



ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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- ▶ Persevering in 20-21, Looking to 21-22
- ▶ Importance of Instructional Technology

www.ichabodcrane.org

MAY 2021

SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

TUESDAY May 18, 2021

8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Ichabod Crane High
School Gymnasium

2021-2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

\$43,878,924

Budget-to-Budget Increase:

\$1,495,944 (3.5%)

Estimated Tax Levy
Increase:

2.95%

*(UNDER the maximum
allowable limit of 3.5%)*

VOTERS TO DECIDE ON TWO PROPOSITIONS:

1. Approval of Proposed Budget
2. Purchase of 4 Additional Buses

Of Note in the 2021-2022 Budget

On Tuesday, May 18, Ichabod Crane Central School District residents will vote on a \$43,878,924 budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

Property Tax Levy Increase Is Below NYS Allowable Limit

Under New York State tax cap levy legislation, the maximum allowable property tax levy increase for the 2021-2022 school year budget is a 3.5% increase from 2020-2021. The 2021-22 budget proposal is under the maximum allowable limit and includes a tax levy decrease from 3.5% to 2.95%.

One-Time Federal Stimulus Relief Funds Are Not Part of NYS Aid

Due to additional financial burdens as a result of COVID-19, school districts are receiving two additional sources of federal relief funding to use over the next three school years:

- The Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)
- The American Relief Plan (ARP)

Collectively, the District will receive \$3,739,134 to use over those three years. Money from these two sources are not included in the District's 2021-2022 proposed budget. These federal funding sources are not part of NYS State Aid and will not be included as part of the District's general operating fund for normal annual operating expenses.

This funding is intended to address learning gaps and disruptions to public education caused by COVID-19. The District is awaiting the release of specific guidance on how these funds can be used. Spending plans for this additional funding will be implemented in a way that avoids "funding cliffs," where ongoing programs are funded with one-time revenue, and which maximizes State Aid. It can be helpful to think of these funds more like grants - with money disbursed for non-recurring expenses.

PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS FROM FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS:

Learning Loss:

- Credit Recovery with Teaching Assistant Support
- Additional, Temporary Academic Middle & High School Intervention Staff
- Summer School and Enrichment

Technology Enhancements:

- Interactive Classroom Whiteboards
- Updated Staff Computers
- Phone System

Curriculum & Instruction:

Textbook Materials

- Professional Development: Primary Literacy Development
- Special Area Department Enhancements

Other:

- Translation Services
- Health and Safety Considerations

Capital Improvement Project

SPRING 2021 UPDATE

Phase II Construction of our Capital Improvement Project began in Summer 2020 and as the school year enters its final months, below is a summary of completed areas so far and what you can expect in coming months. Since starting last year, Phase II Construction has remained on schedule, including the current and upcoming construction areas listed below. For all Capital Project updates, visit www.ichabodcrane.org/district/capital-projects

Phase II Construction Areas Completed in 20-21

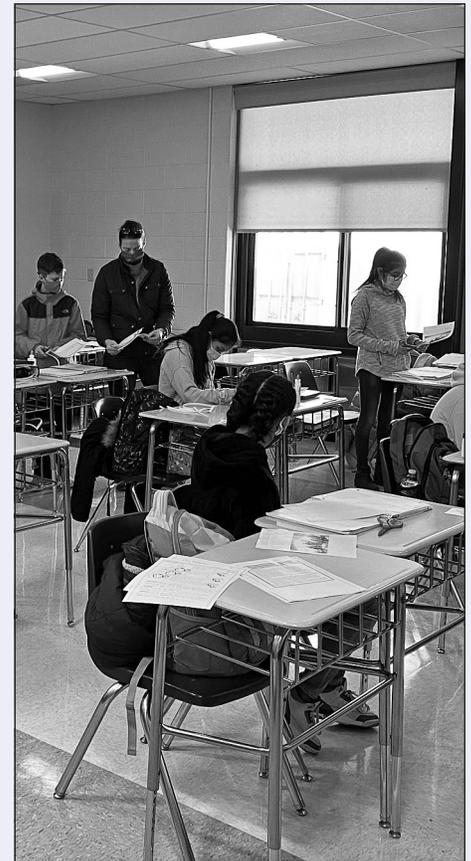
- High School Art & Guidance Suites - Completed November 2020
- Middle School 100 Classroom Wing - Completed December 2020
- Middle School 300 Classroom Wing - Completed March 2021
- Primary School Fire Alarm – Completed April 2021

