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PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE IV
MAY, 2019

BUDGET HEARING

6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13
Board of Education Room (103)
Midlakes Primary School

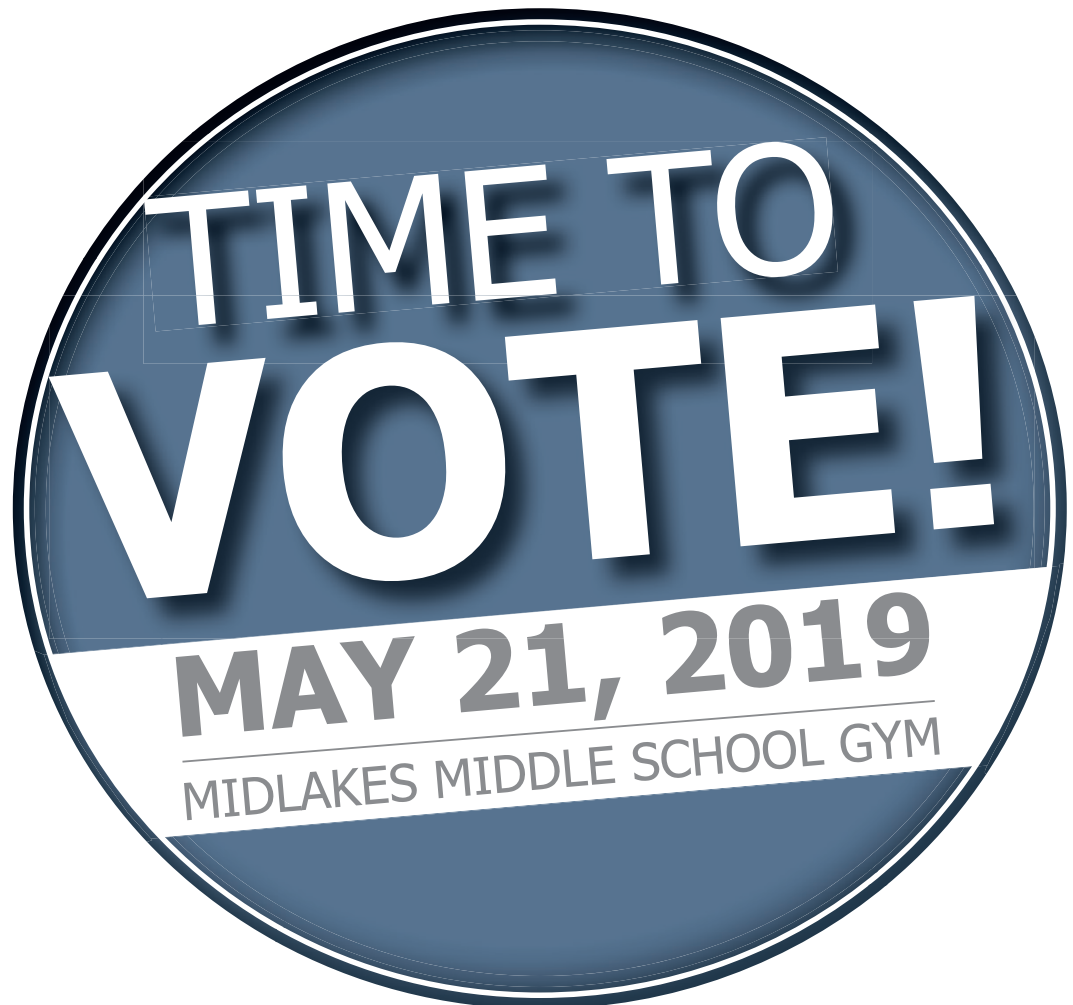
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FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG



VIDEO: Erynne Garver and other graduating seniors at Midlakes High School reflect on their time on campus and share their future plans.



*Several measures will be on the ballot.
Polls will be open from noon to 9 p.m.*

During its April 9 meeting, the Board of Education adopted a \$36,295,087 budget for the 2019-20 school year that will be presented to voters on May 21. The proposal calls for a 1.77% increase in spending and a 2% increase in the tax levy.

District residents are also being asked to vote on propositions to fill two open seats on the Board of Education, to approve bus purchases, and to create a 2019 Bus Purchase Reserve Fund. Also on the ballot, but separate and with no impact on the school district budget, are funding measures for the Clifton Springs Library and Phelps Community Memorial Library. Additional budget details can be found on the school district's website at Midlakes.org/budget.

ALSO ON MAY 21

- Lacrosse Boosters Chicken Barbecue, 4-7 p.m., \$10.
- Class of 2019 Chem-Free Grad Party can/bottle fundraiser, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DISTRICT PRESENTS 2019-20 BUDGET PROPOSAL

BY MATTHEW SICKLES | MSICKLES@MIDLAKES.ORG

The proposed school district budget going to voters on May 21 responds to evolving student needs and makes efficient use of district resources.

We have worked to limit the impact of this year's budget on taxpayers by shifting resources and reallocating funds from areas that are no longer needed to meet emerging needs in other areas.

We are also limiting expenditures and maximizing local revenue by taking advantage of additional aid opportunities presented by Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES.

