



# ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.ichabodcrane.org](http://www.ichabodcrane.org)

JUNE 2020

## SCHOOL BUDGET

# VOTE

## TUESDAY

### June 9, 2020

Absentee ballots  
must be received  
by 5 PM on June 9

## 2020-2021 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

**\$42,382,980**

Budget-to-Budget Increase:

**\$785,779 (1.89%)**

Estimated Tax Levy

Increase:

**2.57%**

*(Meets allowable tax levy limit)*

## VOTERS TO DECIDE ON TWO PROPOSITIONS

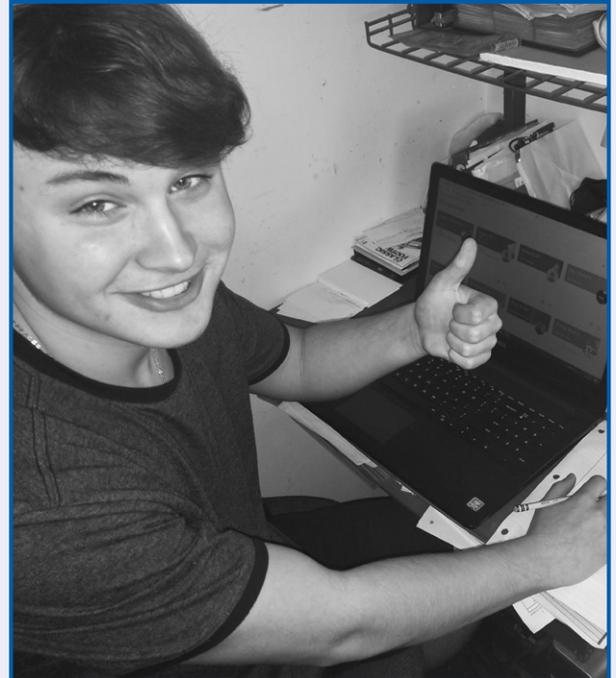
## An Inside Look at Remote Learning

The past few months have been an unprecedented time for Ichabod Crane students, families and teachers as they shifted to remote learning. We spoke to a handful of our educators and staff about the experience so far, how they've adapted teaching methods, some challenges of it and why parents/caregivers are more important than ever.

This is only a small sampling of teacher voices. The entire Ichabod Crane staff has gone above and beyond every day for our students during these times. \*

*\*This article is abridged. A longer version will be on the district website.*

*(continued on page 2)*



*Remote Learning at Home*

## Proposed 2020-2021 Budget Meets Tax Levy Limit

On Tuesday, June 9, Ichabod Crane Central School District residents will vote via absentee ballot on a \$42,382,980 budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Voting will take place using absentee ballots only, per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.26. All absentee ballots must be received by 5 PM on June 9.**

This proposed amount is a \$785,779 increase or a 1.89%, from the 2019-2020 school year. If approved by District voters, it would result in a 2.57% tax

levy increase, which meets the District's maximum allowable tax levy under the New York State tax levy cap legislation.

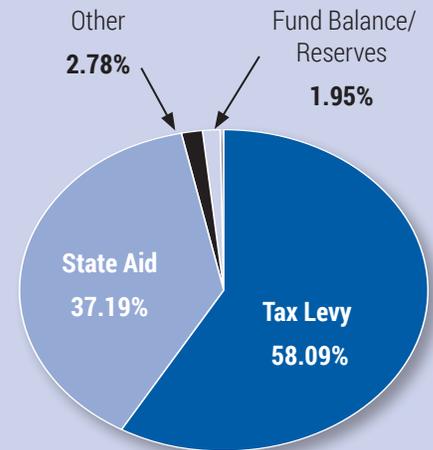
The final New York State budget allocates \$15,760,805 in aid for the District in 2020-2021, an increase of \$16,188 or 0.10% from 2019-2020.

In addition to voting on the proposed budget, District residents will elect three (3) members to seats opening on the Board of Education. Finally, residents will vote on a separate proposition to purchase five (5) additional school buses.

## REVENUES:

### Where money comes from to pay for Ichabod Crane schools

Revenue Budget	2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy/Pilots	\$24,095,265	\$24,618,359	\$523,094	2.17%
State Aid	15,744,617	15,760,805	16,188	0.10%
Other: Rents, Tuitions, Misc.	1,170,900	1,178,816	7,916	0.68%
Fund Balance/Reserves	586,419	825,000	238,581	40.68%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$41,597,201</b>	<b>\$42,382,980</b>	<b>\$785,779</b>	<b>1.89%</b>



### An Inside Look at Remote Learning

(continued from cover)

#### HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR LONG TERM REMOTE LEARNING WHEN YOU REALIZED SCHOOLS WOULD CLOSE?

