

# Lansingburgh Knightline

BUDGET EDITION • JUNE 2020

## District Budget Vote: Tuesday, June 9

On Tuesday, June 9, 2020 Lansingburgh School District residents will vote on the proposed budget that was adopted by the Board of Education on May 11, 2020. The proposed budget of \$52,795,298 reflects a spending increase of \$2,739,827, or a 5.47% increase over the current school year.

The estimated tax levy increase is 2.66%, however the school tax bill increase to the homeowner will vary, depending on equalization and STAR. The increase on a home with the full market value of \$100,000 would be an estimated \$54.19.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and following the directives of the Governor's executive order 202.26, **voting for the 2020-21 School Budget and Board elections will be done through absentee ballot.** Ballots are being mailed to all registered voters. If you are not registered, or someone in your home is not registered, they may come to 55 New Turnpike Road on May 27, 2020 between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. to register. Absentee ballots will be distributed to eligible voters who register.

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

The District is proposing a \$52,795,298 budget for the 2020-21 school year. This is an increase of \$2,739,827, \$2,321,418 in additional revenue and \$418,409 in additional taxes. The District is seeking the maximum tax cap of 2.66% in order to fund this year's budget and set a sound financial foundation for the next few years, which we expect to be very difficult.

Two issues facing the district immediately are potential aid cuts and the possibility of a contingent budget. This year, voting will be done by absentee ballot. While the district normally has about 600 people

come to vote, we are mailing out over 9,000 absentee ballots. Should the budget not pass, the district will need to cut \$418,409 immediately. In addition, this budget includes \$877,106 in Federal CARES aid. Should the Federal Government not provide this funding, another \$877,106 must be cut. Combined, we may face cuts of \$1,295,515 before the school year even begins. This equates to potentially 18 teaching positions.

In the event of a budget defeat, the following items must be removed from the budget as they are non-contingent; all student supplies (parents will again need to provide

their children with supplies), all equipment, non-emergency capital expenses, non-contractual salary increases and some athletics. Also, the use of school buildings and grounds by outside organizations will not be permitted unless fully paid by donation prior to the activity occurring.

The proposed budget maintains all our current educational programming and some additional student resources. The purchase of Chromebooks is not part of the budget increase, as that purchase was made from state funded 2019-20 funds.

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

**MEET THE CANDIDATES:** A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for **June 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** on Zoom. The link to view this and the login information are on the district website ([www.lansingburgh.org](http://www.lansingburgh.org)). Two five-year terms for Board of Education positions are to be filled effective July 1, 2020.

#### SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES:

##### May 27, 2020:

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

##### June 1, 2020:

- Budget Public Hearing (Online) – 6:00 p.m.

##### June 9, 2020:

- Budget Vote & Election Absentee Ballots due by 5:00 pm

### VOTER REGISTRATION

**Wednesday, May 27, 2020 • 12 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**District Office – 55 New Turnpike Road, Troy**

If you are not currently registered to vote, you must register for the June 9, 2020 School Budget Vote and Board Member Election on May 27, 2020. When registering, bring a valid driver's license. If you do not have one, bring other proof of date of birth and residence.

### VOTING LOCATIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and following the directives of the Governor's executive order 202.26, **voting for the 2020-21 School Budget and Board elections will be done through absentee ballot.** Ballots are being mailed to all registered voters. If you are not registered, or someone in your home is not registered, they may come to 55 New Turnpike Road on May 27, 2020 between 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm to register and obtain a ballot.

## BUDGET VOTE

**TUESDAY  
JUNE 9, 2020**  
Absentee Ballots  
Due by 5 p.m.

## School Budget Ballot 2020-2021:

✓ **YES or NO**

Budget  
Proposed

**RECOMMENDATION:** Be it resolved, that the detailed Proposed Budget in the amount of \$52,795,298 be adopted with an anticipated income exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$36,661,911; and the amount to be raised by taxes of \$16,133,387; and that this budget will be referred to as the **Basic Budget**.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

This year there are two seats open on the Board of Education.

Michael Cusack is up for re-election this year and Carl Walp, Jr. is stepping down when his term ends in June 2020. Both seats are for 5-year terms.