As a result of responsible and careful planning, our budget proposal calls for a modest 1.77% spending increase from the previous budget and a 2% tax levy increase that is less than half of our calculated tax cap of 4.33%.

This budget was guided by a number of goals that will shape our work in the next school year. They include:

- The realignment of K-12 instructional and non-instructional resources to improve student achievement and district operations.

- The development of curriculum and instructional practices that promote student achievement and make academic success attainable for all students.

- The advancement of a safe and nurturing environment that provides for the social, emotional, and psychological well-being of all students.

- The prevention and elimination of student achievement gaps through early intervention services.

Our proposed budget – the culmination of several months of input, research, and careful re-evaluation – is highlighted by a number of important organizational changes to meet student needs.

Intermediate School Principal Chris Moyer will assume the responsibilities of K-6 principal effective July 1, a change made in response to the retirement of Primary School Principal Karen Cameron. The move to a single K-6 principal allows for the creation of a K-6 assistant principal at no additional cost to the district.

This realignment will allow the elementary school (K-6) and secondary school (7-12) to operate under the same admin-

istrative structure of one principal and one assistant principal.

The budget also calls for the addition of a teacher to help meet the needs of a large population of students in first grade, and the addition of a new kindergarten teacher to deliver a transitional program for students whose social, emotional, and academic needs would best be met through two years of kindergarten.

A new school counselor position has also been added to meet the social and emotional needs of students in all K-6 classes. This addition would allow a current K-6 social worker to provide needed support to students in seventh and eighth grades.

Also, a part-time English as a New Language teaching position would be made full-time to meet the transitional needs of students acclimating to a new language and culture.

These initiatives will help us meet the needs of all students by preventing achievement gaps and supporting continued efforts to align curriculum and instruction while being responsible to our community.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

JESSICA "JESS" MEISSNER



FAMILY: Husband, Bror; children: Emily, Jacob and Zachary.

EMPLOYMENT: Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Rochester School for the Deaf. Also, an independent travel agent with Mickey World Travel.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: A 1995 graduate of Midlakes High School, who can often be found at her children's sporting events, or school activities cheering not just her children but every child.

WHAT EXPERIENCES MAKE YOU QUALIFIED? I made the move to educational administration in 2015 after 17 years of teaching. Prior to administration, I was a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing as well as an elementary teacher for 14 years in the Lyons Central School District. I have also served on CSE and CPSE committees for more than 14 years and have worked as an elementary school principal and a college adjunct professor.

STATEMENT: I believe that transparency in education and a strategic plan for the future are vital for the productive longevity of any school system. This is especially true in the constantly changing world of special education. I would like to see greater transparency by Midlakes administration teams and the members of the Board of Education with the parents and community stakeholders. I also want to ensure that special education, and Wayne-Finger Lake BOCES trade programs receive the funding and support needed for students with learning challenges and for those who are not college-bound to get the support and programs they need to become successful graduates ready for the challenges of the 21st century.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Included are responses to some commonly asked questions regarding the 2019-2020 Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District budget and propositions on the ballot.

Q How will the proposed school district budget affect property owners?

A The \$36,295,087 budget proposal calls for a 2% increase in the true-value tax rate. A homeowner with a property assessed at \$100,000 with the Basic STAR exemption would pay an additional \$32.96 annually. The same property owner with the Enhanced STAR exemption would pay an additional \$14.74 annually based on 2018-2019 assessed values.

Q How is the tax levy limit for the school district calculated?

A State law mandates that an eight-step formula must be used to calculate the district's tax levy limit. This calculation accounts for growth in the local tax base, the rate of inflation, and provides the district with certain exemptions (capital expenditures, retirement contributions, court orders, and judgments). The district may also carry over the unused portion of the tax levy limit from previous years. However, it can be no greater than 1.5% of the prior year's tax levy limit. The school district has \$216,885 in carryover from 2018-2019, resulting in a tax levy limit for the upcoming school year of \$14,799,938 for a 4.33% annual increase. For 2019-2020, the district is proposing an increase of 2% or less than half the legally allowed tax cap limit of 4.33%.

Q How are reserve funds being used in the proposed budget?

A The district plans to use an additional \$85,000 from its reserves to balance the budget. This amount represents a 26% annual increase over the 2018-2019 budget. The district will allocate \$35,000 from the Employees Retirement System Reserve, an allowance to offset the district's actual state pension payments

for non-instructional employees belonging to the New York State Employees Retirement System. The district is increasing the use of the Debt Service Reserve by \$50,000 for a total of \$225,000.

Q Why does the district need school buses and how are they paid for?

A The district works to ensure the safety of students and staff by using a ten-year rotation to purchase new buses as it phases out aging models. Two new 65-passenger buses would replace older models and a new 19-passenger bus would be added to the fleet to transport Midlakes students requiring longer distances of travel. The district will spend \$304,339 out of its Bus Purchase Reserve Fund to purchase three buses without any impact to taxpayers. The state provides 90% aid reimbursement over five years for the purchase of buses. The net cost to the district after state aid will be \$30,434 out of the reserve fund. The district is asking voters to approve the creation of a new reserve fund for bus purchases as an older reserve fund is nearly depleted.

