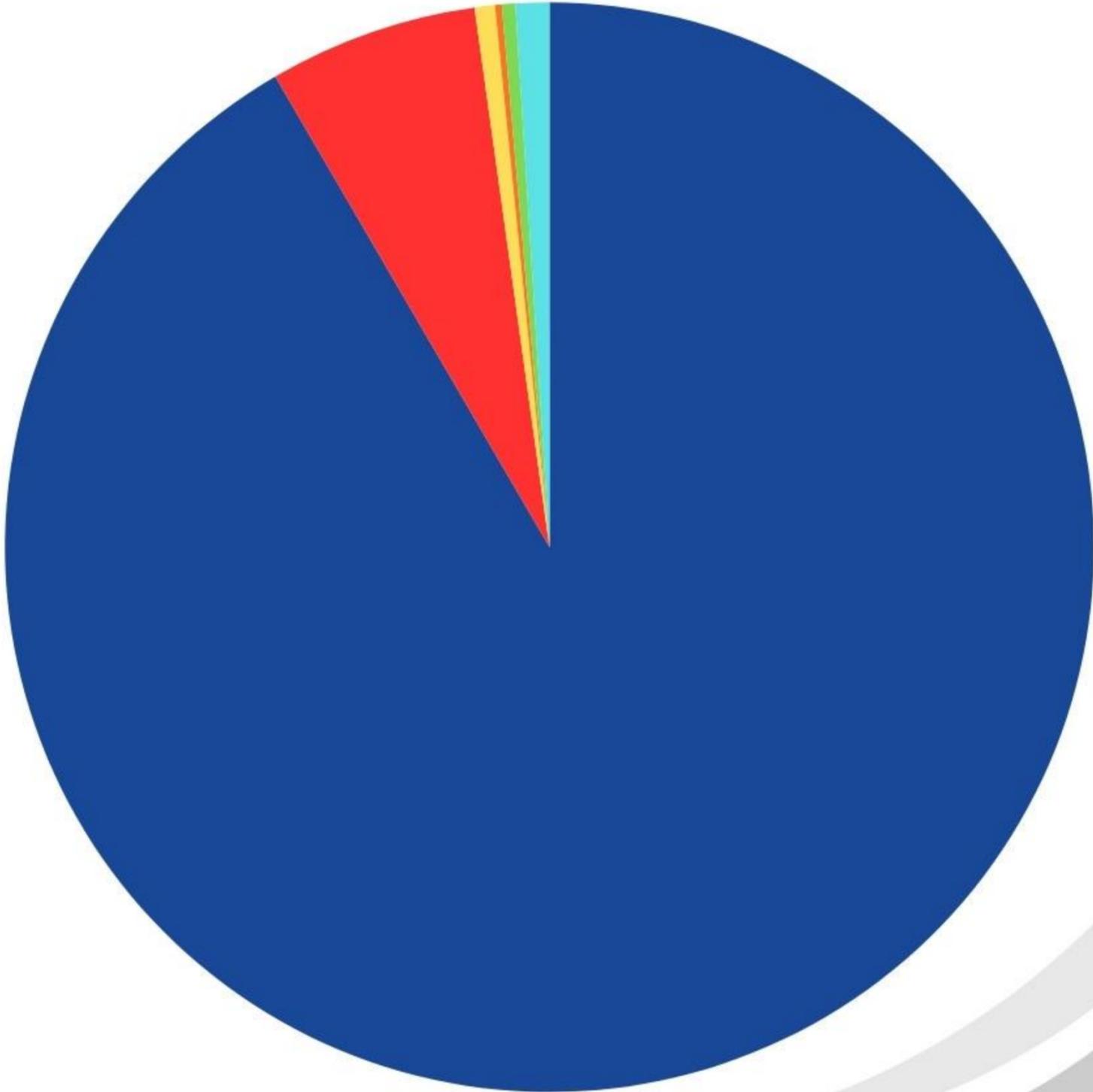


# 2026-2027 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES



# 2026-2027 PROJECTED REVENUES

- Extraordinary Aid: 0.6%
- Tuition, Student Activity Fees & Miscellaneous: 0.4%
- State Aid: 7.3%
- Interest: 0.2%
- Fund Balance: 1%
- Local Tax Levy: 90.5%



