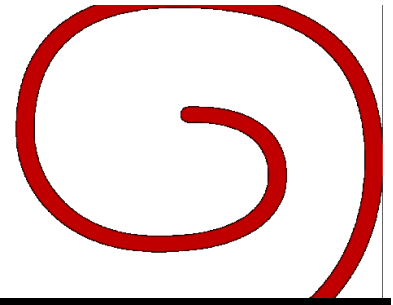




LCS News



Volume 48

Budget Issue

May/June 2020

A Dream vs. Reality of a Letchworth Senior #letchworthpride

Submitted by: Pierce McPherson

It is hard to believe that over seven weeks ago, I walked out the doors of Letchworth for the very last time as a student. There was so much to leave behind, and I didn't even know it.

No longer would I have to rush down to the office after the first bell at 7:58 AM to deliver the morning announcements. No longer would I get to emphatically shout "Woo!" as I returned for first period Calculus (much to the dismay - now relief - of my classmates). No longer would I get to walk the halls of Letchworth. The formative years of elementary school, the awkward years of middle school, and the challenge of high school were all suddenly pushed into the past.

Indeed that final Friday marked many lasts for the Class of 2020: No more sports for the rest of the year. Our seniors who participated in track, baseball, softball, and golf lost their last chance to perform for their school. No final concert for our musically inclined. No final grand performance for our great actors. Even the simple things like eating in the cafeteria while talking with friends were no more.

We will even be missing out on quintessential American traditions. We will not get to dance the night away at our Senior Prom. We will not run the risk of a sunburn while relaxing on Cocoa Beach during our Senior Trip. Even the simple sentiment of our very last day was snatched from us. I think of how great it would have been to pass around our yearbooks those last few days, collecting the signatures of the people we had spent the past twelve years of our life with. To don the cap and gown, and walk through the halls of the elementary, and for a moment realize how far we had come, would have been a great joy. But I can only imagine.

When others look back fondly on those memories, we will struggle to sympathize, never having those experiences ourselves.

This pandemic has made me appreciate the things that I once took for granted. Socializing with classmates and teachers, going from class to class, heck—even the drive to school, I would take them all back in a heartbeat if I could.

Yet, if there is anything to be learned from this experience, it is this: we must be strong. Life will not go as planned, and as we gear up for the next stage in our life, I think that is good to keep in mind. This doesn't mean we cannot still go on to succeed. It does not mean that you cannot still go on to do great things. But don't go forward blindly. Know that there are curveballs heading your way, and you've got to be ready to swing.

Although this has been a difficult time, we have not been alone. Our school has worked hard to honor us and help us in any way that it can. Teachers constantly offer us their support during their online lessons and over email. Yard signs, made in our honor, were personally delivered by teachers and administrators to the homes of each and every member of our class. Two weeks later, we were yet again surprised with a goodie bag, filled with encouraging messages and even personal letters.

Our school has taken us far these past thirteen years, and has given us the tools that we will need to succeed in life. Despite this disappointing end, I am grateful for the friendships and relationships I have made over the years at Letchworth. The passion and pride of our school family has outshined this pandemic. It is one of the many reasons I am honored to call myself a Letchworth Indian.



*Pierce McPherson: Class of 2020
President and Valedictorian*

Superintendent's Message



Dear Letchworth Families,

The statement I find myself saying over and over again is, "We have never done this before." I am sure you have said it too. However, I am so proud of our students, staff and community as we walk this journey together. Letchworth staff have never

faltered. When school shut down, they leapt into action. They never complained about what they couldn't do, they simply found solutions. Our goal from the start has been to stay connected with our students and families. We have been committed to compassion and flexibility to meet students' needs.

Throughout this newsletter you will read about the amazing ways staff and students are demonstrating, resiliency, creativity and a sincere care for one another. Online learning surely has its challenges and drawbacks. But, staff continue to find new ways to instruct and help your children learn. I encourage you to continue to reference our school website (COVID-19) for all the information and updates you need from us. We also have students and programs highlighted that have recently received accolades for their talents and service to the community.