Q How is the school district addressing capital improvements to school facilities?

A The budget proposal includes debt payments on previous capital projects but does not include any new capital projects. However, the district is in the very early stages of a facilities planning process that would allow for the general maintenance, safety, and advancement of operations, programs and student opportunities over the next 10-12 years. Any projects identified by this process will be voted on by the community separately from the budget and will be funded through a combination of state aid, capital reserves, and local contributions (if necessary). More information regarding the facilities planning process will be shared with the community in the coming months.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

RYAN L. DAVIS



FAMILY: Wife, Ruthie; children: Skyler and Pippa.

EMPLOYMENT: Union electrician.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Two-term member of the Board of Education, last three years as Board President; has coached several youth sports teams.

WHAT EXPERIENCES MAKE YOU QUALIFIED? I believe my experience gathered over these past years qualifies me to continue to do the work as a board member. I have had a hand in shaping the current administration and its goals. I have served on the Facilities Committee and been a part of our last capital improvement project. My negotiation experience on both sides of the table provides me with a great deal of insight that has proven helpful during my years on the board. Finally, I believe my relationships with both of our New York State Legisla-

tors allows us to have a more personal lobbying effort in Albany.

STATEMENT: I believe very strongly in what we are doing and want to continue to help see it through. I think that we have built a great deal of momentum towards closing our achievement gaps and growing our program all the while remaining respectful to our local taxpayers. I am constantly reminded of what a great place this is to live and raise a family – our campus and our students being at the heart of our community. I am humbled to think that I have played a small part in that by serving on the board for these past six years and hope to continue that service with another term.

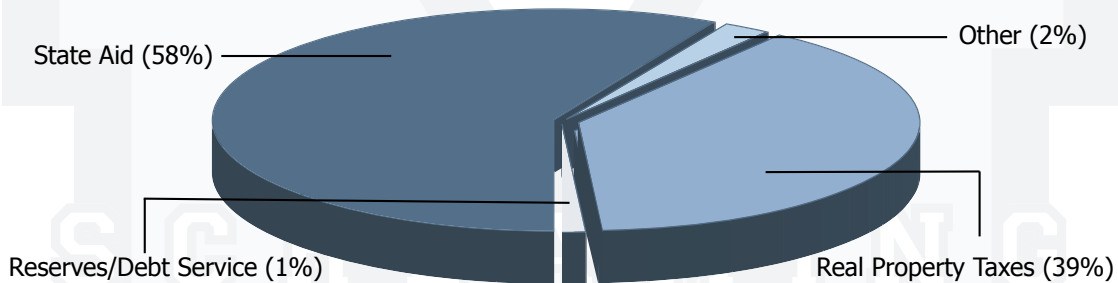
BUDGET PROPOSAL

The following charts and figures detail the sources of revenue along with the expenditures contained within the 2019-2020 school district budget. Further documentation can be found on the school district's website at Midlakes.org/budget.

2019-2020 PROJECTED REVENUES

SOURCE	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE/DECREASE
State Aid	\$20,348,641	\$20,611,842	\$263,201
Real Property Taxes	\$14,185,951	\$14,469,670	\$283,719
Reserves/Debt Service	\$325,000	\$410,000	\$85,000
Other	\$804,005	\$803,575	(430)
TOTALS	\$35,663,597	\$36,295,087	\$631,490

REVENUES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET



STAFFING CHANGES UNDER THE BUDGET

The following items are additions to the 2019-2020 budget to advance academic programs and improve district operations:

- Two full-time elementary teaching positions (kindergarten and first grade).
- One full-time elementary assistant principal position.
- One full-time elementary school counselor position.
- Increase of a part-time (.4) English as a New Language teacher to full-time.
- One part-time (.4) French teacher through Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES.
- Increase a part-time bus dispatcher to full time.
- One half-time human resources specialist through BOCES.
- One full-time cleaner position; two full-time laborers.

The following items are being removed from the current year's budget as a reflection of updated student needs and improved efficiency:

- One full-time elementary teaching position (fifth grade) due to changes in enrollment in that grade.
- One full-time elementary (K-2) principal position, as the result of a retirement.
- One full-time special education teacher position, made possible by more efficient scheduling and changes in need.
- One part-time (.6) French teacher, as the result of declining enrollment.
- One full-time custodian, made possible by a realignment from three "head" custodians to two (one K-6, one 7-12).

2019-2020 EXPENDITURES

INSTRUCTION: 53% OF BUDGET

All services that provide or directly affect instruction to students are included in this section. Items in this section includes the school program, special education, summer school, support services (school libraries, health, psychological and social work services, curriculum coordination, supervision, reach and development, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES instructional programs and student activities (sports, intramurals and co-curricular activities).

CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE/DECREASE
Salaries	\$12,268,996	\$12,577,217	\$308,222
Equipment	\$106,337	\$103,650	(\$2,687)
Supplies & Materials	\$445,501	\$453,610	\$8,109
Contractual Expenses	\$743,168	\$836,490	\$93,322
BOCES	\$5,310,501	\$5,139,301	(\$171,199)
TOTALS	\$18,874,503	\$19,110,268	\$235,767

GENERAL SUPPORT: 10% OF BUDGET

The portion of the budget covering areas that support the educational program through central administration, business operations, human resources, community relations, maintenance and repair of district groups and facilities, printing, mailing, meetings, Board of Education and legal services.

CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE/DECREASE
Salaries	\$1,204,732	\$1,222,839	\$18,107
Equipment	\$108,500	\$108,500	---
Supplies & Materials	\$163,900	\$163,900	---
Contractual Expenses	\$1,065,908	\$1,075,161	\$9,253
BOCES	\$834,510	\$1,033,343	\$198,833
TOTALS	\$3,377,550	\$3,603,743	\$226,193

TRANSPORTATION: 4% OF BUDGET

A section of the budget covering bus transportation to district, parochial/private schools, BOCES programs, field trips and trips to athletic contests.

CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE/DECREASE
Salaries	\$1,097,882	\$1,145,384	\$47,502
Equipment	---	\$2,000	\$2,000
Supplies & Materials	\$323,100	\$323,100	---
Contractual Expenses	\$91,510	\$91,510	---
BOCES	\$9,211	\$20,065	\$10,854
TOTALS	\$1,521,703	\$1,582,059	\$60,356

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: 26% OF BUDGET

Social security, retirement, health insurance, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, disability and life insurance are in this category.

CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE/DECREASE
Social Security	\$1,118,211	\$1,147,808	\$29,597
Health Insurance	\$6,324,257	\$6,478,253	\$153,996
Employee Retirement System	\$490,618	\$508,463	\$17,845
Teachers' Retirement System	\$1,212,145	\$1,109,997	(\$102,149)
Workers' Compensation/Unemployment	\$146,226	\$146,226	---
Local Retirement	\$150,000	\$150,000	---
TOTALS	\$9,441,457	\$9,540,747	\$99,289

OTHER/DEBT: 7% OF BUDGET

A portion of the budget for expenditures that include community programs, food service and debt service.

CATEGORY	2018-2019	2019-2020	INCREASE/DECREASE
Community Programs	\$98,784	\$103,207	\$4,423
Transfer to School Food Service	\$205,000	\$205,000	---
Debt Service	\$2,144,600	\$2,150,063	\$5,463
TOTALS	\$2,448,384	\$2,458,270	\$9,886

GENERAL FUND TOTALS	\$35,663,597	\$36,295,087	\$631,490
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SCHOOL VOTE DETAILS

Noon to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21,
Midlakes Middle School Gym

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

District residents qualify to participate in the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District vote, according to state law, provided they are:

A U.S. Citizen

At least 18 years old

**A district resident for
at least 30 days**

**There are no property
requirements to vote.*

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee applications may be obtained between 8 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, from the District Clerk.

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk by May 14, 2019 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or on the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Questions regarding voter eligibility and absentee ballots should be directed to District Clerk Sarah Butler at (315) 548-6420.

ITEMS ON THE BALLOT

► PROPOSITION NO. 1: 2019-20 SCHOOL BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is authorized to expend the total amount of \$36,295,087 during the school year 2019-2020, and to levy the necessary tax, therefore, in accordance with the Education Law and the Local Finance Law.

► PROPOSITION NO. 2: SCHOOL BUS PURCHASES

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to purchase two (2) 65-passenger school buses, and one (1) 19-passenger bus at a total maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$304,339 and to pay such sum as may be necessary from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund.

► PROPOSITION NO. 3: 2019 BUS PURCHASE RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is authorized to establish a reserve fund, to be known as the 2019 Bus Purchase Reserve Fund, for the purchase of school buses in an ultimate amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. The Board is further authorized to pay into the fund (1) in the 2019-20 school year and annually thereafter available funds of the District in an amount determined by the Board and (2) to the extent determined appropriate by the Board for the purposes of the fund, state aid reimbursement to the District on account of bus purchases and the proceeds of the sale of used buses, and (3) such other monies as the voters may direct; and to levy the necessary tax therefor. The fund shall have a probable term of 10 years.

► PROPOSITION NO. 4: FUNDING COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to assess and levy upon the taxable property of the District the sum of \$162,920 annually to be contributed to the support of the Clifton Springs Library in the amount of \$81,460 and to the Phelps Community Memorial Library in the amount of \$81,460 and pay over said amounts to the trustees of those libraries.

► BOARD OF EDUCATION: VOTE FOR ANY TWO

Jessica Meissner • Ryan Davis

BUDGET WORK BEGAN MANY MONTHS AGO

Several months ago, during a retreat with Superintendent Matthew Sickles, the Board of Education made a goal to provide taxpayers with a higher level of transparency during our budget process.

We promised to provide a deeper understanding of our process and share more information on the components that make up the budget. Our process began with that meeting but our work started in the fall.

The board moved meetings with teachers, building representatives, coaches, and other staff from January to November to identify needs earlier in our budget timeline. These meetings have always been informative but we found that they were being held too late to have a real impact in our decision-making.

