

# ONTEORA

Budget 2019

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **PRESERVES** class sizes, educational offerings, and student services.
- ★ **PROPOSES** a levy amount that is LESS THAN the allowable NYS Tax Levy Limit increase.
- ★ **SUPPORTS** a tax-neutral Capital Project that aims to improve accessibility and safety.
- ★ **DEMONSTRATES** continued line-by-line fiscal management of the budget to align expenditures to the changing needs of the District.
- ★ **INVESTS** \$750,000 through fund transfers to support two ongoing building improvements: the Chemistry Lab Project and the Press Box/Bleacher Project.

## ONTEORA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS SWEENEY TODD

**SWEENEY TODD**, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, came to Boiceville on May 3-5. The High School presented the school edition of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical, which tells the tale of a revenge-seeking barber whose thirst for blood inspires his friend to integrate an oh-so-secret ingredient into her shop's meat pies.

Led by Director and Choreographer Victoria McCarthy, the production featured Justin Blydenburgh as Sweeney Todd, Emily Peck as Mrs. Lovett, Shane Stackpole as Anthony, Adrienne Cox as Johanna, Ginger McMahan as Beggar Woman, Clara Mead as Tobias, Alex Loiacono as the Beadle, Gabriel Solis as Judge Turpin, and Jules Schauffler as Pirelli.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Proposed 2019-2020 School Budget Below Tax Levy Limit

### Proposal Supports Educational Programs, Transportation Needs, and Capital Improvements

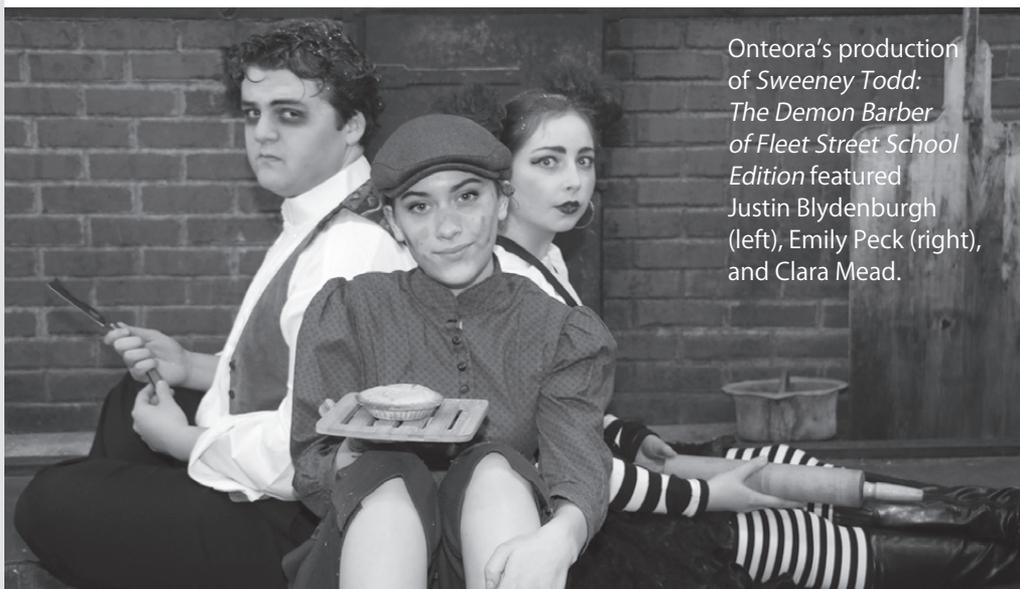
**THE ONTEORA BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS ADOPTED** a \$57,403,498 proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year that continues all existing student programs while supporting work on a state-of-the-art chemistry lab at the Middle School/High School (MS/HS), as well as additional work the District is doing as part of the Press Box/Bleacher Project. This additional work would include retaining walls, a wider road behind the MS/HS, and a new water main pipe from the MS/HS to Bennett Elementary School.

