

ONTEORA

Budget 2017

VOTE

★ Tuesday ★

May 16

2 PM – 9 PM

BUDGET ★ HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **PRESERVES** class sizes, educational offerings, and student services.
- ★ **SUPPORTS** the design and construction of an up-to-date science lab at the High School.
- ★ **DEMONSTRATES** continued line-by-line fiscal management of the budget to reduce expenditures.
- ★ **CONTINUES** the Summer Academic Intervention Support Program.
- ★ **REINSTATES** the Varsity Football team.
- ★ **SUPPORTS** the replacement of two small school buses.

POLLING PLACES:

Bennett Elementary
School

Phoenicia Elementary
School

Woodstock Elementary
School

NEW LOCATION!
West Hurley
Firehouse

Proposed 2017-2018 School Budget Below Tax Levy Limit

Maintains Existing Programs, Supports
Renovation of High School Science Lab

THE ONTEORA BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS ADOPTED a \$54,296,155 proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year that continues all existing student programs while supporting the design and construction of an up-to-date science lab at the High School, the return of Varsity football, and the purchase of two small school buses.

The tax levy increase to support the proposed budget is 1.80 percent—less than the allowable New York State tax levy limit calculation, which would have permitted a 2.99 percent levy increase with a simple-majority voter approval. This is the sixth year in a row that Onteora has presented a budget below the allowable tax levy limit.

The proposal increases the budget by 2 percent. A rise in contractual health insurance costs accounts for \$957,904 of the \$1,073,377 increase.

The majority of the proposed budget (84.68%) is allocated to programs that directly support students. The remainder is divided between capital (8.47%) and administrative (6.85%) functions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**See pages 4-7 for more
information about the
2017-2018 Proposed Budget**



Bennett Grade 4 students Korinne Matheson (left) and Destiny Carlton use the circuit board they built to test whether objects in their classroom are conductors or insulators.

READ MORE ON PAGE 2: Bennett Students Engage in 21st Century Science Learning

Bennett Students Engage in 21st Century Science Learning

BENNETT GRADE 4 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS are developing a deeper understanding of the new New York State Science Learning Standards, thanks to an innovative pilot program offered through Ulster BOCES.

Recently, students in Brigid Kelly’s class created their own circuit boards, using batteries, wires, motors, and a switch. They then used the boards to test various objects in their classroom—everything from a desk to a doorknob to a drinking fountain—to see which objects would conduct electricity.

“The program is really engaging for the teacher and students,” remarked Ms. Kelly. “The students have an opportunity to learn through discovery, and after they discover the process, the teacher is able to introduce the vocabulary and scientific concepts.

“Students are better able to explain how concepts work using the content words after they have done the hands-on discovery. They are able to practice the skills that scientists use in the field,” Ms. Kelly concluded.

Student Shelly Hoyt bubbled with excitement during the lesson on conductors and insulators. “Today I learned that metal is a conductor and a plastic straw is an insulator,” she exclaimed. Another student,

Harold Stange, was equally enthusiastic. “I love science,” he declared. “I like testing things, and putting wires together to make a motor run.”

According to Ulster BOCES Science Content Specialist Christina Pominville, who served as a guide and a resource for the teachers, the District was chosen for the pilot program because of its commitment to

building a strong STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program. “The interest of their Science teachers and administrators was very high, as the teachers have already aligned their curriculum maps to the new Science standards, and this program seamlessly embeds those standards,” she noted.

Grade 4 teacher Leigh VanDeBogart also appreciates the

program. “One of the most fascinating lessons required the students to light a light bulb using a bulb, two wires, and a D-cell battery,” she said. “The children developed various methods and were able to express their theories and techniques in insightful ways. It was an exciting introductory lesson as the children investigated, worked together, and shared their information with pride.”



Bennett Elementary School students Esynce Cordero and Shelly Hoyt work on assembling a circuit board during a science lesson on conductors and insulators.

READING FLOURISHES AT PHOENICIA

Phoenicia students love to read. Encouraging that passion is a team effort, involving not only teachers and staff—but also family members, community volunteers, and even book lovers from a neighboring state. The school recently concluded a wildly successful “Spring into Spring” read-a-thon. To participate, the students filled out a log each week, recording the total number of minutes they spent reading at home with a parent or other family members.

