



24-25 Budget Discussion

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION HELD ON
MARCH 6, 2024

What has the state done to Byram?

- \$155,882 increased State Aid for 2025
- **(\$24,685)** in State Aid cuts for 2024
- **(\$332,320)** in State Aid cuts for 2023
- **(\$345,953)** in State Aid cuts for 2022
- **(\$413,360)** in State Aid cuts for 2021
- **(\$262,533)** in State Aid cuts for 2020

This increase does not begin to offset the **(\$1,378,851)** lost annually or the total of **(\$4,693,289)** to date. It did help reduce the planned staff cuts.

What Makes Up the Tax Levy Increase?

The tax levy increase includes the following:

\$12,712,114 Prior Year Levy

\$15,598 Increased enrollment adjustment given by the state

\$12,727,712 Updated Prior Year Levy

\$254,554 Two Percent Increase*

\$26,000 Use of Banked Cap

\$70,975 Healthcare Adjustment allowed due to excess increase in premiums

\$13,079,241 Total 2024-2025 Tax Levy for a **2.89%** increase

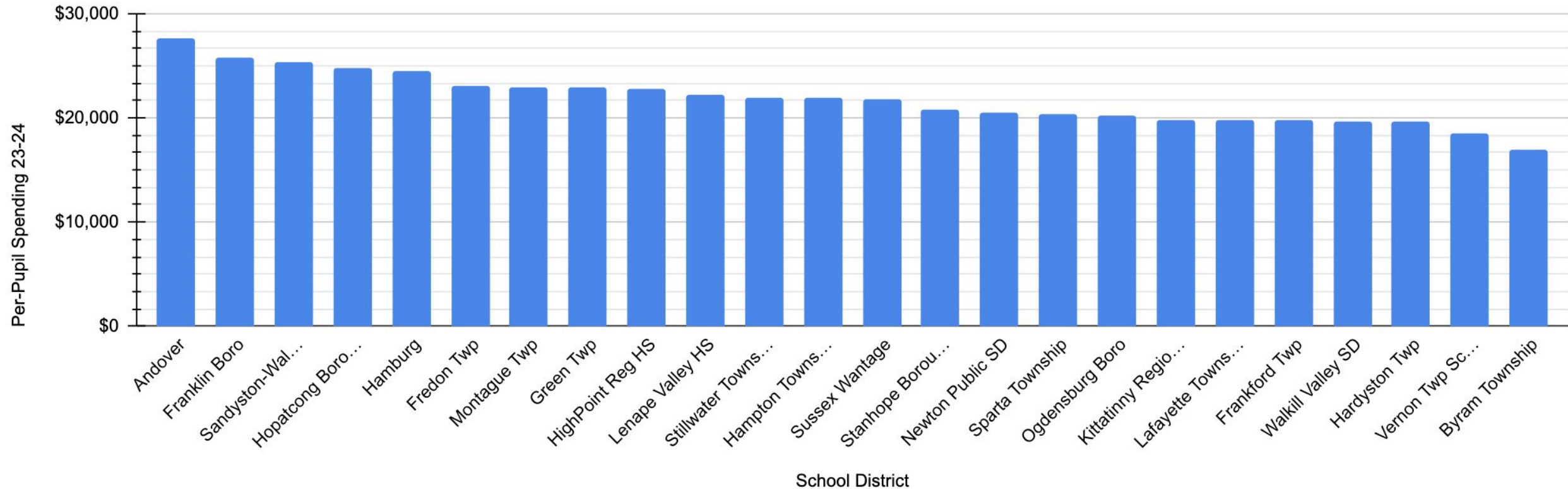
\$ 1,177,986 Second question additional funding = **9.3%**

Grand total increase of **12.15%** when combining base and second question together

*As a frame of reference, with the same staffing as last year, if we were to give a 3% salary increase, it would cost just over \$276,000. That one line item increase, is more than our entire 2% tax increase and leaves room for no other cost increases in our budget. A 2% tax levy cap is just not realistic and causes cuts to be made each year.

We Still Spend Less Per Student Than Any Sussex County Town

Per-Pupil Spending 23-24 vs. School District



In addition to spending the lowest amount in Sussex County; Byram is well under the state average of \$27,059 per pupil

What Are We Doing To Help?



