



MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Edition 2024

VOTE

DATE OF ELECTION

May 21, 2024

Noon to 9:00PM

Marcellus High School Auditorium

1 Mustang Hill
Marcellus, New York

BUDGET HEARING

May 13, 2024

6:00PM

Marcellus High School

Large Group Instruction Room

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- District resident for at least 30 days prior to vote
- No voter registration required

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTERS

Obtain an application on the district website, via email at colearly@marcellusschools.org, or at the district office by calling (315) 673-6000. Applications must be returned by May 13 if the absentee or early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter or by May 20 if the ballot will be picked up by the voter. Ballots must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21.

Dear Marcellus Community,

On Tuesday, May 21st, Marcellus Central School District residents will vote on the district's proposed \$41,709,230 budget for the 2024-2025 school year. The budget calls for a 3.75% increase in spending and includes a tax levy increase of 3.60%, which is slightly less than our calculated tax levy cap of 3.62%. Because the increase in the levy is less than the calculated cap, a simple majority approval is required for passage of the 2024-2025 budget.

"When we kicked off the budget development process in January we had a projected budget gap of \$669,526," Business Administrator Anthony Sonnacchio said. "As details unfolded and efficiencies were identified, we were able to mitigate the gap." The fiscal plan maintains existing programs, including funding for our Universal Pre-Kindergarten classrooms. Like you, as a district, we are experiencing challenges related to inflationary costs. We are committed to providing our students with excellent programming, and at the same time are keenly aware of the need to remain fiscally responsible. To that end, our administrative team worked diligently to assess our staffing needs. As the budget process progressed we were able to identify opportunities to reduce staff primarily through attrition and maintain quality programming for our students.

Our school community has seen several improvements to our facilities over the past calendar year. Locker room renovations and auditorium/gymnasium window replacement were completed at the Driver Middle School. Reconfiguration and paving of the roadways and high school parking lot have been a welcome change. In addition to a designated student drop off location, the increased number of parking spaces has been helpful to parents and community members coming to campus for events. Construction of the Career Exploration and Agricultural Science building has begun. The foundation is taking shape for this flexible space that will house our Agriculture and other Career and Technical Education programs.

Residents will also elect two members to the Board of Education, decide on a proposition to replace two sixty-six passenger school buses and one thirty passenger school bus, and decide on the Marcellus Free Library's proposition to increase their funding by 2.8% in 2024-2025. We have four community members running for the two open Board of Education seats. Profiles for each candidate can be found on the last page of this document.

Voting will take place in the Senior High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 21st from noon until 9:00 PM. Applications for absentee and early voting ballots are also available on the district's website, via email at colearly@marcellusschools.org, or by contacting the district office at 315-673-6009.



Revenue Summary *(where the money comes from)*

	2023-2024 Budget	% of 2023-2024	2024-2025 Proposed	% of 2024-2025
State Aid	15,804,844	39.3%	16,338,408	39.2%
Federal Aid	58,000	0.1%	58,000	0.1%
Other Revenue	949,283	2.4%	1,149,283	2.8%
Use of Reserves	1,887,862	4.7%	1,887,862	4.5%
Property Taxes	21,502,474	53.5%	22,275,677	53.4%
Total	40,202,463	100%	41,709,230	100%



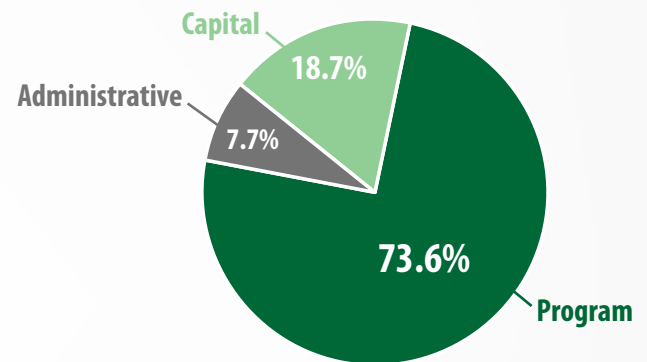
THREE-PART BUDGET

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories: Administrative, program and capital.

Administrative: includes expenses for Board of Education, central administration, finance and legal services, personnel, public information, some facilities operations, central services, special items, supervision of regular school and some employee benefits.

Program: includes expenses for curriculum development, instructional programs, supplies, district information, athletic programs, community service, most employee benefits and transfers of funds.

Capital: includes most expenses for facilities operations, all maintenance, debt service principal and interest on all building projects.



Expenditure Summary	2023-24 Adopted	2024-25 Adopted	\$ Change
Administrative Improvement	1,103,617	1,075,738	(27,879)
Board of Education	37,666	28,975	(8,691)
Central Administration	182,214	189,277	7,063
Central Services	99,081	93,321	(5,760)
Community Service	1,040	1,050	10
Debt Service	3,814,293	4,420,917	606,624
Employee Benefits	10,180,441	10,684,191	503,750
Finance	414,913	420,806	5,893
Instructional Media	1,527,094	1,577,061	49,967
Maintenance	2,399,680	2,472,068	72,388
Pupil Services	2,316,527	2,458,300	141,773
Special Items	350,017	391,452	41,435
Staff	182,401	179,362	(3,039)
Teaching	15,423,687	15,579,416	155,729
Transportation	1,939,792	1,907,296	(32,496)
Interfund Transfers	230,000	230,000	–
Total	40,202,463	41,709,230	1,506,767

