After thoughtful consideration and planning, the District and Board of Education are pleased to present taxpayers with the 2015-16 budget. The proposed budget preserves and enhances the District’s educational programs and services while remaining cognizant of the financial impact to the community.

The $68,551,174 million dollar budget carries a minimal 1.87 percent budget-to-budget increase and a 1.35 percent tax levy increase.

The proposed spending plan features a number of academic enhancements, including one that will advance the District’s inclusion program by increasing the ratio of mainstream students to special education students. To accomplish this goal, the District has included the addition of eight special education teachers in the budget. These teachers will be spread across classrooms at the elementary and middle school levels and work in tandem with classroom teachers to deliver robust lessons. Among its numerous advantages, this new method will allow for a more balanced grouping of students during small-group instruction, support the needs of all students, and allow for co-teaching strategies in the form of parallel teaching.

To further enrich learning, the budget adds math assistance for students with supplemental math lab support and provides additional Middle and High School courses. The budget also maintains a broad range of academic, extracurricular and interscholastic programs, class sizes, athletic teams, field trips, and all current elective course options and opportunities.

“This budget allows the District to continue to preserve and build upon our educational offerings to our students, ensuring that they have the skills to succeed in life,” said Superintendent Dr. Steven Cohen.

For additional information on the proposed budget, visit the District’s website at www.swrschools.org.

Please remember to cast your vote on May 19. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the High School auxiliary gymnasium. Please make your voices heard.

“Please remember to vote on May 19

The Budget Vote and Trustee Election will take place from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. in the High School Auxiliary Gym. Please see page 4 for information regarding voter qualifications.”

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Cohen
A Continued Focus on Excellence

Over the past year, there have been many positive changes in the District, changes that have helped us ensure that every one of our students receives an education that he or she deserves. These changes are intended to enable our students to succeed throughout their lives.

One of the biggest changes was our move to the Princeton Plan model of elementary education. This consolidation has allowed us to preserve the high standards of the District and create new opportunities for our youngest children, while keeping the impact to local taxpayers minimal. Students have adjusted well to their new schools and have enjoyed the educational benefits of the model, which include greater coherence of instruction. In keeping with our goal to guarantee success for all students, we instituted the Principal’s Academy in the High School. This program recognizes that not all students can be successful in a traditional High School classroom and provides an alternate path to graduation. Students currently enrolled in the Principal’s Academy are already thriving.

To provide a cutting-edge STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, the District hired a new STEM Director. Since January, Dr. Amy Meyer has been working with our science department to refine STEM curricula to include more hands-on lessons and inquiry-based learning experiments. Along with science teachers, she is also working to strengthen community partnerships and start up a robotics component for our Middle and High School technology classes.

Aside from educational enhancements, our buildings and grounds are being upgraded. By the start of the 2015-16 school year, the High School will have 10 new 1,000-square-foot science labs and bathrooms. Work related to the $48.5-million dollar facility improvement initiative, approved by voters in January, will also commence this summer. New tennis courts will be built and a new roof will be installed at the High School, and we hope to get permission from SED to build a turf field at the High School.

The District could not have achieved so much without the full support of the community. We thank you for your continued support in helping us shape our District’s future.

Please take the time to visit our website and become informed about the 2015-16 budget, and be sure to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, May 19.

A copy of the full budget is available on the District website: www.swrschools.org

### BUDGET SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employee Salaries</td>
<td>31,938,609</td>
<td>547,719</td>
<td>1.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>17,724,301</td>
<td>(879,629)</td>
<td>-4.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districtwide Expenses*</td>
<td>5,185,540</td>
<td>486,109</td>
<td>10.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>3,831,252</td>
<td>168,831</td>
<td>4.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>2,973,075</td>
<td>168,677</td>
<td>6.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>2,485,048</td>
<td>(35,343)</td>
<td>-1.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service &amp; Transfers</td>
<td>2,553,390</td>
<td>235,002</td>
<td>10.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>786,217</td>
<td>96,949</td>
<td>14.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>244,413</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>17.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum/Staff Development*</td>
<td>569,022</td>
<td>413,069</td>
<td>264.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Programs</td>
<td>124,700</td>
<td>21,812</td>
<td>21.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services</td>
<td>82,222</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>53,385</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,551,174</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,259,746</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.87%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>9,955,666</td>
<td>577,532</td>
<td>6.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Local Revenue</td>
<td>3,582,645</td>
<td>215,639</td>
<td>6.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>49,925,346</td>
<td>665,035</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Appropriated Fund Balance and Reserves</td>
<td>5,087,517</td>
<td>(198,460)</td>
<td>-3.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,551,174</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,259,746</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.87%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Special note: A large portion of the increases in Districtwide Expenses of $486,109 and Curriculum and Staff Development of $413,069 is earmarked for the successful implementation of the Education, Labor and Family Assistance Article VII Budget Bill (S. 2006-B/A. 3006-B) that was part of the 2015-16 State Budget passed by the Legislature on April 1, 2015.
Academics
• The College Board recognized the District’s 20-year old Advanced Placement program through its annual honor roll.
• High School students Sean Mannix and Brent Mertz were named 2015 National Merit Semifinalists.
• 28 students were named AP Scholars, 19 earned the title of AP Scholars with Honor, 16 were named AP Scholars with Distinction, and five were ranked as National AP Scholars.
• Junior Andrew Hunber was the first Shoreham-Wading River student to take advantage of Lead the Way, a new engineering-focused STEM program offered by BOCES.

Athletics
• For the first time in its 17-year history, the Wildcats football team won the Class IV Long Island Championship.
• The varsity football team was the recipient of the “Fight Like Dylan” award, receiving a $50,000 grant to purchase new uniforms and equipment.
• The girls varsity soccer team won the Suffolk County Championship.
• 11 senior-athletes committed to playing their sports at the collegiate level by signing National Letters of Intent.

