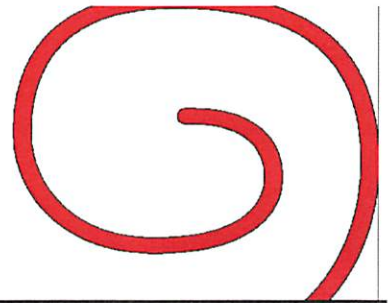




LCS News



Volume 49

Budget Issue

May 2021

LETCWORTH MUSIC BEGINS AGAIN!

We are seeing some changes to our “new norm” this year. Starting this Spring, the Band, Chorus and Jazz Band have been able to resurface for grades 9-12. The appearance of these groups may look different, but the students and music directors are seizing the opportunity to make music together.

Adhering to the health and safety guidelines has presented a huge challenge but the students are persevering in hopes of more normalcy in the future.

- ★ *The Band and members of the Letchworth Chorus will be performing at the Memorial Day Service in Castile at 9 am.*
- ★ *Letchworth band is serving again at Silver Springs and Pike to provide music and taps as well.*



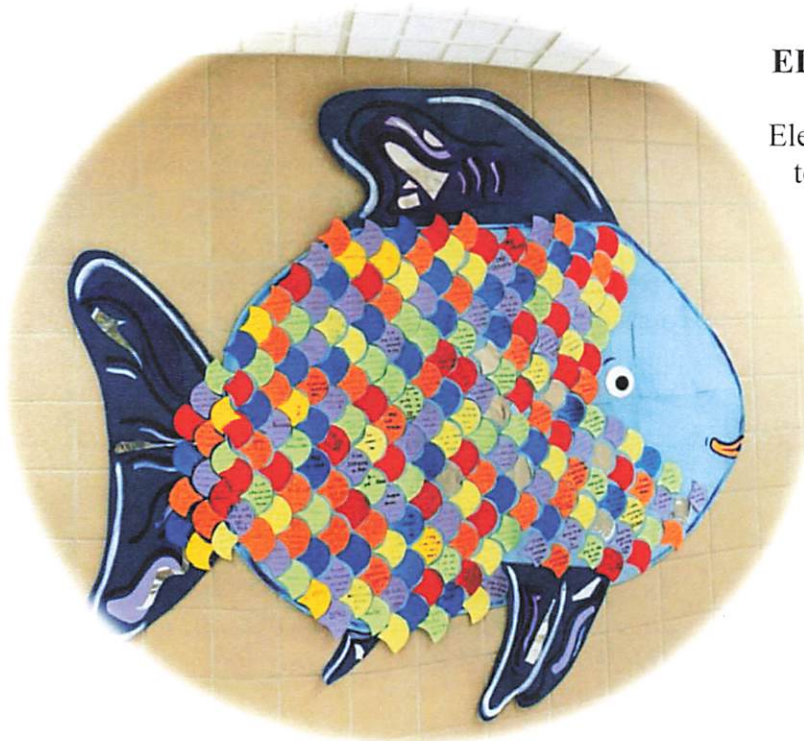
Jazz Band is meeting at 8 am on Wednesday mornings.

ELEMENTARY NEWS *Mr. Bean*

The LEAP program is going strong in the Elementary school. This month, our Special Area teachers were in charge of the virtual assembly. They modeled this month after Reading Rainbow and offered the children a fun-filled journey about being purposeful, service to school, community, and family.

One of the goals was to share some kindness. Each scale of this Rainbow Fish has an act of kindness written from a student in our school.

“A simple act of kindness can make a tremendous impact on a person’s life.” *Anonymous*



Join our Letchworth family! Job openings are posted on the website at Letchworth.k12.ny.us

Superintendent's Message



Dear LCS Families,
This year the pandemic has forced us into changes in daily life many of us have never encountered. We have accomplished some amazing things despite this world wide crisis.

- All of our students who chose in-person instruction attended school 5 days/week starting in September (we also offered remote instruction)
- We provided free daily meals to all of our students
- We were able to slowly implement athletics and certain arts opportunities back into our school environment
- We have been able to mitigate any large outbreaks of COVID-19 at school, due to an adherence to CDC protocols and diligent cleaning procedures.

This has been a TEAM effort from the onset of this journey. The Letchworth community, staff, students and local Department of Health continue to work collaboratively, patiently, and thoughtfully, demonstrating grace and empathy as we handle frequently changing guidelines.

