

Lansingburgh Knightline

BUDGET EDITION • MAY 2021

District Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 18

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021 Lansingburgh School District residents will vote on the proposed budget that was adopted by the Board of Education on April 20, 2021. The proposed budget of \$54,749,178 reflects a spending increase of \$1,953,881, or a 3.70% increase over the current school year. It also includes \$1,655,194 in additional State Aid. There is another \$867,045 in CARES aid that was anticipated to be received in 2020-21, but now won't be available until the 2021-2022 school year. All of these aid increases are due to

Federal Stimulus funding given to New York State and then passed on to the District. These funds are not expected to continue into future years, so the District will be planning accordingly.

The estimated tax levy increase is 0.09%, however the school tax bill increase to the homeowner will vary, depending on equalization and STAR. The estimated average increase on a home with the full market value of \$100,000 would be approximately \$1.91 for the year.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposed 2021-2022 budget stays within the allowable tax cap. The allowable tax cap is 0.09% for the 2021-22 school year, and the district is asking for the 0.09%. This budget is based upon the State Budget state aid estimates from April 7, 2021.

The proposed budget includes the following new additions; an additional cleaner at Rensselaer Park Elementary

School, a Human Resource Manager, and the restoration of daily substitute teachers at each building. Finally, this budget maintains the funding for the District to pay for all necessary student school supplies in the 2021-22 school year. Since student materials are not a contingent item, the District will not be able to cover these expenses should the budget fail to be approved by voters.

The largest increase in the 2021-22 budget is for Special Education Placements. The District is required to provide services for special needs students based upon their individual needs. We currently have students attending programs in both Questar III and Capital Region BOCES as well as many private schools.

PUBLIC HEARING

MEET THE CANDIDATES: There will be a "Meet the Candidates" forum giving residents an opportunity to meet the candidates running for the 2 five-year term Board of Education positions to be filled effective July 1, 2021. Meet the Candidates will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a public hearing on the budget at 6:30 p.m. on May 10, 2021 at the Knickerbacker Middle School auditorium.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES:

May 10, 2021:

- Meet the Candidates – 6:00 p.m.
- Budget Public Hearing – 6:30 p.m.

May 12, 2021:

- Voter Registration – Noon – 6:00 p.m.

May 18, 2021:

- Budget Vote & Election – Noon – 9:00 p.m.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Will be held on Wednesday, May 12 from noon to 6:00 p.m. in the District Office (55 New Turnpike Road, Troy)

If you are not currently registered to vote, you must register for the May 18, 2021 School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election. When registering, bring a valid driver's license. If you do not have one, bring other proof of date of birth and residence.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Available to any registered voter concerned about COVID-19 this year. Applications available at District Office from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. See back page or www.lansingburgh.org for more information.

VOTING LOCATIONS

In-person voting is at the following locations from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18.

- **Lansingburgh High School Gym** – 320 Seventh Avenue, Troy, NY 12182
- **Speigletown Firehouse** – 146 Speigletown Road, Troy, NY 12182

BUDGET VOTE

**TUESDAY
MAY 18, 2021**
Absentee Ballots
Due by 5 p.m.

School Budget Ballot 2021-2022:

✓ **YES or NO**

Budget
Proposed

RECOMMENDATION: Be it resolved, that the detailed Proposed Budget in the amount of \$54,749,178 be adopted with an anticipated income exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$38,600,860; and the amount to be raised by taxes of \$16,148,318; and that this budget will be referred to as the **Basic Budget**.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Three (3) individuals are running for the two (2) seats opening on the Board of Education. Each seat is for a five (5) year term commencing on July 1, 2021, and expiring on June 30, 2026.