Community Service
• Middle School Student Council members donated 23 gift baskets filled with food to local families in need.
• As part of the Ocean Conservancy’s worldwide effort to keep beaches and waterways clean, Middle School students participated in the school’s second annual beach cleanup by volunteering to clean the beach at Wildwood State Park.
• Wading River School students donated numerous boxes of food through the annual Food Train project.
• Miller Avenue School participated in the “Souper Bowl” by collecting nonperishable food items and donating them to local veterans.
• Middle School Student Council members collected 170 pairs of jeans for homeless teens through a DoSomething.org campaign.
• Middle School students collected items for soldiers through Operation Veronica.

District
• The District successfully implemented the Princeton Plan of Education at Miller Avenue and Wading River schools.
• New Robotics programs were started at the Middle School and High School.
• The District successfully implemented the new Principal’s Academy.

Arts
• Following exceptional performances at New York State School Music Association Solo Evaluation Festivals, along with recommendations from their music teachers, 64 student-musicians performed at the Suffolk County Music Educators Association’s All-County Music Festival.
• High School Senior Danny Blake became the first singer from Shoreham-Wading River to be accepted into the NAFME All-National Honor Ensemble Conference.
• Middle School student Mika Misawa received SCMEA’s Joseph Herbinson Scholarship of $5,000 for her continued development of violin technique and skills.

Budget Highlights
• Carries a 1.87% budget-to-budget increase.
• Represents a 1.35% tax levy increase.
• Maintains smaller class sizes (20-24 elementary; under 30 secondary).
• Preserves all varsity, junior varsity and Middle School athletic teams.
• Enriches curriculum through continuation of current elective course options and opportunities.
• Supports our Principal’s Academy.
• Allows for athletic equipment purchases.
• Allows for the purchase of a new mini-bus for the High School.
• Provides Elementary and Middle School reading and math support.
• Maintains occupational education programs.
• Increases staff, including the addition of eight full-time special education teachers.
• Reduces the ratio of special education to regular education students in 1-8 inclusion classes.
• Increases mathematics instruction by expanding the current math lab program.
• Maintains a broad range of academic, extracurricular and interscholastic programs.
• Strengthens the maintenance crew’s ability to take care of the District’s property through the purchase of equipment.
• Preserves field trip programs.
• Provides for buildings and grounds repairs, including repair of asphalt at the High School and Briarcliff’s roof.
• The District began work on the new science labs and code violations (installation of elevator, restoration of bathrooms, etc.) at the High School.
• The District commenced work associated with the $48.5-million bond referendum, approved by voters in January.
• There was continued support for the District’s new Professional Development program.

Points of District Excellence
• The boys and girls varsity basketball teams hosted players from Denmark as part of a cultural exchange program.
• The Middle School expanded its physical fitness program to include activities such as Zumba, yoga and pilates.
• High School seniors Courtney Clasen and John Montesano were named the 2014-2015 Suffolk Zone Award recipients.
Does the District’s proposed budget fall within the tax cap regulation?
Yes. The proposed budget for 2015-16 carries a tax levy increase of 1.35%. In June 2011, New York State instituted a tax levy cap on municipal entities, including school districts. The maximum allowable tax levy for each district is based upon the 2% growth factor or the CPI, whichever is lower, plus allowable qualified exclusions from this base. Some districts will have a cap that is higher than 2% or the CPI; some lower. Since our budget produces a tax levy increase that falls within the tax levy limit, only a simple majority of voters is required to approve the budget.

What are a few budget highlights?
The proposed budget maintains all program services from 2014-15; improves student learning opportunities in 1-8 inclusion classes; strengthens secondary mathematics programs; allows for startup funding for the Districtwide food service program; allows for needed repairs throughout the District; and allows for the purchase of a new mini-bus.

If the voters do not approve the budget, what happens under the tax levy cap law?
As in the past, the Board has the opportunity to submit the budget for a second vote. This budget can be the same or different (higher or lower) than the first vote. If that budget is also rejected, the Board must adopt a budget with a 0% tax levy increase; in other words, the District must operate the next year under the same tax levy that it did in the current year. For our District, this would result in a legal responsibility to cut $2,545,061 in spending, which would include reductions to equipment, elimination of the capital improvement projects proposed in the spending plan, and a reduction in administrative costs.

How Does This Budget Affect Your Tax Bill?
While the proposed 2015-16 budget represents a tax levy increase of 1.35%, this does not necessarily mean your tax bill will increase by 1.35%. Your personal tax bill depends upon more factors than the change in the District’s tax levy. These include changes in your assessed value (determined by the Towns of Riverhead and Brookhaven) and changes in the apportionment between the Towns of Brookhaven and Riverhead (this factor is based on the assessed value and equalization rate which is set by the Office of Real Property Tax Services). These are important factors the District does not control.

As a result, some will likely see an increase in school taxes of less than 1.35%, and some will see an increase higher than 1.35%.

Voter Qualifications
A voter shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting for the election of school district trustees and the school budget, and upon all other matters which may be brought before such a meeting, who is:
• A citizen of the United States.
• A resident of the District for a period of 30 days preceding the meeting at which he/she is to vote.
• 18 years of age or older.
• Currently registered with the school district or has voted in the general election in the last four years.

Absentee Ballots:
Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk, 250B Route 25A, Shoreham, N.Y., or by calling the Superintendent at 821-8100. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. All absentee ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. the day of the vote. Absentee ballots will be issued for those reasons stated in the Education Law, Section 2018-A.