

2024-25 BUDGET HEARING SUMMARY - May 7, 2024

PRESENTATION #7

In 1997, the state established the 3rd Tuesday in May as the standardized voting date for the annual school district budget vote. Additionally, school districts are mandated to meet a number of budget requirements, including 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, which will be voted on May 21, 2024.

Budget Process:

Before we discuss the details of the board-approved proposed 2024-25 school budget, it is important to explain the budget development process. The development process is an ongoing event, requiring 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 worked closely with many key district personnel and stakeholders to identify the educational and operational needs for potential inclusion in the 24-25 proposed spending plan. One of the initial steps of the budget process is to create the budget calendar, which serves as a roadmap, detailing important dates and presentations, to the annual vote – this year on May 21. This calendar is posted publicly, including on the district's dedicated budget page on our website.

This January, we started reviewing the rollover budget with the Board of Education and the Budget Committee. Over the next few months, we continued to meet with various administrators, department leaders and staff to discuss programs, personnel and recurring expenses. Once the preliminary data was received, we collaboratively developed a spending plan for the next school year that meets the needs of the district while being fiscally responsible.

In February, we presented the Non-Instructional Budget for 2024-25, followed by the Instructional Budget presentation in March, both during the respective Board of Education meetings. The projected revenues were presented at the April 9th Board of Education meeting. Regarding revenues, since the State was delinquent in meeting their budget deadline, the district was not able to finalize revenues until April 5.

It is important to note that the public is voting on the educational spending plan – and not the revenues, tax levy or tax rate. Finally, the full proposed budget was presented to the Board of Education on April 23rd 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 grant 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: \$50,187,013 compared to the current budget of \$48,587,624. This represents a 3.29% increase over the current budget or a total dollar increase of \$1,599,389.

Instructional Budget

Instructional Budget is \$24,628,286 and this is a 3.4% increase over the current year and is an \$810,120 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)

Non-Instructional Budget

The Non-Instructional Budget consists of 4 categories:

1. General Support (Central Office, Business Office, Facilities & Grounds)
 - a. \$4,983,898
 - b. 9.93% of Full Budget
 - c. Decrease of \$17,061 of (0.34%)
2. Transportation

- a. \$2,233,750
 - b. 4.45% of Full Budget
 - c. Increase of \$44,850 or 2.05%
- 3. Employee Benefits (Health & Dental Insurance, ERS, TRS, Social Security, Worker's Compensation, Unemployment)
 - a. \$14,035,479
 - b. 27.97% of Full Budget
 - c. Increase of \$722,950 or 5.43%
- 4. Debt (Capital Payments)
 - a. \$4,305,600
 - b. 8.58% of Full Budget
 - c. Increase of \$38,500 or 0.90%

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

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 annual Budget Newsletter, which will provide a summary of the budget and the STAR savings – along with specific budget information.

The projected tax levy for 2024-25 is anticipated to be a 2.95% increase, which does not exceed the tax cap limit for our district and is less than the maximum allowable calculation of 3.45%. The projected tax levy will be \$27,477,201 and an increase of Tax Levy revenue of \$787,351. Additional revenues include: \$20,100,543 in State Aid; \$1,703,00 in Other, Rent, Tuition and Miscellaneous Revenue; and \$906,269 in appropriated fund balance and reserves.

The required breakdown of the budget into three components includes:

- 1. Program for \$37,371,121 (74.5%)
- 2. Capital for \$8,257,260 (16.5%)
- 3. Administrative for \$4,558,632 (9.1%)

Propositions:

The budget vote will be held on May 21, 2024 at the HS Gymnasium from 8AM-9PM. Absentee ballots are due 5PM the same day.

There will be three propositions for voters to consider:

1. Approval of the 2024-25 Budget for \$50,187,013
2. Approval to purchase 3 large buses and 2 small buses for \$665,654.
3. Approval of a student representative as a non-voting member of the Board of Education. Requires voter approval every two years.

Board of Education Election:

Finally, voters will also be asked to fill **FOUR** Board of Education seats that are up for election, which includes three seats due to expired terms and one seat from a vacancy.

Running for those seats in the order they will appear on the ballot are: Valerie Spensieri, Cal Waits and Anne Schaefer.

The three candidates with the highest number of votes will join the Board of Education for 3-year terms starting 7/1/2024. *The candidate with the fourth highest number of votes will join the BOE immediately to replace the vacated term ending 6/30/26.*