



HAT'S HAPPENING

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

MAY 2016

Building Activities



Elementary School - James Howe, renowned author of children's books such as Bunnicula and Pinky and Rex, visited on Friday March 11th.



Elementary School - Mrs. Picha's 4th grade class held a tea party to celebrate the reading of the American Girls story Meet Felicity. Students made and contributed their own colonial times snacks for the tea party.



Middle School - 6th Grader showing his Rube Goldberg project



Middle School - 8th Graders Reading The Future of Us by Jay Asher and Carolyn Mackeller

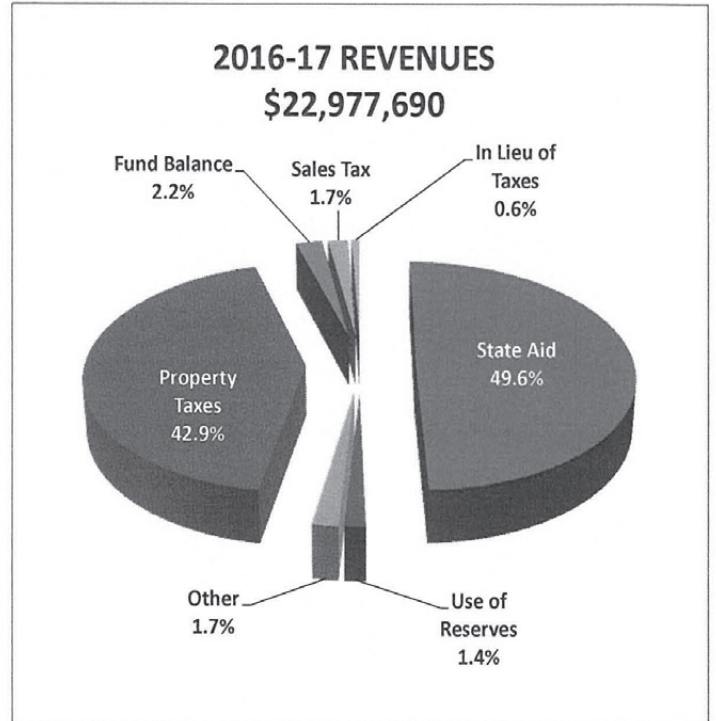
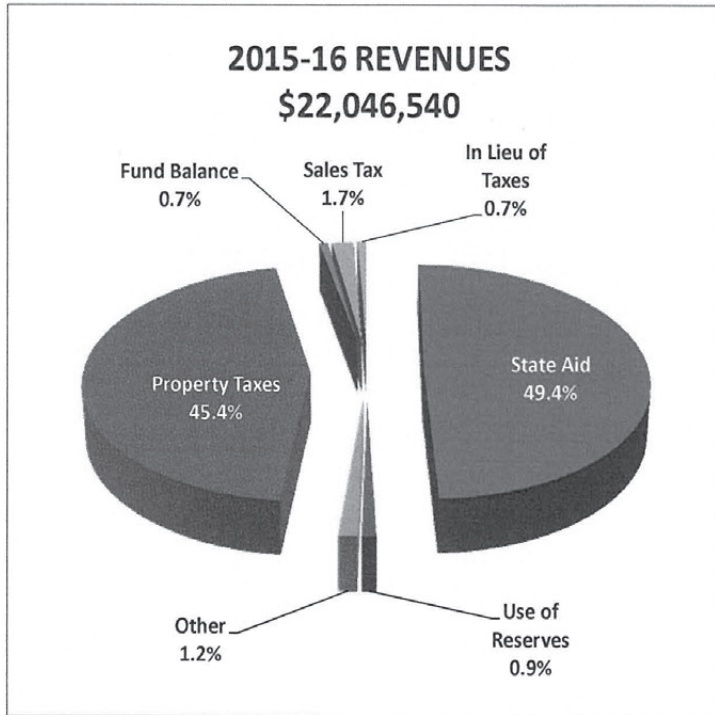