- Used Grants to pay for 40% (\$557,320) of several facilities projects
- Applied for (but did not receive) \$1.7 million dollar grant to offset aid cuts
- Applied for a High Impact Tutoring Grant
- Cut all kinds of staff by 19 positions since 2017-18
- Applied for and received cafeteria equipment grants totaling \$18.4 thousand dollars

Steps Taken To Minimize Taxes



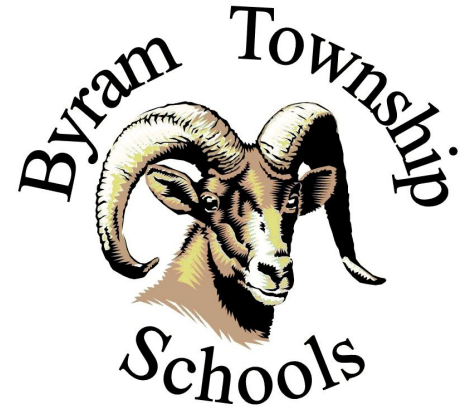
- Used almost all of the district's reserves
- Used purchasing co-ops for supplies, insurance, & transportation
- Shared several types of special services (OT & ABA) with other districts
- Changed school start times to be able to tier bus routes saving approximately \$400,0000 per year

All these steps are not enough to meet our budget goals...



- Maintain current programs and continued focus on student achievement
- Maintain most class sizes
- Decrease some class sizes
- Maintain school security
- Maintain 1:1 chromebook initiative
- Support student mental health

What Can We Do?



The passage of a proposed additional tax increase, and election of board members, will be voted on in a special election to be held on April 16th

There will be two separate items to vote on:

- Board of education members
- The request for additional funds to maintain programming and add back four teachers

What Does This Increase Provide?



- Will avoid further reduction of the staff by approximately 7 additional positions
- Will avoid the elimination of programs the students enjoy
- Restore 4 teaching positions
- Will help maintain academic excellence

Estimated Tax Impact In 2024-25

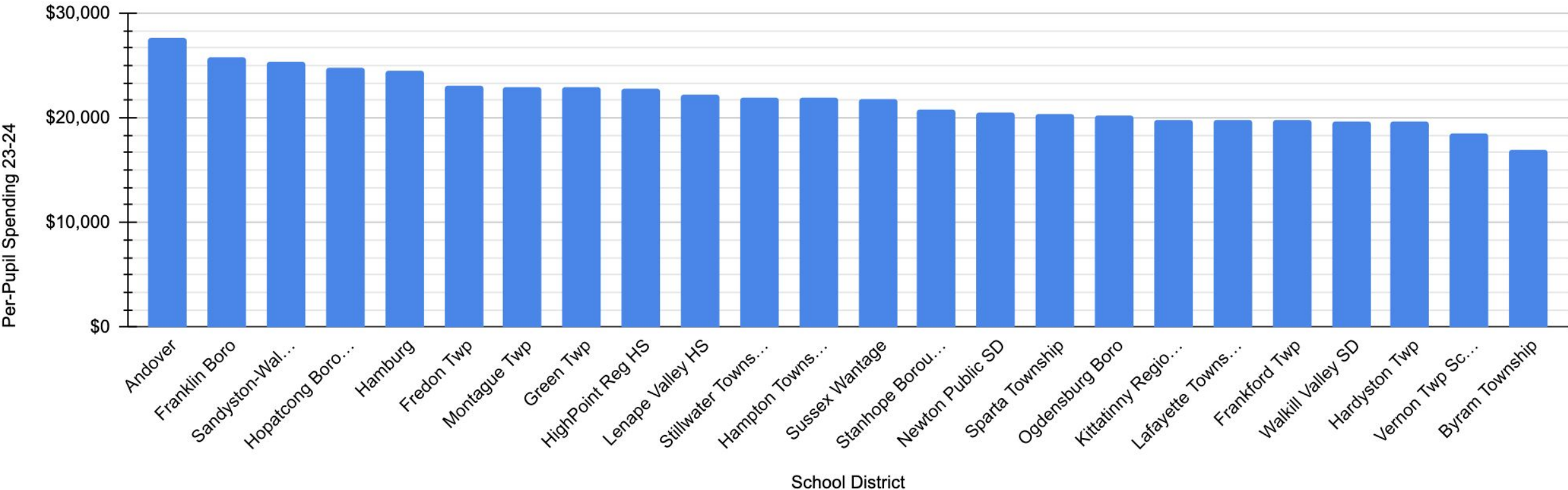
	Tax Levy	Net Taxable Valuation	Tax Rate*
2024	\$12,712,114	\$9.26M	\$1.372
2025	\$14,257,227	\$9.26M	\$1.539
Increase	\$1,545,113		\$0.167
Tax Increase on \$100,000 Assessment		Tax Increase on Average Home Valued at \$255,764	
\$13.90 per month		\$35.54 per month	

There is never a good time for a tax increase, and the district has put this off as long as possible

*The tax rate is applied to the assessed value as a decimal - (e.g. 0.001372, 0.001539)

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Per-Pupil Spending 23-24 vs. School District



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Please Ask Us All of Your Questions



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