There is also a separate, tax-neutral Capital Project proposition that would improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at the MS/HS, address the damaged roof at Bennett Elementary School, and support safety improvements to athletic fields, fencing, and bleachers.

The tax levy increase to support the proposed budget is 2.95 percent — **less than the allowable New York State tax levy limit calculation**, which would have permitted a 3.04 percent levy increase with a simple-majority voter approval. This is the eighth year in a row that Onteora has presented a budget below the allowable tax levy limit.

The proposal increases the budget by 3.28 percent. Rising contractual expenses and transportation costs account for the majority of the increase. The Board of Education has once again allocated \$3,265,620 of fund balance to reduce the impact on the tax levy. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

**See pages 4-7 for more information about the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget**



Onteora's production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street School Edition* featured Justin Blydenburgh (left), Emily Peck (right), and Clara Mead.

## NEW THIS YEAR!

Instead of being assigned a place to vote, qualified voters can vote at ANY of the three Elementary Schools (Bennett, Phoenicia, or Woodstock). There is no longer a polling place in West Hurley. A signature will not be required to vote.

★ **VOTE** ★ Tuesday, May 21 • 2 PM - 9 PM

## Bennett Students Learn About Benefits of Yoga



Yoga instructor Aaron Dias (foreground) leading a class at Bennett Elementary School.

**FLEXIBILITY. BALANCE. MINDFULNESS.** These are just some benefits of yoga, as Bennett Elementary School students recently learned. With the blessing of Bennett Principal Gabriel Buono, Physical Education teacher Matthew Ryan brought a professional yoga instructor, Aaron Dias, into the Bennett gym for several instructional sessions in March.

Yoga, the children discovered, is not only a good way to exercise their bodies; it can also be a way to train their minds, focus their attention, and deal with stress. The yoga sessions, which incorporated stretching, posing, breathing, chanting, and periods of silence, were a hit with the students, who seemed to enjoy the opportunity to explore a new discipline—and to slow down during the course of their busy days.

Strategies learned in yoga class could be applied in the classroom or at test times, the students learned. “Focusing on my breath helps me to calm down,” said Grade 4 student Jasmine Barker.

Mr. Ryan, who was introduced to yoga by his wife, believed that his students would benefit from learning about the ancient practice. Speaking of Ms. Dias, Mr. Ryan said, “She brought the vision I had to life. It’s been wonderful. We hope to do it again next year.”

Mr. Ryan welcomed the donation of 30 yoga mats by Alo Yoga. The company, which works with a Bennett parent, is launching a yoga curriculum for elementary schools through its foundation, Alo Gives.



Bennett students practicing yoga during a Physical Education class.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT WINS STATEWIDE WRITING CONTEST

**M**iddle School student Thea Millenson-Wilens has been recognized as a winner in the New York State Letters About Literature competition. Thea’s letter to author Gayle Forman won in the Level 2 (Grades 7 and 8) category.

As a state-level winner, Thea will go on to compete in the national Letters About Literature contest that is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

In an email announcing Thea’s award, New York State Letters About Literature Coordinator Ellen Rubin wrote, “Her letter to Gayle Forman about her book, *If I Stay*, is incredibly insightful for someone in eighth grade.”

“I love to read and write,” said Thea, who initially wrote the letter to Ms. Forman as part of an assignment for Denise Maltese’s English class. “*If I Stay* is about a girl who gets in a car accident and is in a coma. She is outside of her body, watching what is going on in the world. The book is really powerful.”

Thea, along with the other winners, has been invited to the New York Writers Hall of Fame induction, which will be held on June 4 at the Princeton Club in New York City. She will receive a \$100 check and a framed certificate.



Grade 8 student Thea Millenson-Wilens is a winner in the New York State Letters About Literature competition.

## ONTEORA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS SWEENEY TODD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Discussing his role as the murderous barber, Justin said, “It’s really nice to be acting as someone who is your direct opposite. He’s so miserable, and he’s had awful experiences. I feel sorry for him even though he kills people!”