Current Phase II Construction Areas

- High School Auditorium - Estimated Completion May 2021
- Middle School 200 Classroom Wing - Estimated Completion Late June 2021
- High School Science Wing - Estimated Completion July 2021
- High School Technology Wing (Exterior) - Estimated Completion July 2022

Upcoming Phase II Construction Areas

- High School & Middle School Boiler Rooms - Starting May 2021
- High School Technology Wing (Interior) - Starting Late June 2021
- Middle School Gym - Starting Late June 2021
- High School Math Wing - Starting July 2021
- Middle School Music Suite - Starting July 2021



MS 100 Wing Classroom



HS Guidance Suite



HS Art Suite

Persevering in 20-21 & Looking Ahead to 21-22

No matter how much planning took place, no one could predict what 20-21 would be like until schools reopened. Staff persevered through the challenges and are optimistic about 21-22. We checked in with a few to hear their thoughts.



ACADEMIC & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Suzanne Guntlow, Superintendent

Lucas Christensen, Assistant Superintendent

An early academic success of 20-21 was getting K-5 students back into classrooms 5 days a week. Since then grades 6-7 have returned to classrooms 4-days a week. Upper grades remain on hybrid schedules, but academic and social-emotional supports have been in place to ensure their individual needs are met. When in-person learning has been interrupted, increased comfort with technology tools has made it possible for instruction to continue. Home meal deliveries, family check-ins, virtual study halls and tutoring are just some of the systems in place to support those who cannot be “in school” every day.

When thinking ahead to 21-22, Ms. Guntlow noted this year has proven schools are safe and with much of the staff now vaccinated she is excited for the possibility of having more students in school full time. “It’s important to look for silver linings and our district is stronger, better prepared and more creative because of the past year. As we plan for what’s next, we’ll remember lessons we’ve learned and use them to improve future instruction for the 21-22 school year,” said Ms. Guntlow.

Mr. Christensen looks forward to using those same lessons and carrying positive aspects of the year into future ones. “There are self-driven students who have flourished under the hybrid model due to increased independence. That’s not something we would have realized if not forced to offer that model. It’s exciting that we’ve learned ways to improve instruction for some students during a time of disruption and we don’t want to forget those lessons.”

ATHLETICS

Tim Stewart, Athletics Director

Riders Athletics paused last spring but returned this year thanks to planning and hard work by athletics staff. In September the status of resuming athletics was uncertain, but the district has managed to offer all its regular athletics seasons.

“It’s a great success to safely welcome back Riders Athletics this year,” said Mr. Stewart. “It was wonderful seeing excitement on our athletes’ faces when they started practicing and competing again. Especially with our senior-athletes who’ve brought so much for 4 years, helping them compete a final time is very rewarding.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Stewart’s optimism is growing. “With so many student-athletes enthusiastically returning this year and districts showing they can safely manage these programs, the hope is athletics will start resembling their old selves again.”



MUSIC PROGRAMMING

Amy Giammattei, Music Dept. Team & Curriculum Leader

Love of music runs deep in Ichabod, so it was a shock to have its programming disrupted when learning went full remote last year. With students back, music education continued this year thanks to new tools like software for making adaptable lessons and some creativity, like moving lessons outdoors in good weather. Milestones were still made - the Marching Band got its first new uniforms in 40 years - and achievements continued with a combined 41 students selected for the NYSSMA Festival & NYSBDA Honor Band.

“We’re so grateful for the opportunity to keep teaching music during the pandemic,” said Ms. Giammattei. “We know from experience it’s an outlet and has helped everyone’s well-being by bringing students and staff emotionally together in a physically distant time. We hope for a more traditional 21-22, but we’ll adapt to ensure that emotional togetherness remains no matter what next year brings.”

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Peg Warner, Director of Special Education

When schools closed last year the Special Ed. Dept. ensured students with disabilities had the same remote opportunities as their general education peers. With most of those students now back in-person, Ms. Warner confirmed this was even more the case this year.

