

THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Budget Proposal to Bring More Google Classrooms, “Library Lounge” to West

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With the longer days and nicer weather, students are naturally inclined to shift their focus from the school year to summer vacation. At the same time, the administration of the Half Hollow Hills Central School District has begun to shift its focus to the upcoming 2016-2017 school year with the release of its annual budget proposal ahead of the important May 17th vote.

will be accompanied by an approximately equal increase in revenue, mostly derived from an increase in state aid. Many administrators present at the April 21st community budget presentation felt confident that voters would support this year’s proposal which offers many benefits for district families and community residents alike.

“The Board of Education is

Among these are general infrastructure projects such as improvements to the district’s natatorium, new electric signage at the middle schools and renovations to the tennis courts at Hills East.

New classes, like an AP Computer Programming course and additional extracurricular clubs for activities like coding, engineering and African American culture are



While the budgeting process can sometimes be a contentious one, this year’s proposal seems to be relatively uncontroversial. The 241.3 million dollar proposal represented just over a one percent increase from the current budget, the lowest budget to budget increase the district has seen in 20 years. The slightly higher spending

proud to present a budget that continues the district’s reputation as a cornerstone of educational excellence,” said Superintendent Kelly Fallon. “We feel that the budget provides adequate enhancements for all levels in the district.”

The district-wide budget highlights include funding for an expansive range of projects and initiatives.

also slated to begin at both of the district’s high schools in the fall.

Specific improvements to Hills West are also in store for next year. The highly loathed gym doors, often impossible to open, are being replaced by more state-of-the-art, better functioning models. Also in store are the creation of more “Google classrooms,”

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a much talked about concept that was started this year by transforming a typical classroom into a more enjoyable and collaborative learning environment by replacing desks with tables and couches.

A similar change will be coming to the Hills West library soon as well, with a “library lounge” concept which seeks to create a more inviting learning and studying atmosphere for students in the school’s library. Specific details about this particular proposal are scarce at the moment and may require time before being implemented.

The major takeaway from this year’s budget proposal, however, is not the num-

bers or the prospective improvements. It is that the Half Hollow Hills School District, forced to close two schools in 2014 amidst a bud-

get shortfall, has seemingly overcome its prior struggles and is now in much better financial shape. In

the face of declining enrollment and higher costs, HHH continues to hold its place as one of the best districts on Long Island and one that provides its students with a plethora of opportunities for success and expression.

“We’ve really expanded not only our athletics but also our arts programs,” said Hills West Teacher and Football Coach Kyle Madden, who was a guest speaker at the budget meeting. “This district has grown to become a standard that every other district should compare themselves to.”

And with the support of the Half Hol-

low Hills community this Tuesday, it will continue to be for generations to come.