**Anthony Marturano** (*Middle School Co-Principal*): “All within a span of about one week we set up Google Classroom professional development for all staff and created a resource list of websites and apps. We also surveyed students to determine their needs for reliable home internet and technology devices. For those that didn’t, we quickly established plans to ensure those students would have access by providing them with Chromebooks and wi-fi hotspot devices.”

#### HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE IN THOSE EARLY WEEKS?

**Kelly Bins** (*Primary School Psychologist*): “I organized a routine with students and colleagues. The message from several families was they were overwhelmed, so early communications with them involved finding a routine that worked for them, behavioral issues they might see with their children during this time and embracing positives when they happen.”

**Greg Miller** (*High School Teacher, Science*): “Similar to the first week of a new school year, it was challenging, inspiring, exciting and tiring. I was spending hours filming and editing digital content for

students. A 10-minute video might have 2+ hours worth of production and editing time.”

#### WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME UNIQUE REMOTE LEARNING CHALLENGES? HOW DO YOU FACE THEM?

**Kara Abatto** (*Primary School Teacher & Remote Learning Support*): “Younger students aren’t as traditionally independent and “tech-savvy” as older students, so they often need parents or caregivers nearby to help finish work or with troubleshooting.”

#### HOW IMPORTANT HAVE PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS BEEN THROUGHOUT?

**Kelly Bins** (*PS Psychologist*): “At the K-3 level, children need them to be their daily assistants! Our students aren’t independent learners yet and my communication starts

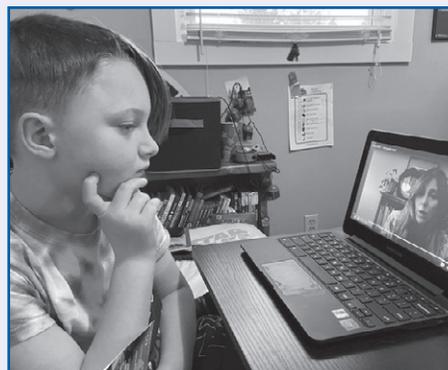
with the parents. They’ve stepped in to be the physical presence that we can’t have through a screen and they collaborate with our staff on how students are doing educationally and emotionally.”

**Anthony Marturano** (*MS Co-Principal*): “They’re playing a critical role. They set up students with their technology, check in that they’re doing their work and contact us if there’s a problem. That said, we know so many of our parents are still working and they can always let us know if they need extra help from the schools.”

#### WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE LESSONS OR TOOLS YOU’VE USED?

**Kara Abatto** (*PS*): “I make videos of math lessons we would do in class along with a digital version of the math workbooks students worked on before closures. My class Google Meets once a week so students can connect, tell me exciting things and just to all be together.”

**Greg Miller** (*HS*): “My Applied Physics class worked on Marble Coasters, connecting concepts of Energy, Momentum, Forces and Engineering. Students uploaded pictures and videos of their Coasters as the weeks went by. I’m also so thankful for video conferencing - still seeing the students really helped everyone adjust to the new routine.”

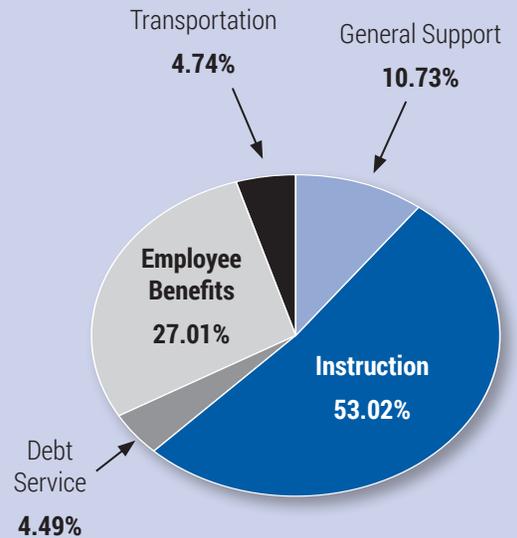


Viewing Remote Learning Lessons

## EXPENSES:

### How money is spent for Icabod Crane schools

Account Group	2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$4,280,985	\$4,549,201	\$268,216	6.27%
Instruction	21,986,961	22,470,263	483,302	2.20%
Transportation	1,900,447	2,010,176	109,729	5.77%
Employee Benefits	11,540,171	11,448,540	-\$91,631	-0.79%
Debt Service/Transfers	1,888,637	1,904,800	16,163	0.86%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$41,597,201</b>	<b>\$42,382,980</b>	<b>\$785,779</b>	<b>1.89%</b>