We are pleased that we can propose a 2021-22 LCS school budget to our community that has a 0% increase in the tax levy. Over the past four years we have been able to offer high quality programs and opportunities to our students at a 0% increase three out of four years. We need to understand that this may be a trend that is not sustainable long term, but is very helpful to our community and our residents when we can ease any budget increases locally.

On the financial front here at school, we went from a very bleak state aid projection to one that resulted in a 3% increase over last year. Last year, we took a stance to cut nearly 8% from our operating costs to be sure that we did not put ourselves in a deficit this year, anticipating an economic downturn. Recent changes in Albany and at the federal level have produced an increase in funding for local schools. I would like to briefly explain how this funding will help us here at LCS and what limits we have to use it, based on the information I have at this time.

- Federal stimulus, recovery and relief funding isn't here yet. A portion of the funding from the first of three federal relief bills have arrived. Eligible use of the funds hasn't been clarified by Albany or at the federal level. There's no application for these funds and little to any guidance as of today. The federal money is a "one shot" revenue. It has a time period during which it can be used and restrictions on how it can be used. Districts that use federal funding to begin programs that have long term implications are not recommended. Sure, there are lots of good uses for those funds but prudent planning is needed. We do not want to add and then eliminate programs and services based on one time assistance.
- State aid funding did see a slight increase. This assisted in handling our climbing cost of doing business with areas of increases in contractual needs, transportation, and health care costs.

Planning, designing and programming for our newly approved Capital Improvement Project is ongoing and on schedule. We are hopeful to go out to bid on the capital project in the winter of 2022 and break ground on the new project in the Spring of 2022. We included in the proposed 2021-22 budget to build a new AG barn that will enhance our programming and provide a much needed updated space for our Ag and Technology classes. All of these upgrades will continue a long standing tradition of excellence and commitment, to keep our students competitive and well trained, as they leave our doors to pursue careers or higher education.

We are optimistic about our future here at LCS. We have a staff that is enthusiastic, committed and professional. Our students strive hard each day and our community remains supportive both financially and emotionally. We are proud of Letchworth and realize it is a very special place to learn and live.

***Please vote on Tuesday, May 18
from Noon to 9 p.m.***

This year has produced the "best" in the people of our small, rural school. I have never doubted, TOGETHER...WE are Letchworth!

Sincerely,
Todd Campbell, Superintendent

The following provides the proposed revenue and expenditure plan for the 2021-2022 school-year in a summarized format. The tri-part format and the District Report Card are available in the District Office, on the District website at <https://www.letchworth.k12.ny.us> or by calling 585-493-5450.

Revenues

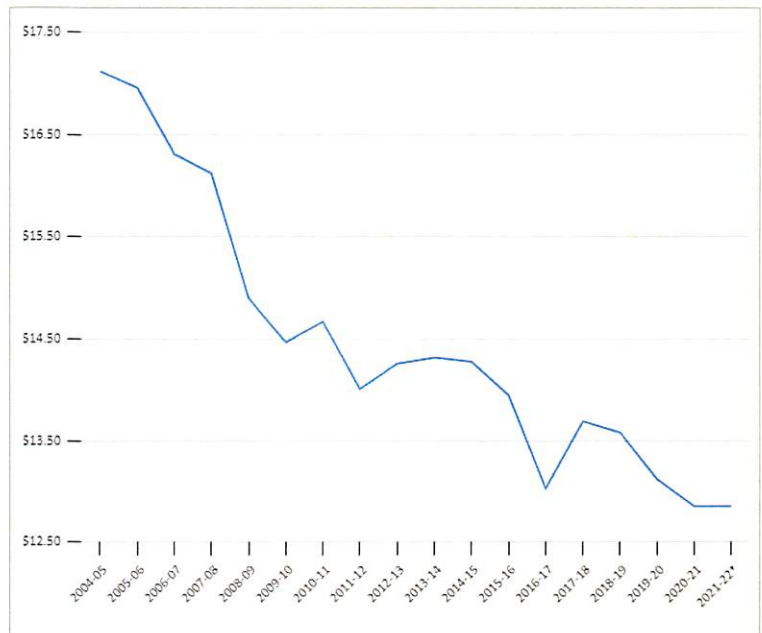
	Budget 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	Percent Change
State Sources			
Foundation Aid & Excess Cost Aids	10,495,385	11,355,254	+8.19%
State Expense Based Aids	3,302,604	3,644,678	+10.36%
Instructional Materials Aids	87,163	83,195	-4.55%
Total for State Sources	13,885,152	15,083,127	+8.63%
Property Tax & Star Payments	4,583,021	4,583,021	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	800,000	300,000	-62.50%
Appropriated Unemployment Reserve	100,000	10,000	-90.00%
Local Sources			
Payment in lieu of tax	204,297	202,914	-0.68%
Transportation for other districts	818,500	893,055	+9.11%
Miscellaneous/Other revenues	417,699	428,100	+0.72%
Total Local Sources	1,440,496	1,524,069	+5.80%
Other Revenues			
Interfund transfer - debt service	115,000	115,000	0.00%
Federal aid - Medicaid	90,000	100,000	+11.11%
Total Other Revenues	205,000	215,000	4.88%
TOTAL REVENUES	21,013,669	21,715,217	+3.34%