High School - Project Urge



High School - Students on French Trip

Revenue Comparisons



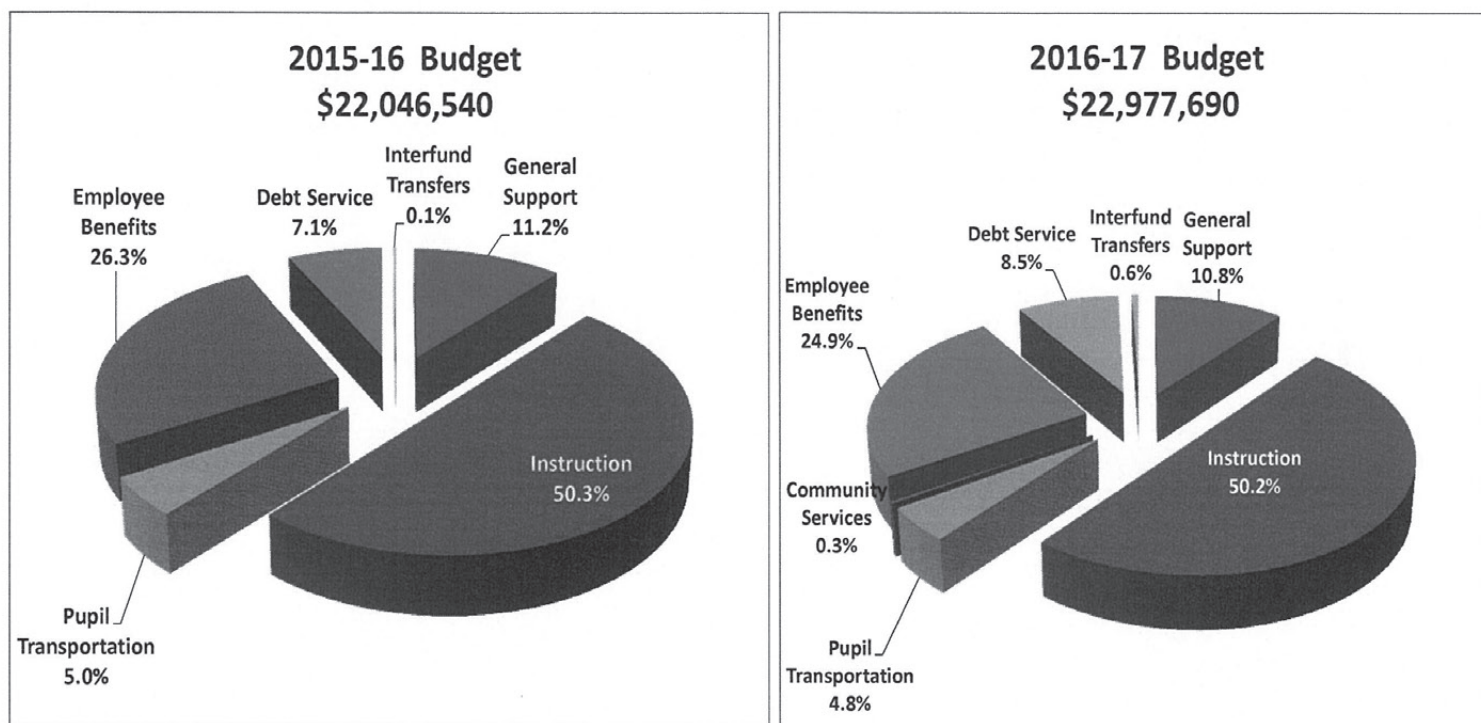
Our total 2016-17 State Aid reflects an increase of 4.5% over 2015-16.

The Property Tax Levy will decrease 1.56%. The school tax rate is expected to decrease approximately 1.9%.

The Budget is being supported with \$311,000 from reserves.

**The 2016-17 estimated tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value is \$24.57.
This is a decrease of \$0.47.**

Budget Comparisons



The budget reflects an increase of 4.22% over last year. 1.56% of this increase is being funded through the District's Fund Balance to cover early retirement of outstanding debt and for the proposed \$100,000 miniproject for restoration work at the Middle School Building.

A decrease in retirement costs along with lower than expected health insurance cost increase has resulted in significant savings for the District. In addition, lower utility and fuel costs have helped reduce costs in these areas.