“The children quickly reached their school goal of reading 15,000 minutes, and they kept on reading!” reported Principal Linda Sella. The reading challenge began in mid-February, and by the time it ended at the end of March, the students had collectively read more than 37,000 minutes.

The Phoenicia Library also pitched in, coordinating a roster of volunteers who regularly visit the school to read with small groups of students. Among those volunteers is Amy Jackson, who stops by the school once a week. “Books have always been a big part of my life, so when they put a call out for volunteers I was only too happy to come,” she said.

Phoenicia’s avid readers received additional support from Radburn Elementary School (located in Fairlawn, New Jersey), which donated hundreds of titles collected during a recent book drive. According to Mrs. Sella, the Phoenicia students appreciated the fresh reading material, which was shared by Superintendent Bruce Watson’s former school district. “We had a book giveaway, which helped keep our students reading, reading, reading,” she said.

The read-a-thon culminated with a P & J (Pizza and Jammies) party, organized by the PTA with support from the Phoenicia Rotary. The pajama-clad students feasted on pizza while listening to Superintendent Watson read *Wild About Books*.



Phoenicia Elementary School student Tatiana Villaneuva Lemus reads a book to her classmate, Sharlynn Lovera Hernandez, during the school’s recent “Spring into Spring” read-a-thon.

High School Robotics Class Sharpens Problem-Solving Skills

ROBOTS ARE NO LONGER RELEGATED TO THE REALM OF SCIENCE FICTION. They can be found in our factories, homes, cars – and even in High School Science teacher Bryan Keenan’s Robotics class.

“This class is project based,” says Mr. Keenan. “We mostly run robotics challenges where students test specifically designed robots that are programmed (or remotely operated) to interact with the environment, make decisions, and complete various tasks.”

Recently, two of his students, seniors Maia Amellio and Spencer Cornelius, created a robot that earned them a third-place medal in the New York State Science Olympiad. Similar robots, Mr. Keenan notes, are widely used in manufacturing settings.

At the State competition, Maia and Spencer tackled a challenge involving five stacks of pennies, with 10 pennies in each stack. “Our main goal was to build a robot that could spread the pennies out on a target,” Spencer explains. “The closer the pennies were to the center of the target, the more points we got.”

“If you flipped the pennies from heads to tails, you received double the points,” adds Maia. “And you only got three minutes to complete the challenge.” Referring to the trial and error that went into the team’s efforts to

build their robot arm, Maia says, “We kept changing our strategies. It was almost like choreography!”

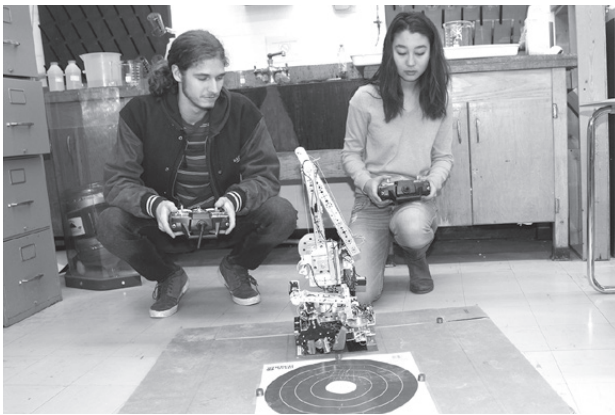
During a recent class, senior Stephanie Rice was writing computer code for a robot that would move forward through rows of fruit trees – unless it sensed something in its way, in which case it would stop until the obstacle was removed.

Meanwhile, two groups of students tested the “sumobots” they had designed. Each team attempted to push the other team’s robot out of a ring, thereby winning the “sumo match.”

According to Mr. Keenan, math and computer-programming skills, and the ability to work on a team, are crucial components to robotics. Problem-solving skills are also critical.

“In this class, the students learn that more ideas fail than succeed, but ultimately, with thought and perseverance, a workable solution will emerge that can get the challenge accomplished,” he declares.

