



HAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

MAY 2014

Building Activities



Elementary School - 100th Day of School



Elementary School - Musical



Middle School - Speaker from
Rochester Broadway Theatre League



Middle School - Students in Library



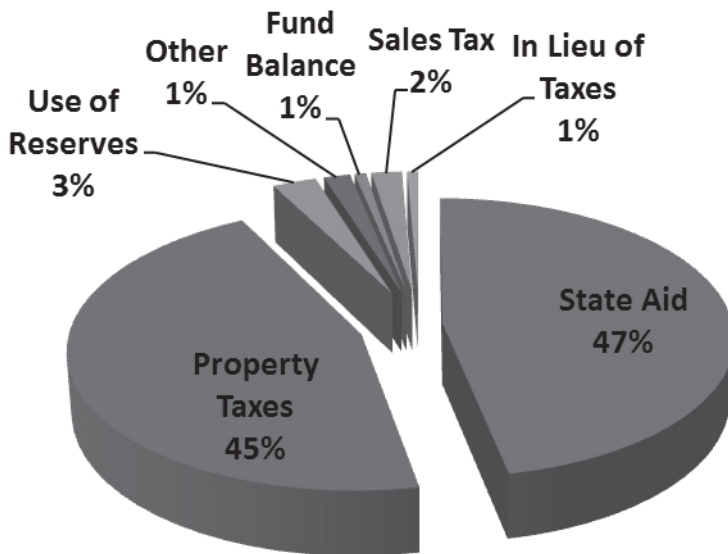
High School - "Meet Me In St. Louis"



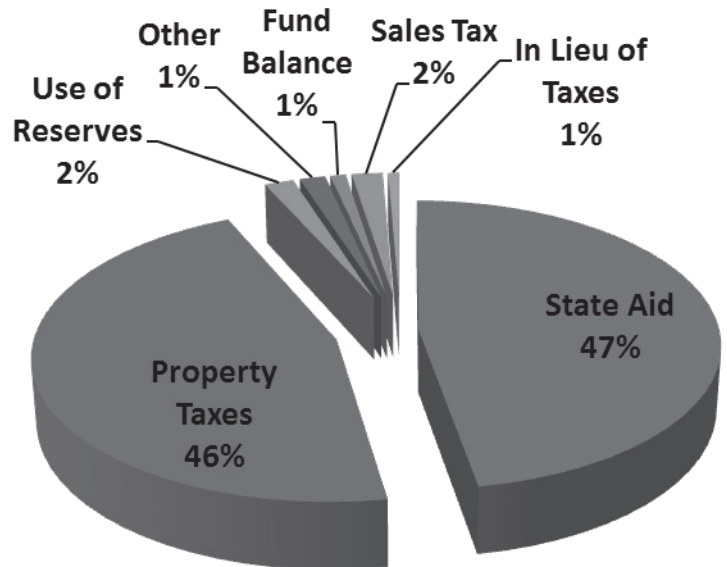
High School - Senior Trip

Revenue Comparison

TOTAL REVENUE 2013-2014
\$21,051,455



TOTAL REVENUE 2014-2015
\$21,380,767



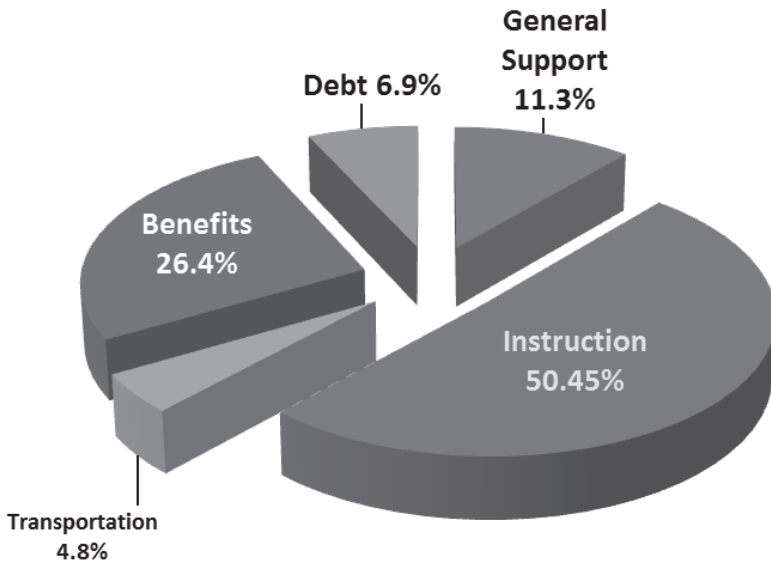
- Our total State Aid increase is 2.46% higher than last year
- The amount of State Aid is less than it was six years ago
- We are using an additional \$375,000 from our reserve funds to help balance the budget
- The tax levy is within the tax cap limit set by the state

