



## NEWS RELEASE

**Wayne Township Board of Education**  
50 Nellis, Drive, Wayne, N.J. 07470

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For Immediate Release

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### **WAYNE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND ADVANCES PLAN FOR FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN**

At the March 14th budget meeting of the Wayne Board of Education, trustees adopted a preliminary \$172.7 million budget that included a two percent tax levy increase and over \$1 million of funding to renovate parts of the Preakness School. This school, which currently houses the Preakness Annex of the Wayne Library, a training center for school employees, and a specialized high school program, is not currently operated as a school. The renovation work will lead to twelve new classrooms and a capacity for over 200 students.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Toback shared that there was a pathway to full-day kindergarten and that renovations at Preakness School were an essential part of the first phase of a three-year plan intended to bring full-day kindergarten to the Wayne Township Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Toback noted that this opportunity was made possible due to a number of factors including increased state aid, savings on medical benefits, and redirecting some facility funding. He also acknowledged that the plan could come to a halt if the district did not continue to see increased state aid in the coming years or if the positive financial position of the district changes in future years. The second year of the plan included the opening of the early childhood center at Preakness School for all Pre-Kindergarten children. In the third year, the new full-day kindergarten classes would open in the existing neighborhood schools. Dr. Toback also spoke about the fact that the plan does not require redistricting, a reduction in extracurricular activities, or educational opportunities for students at other grade levels, or increased class sizes. [Click here to view the budget presentation.](#)

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