More information about the Board of Education and this year's candidates is available on [www.lansingburgh.org](http://www.lansingburgh.org)

Lansingburgh is also on Facebook (@LansingburghCSD) & Twitter (@LCSD\_NY).

#### **Copies of the Budget...**

Are available on the on the district website, [www.lansingburgh.org](http://www.lansingburgh.org)

Requests for a hard copy can be made to the District Clerk by email at [cwilliams@lansingburgh.org](mailto:cwilliams@lansingburgh.org) or by calling 518-233-6850 x 33400. Copies will also be available in each building as of May 26.

### SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

	BUDGET 2019-2020	PROPOSED 2020-2021
General Support	\$ 4,809,144	\$ 4,961,787
Instruction	27,084,301	27,402,315
Transportation	4,218,154	4,747,942
Community Service	1,500	900
Employee Benefits	10,019,315	10,508,593
Transfer to Other Funds/Debt Service	3,923,056	5,173,761
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 50,055,470</b>	<b>\$ 52,795,298</b>

### SUMMARY OF REVENUE

	BUDGET 2019-2020	PROPOSED 2020-2021
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
State Aid	32,473,351	34,243,622
Charges For Services	298,179	309,000
Use of Money & Property	45,000	407,000
Refund Of Prior Years Expenditures	230,059	673,289
Federal Affected Areas	0	0
Interfund Revenues	75,000	90,000
Payments In Lieu Of Tax/Penalties	69,083	89,000
Property Tax	15,714,798	16,133,387
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 50,055,470</b>	<b>\$ 52,795,298</b>

### ESTIMATED ASSESSED VALUE TAX PER THOUSAND

	LANSINGBURGH	BRUNSWICK	SCHAGHTICOKE	PITTSTOWN
2019-2020	\$20.16	\$78.54	\$83.72	\$29.12
2020-2021	\$20.70	\$78.59	\$85.96	\$29.89

## Message from the Superintendent

To the Lansingburgh School Community:

Thank you for the incredibly warm welcome. Since the day I was appointed in August 2019 to be your next superintendent, I have always felt welcomed into this outstanding community. This District truly is the *Hidden Gem of the Capital Region*. As the new superintendent, it has been my honor to become part of a community where the public understands and accepts their responsibility to prepare our children for college, career and citizenship.

The Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget of \$52,795,298 to present to the voters for the 2020-21 school year. 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 \$418,4019 (2.66%), which **DOES NOT EXCEED** our maximum allowable tax cap. Remember, the 2% tax cap pertains to the maximum allowable growth rate of inflation, **NOT** the residential tax bill of resident taxpayers. Through the budget development process, we have kept a watchful eye to ensure that our budget is an actualization 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.***

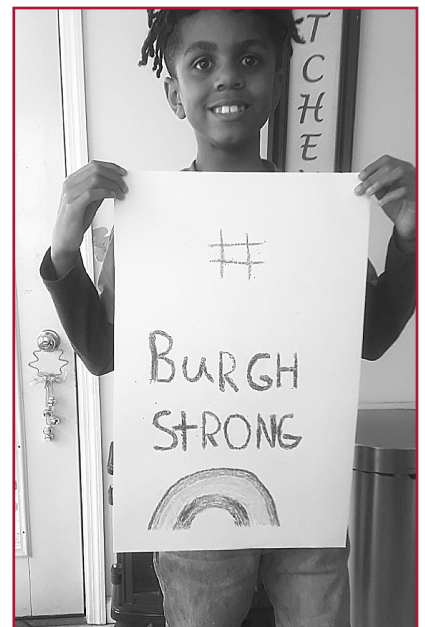
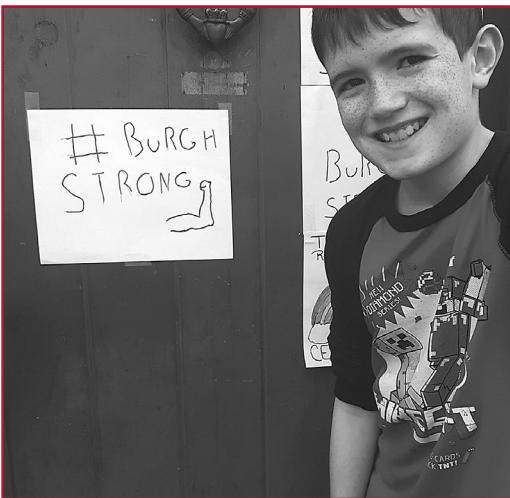
As we look ahead into an uncertain future, we will continue to do our best to avoid any erratic tax levy changes, while providing the highest quality education for the children in this community. If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the budget, please feel free to email me [aabitabile@lansingburgh.org](mailto:aabitabile@lansingburgh.org) or call me at 518-233-6850 and I will be more than willing to answer them promptly.