A number of initiatives resulted from these meetings, including an increase to our Arts in Education budget line and the creation of a "Transitional Kindergarten" position. The Arts in Education investment will help our teachers enrich student learning by increasing opportunities for field trips and school programs. The "Transitional Kindergarten" position will provide a new focus on early childhood education with a goal of eliminating achievement gaps in English language arts and mathematics.

We also witnessed an entirely different level of budget education during several presentations held throughout the winter and into early spring (the latter better labeled as "extended winter" in upstate New York).

Business Administrator Tracy Marshall presented a number of detailed reports on the major portions of our budget, including income, expenses, and reserves. Each presentation took a deep dive into these areas, explained how they are made up, and how changing one impacts the other.

The board was able to see how a change in program needs and natural attrition would allow us to make multiple additions with minimal taxpayer impact.

For example, a new K-6 school counselor will help us better serve our elementary students and their families. A new modified track coach will help us keep up with growing student

interest. A full-time bus dispatcher will help support and coordinate the extensive transportation of our students within and beyond the boundaries of the district. Maintenance positions are also included to care for our facilities and provide the best possible learning environment for our students. These additions are being made with a minimal increase in costs by using employee retirements as an opportunity to reevaluate our needs and shift resources to create new opportunities.

The final piece of our budget process includes an aggressive outreach to educate members of our community on our 2019-20 district budget.

Board members and district administrators will host community budget presentations with the Clifton Springs Rotary, Phelps American Legion, the Midlakes PTO, and other interested parties in the days leading up to the May 21 district vote. We will also share our budget work with district faculty and staff.

These meetings – affectionately dubbed our "Traveling Budget Road Show" – help us keep our promise of providing more transparency during our budget process. It also provides an opportunity for the community to learn about some of the exciting changes on campus.

We've built a budget based on informed decisions guided by how to best use limited resources to maximize our investment in students, so those students can maximize the return on that investment.

The board has already seen how its emphasis on community involvement and communication has led to greater awareness and a level of excitement by the school community. It's something that I am proud to see as a Midlakes alumnus.

We hope it continues with members of the community joining us for one of our budget presentations. It may not be as exciting as a parade led by local firefighters and police down Main Street, but it is just as important. After all, the dollars we invest today will lead to someone's parade tomorrow.

RYAN DAVIS is a member of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education. Find contact information for the entire Board of Education by visiting **Midlakes.org/boardmembers**.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



RYAN DAVIS
PRESIDENT

For more information on the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District Board of Education, including contact emails, phone numbers, meeting dates, agendas and minutes, contact District Clerk Sarah Butler at (315) 548-6420, or visit the Board of Education online at **Midlakes.org**.

RYAN DAVIS
PRESIDENT

LAURA CIRONE
VICE PRESIDENT

TRACY ALTMAN
BOARD MEMBER

JACOB AMIDON
BOARD MEMBER

TODD FREELOVE
BOARD MEMBER

SHERI SCHERBYN
BOARD MEMBER

AMBER WILKES
BOARD MEMBER

DISTRICT NOTES

CASPER WINS GEOGRAPHY BEE

Midlakes sixth-grader **Hunter Casper** won the 2019 *National Geographic* Geography Bee held recently in front of family and friends at the Midlakes Intermediate School Library.

Casper competed against other intermediate school students in grades 4-6, winning by correctly answering "Panama" to the following question:

National Geographic Explorer Ricardo Moreno studies jaguars and human-jaguar conflict in places like Darien National Park, the largest national park in which Central America County?



Casper

Jacob Lannon finished in second place and **Connor Carter** placed third. Other finalists included: **Alex Bennett**, **Braxton Wilkes**, **Fernando Resendiz**, **Owen Fitzsimmons**, **Emma LaBour**, **Jeremy Myhill** and **Caleb Lewis**.

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY DROP-OFF

Dropping off books checked out at the Clifton Springs Library just got a little easier for school district families.

New blue bins marked "Book Drop" have been placed in each of the school district's libraries, allowing Midlakes students the opportunity to return books borrowed from any of the 42 libraries in the OWWL system.

"We'll pick the books up every two weeks, or more often if needed, and families will not have to worry about incurring any fines if they were unable to return the books directly to the library," said Suzanne Macaulay, director of the Clifton Springs Public Library. "Once they are in the blue bins, the books are considered returned."

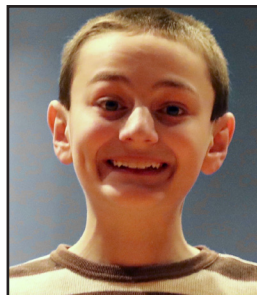
NEALEY WINS MIDLAKES SPELLING BEE

Sixth-grader **Justin Nealey** won the Midlakes Spelling Bee after correctly spelling "couriers" in front of family and classmates at the Midlakes High School Auditorium.

Second-place finisher **DJ Wing**, also a sixth-grader, took second place and seventh-grader **Nicole Szalay**, finished in third. Each received a certificate and a cash award donated by the Midlakes Parent-Teacher Organization.

The Midlakes Spelling Bee is a part of the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Regional Spelling Bee. Midlakes 2019 competition was 13 rounds and included nearly 30 students representing grades 3-8.

