

Wyandanch Union Free School District

Semiannual Report of the Fiscal Monitor

For the Period of
January - June 2022

The webinar for this report can be found
at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fEVynlAjN1h4uvtnlyGgkfMH4_hloYLk/view

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Purpose of Webinar

- ▶ Provide background information on the role of the fiscal monitor.
- ▶ Highlight the district's fiscal successes and challenges in the 2021-2022 school year.
- ▶ Review the work of the monitor during the 2021-2022 school year.
- ▶ Summarize the current and projected long-range fiscal status of the district.
- ▶ Share conclusions about the district's fiscal status.



Background Information

- ▶ Chapter 18 of the Laws of 2020 authorized the appointment by the Commissioner of Education of a Fiscal Monitor to provide oversight, guidance, and technical assistance related to the fiscal policies, practices, programs, and decisions of the Wyandanch UFSD. This legislation is in effect through June 2025.



Background Information

- ▶ **The monitor's fiscal and operational oversight includes:**
 - ▶ Review and approve the proposed annual budget.
 - ▶ Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the school board.
 - ▶ Develop a long-range fiscal improvement plan for the district.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of WUFSD: The Big Picture

Successes:

- Most recommendations in the fiscal plan were implemented fully and on-time.
- Voters approved budget with small tax levy increase.
- The District ended year with budget surplus that can be used to build reserves to offset future expenses.
- District bond rating upgraded, which will lead to lower future borrowing costs.
- The State Education Department removed the special conditions it imposed on the district's use of Federal funds.
- Five year budget projections show that expenditures and revenues will be in balance, even after federal stimulus funds are no longer available.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of WUFSD: The Big Picture

Challenges:

- Loss of key personnel in the areas of Treasury and Accounting as well as long-term staff absences impeded Business Office functions.
- Facilities remain in need of upgrades.
- Potential for charter school tuition payments to comprise increasing percentage of district budget.



Work of the Fiscal Monitor in the 2021-2022 School Year

- Provided oversight and assistance in developing the 2022-2023 budget.
- Worked to improve operations within the district.
- Conducted monthly budget reviews.



Work of the Fiscal Monitor in the 2021-2022 School Year

- Worked closely with the School Business Administrator to address issues that could result in operational or financial difficulties.
- Assisted district to upgrade its bond rating, thereby lowering borrowing costs.
- Provided direction in the development of a districtwide facilities plan (ongoing) and the hiring of a new architect.
- Continually reviewed staffing to ensure that personnel costs were properly expensed and that funds existed for all proposed hires.



Work of the Fiscal Monitor in the 2021-22 School Year

- Worked with the district to assess the impact of the Academy Charter School on district enrollment and finances over the next several years.
- Guided and monitored the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding.



Work of the Fiscal Monitor in the 2021-2022 School Year

- Reviewed all district contracts with outside providers
- Provided assistance in updating and revising district policies.
- Participated actively on several BOE committees.
- Participated in meetings with Teacher Retirement System staff regarding correction of historical employee records.



Work of the Fiscal Monitor in the 2021-2022 School Year

- Provided progress reports to local and State legislators and State Education Department staff
- Consulted with auditors – Independent, Claims, and Internal – to ensure the district is in good financial and operational standing and identified issues are addressed.
- Collaborated with the State Monitors in Hempstead, East Ramapo, and Rochester on best practices.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of the Wyandanch UFSD

- The Wyandanch UFSD had a successful fiscal year, ending with a budget surplus of \$4.893 million as of June 30, 2022.
- The Superintendent and Business Office continue to closely monitor budgetary issues, while seeking out responsibly innovative ways to deal with surpluses and deficits in individual budget lines.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of the Wyandanch UFSD

- Year-end budget surpluses allowed the district to place funds in reserve accounts.
- Improved budgeting practices have permitted the school district to provide much-needed funding to deal with infrastructure issues at each building.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of the Wyandanch UFSD

Major recommendations carried out in 2021-2022-

- BOE committees have worked actively during the past year. The Policy Committee, in particular, has been actively working to update all district policies.
- Grant funds are being used in an efficient and effective manner, and being submitted as required. Long range issues, such as facilities planning and the effect of the charter school, are being addressed.
- Both revenues and expenditures are being monitored regularly, and confirming purchase orders are being minimized.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of the Wyandanch UFSD

Major recommendations carried out in 2021-2022, continued-

- A comprehensive demographic study has been conducted, and regular updates have been arranged.
- Board of Education trustees have attended trainings to improve their knowledge base of school district issues.