Manual-labor jobs are increasingly being taken over by machines, Mr. Kennan notes. “However, humans will work beside these machines and tell them what to do,” he predicts. “These will be the jobs of the future, and I hope our students are able to compete for them.”



Robotics students Spencer Cornelius and Maia Amellio demonstrate the robot they created, which earned them a third-place medal in the New York State Science Olympiad.

Onteora Celebrates Foreign Language Week

DURING FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK, the halls of the Middle/High School were filled with artfully illustrated foreign proverbs, enticing aromas of foods hailing from other lands and cultures, and the creative results of research projects assigned in foreign-language classes.

Kicking off the annual celebration, students made colorful, amusing posters for a school-wide contest, illustrating French and Spanish words of wisdom like “On est tous dans le même bain” (“We’re all in the same bath”) and “Mucho ruido y pocas nueces” (“Much ado about nothing”).

Later in the week, juniors in Valerie Stewart’s Spanish class learned to make tortilla Española, a Spanish omelet made of potatoes, eggs, and onions. Members of the Spanish club whipped up empanadas, savory pastries popular in a number of Spanish-speaking countries, as well as nopalitos salad, a Mexican dish made of cactus. Continuing the food-based learning, French teacher

Christi Nelsen-Epstein gave a cooking lesson on crêpes, French-style pancakes, to her Middle School students. Señora Garcia shared a mole dish known as pastel azteca.

By the end of the week, the foreign-language learning was literally spilling out into the hallways, as Middle School Spanish teacher Rebecca Joslin



Middle School student Ava Calinda shows off her award-winning foreign-language poster.

showcased her students’ Foreign Language Week-inspired research projects in the corridor outside of her classroom. The projects, which focused on topics ranging from mythological creatures to the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlán, attracted an appreciative audience of students and staff.

“Onteora recognizes the importance of teaching its students a foreign language, so they can compete in the global market when they graduate,” says Mrs. Stewart, who serves as Onteora’s World Languages Liaison. “Learning new languages will open doors for our students to travel abroad and, most importantly, they will learn to accept and appreciate other cultures.”



Proposed 2017-2018 School Budget Below Tax Levy Limit

Supports Academic Achievement

The proposed budget supports the opportunity for children in Kindergarten through Grade 8 to participate in the District's Summer Academic Intervention Support Program. The 17-day program, which will be coordinated through the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, focuses on improving reading, writing, and math. Classes will be small to ensure that targeted instruction meets individual student learning needs. At the program's conclusion, students will participate in a culminating celebration. This program is open to students whose teachers believe they would benefit from experiencing intensive summer academic support.

In addition, Onteora will continue to provide a strong foundation for children to begin their educational journey by offering a half-day Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) program, which serves 20 students. The District will also re-apply for a grant to offer full-day UPK, which may serve 20 additional students.

Historical Tax Levy Increases

2012-2013	0.00%
2013-2014	0.00%
2014-2015	0.00%
2015-2016	0.87%
2016-2017	1.61%
2017-2018	1.80%

The Onteora administration and Board of Education have made every effort to minimize tax levy increases. The average annual tax levy increase over the past six years is less than one percent (0.71%).

Expands Athletic Program

The Onteora Varsity football team is restored in the proposed budget. During the past three years, Onteora athletes played on a combined Kingston/Onteora team. Last year's budget reinstated the JV Football team, which helped to build student interest in the sport and lay the groundwork for the return of the Onteora Varsity Football team.

Improves Our Facilities

The proposed budget supports two small building projects: the design and construction of a modern high school science lab

(see story below) and the design and implementation of minor radon remediation at Phoenicia Elementary School. To help offset the cost of the new science space, the District received a \$50,000 capital grant offered by the New York State Assembly in a collaborative effort with the Science Lab Initiative (SLI) of the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz.

Maintains Bus Fleet

The replacement of two small school buses (a 28-passenger vehicle and a 30-passenger vehicle) is included in the proposed budget. The current buses, which have high mileage and rising maintenance costs, have reached the end

PROPOSAL SUPPORTS MODERN HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE LAB

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS) education is more important than ever. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment growth in Science and Engineering occupations is projected to outpace all other occupations, rising by 18.7% between 2010 and 2020, compared to 14.3% for others. As the workforce shifts, schools must adapt to ensure students are prepared for the careers of the future.