The development of the 2020-21 school budget has been an incredible challenge. The economic crisis that is facing NYS will be felt by all of us. Wise and conservative fiscal planning over many years here at LCS, puts us in a place to handle this crisis and limit the

impact to our students. Yes, we will have to make some sacrifices over the next few years, but I remain optimistic that we can weather the storm. I am pleased that we can balance our budget with a 0% tax levy increase. We are very mindful that the last few months have been economically stressful on our community. Our instructional programs and extracurricular activities for students will remain strong and intact for the 2020-21 school year. We will not be filling two positions at this time due to retirements. (HS Counselor and Reading Teacher) Decreases to our materials and supplies and fewer equipment purchases will also be necessary. You will see that our Board of Education approved a budget proposal for your vote on June 9th that is less than our spending for the current year. All votes are by absentee ballot this year. Please be sure that you vote. Every vote matters! All ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 PM on June 9, 2020.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate our Seniors and families on all of their accomplishments. Each week we have recognized our Seniors in special ways with yard signs, goodie bags, personal notes and social media blasts! We are so proud of the way they have handled this disruption with maturity and a grateful spirit. It shows me just how special Letchworth really is to all of us.

It is an honor and privilege to serve and strive with all of you.

Together...We are Letchworth
Todd Campbell, Superintendent



Class of 2020 Commencement Saturday, June 27 at 11:00 am



Rain date: Sunday, June 28 (@ TBD).

Aq. Department 'Small Engines'



Students in the Ag. Dept *Small Engines* course were at it again!



Once more, the small engines class took on the refurbishing of used push lawn mowers that were donated by community members, faculty and staff.

Following a carefully evaluation, mowers were repaired and fully serviced. This course focuses on how an engine works and the process of bringing one back to life.

Pictured are five refurbished mowers that were donated to people in the community.

Repairing the mowers is a great educational opportunity and the donation instills an understanding of public service. We look forward to continuing this program in the future.

The following provides the proposed revenue and expenditure plan for the 2020-2021 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

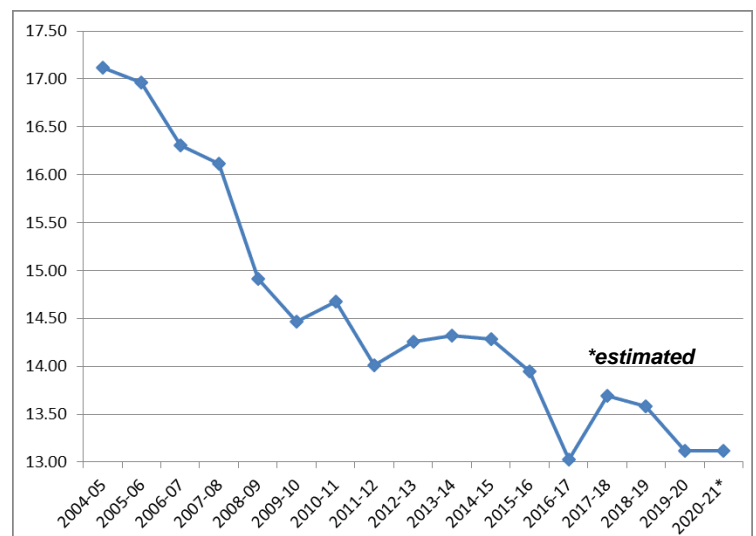
	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	Percent Change
State Sources			
Foundation Aid & Excess Cost Aids	11,048,428	10,495,385	-5.01%
State Expense Based Aids	3,382,981	3,302,604	-2.38%
Instructional Materials Aids	86,775	87,163	+0.45%
Total for State Sources	14,518,184	13,885,152	-4.36%
Property Tax & Star Payments	4,583,021	4,583,021	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	300,000	800,000	+166.67%
Appropriated Unemployment Reserve	50,000	100,000	+100.00%
Local Sources			
Payment in lieu of tax	201,491	204,297	+1.39%
Transportation for other districts	818,500	818,500	+0.00%
Miscellaneous/Other revenues	376,588	417,699	+10.92%
Total Local Sources	1,396,579	1,440,496	+3.14%
Other Revenues			
Interfund transfer - debt service	115,000	115,000	0.00%
Federal aid - Medicaid	90,000	90,000	0.00%
Total Other Revenues	205,000	205,000	0.00%
TOTAL REVENUES	21,052,784	21,013,669	-0.19%