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

Ever Upward,



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



## BUDGET Q & A

**Q: What happens if the budget fails?**

**A:** If the budget is not approved by voters, 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 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; other payroll taxes and assessments; and 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 program and other items necessary to maintain the Educational program.

**Q: What are Non-Contingent Items?**

- A:**
- Pupil uniforms whether for athletic activities or otherwise.
  - Student Supplies
  - 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

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

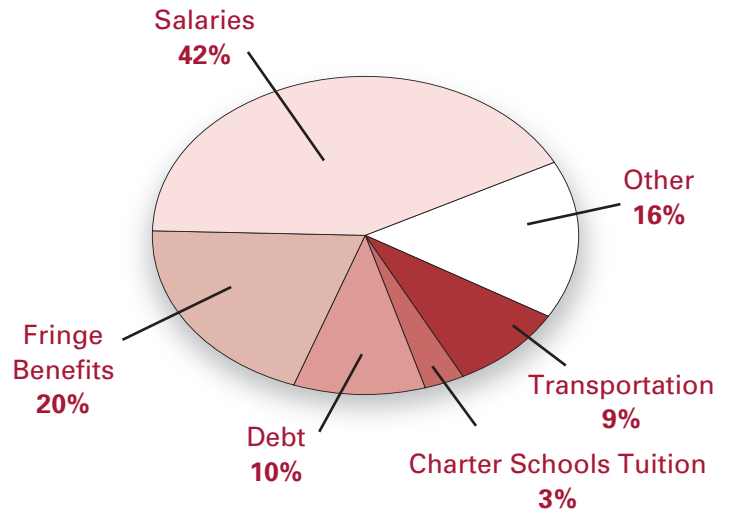
### Senior Citizen School Tax Exemption Information

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

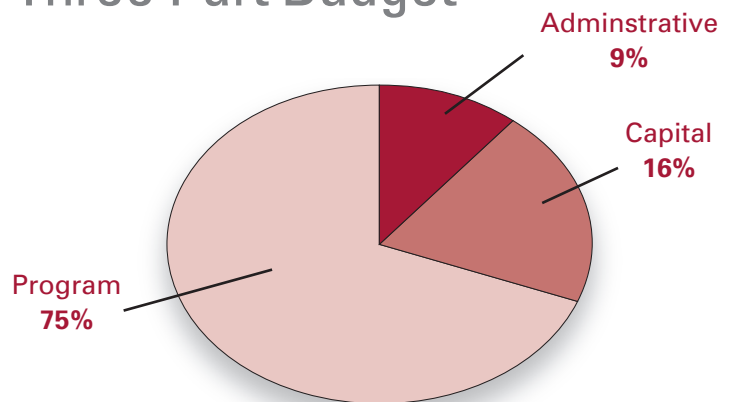
The Lansingburgh School District will allow a percentage school tax exemption on real property owned by persons 65 years of age or over. Taxpayers must meet the statutory qualifications set forth in Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York. The annual income scale and the tax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