The 2014-2015 estimated tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value is \$24.78

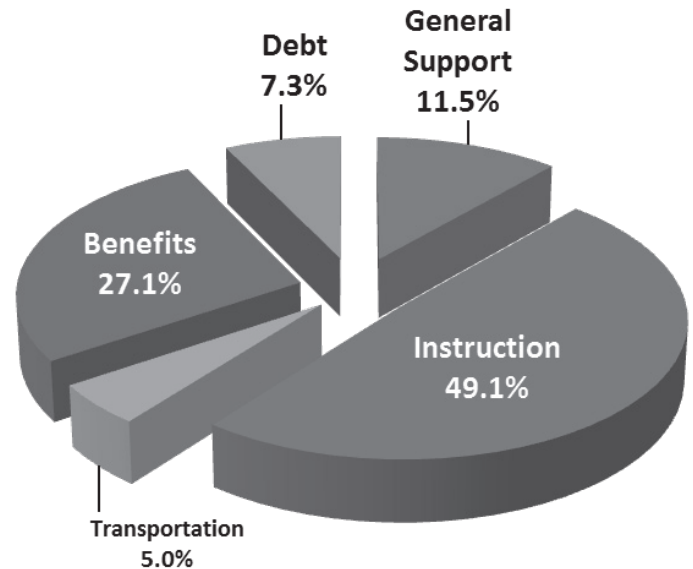
An increase of \$0.63

Budget Comparisons

TOTAL BUDGET 2013-2014
\$21,051,455



TOTAL BUDGET 2014-2015
\$21,380,767



- The budget reflects an increase of 1.56% over last year and just 3.3% over the last seven years
- We cut 14 positions this year and over 40 positions over the last five years
- For a house assessed at \$100,000, the tax increase is estimated to be \$63

Did you re-apply for your STAR exemption?

The deadline to reapply for the Basic STAR exemption was extended. The Basic STAR exemption saves the average homeowner approximately \$732 in their school tax bill. Basic STAR is available for owner-occupied primary residences where the resident owner and spouse income is less than \$500,000. This exempts the first \$30,000 of the full value of the home from school taxes.

An example of the savings:

Without STAR a homeowner would pay \$24.78 per \$1,000 taxable assessed value

With STAR a homeowner would pay \$17.35 per \$1,000 taxable assessed value

For more information visit www.tax.ny.gov or by calling (518) 457-2036

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2013-14 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2014-15 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2014-15 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 21,051,455	\$ 21,380,767	\$ 21,349,224
Increase/Decrease for the 2014-15 School Year		\$ 329,312	\$ 297,769
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.56%	1.41%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.46%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	\$9,582,184	\$9,830,767	\$9,582,184
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$196,287	\$ 71,614	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$9,385,897	\$9,385,897	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$9,521,082	\$9,521,082	
Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$-135,185	\$-135,185	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,282,383	\$ 2,271,849	\$ 2,265,960
Program Component	\$ 15,612,718	\$ 15,787,971	\$ 15,777,750
Capital Component	\$ 3,156,354	\$ 3,320,947	\$ 3,305,514
* Should the proposed budget be defeated and the above contingency budget be adopted, the initial cuts as required by law would be eliminating certain equipment and community use of facilities. Additional cuts may be required to conform to spending caps which would come from programs as determined by the Board of Education at the time of adoption.			
List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)	Description		Amount

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2014-15 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 732

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2014-15 by the qualified voters of the Williamson School District, Wayne County, New York, will be held at the Williamson Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

New York State School Report Card

The New York State School Report Card is designed to provide information to the public on student achievement. The information below compares Williamson students' performance on state assessments to the performance of students in public schools across the state in relation to the established New York State Standards.

