

2023-24 BUDGET HEARING SUMMARY - May 2, 2023

PRESENTATION #7

In 1997, the State adopted a uniformed voting date for the annual school district budget vote and deemed it to be the 3rd Tuesday in May each year. Additionally, school districts are also mandated to meet a number of budget requirements, which include the annual school budget hearing. The primary purpose of the budget hearing is to provide the community with a summary of the budget, overview of the process, and another opportunity to provide comments on the upcoming budget that will be voted on May 16, 2023.

Budget Process:

Before we discuss the contents of the proposed 2023-24 school budget it is important to explain the budget development process. The development process is an ongoing event and it requires the input and dedication of the faculty, staff, administrators and board members before it can be presented to the full board of education and public. Throughout the budget process, we have worked closely with many key district personnel and stakeholders to identify educational needs for the district to be addressed for the 2023-24 budget. The budget calendar is developed and we start reviewing the rollover budget with the board of education and the Budget Committee in January. Over the next months, we meet with various administrators and department leaders to discuss programs, personnel and recurring expenses. Once the preliminary data was received, we were able to develop a spending plan that meets the needs of the district while being fiscally responsible.

We presented the Non-Instructional Budget in February and the Instructional Budget in March at the corresponding Board of Education meetings. The projected revenues were presented at the April 4th Board of Education meeting. In regard to revenues, since the State was delinquent in meeting their budget deadline, the district adopted a budget using the State Aid projections provided as of February 1, 2023.

The State finalized the budget on May 1.

Updates to the NYS Budget include:

- The final State Aid Runs include an additional combined total of \$31,354 in the expense driven aid categories Transportation and Library.
- The \$100k Tutoring Set-Aside was rolled into the Foundation Aid as anticipated.
- Additional funding for the School Lunch Program for districts that are Community Eligible, which means they have a direct certification rate of 40% or higher. We are slightly below 30%. Therefore, our district doesn't qualify for this funding.

It is important to note that the public is voting on the educational spending plan and not necessarily the revenues, tax levy or tax rate. Finally, the full budget was presented to the Board of Education on April 18th and formally adopted at the same meeting. In all, including tonight's hearing, there have been 7 public presentations made to the Board.

Budget Summary:

It's necessary to state that this budget does not include any grant funding. The funds derived from all state and federal are received and held separately from the General Fund and will be designated for specific needs in accordance with the requirements of the grants.

The Total Budget: \$48,587,624 compared to the current budget of \$46,693,075. This represents a 4.06% increase over the current budget or a total dollar increase of \$1,894,549.

Instructional Budget is \$23,818,166 and this is a 1.69% increase over the current year and is an \$396,476 increase.

The instructional budget represents just under 50% of the total budget and includes salaries, equipment, supplies and materials, contractual obligations and BOCES services.

- There are five major sections to the Instructional Budget and they include:
 1. Instruction, Administrative Improvement
 2. Teaching Regular School (K-12)
 3. Special Apportionment Programs (Programs for Special Education Students, Occupational Education, Special School)
 4. Instructional Media (Library and Computer Aided Instruction)

5. Pupil Personnel Services (Attendance, Guidance, Health Services, Psychological Services, Social Work Services, Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Athletics)

The Non-Instructional Budget is \$23,271,386 and this is slightly over 50% of the total budget. This budget has increased 6.43% over the current Non-Instructional Budget or a \$1,498,072 increase.

The Non-Instructional Budget is made up of salaries, equipment, supplies and materials, contractual services and BOCES services.

- The Non-Instructional Budget is made up of nine areas:
 1. Board of Education (BOE, District Clerk and District Meetings)
 2. Central Administration (Superintendent)
 3. Finance (Business Administration, Auditing, Treasurer, Tax Collector and Fiscal Agent)
 4. Staff (Legal, Personnel, Records, Retention, Public Information)
 5. Central Services (Operation, Maintenance and Central Printing and Mailing Services)
 6. Special Items (Unallocated Insurance, School Association Dues, Refund on Real Property Taxes and Administrative and Capital Charges for BOCES)
 7. Pupil Transportation
 8. Benefits (Employee Benefits – ERS, TRS, Social Security, Workers Comp, Unemployment Insurance, Medical and Dental Insurance and Accrued Liabilities)
 9. Debt Service: Interfund Transfers (Café, Capital and Special Aid Fund)

The district has made the budget documents, which includes the details of the full budget available online, in all the main buildings and at the public libraries in North Chatham, Valatie and Kinderhook. The school budget notice form will be sent out this week with the Newsletter, which will provide a summary of the budget and the STAR savings along with specific budget information.

The projected tax levy for 2023-24 is anticipated to be a 2.94% increase, which does not exceed the tax cap limit for our district. The projected tax levy will be \$26,689,850. Additional revenues include: \$19,684,607 in State Aid; \$1,392,167 in Other, Rent, Tuition and Miscellaneous Revenue; and \$821,000 in appropriated fund balance and reserves.

The required breakdown of the budget into three components includes:

1. Program for \$35,832,602 (73.75%)
2. Capital for \$8,194,052 (16.86%)
3. Administrative for \$4,560,967 (9.39%)

Propositions:

The budget vote will be held on May 16, 2023 at the HS Gymnasium from 8AM-9PM. Absentee ballots are due 5PM the same day.

There will be two propositions for voters to consider:

1. Approval of the 2023-24 Budget for \$48,587,624
2. Approval to purchase 3 buses and 2 mini vans for \$545,729.

Board of Education Election:

Finally, voters will also be asked to fill three Board of Education seats that are up for election:

Running for those seats in the order they will appear on the ballot are: Melissa Miller, John Chandler, Christopher Scoville, Megan Pelizza and Kelly Firmbach. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will join the Board of Education for 3-year terms.

mjb/5.2.23