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 4.00%. Since the proposed levy amount for this year is 0.0% (or \$183,239 below the cap), a simple majority will be required for passage.

Tax Levy

The proposed expenditure plan of \$21,013,669 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 2020-21. Under this proposed budget the tax rate on true value is estimated to increase to \$13.81 per thousand.



Proposed Expenditures

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Board of Education	13,997.00	14,073.00	
District Meeting	2,723.00	2,439.00	
Chief School Administrator	205,704.50	211,980.30	
Business Administration	219,848.35	232,840.70	
Auditing	22,988.00	23,145.00	
Treasurer	53,153.00	55,491.00	
Tax Collector	9,697.00	9,832.00	
Purchasing	5,385.30	5,505.00	
Fiscal Agent Fees	3,500.00	3,500.00	
Legal	42,895.00	45,126.00	
Personnel	1,567.00	1,650.00	
Public Information	8,740.00	8,960.00	
Operation of Plant	1,064,066.20	1,016,690.00	
Maintenance of Plant	711,257.12	626,725.75	
Security of Plant	0.00	77,400.00	
Central Storeroom	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Central Printing & Mailing	35,450.00	37,450.00	
Central Data Processing	257,170.16	278,701.09	
Unallocated Insurance	92,000.00	95,000.00	
School Association Dues	6,750.00	6,810.00	
Refund on Real Property Taxes	5,000.00	5,000.00	
BOCES Administrative Costs	265,689.00	262,985.00	
Total General Support	3,029,080.63	3,022,803.84	% Change -0.207%
<u>INSTRUCTION</u>			
Curriculum Development	163,069.45	163,297.06	
Supervision, Regular School	501,997.25	500,364.03	
In-Service Training Instruction	11,600.00	34,357.99	
Teaching, Regular School	4,781,520.93	4,774,777.04	
Programs for Students w/Dis.	2,158,964.98	2,322,169.04	
Programs for Eng. Lang. Learn. (ELL)	0.00	30,015.33	
Occupational Education	810,486.20	664,745.20	
Teaching, Special Schools	32,270.00	4,705.00	
School Library	178,263.76	183,367.00	
Computer Assisted Instruction	429,782.35	459,012.33	
Attendance	6,230.00	8,500.00	
Guidance	224,506.77	167,646.14	
Health Services	89,187.00	89,486.00	
Psychological Services	156,234.70	166,934.10	
Social Work Services	12,360.00	12,840.00	
Co-Curricular Activities	63,063.00	34,112.00	
Interscholastic Athletics	284,694.39	290,177.14	
Total Instruction	9,904,230.78	9,906,505.40	% Change 0.023%
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>			
District Transportation	1,537,068.47	1,720,337.49	
Garage Building	71,914.00	71,398.00	
Contract Transportation	5,000.00	0.00	
Transportation from BOCES	3,282.82	3,756.54	
Total Transportation	1,617,265.29	1,795,492.03	% Change 11.02%

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

The 2020-21 general fund proposed budget includes a capital outlay project that would be completed during the upcoming school year. This project includes HVAC and Building Automation Improvements on the second floor. 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.