The names of board candidates shall appear on the ballot as follows:

- Jillian Manupella
- Stephanie DiPalma
- Andrea Fairhurst

More information about this year's candidates is available on www.lansingburgh.org

Copies of the Budget... are available in the district office, 55 New Turnpike Road, and in the main office at each of the four schools, at the Lansingburgh Branch of the Troy Public Library and on the district website, www.lansingburgh.org

Copies also will be available at the public hearing.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

	BUDGET 2020-2021	PROPOSED 2021-2022
General Support	\$ 4,961,787	\$ 5,551,659
Instruction	27,402,315	28,734,529
Transportation	4,747,942	4,756,474
Community Service	900	900
Employee Benefits	10,508,593	10,804,023
Transfer to Other Funds/Debt Services	5,173,761	4,901,593
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 52,795,298	\$ 54,749,178

SUMMARY OF REVENUE

	BUDGET 2020-2021	PROPOSED 2021-2022
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 750,000
State Aid	34,093,622	36,615,860
Charges for Services	309,000	304,000
Use of Money & Property	407,000	412,000
Refund Of Prior Years Expenditures	673,289	330,000
Federal Affected Areas	0	0
Interfund Revenues	90,000	100,000
Payment in Lieu Of Tax/Penalties	89,000	89,000
Property Tax	16,133,387	16,148,318
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 52,795,298	\$ 54,749,178

ESTIMATED ASSESSED VALUE TAX PER THOUSAND

	LANSINGBURGH	BRUNSWICK	SCHAGHTICOKE	PITTSTOWN
2020-2021	\$20.61	\$78.68	\$85.00	\$30.18
2021-2022	\$20.63	\$78.75	\$85.07	\$30.20

Message from the Superintendent

To the Lansingburgh School Community:

"A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER." The situation we have faced for the 2020-21 school year has been something that none of us could have ever predicted. Every aspect of our daily lives was flipped upside down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing, asynchronous instruction and daily health screening attestations are now common phrases that have become part of our vocabulary.

As students are now back in classrooms, vaccinations rates are increasing and positive cases of COVID-19 are decreasing every day, it appears that the end is near. I hope that the beginning of the 2021-22 school year will allow us to regain a sense of normalcy. Even through the most difficult of times, I have been incredibly impressed by the students, families and staff's ability to adapt and persist.

The Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget of \$54,749,178 to present to the voters for the 2021-22 school year. This is an overall increase in spending of \$1,953,880 (3.70%). It is the responsibility of the District to be fiscally responsible in our stewardship of taxpayer funding, while still maintaining high quality instruction and programs for our students as efficiently as possible. Included with this plan is a tax levy increase of \$14,932 (0.09%), which DOES NOT EXCEED our maximum allowable tax cap. Through the budget development process, we have kept a watchful eye to ensure that our budget is a representation of the district mission statement to "provide a safe and nurturing educational environment where high expectations, rigor, life-long learning and civic responsibility are developed and encouraged." **If passed, this budget will allow the District to maintain all current programs.**

As we look forward to the end of this pandemic and continue gaining a sense of normalcy, the District will continue to do our best to avoid any unexpected tax levy changes, while providing the highest quality education for the children in this community. If you

have any questions about this or any other aspect of the budget, please feel free to email me at aabitabile@lansingburgh.org or call me at 518-233-6850 and I will be more than willing to answer them.

The Board of Education asks for your support in continuing to provide a high-quality education for Lansingburgh children because they understand the investment in our children's education will benefit our community in the future.

Ever Upwards,



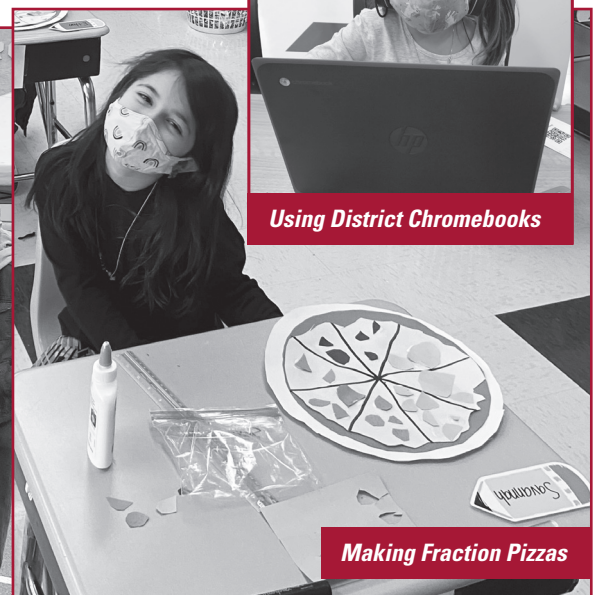
Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed. D.
LCSD Superintendent



Sledding in PE



Football Team Volunteers at Community Food Pickup



Using District Chromebooks

Making Fraction Pizzas

BUDGET Q & A

Q: What happens if the budget fails?

