

**William H. Johnson, EdD
State Monitor
Hempstead Union Free School District
185 Peninsula Blvd
Hempstead, New York 11550**

April 30, 2021

Dr. Betty Rosa
Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19 of the Laws of 2020, I am providing you my report on the proposed Hempstead Union Free School District's (HYFSD or "the District") 2021-22 school year budget, a copy of the District's revenue projections, and a copy of the spending plan adopted by the Board of Education for the 2021-22 school year. As noted in my report, I find that the proposed budget is balanced and aligned with the District's approved Academic and Fiscal Plans and, consequently, I have made no recommendations that you direct the District to make amendments to its adopted budget.

The proposed budget reflects the significant increase in State and Federal aid that the District will receive in the 2021-22 school year. This increase in aid has enabled the District to begin the process of rebuilding its instructional and support staff budget that was reduced by more than \$20 million over the past three school years.

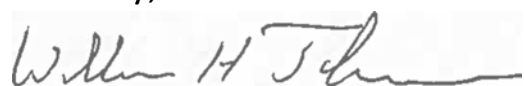
The HUFSD continues to face significant fiscal and educational challenges that are unique to this community. Gaps in reading and math performance are caused in part by the significant reductions in funding for support services that has occurred in the last several school years. These reductions are, in turn, connected to the growing cost of tuition payment for resident students who attend charter schools. Enrollment in charter schools is currently 2,473 students and is expected to rise according to the charter schools' estimates to 2,790 for the 2021-22 school year. This will be an increase in resident student enrollment from 25% in the 2020-21 school year to approximately 30% in the 2021-22 school year. Even with State Charter School Transition Aid and Foundation Aid applied, one in every five dollars spent on public education in the HUFSD pays for charter school tuition.

This 2021-22 school year proposed budget does not reflect the large influx of Federal stimulus money. At the time the budget was developed and adopted by the Board of Education there was some uncertainty about how the Federal stimulus money could be spent. As more information becomes available, supplemental instructional and facilities plans will be developed. Plans are already in place for creating an expanded summer program to help overcome the learning loss experienced this year by many students.

The additional revenue provides the District with opportunities to address achievement gaps and lost learning. I look forward to working with the District in creating these opportunities while carefully monitoring how the additional funds are being expended.

I thank you again for the support provided to the Monitors and to the children of the HUFSD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

William H. Johnson EdD

Enclosures

Cc Kimberly Young-Wilkins
LaMont Johnson, President, Hempstead BOE
Regina Armstrong, Interim Superintendent, Hempstead Schools