Emily relished playing the art of the unscrupulous pie-maker Mrs. Lovett. “I love playing absolutely insane characters,” she exclaimed. “I’m more subdued in real life, though!”

Also contributing their talents to the show were Brittany Rondeau (music director/producer/orchestra conductor), Anjelica Puglisi (stage manager), Ken and Jen Haaland (set design and construction), John Stobaes (lighting), James Panza (sound), and Linda Burkhardt and Marcia Panza (costumes).

# Phoenicia Elementary School Celebrates 100 Days of Learning!

ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF LEARNING IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE, AND PHOENICIA STUDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE. Led by Reading teacher Kelly McLean, AIS Math teacher Hilary Partridge, and Special Education/ AIS teacher Nicole Ryan, Phoenicia staged a school-wide celebration of this educational milestone in February.

“Being in school for 100 days is very exciting!” said Ms. Partridge, who noted that a grant from the Ontario Teachers Association helped make the celebration possible. “We celebrate the knowledge we’ve acquired, and the friends we’ve made,” she explained.

In honor of the 100th Day of School, the front hallway was transformed into a Hundred Days Gallery. Gallery-goers perused a colorful collection of numerically inspired collages, including ones made of 100 pennies, jelly beans, cap nails, and Legos.

Students, staff members, and visitors were



Phoenicia students Kamila Espinoza Vargas, Josh Carr, and Vanessa Flores standing in front of a banner marking the 100th day of school.



AIS Math teacher Hilary Partridge handing out a (fake) \$100 bill to a student who successfully answered a trivia question about the number 100.

encouraged to dress up in outfits evocative of eras either 100 years in the past or 100 years in the future. There were shiny spacesuits, flapper-inspired dresses, a number of orthopedic walking canes, and a host of silly hats and silver hairdos.

Parents and guardians were also invited to a luncheon featuring poetry, a slide show, and a trivia contest. Students who accurately answered questions like “Is the number 100 an odd or an even number?” and “What year was 100 years ago?” were rewarded with a fake hundred-dollar bill. A mystery reader – aka Ms. Partridge – entertained the diners with her reading of *The Night Before the 100th Day of School* by Natasha Wing.

In the classroom, some students created artwork using the number 100, while others wrote stories about their future century-old selves, played math-inspired games, or tackled math problems that deepened their understanding of 100.

During their first 100 days of school, the students learned a lot of exciting things!

## WOODSTOCK DANCE RESIDENCY A HIT WITH STUDENTS

**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 were artists-in-residence Yani Elohim and Lisa Brown from the Kingston-based Center for Creative Education (CCE).

According to Bryant “Drew” Andrews, an acclaimed dancer and choreographer who is the Executive Director of the CCE, dance and music have been shown to have multiple health benefits. “Music stimulates the brain, and dance activates sensory, balance, and motor skills,” he said. The dance residency also aimed to enrich the students’ social and cultural awareness.

The dance lessons, which took place during the students’ physical education classes, served as an introduction to hip hop, Latin, and African



Woodstock Elementary School students exercised their minds *and* their bodies during a dance residency offered by the Kingston-based Center for Creative Education.



Teaching artist and choreographer Yani Elohim from the Center for Creative Education teaching Woodstock students a dance routine.

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,” Mr. Andrews said.

According to Principal Scott Richards, the dance lessons were a hit with the children. “The students had a wonderful time during this dance residency,” he said. “Every week the children were so excited to work on their dance routines. They learned about music and movement, and that dance is wonderful exercise. In the process they also improved their ability to follow directions, which is a skill that will certainly prove useful in school!”



## Proposed 2019-2020 School Budget Below Tax Levy Limit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Supports Academic Achievement

The proposed budget continues to support the District's successful Summer Academic Intervention Support Program, which serves children in Kindergarten through Grade 8. The 20-day program, which is coordinated through the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, focuses on improving reading, writing, and math. Classes are small to ensure that targeted instruction meets individual student learning needs. The program will run from July 8 through August 2; at the program's conclusion, students will participate in a culminating celebration. This program is open to students that 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 partnering with local agencies to provide both half-day and full-day Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) programs.