## THREE-PART BUDGET:

By law, school districts must divide their budget into three components—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to last year’s amounts. Icabod Crane’s three-part budget breaks down as follows:

PROGRAM	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$32,639,082</b>	<b>\$32,955,426</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>78.46%</b>	<b>77.76%</b>

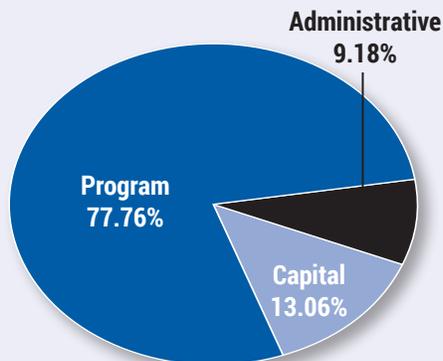
INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, etc.; teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks; library and instructional computer funds; athletics; and transportation (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$3,518,866</b>	<b>\$3,891,007</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>8.46%</b>	<b>9.18%</b>

INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; insurance costs; legal expenses; and Board of Education expenses.

CAPITAL	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Amount</b>	<b>\$5,439,254</b>	<b>\$5,536,547</b>
<b>% of total</b>	<b>13.08%</b>	<b>13.06%</b>

INCLUDES: debt service on buildings; bus purchases; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; operation and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits of custodial staff, supplies, utilities, repairs and renovations.



## 2020 Board of Education Candidates

Five (5) candidates are seeking three (3) seats on the Board of Education on June 9, 2020. The terms of Tammy Crawford, Susan Ramos and Anthony Welcome are ending. The term for one of these seats begins June 10, 2020, while the other two seats begin their terms July 1, 2020. Board terms are for three (3) years.

Running for these seats, in the order they appear on the ballot, are Elaine Berlin, John Chandler, Tammy Crawford, Kelly Firmbach and Susan Ramos.

Further candidate information be found online at [icabodcrane.org](http://icabodcrane.org)

## VOTER INFORMATION

Icabod Crane School Budget and election voting this year will take place using absentee ballots only, per Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order No. 202.26.

### Voter Eligibility

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old or older and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

### Voter Registration

You must be registered before you are permitted to vote. You are already registered if you have:

- Voted in a school election within the last four (4) years
- Voted in a general election from the address in the District within the last four (4) years

Individuals may register to vote with the District Clerk from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on school days at the office of the District Clerk in the Central Office of the School District. An individual must be registered at least five days preceding an election in order to vote in that election.

### Absentee Ballots

All qualified, registered voters should have received a ballot and postage paid return envelope via USPS mail. Ballots may be returned via USPS mail or hand delivered to:

*District Clerk  
Central Office, HS Building  
2910 Rte 9.  
Valatie, NY 12184*

**No ballots will be accepted after 5 p.m. on June 9. Contact the District Clerk at [mpotts@icabodcrane.org](mailto:mpotts@icabodcrane.org) with further questions.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Matthew Nelson, *President*  
John Antalek, *Vice President*  
Jessica Berner  
Tammy Crawford  
Jeffrey Ouellette  
Elizabeth Phillips  
Susan Ramos  
Regina Rose

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Jason D. Thomson, *Superintendent*  
Suzanne Guntlow, *Assistant Superintendent*  
Michael Brennan, *Business Manager*

Postal Customer

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

518-758-7575

[www.ichabodcrane.org](http://www.ichabodcrane.org)

**NON-DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:** The Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby advises students, parents, employees, and the general public that it offers educational opportunities including vocational opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or religion. Inquiries regarding this non-discrimination policy may be directed to: Title IX Compliance Officer, Suzanne Guntlow, and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Peg Warner, at 758-7575, Ichabod Crane Central School District, Valatie, NY 12184. A copy of the "In Compliance with Section 1.4 (a)" is available in the Superintendent's Office.

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

**School District Budget Notice**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 41,597,201	\$42,382,980	\$41,766,619
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$785,779	\$169,418
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.89 %	0.41%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$24,001,998	\$24,618,359	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$24,001,998	\$24,618,359	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$479,455	\$523,115	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$23,522,543	\$24,095,244	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$23,522,543	\$24,095,244	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,518,866	\$3,891,007	\$3,862,839
Program Component	\$32,639,082	\$32,955,426	\$32,542,233
Capital Component	\$5,439,254	\$5,536,547	\$5,361,547
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			
	Description	Amount	
	4 Buses	\$444,368	

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$520

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Kinderhook Central school district, Columbia and Rensselaer Counties, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 by absentee ballot exclusively. All qualified voters shall receive an absentee ballot with a postage paid return envelope. Completed ballots must be mailed and received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.