STAR Exemption Information

The Basic STAR Exemption saves the average homeowner approximately \$762 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 STAR savings:

Without STAR, a homeowner would pay \$25.25 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.
With STAR, a homeowner would pay \$17.68 per \$1,000 of 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 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 22,046,540	\$ 22,977,690	\$ 22,827,089
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$ 931,150	\$ 780,549
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.22 %	3.54%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 10,007,540	\$ 9,851,582	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 10,007,540	\$ 9,851,582	\$ 9,700,981
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 10,033,786	\$ 10,082,788	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$ 10,007,540	\$ 9,851,582	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 26,246	\$ 231,206	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,358,173	\$ 2,397,823	\$ 2,389,077
Program Component	\$ 16,334,395	\$ 16,820,610	\$ 16,694,188
Capital Component	\$ 3,353,972	\$ 3,759,257	\$ 3,743,824
* 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 educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	Description	Amount	

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 762

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-17 by the qualified voters of the Williamson Central School District, Wayne County, New York, will be held at the Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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

THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION 1 – 2016-2017 BUDGET

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Williamson Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of \$22,977,690 as a general fund appropriation for the 2016-17 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

REGARDING PROPOSITION 1

THE BUDGET IS WITHIN THE TAX CAP LIMIT.

PROPOSITION 2 – BUS PURCHASE

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Williamson Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of four 65-passenger school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$486,500, less trade-in value, if any, and to appropriate and expend from the existing bus purchase reserve fund \$125,000 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 \$361,500 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 AND REPLACEMENT OF 4 LARGE 65 PASSENGER BUSES WITH THE COST COVERED BY STATE AID AND FROM BUS RESERVE FUND RESULTING IN **NO INCREASE TO TAXES.**

Williamson Central School District



2015 Regents Exam Report Card

	English Language Arts (Common Core)	Geometry (Common Core)	Algebra 1 (Common Core)	Algebra 2/Trigonometry	Global History and Geography	US History & Government	Physical Setting /Earth Science	Living Environment	Physical Setting/Chemistry	Physical Setting/Physics
Total Tested	74	75	71	58	103	88	122	78	62	16
Percent at Level 1	4%	13%	1%							
Percent at Level 2	5%	16%	15%							
Percent at Level 3	26%	51%	54%							
Percent at Level 4	8%	12%	21%							
Percent at Level 5	57%	8%	8%							
Percent scoring at 55 or higher				90%	94%	94%	94%	94%	90%	88%
Percent scoring at 65 or higher				81%	83%	91%	89%	88%	74%	75%
Percent scoring at 85 or higher				33%	46%	55%	38%	40%	19%	63%



Board of Education Candidate - Jamie Peters Sonnevile

I am a lifelong resident in the town of Williamson and appreciate the quality education I received as a student in this School District. I graduated from Williamson in 2000 and moved on to complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Communication (Cum Laude) from Cornell University. Following graduation, I became a graduate teaching assistant for the Cornell Department of Education while completing my Master's degree. During my tenure at Cornell, I received the Anson E. Rowe Scholarship, recognizing a student who excels in research productivity, teaching excellence, and supports community service initiatives. After college, I returned home and

worked at WCS for eight years as the Technology Integration Specialist and then Director of Technology. I also served as the District Claims Auditor for five years. Two years ago, I followed my dreams and founded itClix, a technology consulting and training business in Pultneyville. I am also currently the Director of Technology for the Newark Central School District. My husband, Jason, and I own Lakeville Orchards, an ever-evolving fruit growing operation. I have been a lifelong member of the Pultneyville Reformed Church, served on the Town of Williamson Recreation Committee, taught courses for the WCS Adult Education program, and volunteered for the Town of Williamson.

With two young sons, the time is right for me to give back to the community in which I live. I believe that my diverse roles in the community, my educational tenure and awards, and my professional experience will complement the Board of Education team. Williamson Central School District has always been one of the best in the county and I want to help ensure that tradition continues, well into the future.

My sons are just beginning their school experience and while my youngest has yet to enter, my oldest is completing his kindergarten year. My interest is to ensure that my children and all children in this District have access to the same quality of education that was available to me. While today's education may look different than the one I received, I believe the role of education is to make lifelong learners of our children. In the 21st century, this means teaching critical thinking and problem solving while also focusing on project-based learning. Graduates will be competing for jobs with not only their peers here in the US, but with their peers around the globe. The need for a world class education has never been greater, but yet it requires a delicate balance between fiscal responsibility and strategic planning to reach our goals. Over the past few years, the budgets here in Williamson have been challenging. I pledge to advocate for equality in funding for our district so that we can lessen the tax burden and still achieve our educational goals.

I eagerly look forward to serving on the Williamson Central School District Board of Education and thank you for your support and your vote on Tuesday, May 17th.