The budget proposal allocates \$450,000 towards the cost of designing and constructing a new chemistry and robotics lab at the High School. The current lab, built in 1966, has a number of deficiencies, including antiquated fume hoods, worn countertops and cabinetry, and old plumbing fixtures that have reached the end of their useful life. There is limited space available for robotics challenges, which are currently conducted in the doorway. Lab stations are not designed to incorporate computers, resulting in a tangle of extension cords and wires.

"The current lab is outdated and frankly is inadequate," says Superintendent Bruce Watson. "Our goal for the proposed lab is to help our students engage in the kind of learning that is essential for 2017, not 1966."



Junior Joey Prusack working at an old, cracked sink in the High School's outdated chemistry lab.

The shift in STEM learning includes a strong focus on critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. "Teaching these skills requires space to be adaptable and flexible. It should support students' ability to inquire, investigate, and innovate, both individually and in teams," says Superintendent Watson.

Onteora Chemistry and Robotics teacher Bryan Keenan adds that the proposed renovation would

PROPOSED BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of their useful life. The new buses include modern safety features and are more energy efficient, with a smaller carbon footprint and less noise pollution. The cost of replacing the buses would be \$126,962.

Adjusts Staffing

The proposed budget includes some staffing reductions based on changes in students’ needs, not the elimination of programs.

Applies Fund Balance

This year, the Board of Education allocated \$3,385,000 of fund balance, which helps to minimize the budget’s impact on the tax levy. The amount was increased from the past two years to offset the \$685,000 cost related to the new science lab at the High School (\$450,000) and the minor radon remediation at Phoenicia Elementary School (\$235,000).

Please Vote

The community is encouraged to participate in the school budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 16, from 2 PM-9 PM.

Eligible voters can vote at the three Elementary Schools (Bennett, Phoenicia, and Woodstock) as well as the West Hurley Firehouse. Please note that the West Hurley Firehouse is a new voting location, replacing West Hurley Elementary School.

also improve his own classroom mobility and enhance his interactions with students. “Currently, it is difficult for me to move around in the lab and interact with the students,” he explains.

Each lab workstation would have laptop computers (with charging and hardwire connectivity); gas for experiments; and storage for chemistry and robotics equipment, says Christopher Colby of Clark Patterson Lee, the lead architect for the proposed project. There would also be Ethernet and WiFi throughout the classroom.

The renovated classroom would also include LED display screens for demonstrations and class activities, says Mr. Colby. In addition, there would be a floor area for robotics challenges, an interactive SMART Board, and digital camera equipment to record class demonstrations and robotics activities.

“The space will also feature an open ceiling with “clouds” that will absorb noise and provide the students with a professional laboratory environment,” adds Mr. Colby.

“At Onteora, we’re committed to enhancing our STEM education, so our students can compete and flourish in the global economy,” explains Superintendent Watson.

Board of Education Candidates (in the order they will appear on the ballot)

Four candidates are seeking election to four available seats. Three seats are for three-year terms, effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. One seat is a one-year, six-week term, effective May 16, 2017 to June 30, 2018. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will serve the three-year terms, while the candidate with the fourth highest number of votes will serve the one-year, six-week term.

Laurie Osmond, SELF-EMPLOYED PRODUCER AND WRITER

Lives in Willow • Resident of District for 12 ½ years
Osmond attended Brown University and San Francisco University and holds a B.A. in Broadcast Communication Arts. She has a daughter who is in 10th grade at the High School. A member of the school board since 2008, Osmond has served as president as well as vice president.

Rob Kurnit, SELF-EMPLOYED WOODWORKER

Lives in Woodstock • Resident of District for 26 years • Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York School Boards Association
A graduate of East Meadow High School, Kurnit attended New England College for one year. He has seven years of experience on the school board, including two years as vice president. He is also a volunteer for the Woodstock Library Fair.