### Addresses Transportation Needs

The budget includes the cost of new transportation contracts: one for home-to-school transportation, one for field trips and sports, and one for summer school (both regular and special education). The bids were awarded to First Student, Inc., and the contracts will begin on July 1, 2019. As First Student will be a new contractor for the District, Onteora will work closely with the company to ensure a smooth transition for our students. The contracts will continue to give the District flexibility, as they allow the addition and removal of runs as needed. In addition, the proposed budget will allocate \$122,000 for the purchase of two small buses for Onteora's transportation program, which will replace aging vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life.

### Proposition 2: Improving Accessibility and Safety

Proposition 2, which would authorize the expenditure of \$6.16 million, would be funded completely by Onteora's Capital Reserve Fund. The proposed Capital Project is designed to improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project will have no additional local tax impact, and would also include work on a damaged and leaking roof at Bennett Elementary School and safety improvements to the field hockey/baseball field (to learn more about the project, see box at right).

### Please Vote

The community is encouraged to participate in the school budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 21, from 2 PM-9 PM.

**NEW THIS YEAR!** Instead of being assigned a place to vote, qualified voters can vote at ANY of the three Elementary Schools (Bennett, Phoenicia, or Woodstock). There is no longer a polling place in West Hurley. A signature will not be required to vote.

## What's Included in the Proposed Capital Project?

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL (MS/HS) is a major goal of the proposed project. At present, many of the bathrooms and locker rooms are not in compliance with ADA standards. The bathrooms, some of which are 55 to 65 years old, have doors that are too narrow to accommodate wheelchairs, and curbs in the locker rooms and shower rooms prevent easy access for students with limited mobility.



Many bathrooms at the MS/HS have doors that are too narrow to accommodate wheelchairs, and sinks that do not comply with ADA standards.

Accessibility is also an issue at the gymnasium entrance, which lacks a wheelchair ramp.

The proposed work to address ADA deficiencies at the MS/HS would include:

- Renovating and upgrading four locker rooms.
- Renovating 11 multi-use toilet rooms and two single-user toilet rooms.
- Installing an ADA-accessible ramp at the gymnasium entrance.



The Bennett roof, which is 20 years old, has reached its end of life. Leaks are patched when discovered, but more extensive long-term solutions would protect the building from costly water damage.

### Bennett Roof

The Capital Project also budgets funds to restore or replace the front section of the roof at Bennett Elementary School. The roof, which dates to 1999, has exceeded its useful life and is leaking.

### Athletics

The Capital Project includes improvements in the area of athletics. The field hockey/baseball field would be re-graded, drainage issues addressed, a new backstop added, and deteriorated and insecure fencing replaced. New, safer portable bleachers would be added.



New, safer bleachers would be added for spectator enjoyment.

**Learn More** For more info on the Capital Project, visit the District website ([www.onteora.k12.ny.us](http://www.onteora.k12.ny.us)). You can also contact Jared Mance, Director of Building and Grounds ([jmance@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:jmance@onteora.k12.ny.us) or 845-657-6384), or Monica Kim LaClair, Assistant Superintendent for Business ([mclair@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:mclair@onteora.k12.ny.us) or 845-657-6383 x1030).



## Board of Education Candidates

(in the order they will appear on the ballot)

Two candidates are seeking election to two available seats. The seats are for three-year terms, effective July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

### **Dafne DeJesus**, ECOLOGICAL GARDEN DESIGNER

**Lives in Olive \* Resident of District for 13 years**

DeJesus has two children enrolled in Onteora schools, a Kindergarten student at Phoenicia and a fourth grader at Bennett, and is an active member of the PTA at both schools. She is the founder of Helping Hands—Olive/Shandaken/Woodstock, an online forum that enables neighbors and strangers alike to help one another in times of crisis (such as house fires, terminal illnesses, food insecurity, domestic violence, etc.). She is also involved with the Woodstock Women's March, and has been featured as a guest speaker. She attended the Fashion Institute of Technology.