Board of Education Candidate - Michael L. Collins

I am honored to have the opportunity to run for re-election for a trustee position on the Williamson Central School District Board of Education. I have been a member of the BOE since 2004, currently serving as president, a position I have held for several terms. As you can imagine, the pace of change has accelerated. As a school district and a community, we have weathered many challenges and celebrated countless successes. Through it all, we have focused on our imperative of "doing what's right for children." We are a healthy, vibrant community of life-long learners; but we are never complacent. It takes the talents and dedication of everyone to make sure we continue to move forward.

My experience has taught me the importance of collaborative leadership and the value of listening in order to make informed decisions. My family has grown up here and both of our children attended WCS K-12 (and Mrs. Kay's Preschool). I graduated magna cum laude from Nazareth College. My career has included extensive experience in marketing, advertising, and public relations. I have served on several non-profit boards and continue to work on committees for organizations that are committed to preparing and training our students for good paying, sustainable jobs in advanced manufacturing and related industries throughout our region.

Whether our students aspire to college, the military or immediately joining the workforce, I sincerely believe that education and continuous learning, from the earliest grades to graduation and beyond, are critical factors for success. I am committed to representing the interests of our entire community to ensure our children receive an education that is both fulfilling and relevant.

Thank you for your continued support. Be sure to vote on Tuesday May 17.

Board of Education Candidate - Caroline Jackson



I have been a resident of Williamson for 15 years. My husband John and I chose Williamson because of its great educational reputation, and witnessed it firsthand through the experiences of our three children. Our daughter Ashley started here in 2nd grade and graduated in 2012. Thanks to various opportunities she received here, she went on to graduate a year early with a Bachelors Degree from Nazareth College. She is now an Art Director/Designer at an advocacy-marketing firm in Rochester. Our sons Lucas, 8th grade, and Matthew, 6th grade, both currently attend Williamson Middle School. While their educational instruction will be different than Ashley's, I am certain the support and opportunities our district provides will result in both of them being successful. I have been a CSE parent representative, classroom volunteer, on the high school building planning team, PTSA treasurer, Box Tops for Education Coordinator, and was the Williamson Recreation Committee's treasurer for several years. Williamson has been the foundation for my family, and I feel so honored to be part of the incredible, supportive district and community we have. While we as a Board have made a significant amount of progress in the last few years, there is much more to accomplish. After a long battle with Albany, we've attained full restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), but are still fighting for the equitable distribution of state aid. We've had changes in our Administration and staffing, NYS testing, APPR, Special Education, Common Core instruction, and more. We've been able to introduce the Pathways program to our students at the high school and are always looking for ways to offer our students more opportunities. We have endured some tough budgets over the years, but have always kept the students and taxpayers' needs a priority.

They say being a school board member is a thankless job. I couldn't disagree more. While we don't get paid for what we do monetarily, our reward is to watch our students grow, graduate and become successful, responsible adults. My focus has always been-and will continue to be-the well being of our students, families, staff, taxpayers and community.

I look forward to serving our students and community for a third term on the Williamson Central School District Board of Education. On Tuesday, May 17th, I ask for your vote so that I may continue to work to ensure our students and community have the best opportunities for success.

Thank you for your support,
Caroline Jackson

Message from the Superintendent . . .

A Much Improved Budget Picture

Spring brings us a refreshing sense of relief from the harsh cold of winter. It is a time of renewal. A time to plant, plan, and enjoy being outside and active. Spring is also budget season and for many years past did not mirror the refreshing theme of springtime. For many years the Williamson Central School District faced harsh reductions in state aid through the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and frozen foundation aid levels. Coupled with a property tax cap, we had no way of leveling off increases in revenues to keep up with rising expenditures.

Last year's budget showed some improvements and for the first time since 2008 we did not have to cut staff or programs. In fact, we were actually able to do some rebuilding. This year's state budget is even better. The governor's initial budget did not look favorably on school districts; however, our state legislators took a stand for education and got the job done by increasing the amount of money in the budget for schools and by finally eliminating the crippling GEA. I am very grateful for their efforts.

As a result of a better budget season we will be adding some key positions to our staff next year as we work to rebuild our program. With your support in passing the budget we will be adding more support at each building for Academic Intervention Services (AIS), additional support for special education, as well as for our art and music programs. The faculty, staff and administration have been doing a great job over the past several years of "doing more with less." It is refreshing to see a long overdue time of renewal. I wish you all a happy, healthy, and productive spring.



Greg Macaluso
Superintendent of Schools

**BUDGET VOTE: May 17, 2016 – Middle School Cafeteria
1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

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