A: If the budget is not approved, then the Board of Education has the option to; 1. Put up the same budget for a revote 2. Put up a new budget for revote 3. Adopt a Contingent Budget.

Q: What is if the second vote fails?

A: If the budget were to fail a second time, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget.

Q: What is a contingent budget?

A: A contingent budget is one where the Tax Levy cannot exceed that of the previous year. In addition, the administrative portion of the budget must be equal to or less than the percent from the previous year's budget, and all non-contingent items - like district purchased school supplies - cannot be included in the budget.

Q: What are contingent items?

A: Legal Expenses – Debt Service, Principal and Interest Judgements
Other Legal Obligations – Social Security and other payroll taxes and assessments, pre-existing contractual obligations.

Expenditures specifically authorized by statute: Transportation, Textbooks, Supplies for loan to pupils, membership in NYS School Board Association, Convention and Conference expenses, District's share of services provided by BOCES, Health Services, Student Accident Insurance, In-Service Training for teachers, Child nutrition programs, other items necessary to maintain Lansingburgh educational programming.

Q: What are Non-Contingent Items?

- A:**
- Rental of office equipment
 - Use of school buildings by outside organizations except where there is no identifiable extra cost to the district or such cost is fully paid by a donation before the activity occurs
 - Capital expenditures (except in an emergency)
 - Transportation and maintenance of interscholastic athletic teams
 - Equipment purchases
 - Pupil uniforms whether for athletic activities or otherwise
 - Student Supplies

None of the non-contingent items listed above would be allowed under a contingent budget.

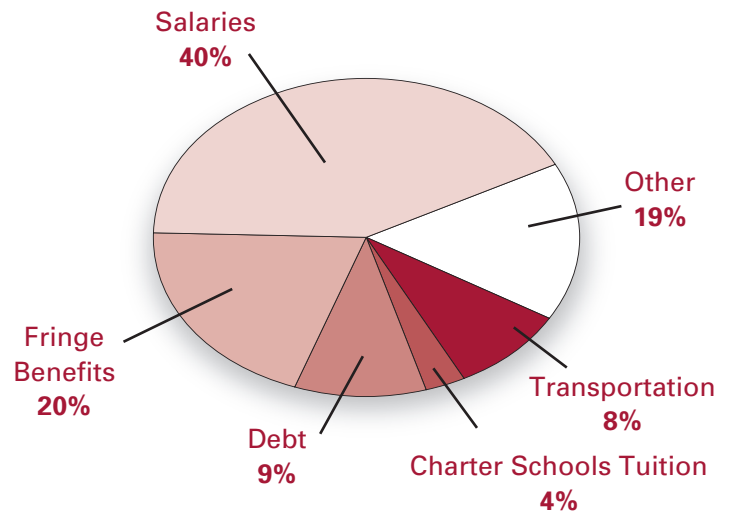
Senior Citizen School Tax Exemption Information

Annual Income	Percentage Assessed Valuation Exempt From Taxation
\$29,000	50 percent
\$30,000	45 percent
\$31,000	40 percent
\$32,000	35 percent
\$32,900	30 percent
\$33,800	25 percent
\$34,700	20 percent
\$35,600	15 percent
\$36,500	10 percent
\$37,400	5 percent

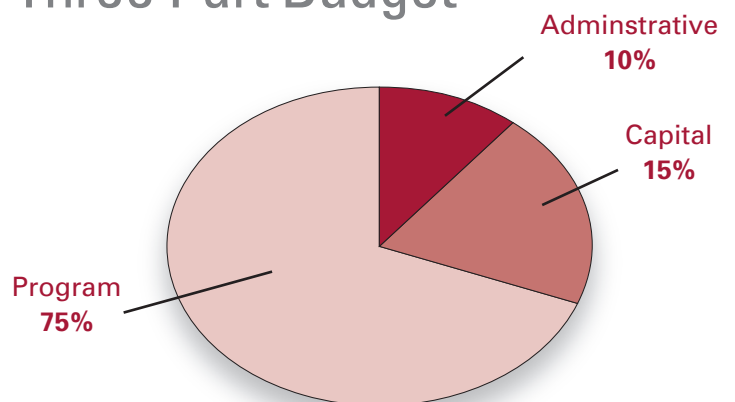
The Lansingburgh School District will allow a percentage school tax exemption on real property owned by persons 65 years of age or over. Taxpayers must meet the statutory qualifications set forth in Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York. The annual income scale and the tax exemption percentage are listed to the left.