The School Budget and the New York State Tax Levy Limit (Tax Cap)

New York State has instituted a tax levy limit, commonly referred to as a “cap”, that provides a state formula to establish a levy limit that determines if a simple majority or a super (60%) majority will be required for passage. The levy limit for Letchworth this year was calculated to be 3.52%. Since the proposed levy amount for this year is 0.0% (or \$161,453 below the cap), a simple majority will be required for passage.

Tax Levy

The proposed expenditure plan of \$21,715,217 is partially funded by a tax levy of \$4,583,021. **This is a 0 percent increase in the levy from last year.** To calculate the tax rate for each of the nine towns within the District, both the assessed values and the equalization rates are used. Final assessments and equalization rates will not be available until August. The graph to the right displays historical information on the true value tax rate in the district with a projected rate for 2021-22. Under this proposed budget the tax rate on true value is estimated to remain the same at \$12.85 per thousand.



*estimated

Proposed Expenditures

	Budget 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Board of Education	14,073.00	14,313.00	
District Meeting	2,439.00	2,314.00	
Chief School Administrator	211,980.30	212,841.30	
Business Administration	232,840.70	233,313.06	
Auditing	23,145.00	24,261.00	
Treasurer	55,491.00	56,851.00	
Tax Collector	9,832.00	9,971.00	
Purchasing	5,505.00	5,658.00	
Fiscal Agent Fees	3,500.00	3,500.00	
Legal	45,126.00	45,127.00	
Personnel	1,650.00	7,669.00	
Public Information	8,960.00	8,960.00	
Operation of Plant	1,016,690.00	1,064,301.20	
Maintenance of Plant	626,725.75	662,701.21	
Security of Plant	77,400.00	78,900.00	
Central Storeroom	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Central Printing & Mailing	37,450.00	59,569.37	
Central Data Processing	278,701.09	282,112.24	
Unallocated Insurance	95,000.00	95,000.00	
School Association Dues	6,810.00	6,676.00	
Refund on Real Property Taxes	5,000.00	5,000.00	
BOCES Administrative Costs	262,985.00	258,744.00	
Total General Support	3,022,803.84	3,139,282.38	% Change +3.85%

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT
 The 2021-22 general fund proposed budget includes a capital outlay project that would be completed during the upcoming school year. This project includes relining the water tanks and HVAC and building automation improvements. The total cost of the project will not exceed \$100,000 and is aided through state building aid. By completing this work as a capital outlay project, the District will receive the state building aid in the following year.

INSTRUCTION

Curriculum Development	163,297.06	174,484.73	
Supervision, Regular School	500,364.03	487,641.45	
In-Service Training Instruction	34,357.99	21,350.00	
Teaching, Regular School	4,774,777.04	4,849,052.84	
Programs for Students w/Dis.	2,322,169.04	2,381,623.42	
Programs for Eng. Lang. Learn. (ELL)	30,015.33	12,281.41	
Occupational Education	664,745.20	519,230.70	
Teaching, Special Schools	4,705.00	16,465.00	
School Library	183,367.00	188,901.16	
Computer Assisted Instruction	459,012.33	491,954.06	
Attendance	8,500.00	8,800.00	
Guidance	167,646.14	172,195.90	
Health Services	89,486.00	91,418.00	
Psychological Services	166,934.10	158,579.70	
Social Work Services	12,840.00	17,280.00	
Co-Curricular Activities	34,112.00	35,443.00	
Interscholastic Athletics	290,177.14	292,557.23	
Total Instruction	9,906,505.40	9,919,258.60	% Change +0.13%

AGRICULTURE BARN CAPITAL PROJECT
 The 2021-22 general fund proposed budget includes a capital project to build a new Agriculture Barn that would be completed during the upcoming school year. The total cost of the project will not exceed \$309,400 year.