“Our staff and families worked together to continue providing our full continuum of services including special classes, integrated co-teaching services, consultant teacher services and more,” said Ms. Warner. “We’ve had to modify aspects, but we’ve continued 1-to-1 direct student support and specialized instruction this entire year.”

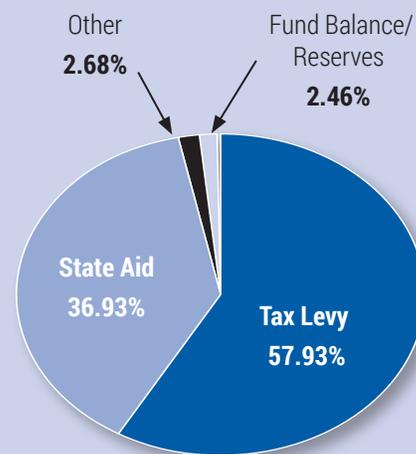
Outside the box thinking helped staff adapt methods to guarantee students were still progressing and achieving goals. Flexible staff schedules allowed more support time as needed for students, including small group synchronized learning time. Additional supports have included 1-to-1 tutoring, small group instruction for re-teaching, staff office hours for students and after school services.

Like everyone Ms. Warner is optimistic. “We’ve proven we can serve our students under extraordinary circumstances. We’re hopeful for fall, but also ready to continue any necessary extra student supports.”



REVENUES:

Revenue Budget	2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Tax Levy/Pilots	\$24,618,359	\$25,418,985	\$800,626	3.25%
State Aid	15,760,805	16,203,036	442,231	2.81%
Other: Rents, Tuition, Misc.	1,178,816	1,177,500	-1,316	-0.11%
Fund Balance/ Reserves	825,000	1,079,403	254,403	30.84%
Grand Totals	\$42,382,980	\$43,878,924	\$1,495,944	3.53%



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY:

Improvements, Lessons & Looking Forward

Instructional technology (IT) has made tremendous strides since last spring when COVID-19 forced the district to increase its use to meet educational needs. What began as an unexpected challenge has now turned into an opportunity to better utilize instructional technology in future years.

How Ichabod IT Improved in 20-21

- **Student & Staff Accessibility:** There's now a device available for each teacher in the district and for each student in grades 3-12. This summer we also expect the arrival of new Chromebooks for each kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classroom.
- **Collaborative Planning:** The K-12 IT Committee meets regularly to assess the effectiveness of current IT tools/methods and to plan for effective integration of new technology and instructional platforms.
- **IT Support for Faculty:** Learning about IT is a key part of the district's professional development plan. The IT department provides assistance and 1-on-1 support for teachers. Additionally, we offer on-going learning opportunities for teachers.
- **Confidence:** Initial challenges early in the pandemic have transformed into engaging and innovative curriculum opportunities that leverage IT. Teachers are more comfortable using district IT to customize lesson plans and many students are engaging more creatively than ever.



- **Limitless Opportunities:** Previously impossible opportunities can now be commonplace using technology. For instance, virtual field trips to far-off locations & special guests/speakers who cannot be on campus can now visit virtually.
- **Preparedness:** An increased reliance on IT has prepared Ichabod for future "what if" scenarios where instruction will be able to continue if building operations are disrupted.

IT Lessons for the Future

- **Silver Linings:** Although remote learning brought challenges, there were unexpected benefits as well. Communication with families has improved, new forms of student and teacher creativity emerged, teachers became adept at utilizing new instructional platforms and everyone's technology skill sets were sharpened.

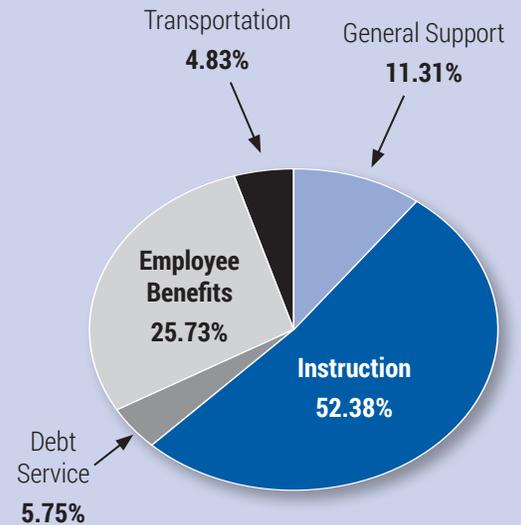
5-Year IT Plan Update

Ichabod Crane continues its ongoing 5-year (2021-2025) IT expansion plan. With COVID-19 increasing the need for IT and expanding possibilities of what can be done, this initiative is more important than ever. Below are some upcoming highlights.