Bennet Ratcliff, CONSULTANT AT THAW STRATEGIES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Lives in Bearsville • Resident of District for 3 ½ years • Recipient of Rotary Foundation Fellowship, Université de Grenoble, France
Ratcliff, who has an AB in Politics from Princeton University, has three children attending Onteora schools: one at the Middle/High School, one at Bennett, and one at Woodstock. Appointed to the Board of Education in February 2016, he was elected in May 2016 and currently serves as Chair of the Communications Committee. He is a member of the Ashokan-Pepacton chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Robert Burke Warren, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, DIRECTOR OF AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT, WOODSTOCK DAY SCHOOL; NOVELIST; FREELANCE WRITER

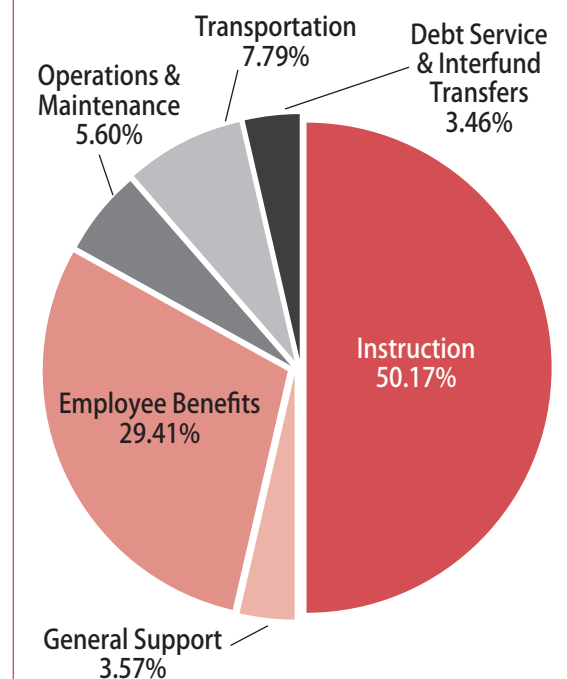
Lives in Phoenicia • Resident of District for 16 years • Recipient of Parents’ Choice Award for Uncle Rock CD *The Big Picture* and Hudson Valley Magazine’s Best of the Hudson Valley award for Best Children’s Musician
A graduate of Northside High School in Atlanta, Georgia, Warren has a son who graduated from Onteora in 2016. His community service includes playing music for children with cancer for NYC for Musicians on Call, fundraising for Family of Woodstock, and volunteering for the Phoenicia Library, Woodstock Library, Riverkeeper, NYCLU, and Planned Parenthood. His work experience includes: First Steps Preschool Music Teacher; music education and entertainment as “Uncle Rock”; teacher’s assistant at the School of the New Moon; teaching afterschool music classes in Phoenicia Elementary, Woodstock Elementary, and Woodstock Day schools; and co-teaching a songwriting elective for Onteora High School’s Vision 21 program.



2017-2018 Budget Summary

	Administrative	Program	Capital
Instruction	\$1,723,835	\$25,518,352	
General Support	\$1,939,142		
Employee Benefits	\$57,823	\$15,850,242	\$57,823
Operations & Maintenance			\$3,038,209
Transportation		\$4,103,244	\$126,962
Debt Service & Interfund Transfers		\$505,000	\$1,375,523
TOTAL	\$3,720,800	\$45,976,838	\$4,598,517
Percentage of Budget	6.85%	84.68%	8.47%

Proposed Budget by Expense



TAX INFORMATION

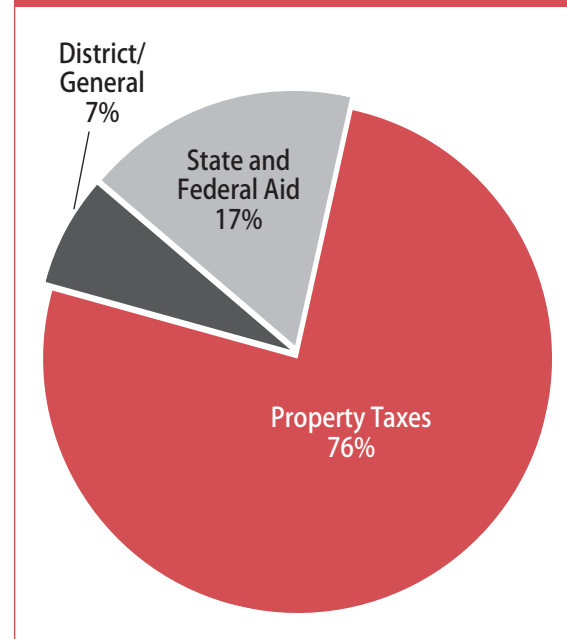
What is the Tax Levy?