TRANSPORTATION

District Transportation	1,720,337.49	1,884,099.17	
Garage Building	71,398.00	65,612.00	
Transportation from BOCES	3,756.54	6,964.20	
Total Transportation	1,795,492.03	1,956,675.37	% Change +8.98%

	Budget 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICE</u>			
Adult Education & Recreation	7,500.00	7,500.00	
Census	150.00	0.00	
			% Change
Total Community Service	7,650.00	7,500.00	-1.96%%

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

State Retirement	424,183.46	440,477.59	
Teachers' Retirement	679,032.79	704,110.76	
Social Security	752,455.76	762,907.56	
Workers' Compensation	110,000.00	110,000.00	
Unemployment Insurance	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Health Insurance	2,706,439.72	2,739,734.74	
Other - Incentives	100,000.00	98,364.00	
			% Change
Total Employee Benefits	4,782,111.73	4,865,594.65	+1.75%

DEBT SERVICE

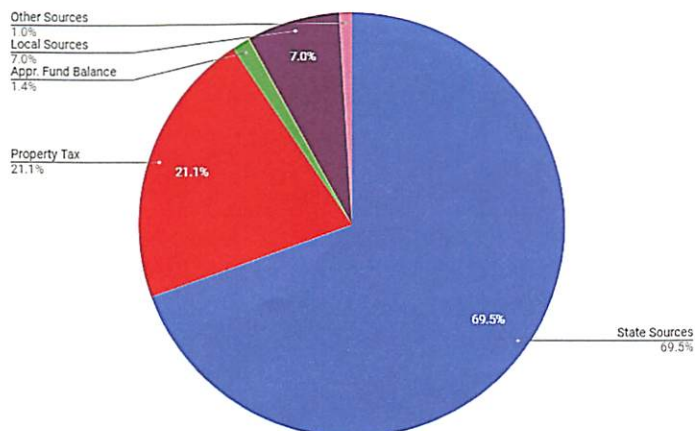
Serial Bonds - Principal	920,000.00	825,000.00	
Serial Bonds - Interest	403,106.00	366,506.00	
			% Change
Total Debt Service	1,323,106.00	1,191,506.00	-9.95%

INTERFUND TRANSFER

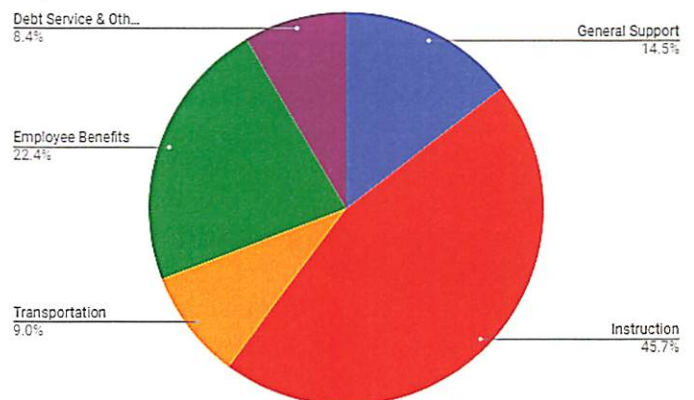
Transfer to School Lunch	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	75,000.00	225,000.00	
Transfer to Capital Fund	100,000.00	409,400.00	
			% Change
Total Interfund Transfers	176,000.00	635,400.00	+261.02%

			% Change
Total General Fund	21,013,669.00	21,715,217.00	+3.34%

Revenues

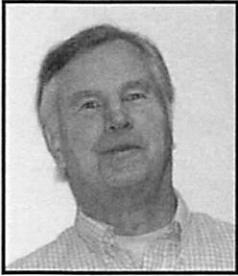


Expenditures



2021 CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Kuipers



As a member of the Board of Education I am aware of the many challenges our school district faces financially and with the ever growing safety and educational standards. As a longtime resident of the district whose children graduated from Letchworth Central School and

whose grandchildren are now attending Letchworth, I am aware of how important education is in opening doors for a child to lifetime opportunities. For that reason I am seeking re-election to the Board. I would appreciate your vote so that I may again serve on the Letchworth Central School Board of Education and therefore continue my involvement in the education process of this district. Thank you.