### **Kevin Salem**, MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, RECORD PRODUCER

**Lives in Woodstock \* Resident of District for 21 years**

Salem has one child currently attending school in the District, a daughter who is in Grade 11 at the High School. A member of the Board of Education for three and a half years, he has served as Board President for two years. In 2012, Salem began a two-year tenure as Bennett School's PTA president. Since 2009, he has worked closely with Operation Respect in international anti-bullying and peace-building efforts, particularly in the Middle East and the Ukraine, touring schools and working with government agencies, the Department of State, and local recording artists to develop a music-based initiative to foster an atmosphere of openness and respect among youth living in areas of conflict. In 2018, he worked with students who survived the Parkland shooting to create an album of activist songs, *Wake Up, America*, which will be released in 2019. He studied psychology and anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh.

## PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

### INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

are new five-year transportation contracts: one for home-to-school transportation, one for field trips and sports, and one for summer school (both regular and special education). First Student, Inc. submitted the winning bids in the District's competitive bidding process, which yielded three bidders.

The Home-to-School transportation contract totals approximately \$17,967,035, with first-year costs of approximately \$3,202,172. The Field/Sports Trips contract totals approximately \$756,911, with first-year costs estimated at \$144,000. The Summer School contract totals approximately \$676,822, with first-year costs estimated at \$128,763.

"The District will work closely with the new contractor to make sure the transition goes smoothly," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Monica Kim LaClair. "The contracts will continue to give the District flexibility, as they allow us to add and remove runs as needed."

## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT VICTORIA McLAREN

Spring has finally arrived at Onteora! We ended the winter with two remaining snow days, so our students will have an extended Memorial Day weekend during which to rest and prepare for the hectic last month of school. There will be many celebrations during June, culminating in our graduation ceremony on Friday, June 28.

I want to thank our parents and the community for their passionate support of our school district and students. We heard from many parents during this budget season, and we recognize that we need to improve our budget-building process to encourage parent engagement and input as we work through potential changes. The many people who spoke out were heard, and the programmatic changes that I had initially proposed have been rescinded. While it is never my intent to create a situation in which stakeholders are unhappy with our process, I appreciate that parents were motivated to speak out and express their concerns. This will, I believe, bring about change that will strengthen our District.

Please be sure to review the information related to the proposition for our Capital Project included in this publication. There has been an exciting increase in support for our athletic program, and our current Middle/High School gymnasium entrance is not accessible to all of our students and community members. This project would provide for a wheelchair ramp, which would allow easier access to the gym for people with limited mobility. The project would also provide for additional accessible restrooms and renovations to make our locker rooms more accessible. To learn more, please watch the Capital Project video located on the District website: <https://www.onteora.k12.ny.us/projectvideo>.

All of the proposed work would be funded through our voter-approved Capital Reserve, so there would be no associated increase in taxes related to this work.

As we approach Tuesday, May 21, community members are encouraged to continue to make their voices heard by participating in the budget vote and election of Board of Education trustees. We have two candidates running for two seats on the Board of Education. Polls will be open from 2 PM to 9 PM. We have only been able to obtain three voting machines from the Ulster County Board of Elections this year, instead of the four machines that we have historically received. As a result, we had to reduce the number of polling locations from four to three. Our polling places this year are Bennett, Phoenicia, and Woodstock Elementary schools. Another change this year is that eligible voters can vote at any one of these polling sites. This will provide community members with additional flexibility.

