

# WYANDANCH UFSD PUBLIC HEARING

Annual Update  
Report of the Fiscal Monitor to  
the Wyandanch UFSD  
October 12, 2022

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

***State Fiscal Monitor:***

Al Chase

***Wyandanch UFSD Superintendent:***

Dr. Gina Talbert

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Wyandanch Union Free School District Board of Education:

Mr. Jarod Morris, President

Ms. Nancy Holliday, Vice-President

Mrs. Shirley Baker, Trustee

Mr. James Crawford, Trustee

Mr. Charlie Reed, Trustee

Ms. Yvonne Robinson, Trustee

Ms. Latesha Walker, Trustee

Ms. Jessica Reed, District Clerk

## AGENDA

- Purpose of Public Hearing
- Update to the Long Range Plan and Recommendations
- Opportunity For Public Comment

## TONIGHT'S PUBLIC HEARING

### ***Purpose – For the Community of Wyandanch UFSD:***

1. An update of the findings and recommendations of the Fiscal Monitor.
2. To understand the District's perspective on the Monitor's plan.
3. For the community to provide comments and input as to the report and future direction of the school district.

## UPDATED REPORT OF THE FISCAL MONITOR

The report has been made available on the school district website in anticipation of tonight's meeting. It can be found at <https://www.wyandanch.k12.ny.us>

Comments on the report can be sent to [wyandanchmonitor@gmail.com](mailto:wyandanchmonitor@gmail.com).

Please include your name in your email so that you can receive a response.

## HYBRID MEETING PROTOCOLS

1. After I have concluded the presentation, I will open the meeting up for questions in the following order:
  - In-person comments – Community, followed by Board of Education
  - Electronic comments
  - Zoom comments
2. Anyone submitting a request to speak will be given 3 minutes and will be called upon by name when it is his or her turn. Requests should be submitted to the District Clerk.
3. Speakers will be called in the order that their speaking request was received.

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## HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING PROTOCOLS

You may still sign up to speak, provided you submit a request prior to conclusion of the public comment portion of this hearing.

- Written comments can also be submitted to [districtclerk@wufsd.net](mailto:districtclerk@wufsd.net), or
- Call the District Clerk at (631) 870-0405

## ACTIVITIES OF THE FISCAL MONITOR 2022 -23

- Review of the fiscal operations of the school district during the 2021-22 school year.
- As required by law, make recommendations for financial and operational improvements going forward.
- Revise the long range financial plan for the school district to serve as a guidepost in the development of future budgets.

## STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 18 of the Laws of 2020 requires that the Fiscal Monitor, appointed by the Commissioner of Education, develop a proposed five-year Fiscal Plan, inclusive of operational recommendations, in consultation with the Board of Education. The original five year plan was developed in 2020. Updated recommendations have been sent to the Board for review and comment this evening.

The legislation also requires that the Board conduct a public hearing on the proposed plans to consider the input of the community. We are here tonight for that specific purpose.

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## THE REPORT OF THE FISCAL MONITOR

If the BOE disagrees with any portion of this report, it is required that they respond in writing by November 1, 2022 to the NYS Commissioner of Education stating its specific objections. Doing so will trigger the entire report and fiscal plan to be opened up for review by the Commissioner.

Should the BOE accept the report (as may be amended) in its entirety by resolution at its October business meeting, the Monitor will submit it by December 1, 2022 to the Commissioner and it will be deemed approved.

## THE REPORT OF THE FISCAL MONITOR

The school district is now into its third year of review by the Fiscal Monitor. As new issues and concerns arise, investigation into different sectors of the fiscal operation are undertaken, and appropriate assistance provided to the administration and Board of Education.

This update was informed by interviews and meetings with internal and external groups, including, but not limited to:

- District Staff
- External auditors who work with the school district
- NYS Office of the State Comptroller

## FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

A number of 'good things' happened in the Wyandanch UFSD over the last year that are worthy of mention:

- The school district once again closed out operations in a positive financial condition, allowing it to set up reserves to cover a number of anticipated needs in the future.
- The district bond rating was upgraded for the second time in two years, enabling the WUFSD to borrow funds at more favorable interest rates.
- Budgetary transfers were greatly reduced, which is indicative of more accurate budgeting and expenditure control.

## FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

- Funds were made available to repair building sidewalks, fences and athletic fields. Security monitoring was upgraded. The continued provision of capital funds in the 2022-23 budget will permit additional facilities improvements.
- A sewer connection between the LFH / MLK complex to the County system was accomplished, finally completing a project originally envisioned over ten years ago.
- Selected restoration of instructional staffing has occurred in each of the district's schools.

## FISCAL PLAN PROJECTIONS

During the next few years, it is not anticipated that the Wyandanch Schools will be faced with fiscal shortfalls, providing that good stewardship of its resources is continued by the Board of Education and Administration.

-Funds from the American Rescue Plan continue to permit the school district to provide programs and resources to the Wyandanch student community to help compensate for learning loss and social / emotional trauma as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. **These funds are temporary.**

-The establishment of reserve funds will better allow the school district to cope with unexpected or unusual expenditure pressures.

-The expectation of another increase in NYS Foundation Aid in 2023-24 will allow the school district to expand programs and enhance those initiatives which have already begun.

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## THE ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT OF THE FISCAL MONITOR

Recommendations made by the Fiscal Monitor in the report of November 2020 and the subsequent update in November 2021 have largely been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. Over the past months, additional recommendations, based on observations and findings, were developed. These additional recommendations are meant to assist the District in its quest for continued fiscal and operational stability.

## THE ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT OF THE FISCAL MONITOR

There are two types of recommendations in this update:

**‘Shall’** recommendations are those which must be implemented by the school district.

**‘Should’** recommendations are not mandated but strongly encouraged.

Some recommendations have specific implementation dates, while others do not.

*New recommendations are presented on the next group of slides.*

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS - 2022:

- The business administrator shall offer principals and administrators budgetary guidance to ensure that their budgets are developed, monitored, and adjusted to maximize allocations in the best interests of students, and corresponding with district goals.
- There shall be a full and accurate accounting for each and every scholarship account held by the school district.
- The school board should conduct a review of legal expenses, with a focus of seeking ways to keep costs in check.

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS - 2022: - CONTINUED

- The school district shall institute a more effective and efficient payment and claims auditing process to avoid late payments to vendors and the subsequent closures of accounts.

## PRIOR YEAR RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

- The school district and Wyandanch Public Library shall continue to work together in good faith to resolve the dispute regarding district reimbursement of ERS expenses.
- The Business Office and Human Resources shall work together to assure proper budgetary placement of staff, to ensure that Payroll has sufficient information to correctly charge expenses, including maintenance of a comprehensive database (November 2021).
- The Facilities Committee shall set forth specific dates for milestones to be achieved in consideration of a possible bond referendum.

## PRIOR YEAR RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

- The Board of Education must fulfill its obligations pursuant to the Superintendent's contract by finalizing its evaluations of the Superintendent for the last two school years. (December 2020). Implementation requires the full cooperation of both parties.
- Continue to ensure the timeliness of budget transfers.
- Provide sufficient cross-training of staff to ensure tasks do not go undone due to vacancies, absences, etc.
- Obtain PILOT payment schedules from the Town of Babylon.
- Ensure that the internal audit function is carried out and reports submitted in a timely manner.

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Thank You