Note: Applications approved by the city or town tax assessor's office will automatically be applied to your school district taxes.

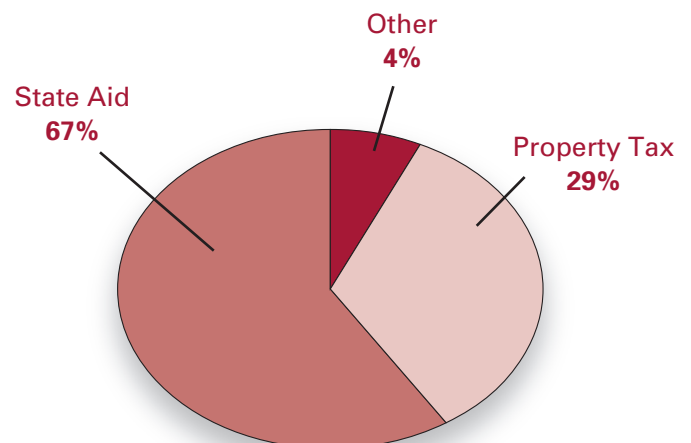
2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget



Three Part Budget



2021 – 2022 Revenue



Instructional Technology (IT): Making 20-21 Possible & Lessons for the Future

The way Lansingburgh uses Instructional Technology (IT) to complement and enhance instruction has grown tremendously since Spring 2020. When COVID-19 forced the district to incorporate more IT for learning and teaching it was an unexpected challenge. When reflecting on the time in between, it is clear how much growth has occurred since and how many lessons learned can be used in future school years.

How Lansingburgh IT Grew & Improved in 20-21

Learning Devices for Every Student: With the addition of 1,900 Chromebooks, the district ensured every student had access to a Chromebook and had an extra stockpile of them on hand.

Increased Student Support: For Lansingburgh students to be successful this year, new methods of troubleshooting had to be created. Students and families had access to online help resources created by Lansingburgh's IT Team, which included tutorial videos and an online help desk for device repairs and other IT issues. Daily hours were available for students/families to come in for additional IT assistance when

schools were closed and are still available for those who need the extra IT support. All of this led to less instructional disruptions and increased student engagement in 20-21.

Increased Faculty Support: During Summer 2020, Lansingburgh's IT Team held training sessions for remote and concurrent (in person & virtual) teaching to prepare faculty for this school year. Throughout the 20-21 school year, the IT Team has addressed faculty issues as they arose to ensure instruction not only continued but improved as the year went on. Teachers were kept up-to-date on changes in educational technology tools they frequently used and they could attend after school IT office hours to further build their skill sets.

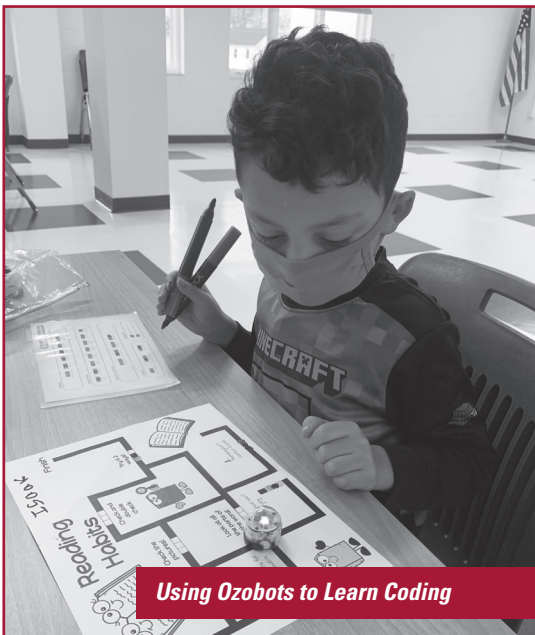
Moving Beyond the Basics: When schools closed in Spring 2020 much of the focus was on using IT to ensure the basics needed for continuing instruction were met as the world shut down. In 20-21, faculty have moved beyond the basics of, say, lecturing on a Google Meet. With help from the IT Team, they began thinking outside the box this year to incorporate more of the 4 Cs of 21st Century Learning Skills (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity & Critical Thinking) into their curriculum and lessons.