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

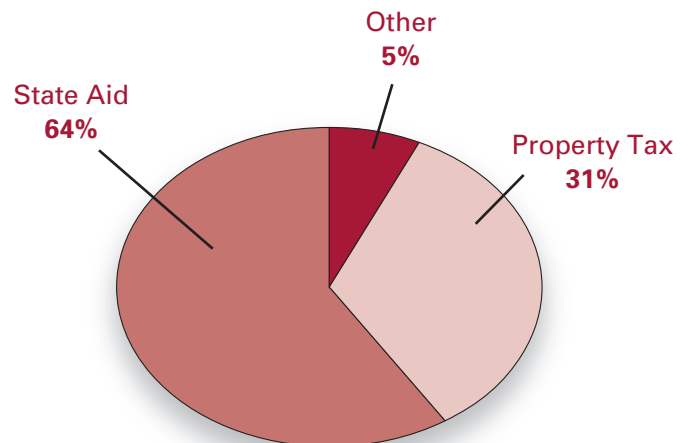
## 2020 – 2021 Proposed Budget



## Three Part Budget



## 2020 – 2021 Revenue



## An Inside Look at Remote Learning

The past few months have been an unprecedented time for Lansingburgh students, families and teachers as they shifted to remote learning. We spoke to a handful of our educators about the experience so far, how they've adapted teaching methods, some challenges of it and why parents/caregivers are more important than ever.

This is only a small sampling of teacher voices,\* but know the entire Lansingburgh staff continues going above and beyond every day for our students during these times.

\*Responses are condensed and edited for space.

### How did you prepare for remote learning when you realized schools would close long term?

**Abby Rock** (*Turnpike Elementary*): "We took into consideration the grade levels of the children we teach (PK-2) at Turnpike and knew we had to be flexible with families based on their individual needs. We decided to work in pairs to prepare lessons for each subject, then we'd regroup to discuss what we planned and give feedback. We also meet every Monday and discuss what we're focusing on that week."

**David Hamilton & Jamie Desso** (*Rensselaer Park Elementary*): "Our big concern was that our students and parents had what they needed to be engaged. When it became clear we were in this for the long run, we knew we had to become even more creative in finding ways to reach all of them."

**Angela Mauriello** (*Knickerbacker Middle School*): "Our grade level team, individual team (Blue Team) and department team (ELA) each met virtually to split up work, decide on the most important focuses and how to contact families."

**Justine Fazziola** (*Lansingburgh High School*): "I had a feeling from the beginning we'd be out longer than 2 weeks, so I made a point to never lose contact with my students. I used Google Classroom to stay in touch and continue assignments that we'd started in the building. Then when we went to fully remote learning it was a smooth shift."

### How was the experience in those early weeks?

**Abby Rock** (*TES*): "We reset expectations. We're used to seeing and interacting with students every day and suddenly we weren't. It took a lot of patience on both ends and sometimes I'd stay logged and do whole activities with a student. After that they felt accomplished and better understood what each day would look like."

**David Hamilton & Jamie Desso** (*RPES*): "At first we were in a bit of shock that this was happening. We quickly shifted focus to what resources we had to assist our students and families, spent longer hours collaborating and planning than during a "regular" work week."

**Angela Mauriello** (*KMS*): "There was so much to do and in ways I had little experience with. I had a lot to learn and fast. Thankfully the district provided clear guidelines, instructional videos, and support! If not for clear directives from administration, support from our IT Director, IT TOSA (Teacher On Special Assignment) and Curriculum Coordinator I would have been lost."

**Justine Fazziola** (*LHS*): "My first foray into Google Meet wasn't pretty. My whole family is at home and the Internet couldn't keep up. We got a wi-fi booster so we could all work at the same time. Now that my student attendance is up and my internet connection is solid, I conduct class and ask questions in real time."

### What have been some unique remote learning challenges? How do you face them?

**Abby Rock** (*TES*): "It's important that these grade levels (PK-2) are given time to interact with one another, they want to talk with each other. I schedule share time in my Google Meets and give them each an opportunity to share and make comments to one another. I mute them if they're not the speaker and if they want to respond to each other they raise their hand like in the real classroom."

**David Hamilton & Jamie Desso** (*RPES*): "One of the challenges was getting every student and family engaged into this new way of learning. Prior to this, 3rd graders had very little experience with Google Classroom and Google Meet. However, it's helped having a good rapport and several ways in which families can easily communicate with us on a consistent basis."

**Angela Mauriello** (*KMS*): "We have 85 students on the Blue Team, so getting all of them to participate can be an occasional challenge. Thankfully the Team works really well together and we've been able to share the work of keeping in contact with the students and their families."

