



**Questions and answers from the VS13 Budget Hearing
May 27, 2020**

1. When will we receive the absentee ballots? (from Patty Sullivan)

Absentee ballots were mailed Wednesday, May 27, via first class mail, and we have been assured by both the printer and the post office that the public should receive these ballots by Friday or Saturday at the latest.

2. If more solar panels are installed at Wheeler, could the district energy costs decrease? (from Guy Jacob)

The energy performance contract required a comprehensive study of the savings that would be promoted by all the proposed work, including the installation of solar panels. It was determined at the time the study was conducted that the most beneficial payback would be to install panels at the James A Dever School, the Willow Road School and the Howell Road School. The study was conducted by ECG which is a local company located in Long Island with a longstanding reputation of energy performance contract work, not just in New York state but throughout the country.

3. What is the anticipated drop in state revenue? (from Joel)

The anticipated reduction in state financial resources is \$350,000 for the 2020-2021 school year, which is approximately 1% of our budget. It is also important to note it is approximately a 2.6% percent decrease in the amount of state aid we would have received.

4. Why are there no salary freezes with a contingency budget? (from Dr. Yearwood)

The majority of public school district salaries are driven by contractual agreements that are ratified and approved by the Board of Education. Therefore, no public school districts can arbitrarily freeze salaries. It is certainly an option to freeze those salaries that are not governed by contractual agreements, but this may have some unintended consequences, including the creation of equity issues within the district relative to salary increases.