"We are very proud of all of the competitors. They worked very hard to get to this point," said Suzanne Russell, a coordinator of the Spelling Bee and a speech-language pathologist at Midlakes Intermediate School.



Nealey

GRANGE DONATES 100 DICTIONARIES

The Grange delivered approximately 100 dictionaries to third-grade students in March while providing some useful information on how to use the handy reference guide.

"The Grange was founded on the idea to make sure children in rural areas received a good education," said Bruce Croucher, a retired Midlakes educator who is a member of the Grange. "It's always been centered on education, not only for children but also adults on farms. I know some of the students are really excited about receiving it. It may be the first book they've ever owned."

The "Words for Thirds" program is an initiative endorsed by the National Grange to encourage strong reading habits and verbal comprehension skills. The Clifton Springs Grange supports the effort by delivering and raising funds to purchase the books.

The Grange delivered the dictionaries to students taught by **Natalie Dreis**, **Ashlee Upchurch**, **Christi Williams**, **Jessie Moringello**, **Karen Busby** and **Ali Estes**.

BUDDING READERS BOOK PROGRAM

The Budding Readers program continues to serve area families by delivering new books to young children within the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District.

The program provides books to children up to 36 months old, readings tips for infants and young children, a parent guide, and age-appropriate reading materials to siblings ages seven and younger. Budding Readers provides a new book for each child in the school district entering UPK, kindergarten, and Head Start. For more information on the program, or to participate, call (315) 521-1511 or email midlakes@buddingreaders.org.

STUDENTS TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Several students took the Kids Heart Challenge during a night out with their families at Midlakes Intermediate and Primary schools. The American Heart Association fundraiser encourages students to lead active lifestyles while providing education on heart health and physical and emotional wellness.

Physical education teachers **Stephen Howcroft** and **Trent Jones** organized the Kids Heart Challenge, which brought several families out to campus for such activities as jump rope, zip line, rock climbing, a bounce house, walking and more. Students collecting donations for the American Heart Association raised approximately \$3,000 through the end of March.

REMINDER OF REQUIRED PAPERWORK

Every student entering sixth grade must provide proof of receiving two doses of Varicella (chicken pox) immunization as well as an updated Pertussis (whooping cough/tDap) immunization. Seventh graders must have proof of receiving the Meningococcal vaccine.

Proof of immunizations may be obtained by a child's physician and should be forwarded to a school nurse by the start of the new school year. Other immunizations are recommended but optional for school-aged children.

Also, physicals are required for students entering Pre-K, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth and 11th grade. Students new to the district and those playing a sport need a current physical exam, too. Families with questions may contact Primary School nurse **Michele Tyman** at (315) 548-6709 or mtyman@midlakes.org, Intermediate School nurse **Peg Carlson** at (315) 548-6920 or pcarlson@midlakes.org and Middle School nurse **Gail Cayer** at (315) 548-6320 or gcayer@midlakes.org.

GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION ANNOUNCED

The first female to be named Ontario County attorney and two successful leaders of vastly different enterprises have been inducted into Midlakes Graduates of Distinction program.

The program, established in 2016, recognizes Midlakes alumni who have made significant contributions to the community. Each of the 2019 inductees have forged successful careers while serving on a variety of community organizations.

Ontario County attorney Holly A. Adams, telecommunications executive Paul H. Griswold and John Budd Mueller, a dairy farmer who led Willow Bend Farms' expansion efforts, were all accepted into the program by a committee of district staff, students and community members.

"We are proud to announce three new members into the Midlakes Graduates of Distinction program," said Amy Sleeman, a Midlakes teacher and chairperson of the selection committee. "Holly, Paul and John are highly successful in their given industries who care about the local community and their Midlakes roots."

Here is a closer look at this year's inductees:

HOLLY A. ADAMS

A 1982 graduate of Midlakes High School, Adams earned a Bachelor's Degree from State University College at Geneseo and Juris Doctor Degree from Syracuse University College of Law. She was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1990.

As the first woman appointed to County Attorney,

Adams was put in charge of a team of 16 attorneys, paralegals and staff providing legal services to the Board and to the County. Adams previously served Clifton Springs as the Village Justice.

Adams currently serves on the board of the Child Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes and is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic. She previously served as a board



Adams

member of the Clifton Springs YMCA and was an active participant in the booster clubs of Midlakes lacrosse, volleyball, and theatre programs in addition to the Chemical Free Graduation parties.

She is also a former board member of Family Promise of Ontario County and of the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund, after receiving a nomination from State Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb and appointment from Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Adams was recently selected as a 2019 WCNY Women Who Make America winner, an award given to women whose efforts enrich their communities and help shape the nation's identity.

PAUL H. GRISWOLD

Griswold graduated from Midlakes High School in 1981 and studied marketing at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He also completed graduate work at the School of Telecommunications at the University of Kansas.

Griswold has served as president and chief executive officer of Finger Lakes Technologies Group, Inc. and its parent, Ontario & Trumansburg Telephone Companies, both having been owned and operated by the Griswold family. Finger Lakes Technologies Group was formed in 1995 to offer deregulated telecommunications services and was acquired in 2017 by FirstLight. Griswold serves as a senior advisor at FirstLight in addition to his duties at Ontario & Trumansburg Telephone.