**Justine Fazziola** (*LHS*): "Some of my students have jobs as essential workers, so they have to organize their school and work schedules. Some of their employers don't realize that even though the school buildings are closed, school and learning for the students is not."

### Are there advantages to remote learning?

**Abby Rock** (*TES*): "Some very shy students in the classroom have actually been more vocal in class discussions during our Google Meets."

**David Hamilton & Jamie Desso** (*RPES*): "Remote learning has made us come out of our comfort zone and learn innovative ways to connect with students and families."

**Angela Mauriello** (*KMS*): "I'm learning to incorporate technology in ways I wasn't before. Also, our team worked well together before school closures, but our bonds seem deeper now in some way. When I'm stressed or unsure, I reach out and they remind me I'm not alone."

**Justine Fazziola** (*LHS*): "My students are becoming so much more independent. Normally, one of the biggest obstacles I face in the classroom is getting students to start a writing assignment without me giving them an idea. Since we're seeing each other less frequently, they have to rely more on their own brains. I am so proud of the independent writing that they're producing."

### How important have parents and caregivers been throughout?

**Abby Rock** (*TES*): "Touching base with every parent/caregiver everyday is the new norm. I want them to know I'm here for them and remote learning has actually made me closer to many of them. We've gotten to know each other very well as the weeks go on. I lean on them and they lean on me. It's important to remember not only are they helping their children learn at home, but some are still working and taking care of daily needs for their family."

**David Hamilton & Jamie Desso** (*RPES*): "They are the heroes in all of this! They've played such a huge part in remote learning. It's a learning process for them as well and it's been amazing seeing them step up to the challenges of remote learning. Rather than complaining, they wanted to help do what was right for their child. With this shift to a new way of learning, students, parents and teachers are working closer together than ever."



**Angela Mauriello** (*KMS*): "They are vital to the success of remote learning. Our team reaches out weekly, if not daily. Several teachers have one-on-one meetings with parents/caregivers to help them better help their child. We even delivered a Chromebook to a student who was unable to do a pick-up at school."

**Justine Fazziola** (*LHS*): "They're an enormous asset since they're doing the motivating that teachers usually do in the classroom. The students are so capable but we encourage parents/caregivers to check-in on their Google Classroom to make sure that they're not falling behind. If they are, we're here to help and they can reach out to us whenever for assistance with keeping them on track."

### What are effective lessons or tools you've used?

**David Hamilton & Jamie Desso** (*RPES*): "The students miss the normalcy of seeing your face, your personality, your energy that you bring day-to-day when teaching, so creating our video lessons through Google Meet has played a huge advantage in staying connected with students."

**Angela Mauriello** (*KMS*): "We're using parts of the writing process to create short stories or paragraphs. Students have written about what it would be like to be quarantined with anyone they wanted, random acts of kindness they participate in, interviewing a family member as story starting prompts."

**Justine Fazziola** (*LHS*): "With the Regents canceled, it freed us up to do a project I've always been interested in. Students wrote essays modeled on Edward R. Murrow's series of personal essays from the 1950s, where Americans wrote about deeply held beliefs that shape their lives. This project helped me feel so connected to them even though we are physically far apart."

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

# BUDGET VOTE

BUDGET AND  
EDUCATION  
ELECTION VOTE

**TUESDAY**  
**JUNE 9, 2020**

By Absentee  
Ballot **ONLY**



## Board of Education

Mr. Jason Shover, *President*  
Mr. Michael Cusack, *Vice President*  
Mr. Carl Walp, Jr.  
Mrs. Michelle Speanburg  
Mrs. Kelley Bristol  
Mrs. Marie Cole  
Mr. Jeffrey White  
Mr. James Spear  
Mr. Robert Morris  
Dr. Antonio Abitabile, *Superintendent of Schools*

*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.*

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots, if delivered in person, must be delivered to the District Office by 5:00 p.m. on June 9. Absentee ballots, if mailed, must be received by the District Clerk by June 9 at 5:00 p.m. Absentee ballots can be picked up from the District Clerk, 55 New Turnpike Road.