# 2026-2027 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

## PROPOSED TAX INCREASE



0% 1% 2% 3% 4% 5% 6% 7% 8%



# 2026-2027 TAX LEVY CAP & BANKED CAP

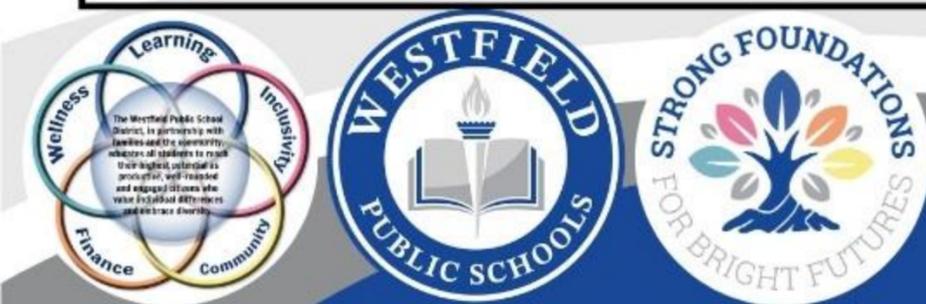
- **Base Cap (NJ Law): 2%**
- **Health Benefit Adjustment: +4.3%**
- **Allowable Increase: 6.3%** (without separate proposal)
- **Proposed Budget Increase: 5.97%**

➔ The difference between the Allowable Increase and the Proposed Budget Increase equals \$391,802 in Banked Cap. Banked Cap can be applied in a future budget to exceed the cap if necessary; however, unused “banked cap” expires after three years.



# 2026-2027 PROPOSED TAX IMPACT

	Initial Budget Presentation on 2/10/26 Adjusted Cap 7.63%	Budget at Adjusted Cap for Approval 3/16/26 5.97%
Assessed Value of Average Home	\$834,454	\$834,534
2026-2027 School Tax on Average Home (includes debt service)	\$12,670	\$12,464
<b>Annual Tax Increase From 2025-2026 to 2026-2027</b>	<b>\$749 Year \$62 Month</b>	<b>\$543 Year \$45 Month</b>

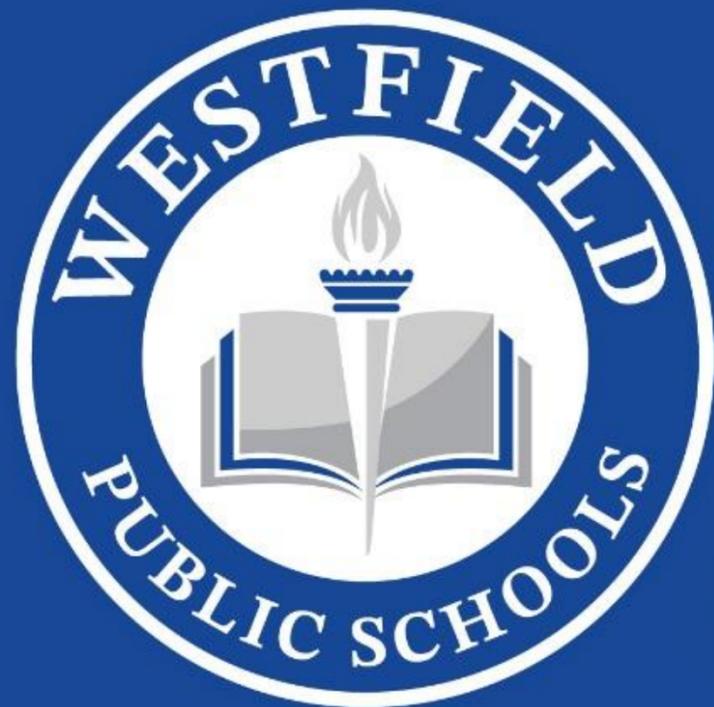


# NEXT STEPS

- February 10:** Budget update
- March 12:** Expected release of State Aid
- \*March 16:** Presentation of the Preliminary Budget to be submitted to the County Office of NJDOE.
- \*April 7:** Board holds public hearing and votes on Final Base Budget
- \*April 14:** Regular Public Meeting
- April 21:** School Board Election

\*Revised Board Meeting Dates





**APRIL 21**

**SCHOOL BOARD  
ELECTION**