

MOVING PAST PANDEMIC-ERA SCHOOLING

The ongoing pandemic has not only impacted every facet of our personal and collective lives, but so too our district's operations.

As the school setting trends toward normalcy, and we all continue to work to overcome the collective trauma caused by isolation and missed opportunities, the most notable budgetary impact related to the pandemic now involves the federal stimulus grants.

These grants include the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund (GEER), and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental

Appropriations Act (CRRSA). In sum, our district will receive more than \$6 Million over a multi-year period. Much of this funding will be used to provide programming to help students overcome learning loss and to address social/emotional well-being. However, in our continued commitment to financial stability and our desire not to create additional budgetary 'cliffs' when the pandemic grants end, some of these funds have been used to supplant existing budget items. This approach should generate somewhat larger annual operating surpluses during the grant period, and may enable the creation of a capital reserve fund (see related article in this publication).

The proposed budget features a tax levy increase of 1.998%, which is compliant with the tax levy limit (aka tax cap). This spending plan generally continues current programming, but does feature a handful of notable staffing/programmatic additions, including:

- The restoration of a secondary Math Teacher position which has been vacant this year because of staffing shortages
- The re-introduction of a secondary Business Education Teacher position which has been vacant for several years
- The restoration of an elementary School Psychologist position which has been largely vacant this year because of staff movement
- An increase in budgetary allocation for



technology hardware, which will better support the replacement/rotation of 1:1 student laptops

We look forward to your participation in the annual budget vote and board member election, which will take place on May 17th between the hours of 7a.m and 8p.m..

I'm pleased to share that, while absentee ballots are available for voters who are uncomfortable visiting public spaces, we will again be offering in-person voting in the three traditional locations (Momot Elementary School, Glasgow Elementary School, and the Duken Administration Building).

Thank-you for your continued support of our wonderful school district.

Sincerely,

Jay Lebrun

Facts & Figures

Change in Budget
4.070%

Change in Tax Levy
1.998%

Budget Hearing
Duken Building
Wednesday
May 4 @ 7:30pm



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**Budget Vote
& School Board
Election**
Tuesday, May 17
7am - 8pm



CHANGES IN VOTING PROCESS

While voting will again take place in-person and at the traditional three locations (Momot, Glasgow and Duken buildings), voters will note some changes in the process. Due to the schedule of primary voting, the Clinton County Board of Elections is no longer able to provide school districts with electronic voting machines. PCSD (along with other districts) will be hand-tallying votes for this year's school budget vote/board election. Voters will complete their paper ballot (as usual), and will then drop their ballot into a secured, locked ballot box. Ballots will be tallied the following day and the results will

be provided at the Board of Education meeting later that same day/evening.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Like last year, voting by absentee ballot is available to any interested, registered voter who feels uncomfortable voting in-person due to COVID. Interested individuals can go to www.plattscsd.org to complete an absentee ballot application or contact the **District Clerk, Dawn Stetz at 518-957-6002.**

THE FUTURE OF BUDGET NEWSLETTERS?

The pandemic forced many changes, some of which we are all surely eager to see end, and some which may endure. One notable area of societal change has been increased comfort with technology. Individuals consume information via digital media like never before, and in keeping, many school- and district-based communications have moved from paper to online.

The purpose of this newsletter is to convey budgetary information to as many voting constituents as possible. But, in light of requests for electronic delivery and

increasing costs for paper, printing, sorting and mailing, a move to a different format may be in order for future years.

In lieu of mass-mailings, we are considering a hybrid strategy which includes targeted mailings to those who request such, electronic delivery to those for whom the district possesses email addresses, and publication in local media about the website whereat this information is posted.

Again, no imminent change is contemplated, and most readers of this year's budget

newsletter will have received it via USPS delivery directly to their homes.

If you have thoughts about a future move away from mass-mailed paper newsletters, please share these with district personnel of your preference.



2022-23 BUDGET OVERVIEW

	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Change
Budget	\$46,413,990	\$48,303,122	4.070%
Revenues	\$44,913,990	\$46,505,230	3.543%
Applied Reserves	\$1,500,000	\$1,797,892	19.860%
Proposed Tax Levy	\$24,045,198	\$24,525,714*	1.998%

*The proposed tax levy is compliant with the tax cap, and the proposed budget therefore requires only a 'simple majority' for approval.



Projected Annual Tax Impact of the 2022-23 Budget

The tax impact estimates to the right do not assume any change in the total taxable assessed value for the City. This total valuation will not be known until June. Any increase in total taxable assessments will decrease the tax rate.

***Note: These estimates do not reflect any exemptions (ie. STAR).** Each taxpayer should further consider those exemptions for which they qualify.

Property Assessment*	Current Tax Bill \$23.1921 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Projected Tax Bill \$23.6555 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Annual Increase
\$50,000	\$1,159.61	\$1,182.78	\$23.17
\$100,000	\$2,319.21	\$2,365.55	\$46.34
\$160,000**	\$3,710.74	\$3,784.88	\$74.14
\$200,000	\$4,638.42	\$4,731.10	\$92.68
\$250,000	\$5,798.03	\$5,913.88	\$115.85
\$300,000	\$6,957.63	\$7,096.65	\$139.02
\$350,000	\$8,117.24	\$8,279.43	\$162.19

****Note:** The bold line represents the projected average home value in the City of Plattsburgh.

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WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

Tuesday
May 17, 2022
7 am - 8 pm

Glasgow Elementary
(Bailey Ave. Elementary)
50 Bailey Ave.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Duken Building
49 Broad St.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Momot Elementary
60 Monty St.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

To find your polling location, visit: www.plattscsd.org/election-map/

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PROPOSAL

In May 2019, voters authorized the creation of a capital reserve fund, which allowed the district to prospectively save for the local share of the \$9,176,585 capital project which is now in the final stages of completion. This strategy was very well-received by taxpayers, who recognized this as a proactive, planful approach to paying for capital works projects. Though the next capital project is several years away, and specific planning for such has not yet begun, reserving funds to cover the local share of this eventual project will reduce (and maybe even eliminate) the local tax impact of this eventual construction. The proposed amount of this capital reserve fund (\$2,000,000) is based upon the scope and cost of recent capital projects, and would be funded gradually in the coming years, as year-end operating surpluses allow. In all likelihood, based upon our district's past construction cycles and the building condition surveys, our next capital project will need to begin well-before the 10-years listed in the proposed resolution, and this term length has been recommended simply to maximize flexibility in when the next capital project will begin.