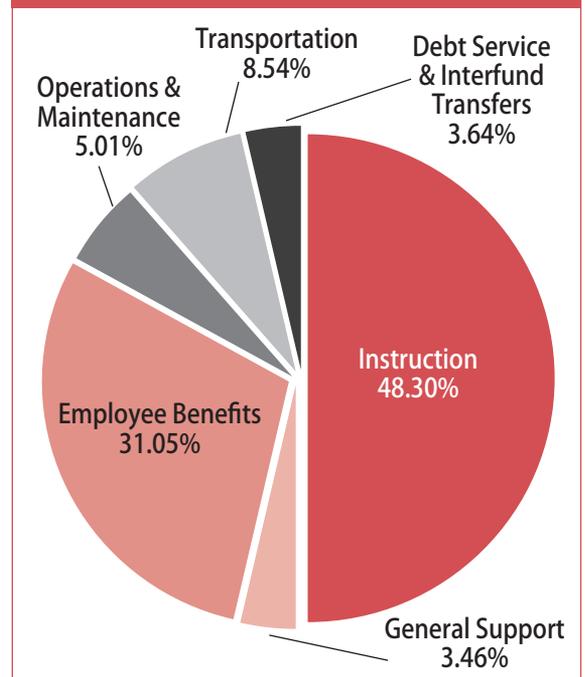
Thank you, and remember to vote on May 21!



## 2019-2020 Budget Summary

	Administrative	Program	Capital
General Support	\$1,980,766		\$7,500
Operations			\$2,873,590
Instruction	\$1,748,822	\$25,977,932	
Transportation		\$4,779,369	\$122,130
Employee Benefits	\$416,758	\$16,953,078	\$456,572
Debt & Transfers		\$465,000	\$1,621,981
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,146,346</b>	<b>\$48,175,379</b>	<b>\$5,081,773</b>
<b>Percentage of Budget</b>	<b>7.22%</b>	<b>83.92%</b>	<b>8.85%</b>

## Proposed Budget by Expense



## TAX INFORMATION

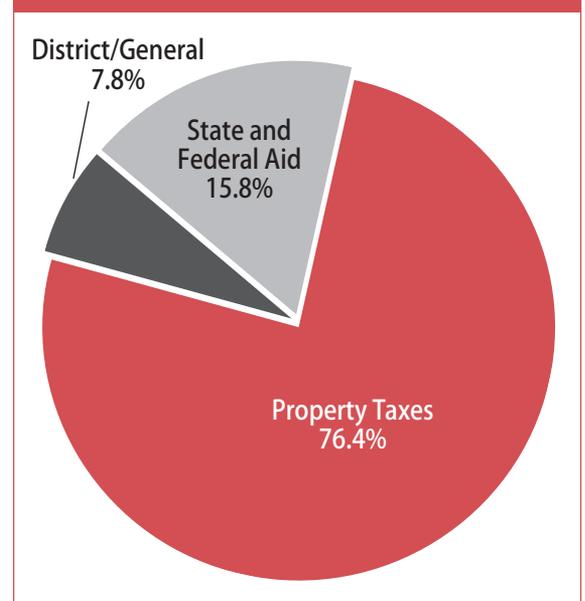
### What is the Tax Levy?

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 utilizes a 2.95 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 budget reductions to reach a zero percent tax levy increase. This would require \$1,295,945 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.

## 2019-2020 Budgeted Revenues



## WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT

### PROPOSITION #1 - 2019-2020 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 \$57,403,498 (which includes \$20,000 to support public library) for the year commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and the Board is authorized to levy and collect the necessary tax thereof on the taxable property of the District.

### PROPOSITION #2 - CAPITAL PROJECT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District be authorized to (a) renovate, rehabilitate, and/or reconstruct portions of the Onteora High School/Middle School to bring them

into compliance with ADA standards; (b) renovate, rehabilitate, and/or reconstruct portions of the Bennett Elementary School roof; and (c) renovate, rehabilitate and/or reconstruct the Onteora HS/MS athletic fields, including replacement of certain sections of fencing, installation of a new backstop and portable bleachers, improvement of the dugout and upgrades to the drainage system, which proposed renovation, rehabilitation and reconstruction include the acquisition of equipment, machinery, apparatus and related work at an estimated maximum cost of \$6,160,000, which amount shall be funded entirely from the District's Capital Reserve Fund.

### BOARD CANDIDATES (VOTE FOR ANY TWO)

Dafne DeJesus • Kevin Salem

# 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.

**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 14 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 20, 2019 (the day before the election and vote). Applications for absentee ballots are available on the District website or at the Central Administration Office between 8 AM and 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 no later than 5 PM on May 21, the day of the election and vote.