- **Interactive Whiteboards:** All K-12 classrooms in each school will be outfitted with new interactive whiteboards and teacher stations over the next 2 years.
- **More Student Learning Devices:** An additional supply of learning devices is being secured to ensure no student ever goes without one.
- **Renewing & Expanding Instructional Software:** Renewing and expanding software service subscriptions that teachers have used to enhance instruction is essential to maximizing the benefits recognized through the pandemic.

EXPENSES:

Account Group	2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	Change (\$)	Change (%)
General Support	\$4,549,201	\$4,962,576	\$413,375	9.09%
Instruction	22,470,263	22,982,581	512,318	2.28%
Transportation	2,010,176	2,121,136	110,960	5.52%
Employee Benefits	11,448,540	11,291,415	-\$157,125	-1.37%
Debt Service/Transfers	1,904,800	2,521,216	616,416	32.36%
Grand Totals	\$42,382,980	\$43,878,924	\$1,495,944	3.53%



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. Ichabod Crane's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

PROGRAM	2020-21	2021-22
Amount	\$32,955,426	\$33,378,697
% of total	77.76%	76.07%

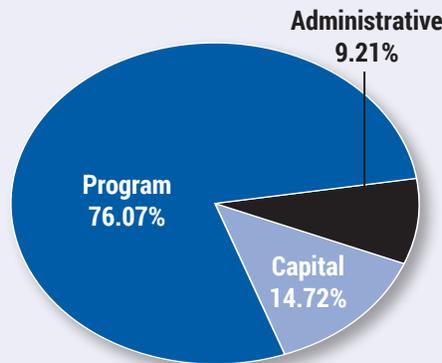
INCLUDES: salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, etc.; teaching supplies, equipment and textbooks; library and instructional computer funds; athletics; and transportation (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE	2020-21	2021-22
Amount	\$3,891,007	\$4,041,249
% of total	9.18%	9.21%

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	2020-21	2021-22
Amount	\$5,536,547	\$6,458,978
% of total	13.06%	14.72%

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.



2021 Board of Education Candidates

There are five (5) candidates seeking three (3) seats on the Board of Education on May 18, 2021. Board members with expiring terms are John Antalek, Susan Ramos and Ruth Moore. The term for two of these seats begins on May 19, 2021, while the remaining seat's term begins on July 1, 2021. Board terms are for three (3) years.

Running for these seats in the order they appear on the ballot are Regina Rose, Jared Widjeskog, Resa Dimino, Jennifer Allard and Anne Schaefer.

Further candidate information be found online at ichabodcrane.org

VOTER INFORMATION

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. – 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

In the interest of public safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic, absentee ballots are available to any registered voter in the district. This is in addition to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person because of illness or disability. Applications for absentee ballots must be received at the office of the School District Clerk by May 11, 2021, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or prior to May 17, 2021, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 18, 2021.

Absentee applications must be received one (1) week prior to an election if the ballot is to be mailed and by 4 PM the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Please contact the District Clerk at mpotts@ichabodcrane.org if you have any voting questions.

School District Budget Notice 2021-22 (Revised)

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 42,382,980	\$43,878,924	\$43,152,682										
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$1,495,944	\$769,702										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.53 %	1.82%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$24,618,356	\$25,344,601											
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)	\$24,618,356	\$25,344,601	\$24,618,356										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$523,115	\$877,998											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$24,095,244	\$24,466,603											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$24,095,244	\$24,466,603											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$3,891,007	\$4,041,249	\$4,013,249										
Program Component	\$32,955,426	\$33,378,697	\$32,955,455										
Capital Component	\$5,536,547	\$6,458,978	\$6,183,978										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p>													
<p>** 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</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4 Buses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$430,333</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	4 Buses	\$430,333		\$		\$		\$
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NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
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Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$520
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Kinderhook Central school district, Columbia and Rensselaer Counties, New York, will be held at the Ichabod Crane High School gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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