The numbers listed below reflect the percentages of students who achieved scores on New York State assessments that indicate they are meeting the State Standards according to the New York State guidelines that were adjusted in 2010. New York State Assessments were revised in 2013. The Elementary and Middle School charts reflect the performance of students in third through eighth grade who participated in the State assessments in the spring of 2013. For the high school, the numbers reflect the percentages of students who first entered grade 9 in 2009 who have achieved scores of 65-100 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics Regents Exams.

Williamson students have exceeded the performance of students in New York State Public Schools in some of the areas measured and are consistent with the performance of New York State Public Schools in others. The Middle School, Elementary School and the district are considered to be in good standing according to New York State Education Department Accountability Guidelines.

Williamson Elementary School English Language Arts

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 3 English Language Arts	24%	31%
Grade 4 English Language Arts	29%	30%

Williamson Elementary School Mathematics

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 3 Mathematics	38%	34%
Grade 4 Mathematics	50%	36%

Williamson Middle School English Language Arts

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 5 English Language Arts	30%	30%
Grade 6 English Language Arts	36%	30%
Grade 7 English Language Arts	31%	31%
Grade 8 English Language Arts	45%	34%

Williamson Middle School Mathematics

	Williamson	NYS Public Schools
Grade 5 Mathematics	38%	30%
Grade 6 Mathematics	27%	31%
Grade 7 Mathematics	28%	28%
Grade 8 Mathematics	18%	28%

Williamson High School

English Language Arts 2009 Cohort
Williamson High School: 80%
NYS Public Schools: 81%

Mathematics 2009 Cohort
Williamson High School: 86%
NYS Public Schools: 82%

THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION 1: BUDGET 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Shall the proposed budget for the 2014-15 school year in the amount of \$21,380,767 be approved and shall the transfer of \$100,000 from the Liability Reserve Fund be used to support the 2014-15 proposed budget?

REGARDING PROPOSITION 1

SPENDING FROM THE LIABILITY RESERVE FUND FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE INTENDED PURPOSE REQUIRES VOTER APPROVAL. THE \$100,000 FROM THE LIABILITY FUND WILL BE USED TO OFFSET THE BUDGET.

THE BUDGET IS WITHIN THE TAX CAP LIMIT.

PROPOSITION 2: BUS PURCHASE

Shall the Board of Education of the Williamson Central School District be authorized to undertake the acquisition of two school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$179,500, less trade-in value, if any, and to appropriate and expend \$35,000 from the existing 2013 Bus Purchase Reserve Fund for such costs, and that the balance of such costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the School District as may be necessary not to exceed \$144,500 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the school district to finance the purchase in that method.

REGARDING PROPOSITION 2

PURCHASE TWO SCHOOL BUSES (ONE 28 PASSENGER VAN AND ONE LARGE BUS) WITH THE COST COVERED BY RESERVES AND STATE AID WITH **NO INCREASE IN TAXES**.

BUDGET VOTE:

**May 20, 2014 – Middle School Cafeteria
1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**



Board of Education Candidate - Angela DeFisher

My name is Angela DeFisher and I am a candidate for the Williamson Central School District Board of Education. I was raised in a military family and spent my childhood living in a number of different communities, both in the United States and overseas. I first made Western New York my home in the mid-1990's, attending college and eventually moving to the Rochester area to begin my career. I have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Niagara University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from St. John Fisher College, and have been employed at Xerox in Webster for almost eighteen years. During my time at Xerox, I have had a variety of job responsibilities including finance, management, manufacturing, logistics, and planning. I became a resident of the District eleven years ago, moving here after my husband, Dave and I were married in 2003. We have three young sons—Thomas, age 10, is a fourth grader at the Elementary School, Matthew, age 8½, is a third grader at the Elementary School, and David, age 4 ½, will attend kindergarten at the Elementary School this Fall.