**Where are Copies of the 2019-2020 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](http://www.onteora.k12.ny.us)

**New This Year:**

- No voting in West Hurley
- Any eligible voter can vote at any one of the three elementary schools:
  - ▶ Woodstock School, Route 375, Woodstock
  - ▶ Bennett School, Route 28, Boiceville
  - ▶ Phoenicia School, Off Route 214, Phoenicia

### School Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2018-2019 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-2020 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-2020 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$55,577,578	\$57,403,498	\$56,107,553
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-2020 School Year		\$1,825,920	\$529,975
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.285%	0.95%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$42,591,819	\$43,848,763	
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	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$42,591,819</b>	<b>\$43,848,763</b>	<b>\$42,591,819</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$411,393	\$639,920	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$42,429,180	\$43,247,843	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$42,184,126	\$43,208,843	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$245,054	\$39,000	
Administrative Component	\$4,068,443	\$4,146,346	\$4,107,073
Program Component	\$46,812,051	\$48,175,379	\$47,068,706
Capital Component	\$4,697,084	\$5,081,773	\$4,931,774

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-2020 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law:

A Contingent budget would eliminate all equipment purchases from the budget. The K-8 summer skills program and all field trips would also likely be removed from the budget along with an additional \$796,500.

\*\* 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
Use of Capital Reserve to improve facilities at the MS/HS, Bennett roof, and MS/HS fields.	\$6,160,000

**Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-2020 School Year**

**Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>**

**\$353**

<sup>1</sup> 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 2019-2020 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) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 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  
Rob Kurnit, Trustee  
Robert Burke Warren, Trustee

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Victoria McLaren

### 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 Title IX/Title VI Compliance Officer Dr. Jodi M. DeLucia, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, at: Onteora Central School District, PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412, (845) 657-6383, ext. 1023, jdelucia@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.

## Exploring World Cultures through Food

### DURING WORLD LANGUAGES WEEK

(March 4-8) the halls of the Middle/High School were filled with the enticing aromas of foods hailing from other lands. Grade 9 students in Valerie Stewart's Spanish 2 class learned to make *tortilla española*, a traditional Spanish omelet made of potatoes, eggs, and onions. They also made chorizo (a spicy Spanish pork sausage) breakfast wraps and *chocolate caliente mexicano* (Mexican hot chocolate).

Why the cooking lessons? "We celebrate all cultures this week, and a major part of culture is food," explains Mrs. Stewart, who is Onteora's World Languages Liaison.

"Our cooking lessons follow a unit we just finished on traditional Spanish foods and ordering in a restaurant, she said. "My students and I chose both a popular Spanish dish and a Mexican dish to make."



Valerie Stewart, Onteora's World Languages Liaison, explains a Spanish recipe to one of her students, Shayne Durkin, during World Languages Week.

## ATTENTION, GOLDEN ALUMNI!



Graduation is almost here, and with it comes the 9th annual "Golden Walk." All alumni who graduated from Onteora 50 or more years ago (1969 or earlier) are eligible to walk with this year's graduating seniors. Graduation will be held on June 28 at 6 PM. For more information or to sign up, contact Rita Vanacore at [imagineonteorak12@gmail.com](mailto:imagineonteorak12@gmail.com).

## USEFUL DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

[www.onteorak12.ny.us](http://www.onteorak12.ny.us)

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

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Victoria McLaren.....657-6383 x1010

**Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**  
Dr. Jodi M. DeLucia..... 657-6383 x1023

**District Clerk**  
Fern Amster.....657-6383 x1010

**Assistant Superintendent for Business**  
Monica Kim LaClair.....657-6383 x1030

**Director of Pupil Personnel**  
Cindy Bishop..... 657-3320

**Universal Pre-Kindergarten**  
Cindy Bishop.....657-3320

**Athletic Director**  
Kim Pilla..... 657-2373 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