The tax levy is the total amount of taxes a school district raises to help fund its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rates for each municipality within a school district. Tax rates are impacted by changes in town assessments and state equalization rates and are not determined by the school district. The Board of Education has adopted a budget that contains a 1.80 percent increase to the tax levy.

Since the budget is below the State Tax Levy Limit, why do I have to vote?

Even though the District's proposal is below the New York State Tax Levy Limit parameters regarding the levy increase, voter approval is still needed. The 2012 legislation commonly called the Two Percent Tax Cap law made many changes to the school budget approval process. One of the major changes was the method for computing a contingency budget. If the proposed budget is defeated two times, the District would have to make further budget reductions to reach a zero percent tax levy increase. This would require \$730,570 to be removed. In addition to making reductions to reach the zero percent levy increase, the District would also be prohibited from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the District); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-instructional, non-unionized employees; and some student supplies.

2017-2018 Budgeted Revenues



WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION #1: 2017-2018 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onteora Central School District Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth under the various headings which are voted upon in gross and not in detail in the total amount of \$54,296,155 (which includes \$20,000 to support public library) for the year commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and the Board is authorized to levy and collect the necessary tax thereof on the taxable property of the District.

PROPOSITION #2:

Shall the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District be authorized to permit qualified voters to personally register, for the purpose of voting at annual or special meetings and elections, with the District Clerk during regular business hours at the Office of the District Clerk?

BOARD CANDIDATES (VOTE FOR ANY FOUR)

Laurie Osmond • Rob Kurnit • Bennet Ratcliff • Robert Burke Warren

PROPOSED BUDGET

Questions & Answers About Voting

Am I Eligible to Vote? In order to be eligible to vote you must be 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the Onteora Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

If you are not registered to vote in the general election with the Ulster County Board of Elections but are an eligible Onteora voter, you may register to vote at the voting location of your residence on May 9 between 2 PM-8 PM. **(Please note that people who previously voted at West Hurley Elementary School now have a new voting location: West Hurley Firehouse.)** You will need to bring valid proof of residency. Any questions should be directed to the District Clerk at 845-657-6383 ext. 1010.

Absentee Ballots Eligible voters who cannot make it to the polls to vote may request an application for an absentee ballot. The District Clerk must receive the application by May 9 if the ballot is to be mailed to the requestor. If the ballot is being picked up by the voter, the application must be received by the District Clerk on or before May 15, 2017 (the day before the election and vote).

Applications for absentee ballots are available on the District website (www.onteora.k12.ny.us/AbsenteeApp) or at the Central Administration Office between 8 AM-4 PM Monday through Friday. Applications are to be mailed to: District Clerk, Onteora Central School District, P.O. Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 PM on the day of the election and vote, May 16.

- Where are Copies of the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget Available?** Copies are available for review at the following locations:
- High School/Middle School Offices
 - Bennett Elementary School
 - Woodstock Elementary School
 - Phoenicia Elementary School
 - The Business Office at Central Administration
 - Public Libraries within the District
 - The District Website, www.onteora.k12.ny.us

School Budget Notice			
OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2016-2017 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-2018 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-2018 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$53,222,778	\$54,296,155	\$53,565,585
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-2018 School Year		\$1,073,377	\$342,807
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.02%	0.64%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$40,607,444	\$41,338,014	
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)	\$40,607,444	\$41,338,014	\$40,607,444
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$178,140	\$260,651	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$41,081,554	\$41,559,792	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$40,429,304	\$41,077,363	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$652,250	\$482,429	
Administrative Component	\$3,565,917	\$3,720,800	\$3,715,800
Program Component	\$45,385,855	\$45,976,838	\$45,453,230
Capital Component	\$4,271,006	\$4,598,517	\$4,396,555

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-2018 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:

A contingency budget would eliminate all equipment purchases from the budget, including two small school buses. The District would not be able to make improvements to the High School chemistry lab or move forward with a radon remediation project in Phoenicia. The K-8 summer skill program and all field trips would also likely be removed from the budget along with an additional \$478,608.