In the community, Griswold has served on the Victor Campus Advisory Board at Finger Lakes Community College, various committees and boards at the University of Rochester, Thompson Health Board, and is past chairman of the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce.

He has also served on the Advisory Board at Five Star Bank, as well as the boards of the Clifton Springs YMCA, Chambers of Commerce in Phelps, Geneva and



Griswold

2019 INDUCTION

The 2019 Midlakes Graduates of Distinction were celebrated on Friday, May 3 with a full-day of activities, which included classroom visits, lunch with students and members of the induction committee, and a tour of the school campus.

Induction ceremonies and a hors d'oeuvres reception were held at Warfield's Restaurant Lounge & Bakery, 7 W. Main St., Clifton Springs.

For more details, nomination forms and other information on the Midlakes Graduates of Distinction program, go to Midlakes.org/domain/2057.

Canandaigua, and numerous boards in the telecommunications industry.

JOHN BUDD MUELLER

A 1982 graduate of Midlakes High School, Mueller graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Farm Business Management from Cornell University in 1986 and later became manager of the Holcomb Agway store before taking over his family's Willow Bend Farm in 1989.

He led Willow Bend's growth from a 600-dairy cow farm to more than 4,600 cows on 9,000 acres through acquisitions or mergers with other area farms.

Mueller serves on both the local and state Dairy Promotion boards, is past chair of the Finger Lakes Workforce Development board, past president of Ontario County Farm Bureau and serves as chair of trustees for the United Methodist Church of Clifton Springs.

He sits on the Farm Credit Customer Service Council as well as the Cornell University Agriculture Advisory Board. Mueller has also spent countless hours as assistant scout master of Boy Scout Troop 59 in Clifton Springs.



Mueller

WINTER SPORTS RECAP

There may have been no better place to participate in a winter sport than Midlakes, where several school records fell, league and sectional titles were claimed, and many student-athletes continued their academic success.

Girls indoor track, girls basketball, and the competitive cheerleading team, along, with 31 individual athletes from Midlakes winter athletes teams earned, Scholar Athlete awards from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for scholastic excellence.

Here's a breakdown of the season's highlights.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls basketball team finished its 23-win season with an appearance in the state's Class B finals along with several awards and new school marks, including a school record 33-straight wins over the last two seasons, a No. 1 ranking in the state for a record seven straight weeks, and finishing with back-to-back Finger Lakes East, Section V and Far West Regional titles.

Senior **Macy Kisner** finished with a school record 626 rebounds and senior **Alaina Forbes** set new marks in points (1,860), steals (299) and career wins (60). Forbes was named Player of the Year by the *Finger Lakes Times* and the *Daily Messenger* and to the All-Greater Rochester first team. Forbes, Kisner and sophomore **Cara Walker** were voted to the first team Finger Lakes East All-League team and to the first team of Class B Sectional Tournament. Forbes was named MVP of the Class B Sectional Tournament.

Forbes and Kisner were also first team selections to the New York State Class B All-Tournament team. Forbes has signed on to play basketball at Niagara County Community College. Head coach Nate Rich was selected by the *Finger Lakes Times* and the *Daily Messenger* as its Coach of the Year.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Under first year coach **A.J. Rauli**, the boys basketball team remained competitive and saw senior **Matt Mattoon** named to the Finger Lakes East All-League second team. He was also named to MVP of the Red Jacket Tournament, where junior **Kyle McCann** was named to the All-Tournament team.

COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING

The competitive cheerleading program won a Finger Lakes East title on the way to a second place finish in the Class B finals (finishing less than a point behind first place).

Head coach **Jamie Brothers** saw four seniors recognized for work on the mat: senior **Ashley Chrisman** was named to first-team all-stars: senior **Hannah Bezzek**, second team; and senior **Faith Searls** and senior **Mea Scherbyn** were named exceptional seniors.

BOYS & GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Jacob Liberati led several Indoor Track and Field athletes into sectionals (**Katelyn Wilkes**, 3000-meter and 1500-meter runs; **Rachel McFadden** and **Alandra Jones**, 55-meter dash; **McFadden**, **Isaiah Martin**, and **Liberati**, triple jump; **Jacob Crawford**, shot put; **Martin** and **Zack Weykman**, high jump; **Luke Wagner** and **Jacob DeWilde**, weight throw; **Hunter MacCammon**, 1600-meter; **Nicole Watts**, 600-meter; **McFadden**, long jump; and **Sarah Daunce**, high jump.

Liberati earned the male Wayne-Finger Lakes Indoor Track and Field MVP after winning all three of his events. He also won the triple jump title and finished second in the long jump at sectionals. Liberati finished second in the triple jump at the state qualifier and represented Midlakes at the state meet on Staten Island. He was named to the first team All-Greater Rochester and signed a letter of intent to join the University of Buffalo Track and Field team. Wagner also qualified for the state qualifier meet. The team is coached by **Julie Backus**.