Shane Scott



I am a lifelong resident of Castile. I graduated from LCS in 1998, then I continued my education in veterinary science at Alfred State College. After college I decided to learn a trade where I became a project manager for a large company in

Buffalo. In 2010 I decided to start my own business and serve and assist the community. My wife Ricci and I have three children and three nieces that currently attend LCS. With being a project manager for over eight years and owning my own business for over ten years, I have obtained many life skills. Things like productivity, leadership, team-building, communication, negotiation skills, strategic planning, general management, financial management, and time management are all skills that I feel would be a great asset to LCS. Also with COVID-19 I have had to learn how to navigate as a business around the challenge put before me. My commitment and goals would be to help the school district, faculty, parents, and students resolve the hurdles set before the board to the best of my ability. Also to ensure a safe and positive learning environment, help with the everyday life skills needed for success in adulthood for the students and to ensure positive use of tax dollars at LCS. I am involved in: Currently coaching the 12u youth Letchworth baseball team, Currently coaching youth wrestlers from Letchworth, Help with 4H, Have helped with our church feeding the homeless. I would greatly appreciate your support.

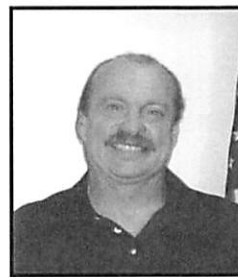
Mark Miller



I am a lifelong resident of Castile. I graduated from LCS in 1979, then continued my education at Alfred State College, graduating in 1981 with an Associates Degree in Applied Science. I am a retired New York State Trooper, having

served 32 years in law enforcement. My wife Kathleen and I have two children and three grandchildren currently attending LCS. RJ, the oldest, is graduating this year. During my first term on the LCS Board of Education, our capital project was completed and we are currently working through the process of our next capital project. Our teachers, students, administration, support staff, and community have also seen unprecedented changes and challenges due to the COVID 19 pandemic. All involved have met these challenges and continue to do so under difficult conditions. Our goal was to have students in school five days a week, and we have succeeded thus far. My goal is to continue to help ensure a safe and positive learning environment for students and staff, afford students educational opportunities for success in adulthood, and continue with responsible, common sense use of your tax dollars. I would greatly appreciate your continued support to serve on the Letchworth Central Board of Education. Thank you.

Steve Youngers



We are fortunate that our District is in a sound financial situation. I have served seven terms, a total of 21 years on the Board and would like to continue to be a part of the decision making process for the school. Making sure your tax dollars continue to be used effectively is a priority.

I am a lifelong resident of the Letchworth District; a 1977 graduate. My wife, JoAnn, and I live in Gainesville. My three children and two step-children are all graduates of this impressive district. There is now a third generation of Youngers attending Letchworth Central, my grandchildren, Maddison, Candice, Kyler and Payson. My aim is to help make available the best educational opportunities for our students that they might realize their fullest potential. With your vote, I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board of Education. Thank you.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - YOU MAY VOTE FOR ANY THREE (3) CANDIDATES

There are three vacancies for the Board for three year terms (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024). The candidates who receive a plurality of the votes cast respectively for the three offices are to be declared elected. Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

1) William Kuipers

2) Shane Scott

3) Mark Miller

4) Steve Youngers

PROPOSED ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2021-2022

Proposition 1 - Budget \$21,715,217

The Board of Education of the Letchworth Central School District shall be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year in the amount of \$21,715,217 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2 - Equipment Purchase from Maintenance Vehicles/Equipment Reserve

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Letchworth Central School District shall be authorized to expend funds from the 2015 Maintenance Vehicles/Equipment Reserve Fund, established by the voters on May 19, 2015 under Section 3651 of Education Law, for the purchase of one (1) area mower and one (1) tow-behind mower; not to exceed the total sum of \$95,000.00.