Since our oldest son began attending school in Williamson, I have been active and involved in the school community, volunteering in the classroom regularly and helping with a variety of PTSA activities and events. As a result of some of my first PTSA experiences, I was approached about serving on the Board of Education, and eagerly embraced the opportunity to serve my community in a broader manner. As a Board member, I have been able to work with other organizations both in the District as well as in the larger community, including the District Safety Committee, Curriculum Council, Williamson Rec Committee and Williamson Park Committee. Working with the students, staff, administrators, Board of Education, and other community members has broadened my perspective, introduced me to many new people, and strengthened my belief that we live in a remarkable community with an exceptional group of people who tirelessly dedicate themselves to our students and our community with determination, professionalism and integrity every day.

At the heart of all of this great work is a propensity to do what's best for our children and provide them with outstanding educational opportunities to enable their success and the future successes of our community, all while facing some of the most significant challenges and changes our public education system has seen in many years. I would like to continue to be an active, positive participant in these systemic changes, representing the Williamson community and its children, its future. I also urge you as members of the community to become informed, engaged and involved. Working together, we can influence and affect positive change and ensure success for our students and community.

I am both honored and humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve on the Board for the past three years. We have much to be proud of as a school district and a community, but there is always more work to be done, more forward progress to be made. I respectfully look forward to serving our students and community for a second term on the Williamson Central School District Board of Education and ask for your vote on Tuesday, May 20th.

Thank you for your support,
Angela DeFisher



Board of Education Candidate – Robert Wendler

I am pleased to have the opportunity to run for the Williamson Central School Board of Education. If elected, it would be my third term on the board. I have been employed at Excellus BCBS for 11 years. My family and I have lived in the district for approximately 8 years. The school district was the main reason my family chose to live in Williamson. I live on Main Street with my wife of 20 years, Erica. We have three children, Bobby (22 yo), a Williamson graduate now graduating from St. John Fisher, Anton (15 yo), and Evan (12 yo). My wife and I have found that Bobby was well prepared to compete with graduates from the larger districts when entering college, thanks to the quality education he received here in Williamson.

Over the past six years, I have worked with my fellow board members to help support the administrative team in continuing our academic excellence under the ever increasing pressure of state funding shortfalls. It is my priority to represent all of the constituents in the community and keep the education of our children at the forefront of every decision we make. I believe we had a successful transition to our new superintendent and will work to support him and his team as they move forward with new leadership at the high school. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve the district for another three years. Serving on the board has been both an exciting challenge and one of the most rewarding opportunities I have taken part in.

Thank you for your continued support,
Robert Wendler

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Spring is a time of renewal and rejuvenation. We have had a long hard winter that has taken its toll on all of us in one way or another. Signs of spring have been few and far between, a slow renewal and rejuvenation. However, spring will come, the flowers will bloom, summer will follow and all will be well. This long hard winter and slow to come spring are metaphors for the fiscal climate we have been experiencing since the beginning of the recession, from which time we have lost over 7 million dollars in state aid, we have had a tax cap imposed on us, and we have seen additional unfunded mandates from the state.



*Greg Macaluso
Superintendent of Schools*

The governor's budget proposal was grim for public schools in New York State. Luckily, the legislative bodies came out with budget proposals that increased aid to districts over what the governor proposed. For that we are thankful. Our local legislators understand the position we are in and are working with us to get state aid restored to appropriate levels. Unlike the certainty of the seasons changing, we must advocate for our budget climate to change. We have been working at this and will continue. Please keep this in mind, and get involved as you hear of opportunities to inform the legislative body as to how imperative this is.

As you review the budget documents enclosed in this edition of "What's Happening", you will notice that, once again, we have had to lay off many valuable employees in order to balance the budget. These layoffs, along with additional cuts to the budget, are the harsh reality of the difficult fiscal climate we are in. However, there is hope on the horizon and we have managed to balance the budget and maintain a high quality program. We have dedicated employees in our district who are committed to the children of this community. Their passion drives them to get the job done in the face of diminishing resources. Spring will come . . . summer will follow . . . as long as we stand together as a community and advocate for what is right.

Williamson Central School
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