BOYS SWIMMING

Boy swim coach **Jack Hauber** led his squad to a top three finish in eight different races at the league meet and participation in 11 different events at sectionals. Several swimmers earned All-League honors, including junior **David Alwardt**, who set a school record in the 200-meter freestyle (1:54:75) and received two All-League recognitions; sophomore **Andrew Schoenfelder**, three awards; senior **Cory Richardson**, two awards; sophomores **Robert Burnham** and **Antonio Carasquel**, and freshman **Evan Raes**, each received an All-League honor.

WRESTLING

Coach **Stephen Howcroft's** wrestlers won the Finger Lakes East title and the Class BBB Sectional crown. Eight wrestlers competed in the state qualifier. Thirteen wrestlers received All-League Honors. First team All-League awards went to senior **Brandon MacDonell**, 120/126 pounds; sophomore **Preston Cooper**, 152 pounds; junior **Curtis Grimes**, 170 pounds; senior **Wyatt Smith**, 182 pounds; senior **Jacob Wright**, 220 pounds.

Second-team honors went to freshman **Teddy Raes**, 99 pounds; sophomore **Chase Peacock**, 106 pounds; senior **Josh Orlopp**, 160 pounds; and senior **Justin Babcock**, 182 pounds. Honorable mentions went to freshman **Ryan Peck-Elzey**, 132 pounds; sophomore **Aiden Conge**, 113 pounds; and junior **Kain Bennett**, 145 pounds. Smith, Grimes, and MacDonell each won individual sectional titles. Smith was named Most Outstanding Wrestler during the Class BBB Sectional meet and finished second in the state qualifiers.

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MIDLAKES SCHOOLS

FIRST IN FAMILY AWARD



Senior McKenna Colacino, center, was awarded the Farash Foundation's First in Family scholarship from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The program covers the entire cost of college for those who are the first in their family to attend college and agree to perform work in the community. See more at Midlakes.org.

SUMMER SWIM SCHEDULE

Session I: July 8 – July 19 (9-11 a.m., Monday - Friday)

Session II: July 22 – August 2 (9-11 a.m., Monday - Friday)

Lessons range between 30 minutes and one hour in length. Classes are designed to accommodate participants of all abilities: Water babies to Level 6. Adult lessons are available upon request. For complete class descriptions and registration information visit midlakes.org and click on athletics and aquatics center, or call the pool office at (315) 548-6451.

ONGOING POOL PROGRAMS (through August 2):

Water aerobics: 7:30-8:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 7-8 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday.

Open swim: 6-8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday.

Lap swim: 7-8 p.m., Monday; 8-9 p.m., Tuesday; 6:30-7:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Birthday parties: Scheduled between noon and 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Call to make a reservation.

NOTE: Any child 12 or younger using the pool facility during evening hours, must be accompanied by an adult. No exceptions.

CALENDER: AT A GLANCE

AP Exams

Monday, May 6 – Friday, May 17

Budget Hearing

Monday, May 13

District Vote

Tuesday, May 21

High School/Middle School Concert

Wednesday, May 22

First Grade Memorial Day Celebration

Thursday May 23

Memorial Day: No School

Monday, May 27

Kindergarten Screenings

Monday, June 3 - Thursday, June 6
(8:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

Regents Exams

June 3, 18-25

MIS Concert

Tuesday, June 4

Senior Ball/Chem-Free Party

Friday, June 14

Half Day For Elementary Students

June 21, 24 & June 25

MPS/MIS Carnival

June 24

Last Day For Students

Tuesday, June 25

High School Graduation

Saturday, June 29

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For more events, recent updates,
the cycle day calendar and more, visit
Midlakes.org and search for calendar
under the "Community" tab.



ON INSTAGRAM:
[@MIDLAKESSCHOOLS](https://www.instagram.com/midlakeschools)



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MIDLAKES NAMES VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN

NAME: Erynne Garver, valedictorian
WHAT ARE YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLANS? I plan on attending the University of Rochester for pre-med.

WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT MIDLAKES?

Indoor and outdoor track and field, Girl Scouts, 4H Club.

HOW WERE ABLE TO BALANCE EVERYTHING? I just went home after practice and did homework. My education has always been the most important to me. I wanted to make the most of my opportunities.

WHO HAS BEEN MOST INFLUENTIAL TO YOU? I am in the New Vision Health Therapy Sciences at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES. I didn't know I wanted to go in the medical field before I went into the program and had Dr. Michael Tiffany as a teacher. He has put me on the road to success.

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT SCHOOL? I'll remember the small community and the close connections. I'll never forget this town.



Garver

NAME: Quinn Rizzo, salutatorian
WHAT ARE YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLANS? I plan on going to the University of Buffalo for biomedical engineering. I want to develop new technology to help the medical field.

WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT MIDLAKES?

Soccer, lacrosse, cross country, ski club.

HOW WERE ABLE TO BALANCE EVERYTHING? I just made sure I put my education as my first priority. After I finished my homework and studying, I would do whatever I wanted.

WHO HAS BEEN MOST INFLUENTIAL TO YOU? Most of the math and science departments at Midlakes. They made me love what I was learning.

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT SCHOOL?

The friends that I have, and being in advanced classes from sixth grade to senior year. It has always been a group of 20 kids and we just grew to be really close with each other.



Rizzo

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Produced by the Office of Communications

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432



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