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	
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COMMUNITY SERVICE

Adult Education & Recreation	0.00	7,500.00	
Census	150.00	150.00	
Total Community Service	150.00	7,650.00	5,000.000%

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

State Retirement	429,505.74	424,183.46	
Teachers' Retirement	650,146.10	679,032.79	
Social Security	745,645.29	752,455.76	
Workers' Compensation	115,000.00	110,000.00	
Unemployment Insurance	5,000.00	10,000.00	
Health Insurance	2,788,244.17	2,706,439.72	
Other - Incentives	73,500.00	100,000.00	
Total Employee Benefits	4,807,041.30	4,782,111.73	-0.519%

DEBT SERVICE

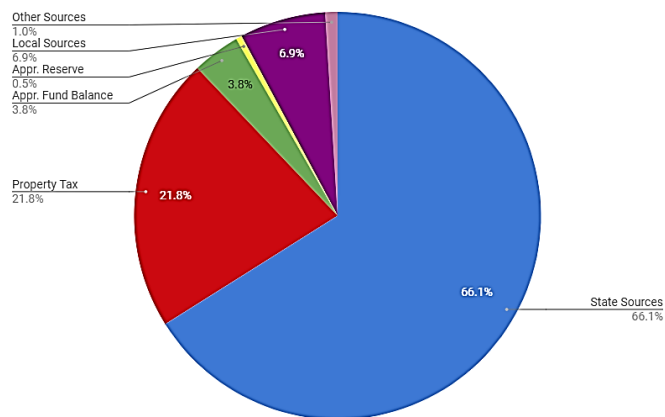
Serial Bonds - Principal	894,700.00	920,000.00	
Serial Bonds - Interest	645,316.00	403,106.00	
Total Debt Service	1,540,016.00	1,323,106.00	-14.085%

INTERFUND TRANSFER

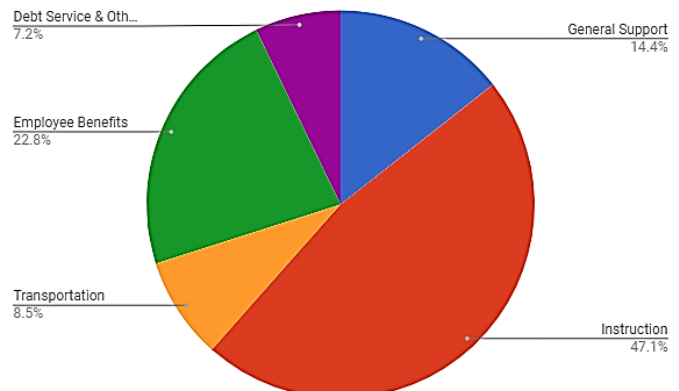
Transfer to School Lunch	0.00	1,000.00	
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	55,000.00	75,000.00	
Transfer to Capital Fund	100,000.00	100,000.00	
Total Interfund Transfers	155,000.00	176,000.00	13.548%

Total General Fund	21,052,784.00	21,013,669.00	-0.186%
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Revenues



Expenditures



PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, June 1, 2020 @ 7:00 PM - The annual school district Public Hearing will presented virtually on Facebook for the purpose of reviewing the 2020-2021 school budget and to meet the candidates.

VOTE & ELECT BOARD MEMBERS

Pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 202.26, the annual budget vote and school board election has been scheduled for **June 9, 2020, and will be held by absentee ballot only.**

Qualified voters of the Letchworth Central School District will be sent an absentee ballot together with a postage-paid return envelope and instructions for completing the same. Absentee ballots will be mailed to the following: ●District residents listed on the Letchworth Central School Tax Roll List of property owners, ●District residents listed on the Wyoming County Board of Elections List of Registered Voters, ●District residents listed on the Letchworth Central School list of students 18 years old or older and ●District residents listed on the 2019-20 Budget Vote & Election Poll List.

Qualified voters that do not receive their absentee ballot may request a ballot by contacting the District Clerk by email at tlathan@letchworth.k12.ny.us or by calling the District Office at 585-493-5450.