Current Fiscal and Operational Status of the Wyandanch UFSD

Outstanding recommendations-

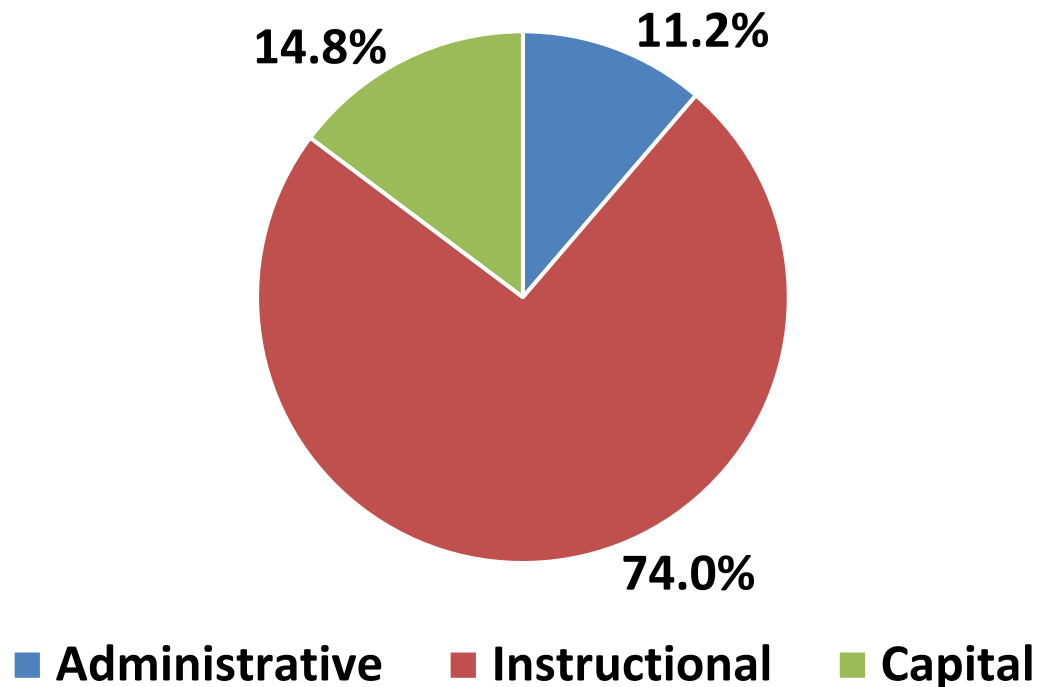
A small number of recommendations have not been fully implemented. Those recommendations, plus several new recommendations, will be provided to the Board of Education and presented at a public hearing to be held on October 12, 2022.

The approval of those recommendations will provide the blueprint for action for the 2022-2023 school year.



2022-23 Expenditure Budget Three Part Summary

| | 2022-23 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Administrative | 9,880,515 |
| Instructional | 65,272,680 |
| Capital | 13,025,022 |
| Total | 88,178,217 |





Conclusions

- The Wyandanch UFSD has made progress in putting into place stronger financial and operational controls.
- The school district has been able to establish better accounting controls and set aside resources to meet future needs.
- The Wyandanch UFSD is now on a sound financial footing, but a watchful eye must be kept on finances to avoid the mistakes of the past.



Conclusions

- While much progress has been made, there are always areas for improvement.
- The BOE, Administration, and the community must work together to ensure that the Wyandanch UFSD continues on its upward trajectory.

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