Proposition 3 - Library Funding *(as received from the libraries)*

Shall the amount of funds raised by taxation to support the four public libraries in the Letchworth Central School District be increased from \$205,909.89 to \$208,442.58 the increased amount to be distributed as followed: \$33,350.98 to the Eagle Free Library, Bliss; \$70,869.80 to the Cordelia A. Greene Library, Castile; \$62,533.08 to the Gainesville Public Library, Silver Springs; and \$41,688.72 to the Pike Library Association, Pike?

Qualifications of a voter: ♦United States Citizen ♦Eighteen years of age or older ♦Resident of the School District for 30 days prior to voting

ABSENTEE BALLOTS The option of using an absentee ballot is available for the school district annual budget vote. To obtain an absentee ballot, you must be a qualified voter of the school district and be unable to personally appear to vote. One of the following qualifications must apply:

- a) a patient in a hospital, or unable due to illness or physical disability;
- b) out of town because of duties, occupation, business or studies - you must provide a description of duties or special circumstances;
- c) on vacation outside the district - you must provide dates of beginning & ending of vacation, where you will be, name & address of employer, or statement of self-employment, or a statement of retirement;
- d) in jail - affidavit must state if detained awaiting action of grand jury or confined after conviction for a non-felony.

Qualified voter spouse, parent, or child is also entitled to vote as absentee if expected to be absent from the district accompanying an absentee ballot applicant upon personally making and signing an application based on the above reasons.

The application must be received by the clerk at least 7 days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if it is to be delivered personally to the voter. All completed absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 PM on the day of the election. (Tuesday, May 18, 2021)

Qualified voters may pick up applications at the District Office at Letchworth Central School during regular business hours. You may request an application be sent to you by contacting the District Clerk, in writing at 5550 School Rd., Gainesville, NY 14066, or by phone at 493-5450.

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, May 10, 2021 @ 7:30 PM

The annual school district Public Hearing will be held at Letchworth Central School in the High School Cafeteria at 7:30 PM for the purpose of reviewing the 2021-2022 school budget and to meet the candidates.



VOTE/ELECT BOARD MEMBERS

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 Noon to 9:00 PM

The polls will be open in the Auditorium lobby, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 9:00 PM to vote on the 2021-2022 budget, propositions and to elect three members of the Board of Education.



NOT A BOX ... is a book our Kindergarten Students read in ELA. They were then challenged to use their imagination to transform the cardboard vessel into something to play with. Their ideas were amazing.

We are loving our new Houghton Mifflin Reading and Writing program. This is only our first year using the program and we love the progress we are seeing in our children. As always *thank you* for all of your support. Letchworth parents make us proud.



CELEBRATING SUCCESSES! *Mrs. Helman*

This year has been a challenging year for each of us in differing ways. We have had COVID restrictions, economic impacts, illness, fear, anxiety, frustration, and faced large unknowns. Even with all of the changes that were necessary this year, there is much to celebrate.

We have been here five days a week for 98% of the year. Our children, parents, teachers, and support staff have been creative, patient, hardworking, supportive of one another, and incredibly flexible, which has reaped great benefits.

In March, we had a Nationally recognized speaker, Ricky Robertson with us. He spent time with our administrative team, our mental health team, and then with teachers, related service providers, teaching assistants, and teacher aides. As we spoke with him, he shared that he was extremely impressed that each group was talking about student growth. He shared that in most districts he works with across the country, they are simply surviving this year, not talking about growth. This helped to reinforce that what we are doing at Letchworth is what is best for our students.

To further this thought of growth and success, I have been amazed at each meeting I attended this

spring to discuss the progress of our students.

We have children:

- ★ who have made more than a year's growth academically and are closing learning gaps.
- ★ whose behavior last year was challenging, and when we meet now, the challenges have disappeared.
- ★ who struggled making friendships who now have a positive peer group.
- ★ who no longer need special education services and are rejoining their peers.
- ★ who last year at this time would have told you they hated school, but now are so glad that they are able to be here in person.

The growth socially, academically, physically, and emotionally for our students is well documented through changes in behavior, work completion, assessment scores, new friendships, and the smiles, high fives and chatter we hear and see each day.

This speaks loudly for the commitment of our amazing faculty and staff, the determination of our students, and the support of families and community members. I am proud to be a member of the Letchworth community and gratefully share the successes of our precious students with you.