To be counted, all completed absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

PROPOSED ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2020-2021

.....
Proposition 1 - Budget \$21,013,669

The Board of Education of Letchworth Central School shall be authorized to expend the sum set forth in the proposed budget for the 2020-21 school year in the amount of \$21,013,669 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2 - 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 \$202,249.18 to \$205,909.89, the increased amount to be distributed as followed: \$32,945.75 to the Eagle Free Library, Bliss; \$70,008.69 to the Cordelia A. Greene Library, Castile; \$61,773.27 to the Gainesville Public Library, Silver Springs; and \$41,182.18 to the Pike Library Association, Pike?

BOARD OF EDUCATION - YOU MAY VOTE FOR ANY THREE CANDIDATES

.....
There are three vacancies for the Board for three year terms (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023). 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) Robert Jines



2) Vanessa Karasiewicz



3) Claire Smith

Qualifications of a voter:

- ◆ United States Citizen ◆Eighteen years of age or older ◆ Resident of the School District for 30 days prior to voting

Please have this document with you for the
Facebook Virtual Public Hearing on June 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Spring Athletes were honored recently by the lighting of our Athletic Complex for 20 minutes on a Friday evening.



Thank you Mrs. Connolly for everything you have done for our district and our children.



Spanning over 30 years of dedicated service to the Letchworth Central School District, Mrs. Tracey Connolly, Elementary Secretary, retired to a grand “social distancing” car parade.

National Honor Society Inductees!

*Scholarship. Service.
Leadership. Character.*



School may be out, but the following students have shown all the necessary qualities and met the requirements to be inducted into the Letchworth National Honor Society: Grace Shearing / Abigail Miller / Kaitlyn Broughton / Kasey Krenzer / Brooke DeGroff / John Mertsock / Blaise Leone / Lilly Crane / Delaney Bean / Jade Flitcroft / Eric Mills / Maddison Strathearn / Kirsten Webster / Tucker Owens / Madison Weaver / Brooklin Hastreiter / Emily Greene. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dreams Don't Work Unless You Do!

Middle School Students have not let the Corona Virus stop them. Way to go girls!!!

#LCSMiddleSchoolRocks

Ivy Smith...

Completed her Hunter Safety course.



Grace Miller...

Designed and built her own chicken coup.
(With a bit of help from Dad)



Memorial Day Assembly

Our talented students and teachers came up with a fitting tribute to all those that have given their lives for our country. Please visit our Letchworth web page and / or Facebook.

#LetchworthCares



Support Staff Staying Connected

While teachers have remained busy throughout our closure remodeling instruction for remote learning, our **Teaching Assistants** and **Teacher Aides** have been working equally hard to stay connected to our students and the LCS community.

- They have completed hundreds of hours of professional learning to improve their craft and learn new strategies for the classroom.
- They have participated weekly at our district lunch sites to see kids, even at a distance, and say “hello.” Many came to school to support cleaning and organizing efforts as we prepared pick-ups for our students’ belongings.
- There are Google Meets for students to be read a book from the classroom, learn a new craft, get support in a homework assignment or skill, and sometimes to just stay in touch and catch up with their friends.

The Administrative and Instructional Teams cannot say **THANK YOU** enough to our Support Staff for making some of our most difficult days and transitions better for students at Letchworth!

Lip Sync Guitar Hero Contest Winners!



Two lucky children won guitars, handmade and donated by Mr. Bean.



Evan Reding
w/Senior Sign



Madison Baker
w/Goodie Bag

LUNCH DISTRIBUTION STAFF

Staff at the Pike location, received a special recognition from the *Almeter* and *Bacon* families. The Mobile Lunch Crew each received a Reese's candy treat with a special note of appreciation. Thank you Maggie, Noah, Sophia, Abigail, and Isabel. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated.



**MANY THANKS
TO OUR
DEDICATED
CAFETERIA
STAFF AND
OUR MOBILE
LUNCH CREWS**



Please follow us on our website at:
www.letchworth.k12.ny.us