What Lansingburgh Learned About IT for the Future

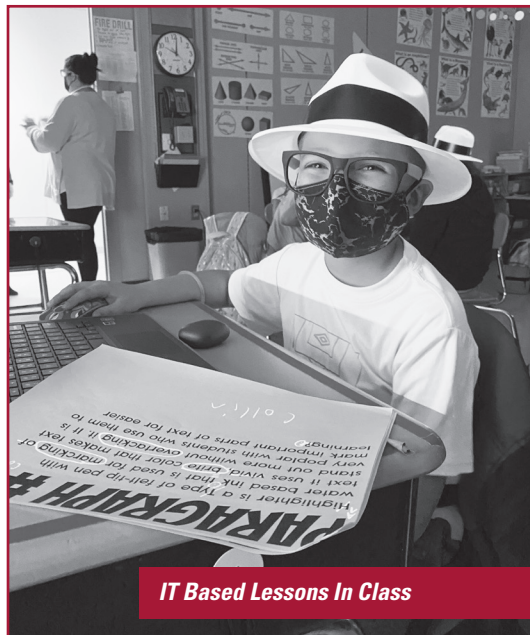
More Creativity & Confidence: Many initial challenges early in the pandemic have since transformed into innovative opportunities that leverage IT. Lansingburgh teachers are more comfortable using district IT to customize lesson plans and many students are engaging more creatively. The experience of this year brought teachers to a new level that will encourage them to continue future-ready learning in their classrooms in coming years. Instead of teaching basic Google Education Tool skills, they are now able to use these resources to increase collaboration, encourage creativity, and strengthen critical thinking in their students. "I am so encouraged to see how our faculty have transformed instruction to prepare our students for an evolving world," says Lansingburgh Director of IT, Gina Fusco.

New In School Opportunities: What were once impossible opportunities can now be commonplace in future school years through the use of technology. Virtual field trips to far-off locations are now possible (3rd graders visited Toucan Rescue Ranch in Costa Rica!) and it is easier than ever to have guests/speakers virtually visit students in school.

Lansingburgh is Resilient & Prepared: Lansingburgh learners, teachers and staff are more resilient than ever after the last year plus. Since the world of public education changed in Spring 2020 everyone in the district has a new understanding of how they can adapt the ways they learn and teach. The learning model for the 20-21 school year has had its challenges but has been valuable in preparing Lansingburgh for any future scenario where classes could continue if building operations were disrupted.



Using Ozobots to Learn Coding



IT Based Lessons In Class

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE

BUDGET AND
BOARD OF
EDUCATION
VOTE

**TUESDAY
MAY 18, 2021**

Board of Education

Mr. Jason Shover, *President*
Mr. Michael Cusack, *Vice President*
Mr. Robert Morris
Mrs. Michelle Speanburg
Mrs. Daniella Richards
Dr. Antonio Abitabile, *Superintendent of Schools*

Mrs. Kelley Bristol
Mrs. Marie Cole
Mr. Jeffrey White
Mr. James Spear

This newsletter is published by the B.O.E as a community service to inform the public of school news and business. Board of Education, 55 New Turnpike Road, Troy, New York, 12182. Phone: (518) 233-6850.

Lansingburgh Voting Districts

District 1: Lansingburgh High School Gym Foyer

Covers: North of 101st St. to South of 118th St.

District 2: Lansingburgh High School Gym Foyer

Covers: North of 118th St. to the end of Pleasantdale.
Also, Northern Drive and Corliss Park.

District 3: Speigletown Fire House

Covers: Miami Beach Estates, Highpointe, all of Brunswick 7 and all of Speigletown.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to **any** registered voter this year. Completed absentee applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before May 18 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or May 17 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on May 18, 2021.