** 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
Change Location of Voter Registration	\$0.00

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$302.83
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¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 by the qualified voters of the Onteora Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at Bennett, Phoenicia, and Woodstock Elementary school(s) and the West Hurley Firehouse in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kevin Salem, President
Laurie Osmond, Vice President
Valerie Storey, Trustee
Lindsay Shands, Trustee
Bennet Ratcliff, Trustee
Dale Alison, Trustee

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Bruce Watson

NEWSLETTER EDITING & DESIGN

Ulster BOCES Community Relations



This publication was printed on recycled paper

To Postal Customer

NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT The Onteora Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, weight, national origin, creed, religion, religious practice, ethnic group, political affiliation, gender (including gender identity, expression, or nonconformity to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity) marital status, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other legally protected status in access to programs and/or employment provided by the District. Inquiries to the District concerning discrimination or harassment based on sex or sexual orientation may be referred to the Title IX/Title VI Compliance Officers Marystephanie Corsones, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Victoria McLaren, Assistant Superintendent for Business at: Onteora Central School District, PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412, (845) 657-6383, ext. 1010, mcorsones@onteorak12.ny.us, vmclaren@onteorak12.ny.us. Inquiries regarding discrimination can also be made to the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, (646) 428-3900, ocr.newyork@ed.gov.

Woodstock Students Dance—and Learn!

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, Woodstock Elementary School students enjoyed a dance residency that encouraged them to exercise their minds and their bodies. Leading the young learners was Bryant “Drew” Andrews, an acclaimed dancer and choreographer who is the Executive Director of the Kingston-based Center for Creative Education (CCE). Also sharing her energy and expertise with the children was CCE Dance Coordinator/Choreographer Lisa Brown.

“I was so excited to have the opportunity to work with the children of Woodstock Elementary,” Mr. Andrews said. “We had a world of fun listening to music and learning to dance to it.”

Dance and music have been shown to have multiple health benefits, Mr. Andrews noted. “Music stimulates the brain, and dance activates sensory, balance, and motor skills,” he said. The dance residency, he

added, also enriched the students’ social and cultural awareness.

The dance lessons, which took place during physical education classes, served as an introduction to hip hop, Latin, and African dance styles. “With a special focus on rhythm, musicality, and basic fun choreography, the program was a great way to get the kids moving and having fun while learning,” he said.

According to Physical Education teacher Sonja Rothe, the program was a hit with the children. “My students had a fantastic time with Drew and Lisa during this dance residency,” she said. “Every week the kids were so excited to see them and go further with their dance routines. There were times that they had silly fun, and other times that they were definitely challenged. They learned about music and movement, and that dance is wonderful exercise.”



**USEFUL
DISTRICT
CONTACT
INFORMATION**

www.onteorak12.ny.us

DISTRICT OFFICE..... (845) 657-6383

Superintendent of Schools
Bruce Watson657-6383 x1010
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Marystephanie Corsones.. 657-6383 x1012
District Clerk
Fern Amster.....657-6383 x1010
Assistant Superintendent for Business
Victoria McLaren.....657-6383 x 1030
Director of Pupil Personnel
Cindy Bishop..... 657-3320

Universal Pre-Kindergarten
Cindy Bishop.....657-3320
Interim Athletic Director
Lou Cioffi657-2373 x2113
Director of Transportation
Nicole Sommer.....657-2537
School Lunch Manager
Christine Downs.....657-6383 x2181
Director of Facilities and Operations
Jared Mance.....657-6384

HIGH SCHOOL • 657-2373
Principal, Lance Edelman
Asst. Principal, Dieter Schimmelpfennig
MIDDLE SCHOOL • 657-2373
Principal, Jennifer O’Connor
BENNETT ELEMENTARY • 657-2354
Principal, Gabriel Buono
PHOENICIA ELEMENTARY • 688-5580
Principal, Linda Sella
WOODSTOCK ELEMENTARY • 679-2316
Principal, Scott Richards