Spending Summary (*where the money goes*)

	Three-Part Budget 2023-24 (Proposed)	% of 2023-24 Total	Three-Part Budget 2024-25 (Proposed)	% of 2024-25 Total	Dollar Change
Administrative	3,193,678	7.9%	3,217,273	7.7%	23,595
Program	29,946,295	74.5%	30,694,676	73.6%	748,381
Capital	7,062,490	17.6%	7,797,281	18.7%	734,791
Total	40,202,463	100.0%	41,709,230	100.0%	1,506,767



Proposition #1: Budget Adoption

"Shall the Board of Education of the Marcellus Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the total amount of \$41,709,230 for the 2024-2025 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

Proposition #3: Library Levy

"Shall the annual appropriation for the Marcellus Free Library be increased from its current level of \$563,600 per year to \$579,445 per year (an increase of \$15,845), to be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property within the Marcellus Central School District, in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law?"

Proposition #2: Purchase of Transportation Vehicles

"Shall the Board of Education ("Board") of the Marcellus Central School District ("District") be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles for a combined maximum estimated expenditure of \$516,605, and to obtain the necessary funds by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District, to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, to issue up to \$516,605 of obligations of the District?"

DEFEATED BUDGET COULD MEAN \$773,203 IN REDUCTIONS

If the proposed 2024-25 budget is defeated by voters May 21, the Marcellus Board of Education will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If voters reject the proposed budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

Adopting a contingent budget would prohibit Marcellus from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-union employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.

More significantly, under the law, if Marcellus adopts a contingent budget, the district would have to keep its 2024-25 tax levy the same as or less than its 2023-24 tax levy—in effect a 0 percent increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as the current year (or less) and as a result would—absent the use of additional reserve funds—need to reduce costs by \$773,203, without any adjustments for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, whether or not they are mandated.

WHERE DO MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES COME FROM?

Marcellus Central School District receives revenue to support its programming from several sources. The principal sources are New York state aid and local property taxes. State funding accounts for 39.2% of the districts projected revenue for 2024 -2025. The district proposes to appropriate \$1,887,862 in fund balance to offset any additional increase in the property tax levy.



Property Taxes

paid by local homeowners and businesses represent one of the two main sources of revenue for Marcellus schools.

53.4%



Together, **School & Building Aid** from New York state comprise the second largest source of financial support for the district.

39.2%



Other Local Income

sources include charges for services, BOCES refunds, interfund transfers and District Reserve Funds.

7.4%



MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2 Reed Parkway
Marcellus, NY 13108

Non-Profit Org.
PAID
Marcellus, NY 13108
Permit #18

POSTAL PATRON

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

On May 21 Marcellus residents will elect two members of the Board of Education. The following candidates filed petitions with the district office by the April 22 deadline. The two candidates with the highest number of votes will each serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027.



JUSTIN PRITCHARD, of Marcellus, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. A district resident for 12 years, he is the Director of the Learning Center and English Language Institute at Onondaga Community College where he oversees academic support initiatives and works to support professionals to support student success.

Justin and wife Jackie have two daughters. Vivienne (12) is in 7th grade at Bishop Ludden Jr/Sr High School and Juliet (10) is in 5th grade at Driver Middle School.

Justin holds a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Education from LeMoyne College. He also attended SUNY Cortland where he earned his master's degree in English and Syracuse University where he acquired his CAS in Language Teaching: TESOL/TLOTE.

"I believe all students have the right to an education that helps them explore their world, discover their passions, and find their place in the community. My goal as an educator has always been to help learners break down emotional and social barriers to education, enabling them to connect their experiences with others' perspectives. This focus has informed and motivated my professional and personal interests, and I hope to bring this mindset to the Marcellus School Board. Specifically, my interests lie in promoting student-centered programs and pedagogy, fostering community and collegiate partnerships, and advocating for innovative, project-based learning."



KATHERINE COOK, of Marcellus, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She has been a district resident for 28 years and is the Assistant Principal of Case Middle School in the Watertown City School District.

Katherine has one child. Benjamin (15) is in 9th Grade at the Senior High School.

Katherine attended SUNY Geneseo where she acquired her bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education. She also attended Syracuse University and earned her masters degree in Mathematics Education, Le Moyne College where she acquired her CAS in Educational Leadership, and Syracuse University where her EdD in Educational Leadership is pending.

"I have been in the education field for over twenty years, spent 8 years as a school administrator in the Marcellus school district, most recently serving as DMS principal from 2020-2023. I am currently working on my doctorate in Educational Leadership through Syracuse University and took a step back from being principal in order to focus on this doctoral work. I maintain a passion for helping students, parents, and teachers navigate our public education system with full success and wish to continue to give back to the community I was raised in by serving on the Marcellus Board of Education."



AMY BARTOLOTTA, of Marcellus, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She has been a district resident for 25 years and is the Director of Auto Claims Performance Analytics at The Hartford Insurance Company where she leads a team of business intelligence analysts.

Amy and husband Peter have two children. Joshua (22) and Robert (19) are both graduates of the Marcellus Central School District.

Amy attended the Rochester Institute of Technology where she acquired her bachelor's degree in Social Work, and also attended Syracuse University where she acquired her master's degree in Instructional Design.

"I formerly supported activities my children were involved in including theater, soccer, cross country, vocal and band performances," says Mrs. Bartolotta, who also chairs the St. John's Episcopal Church 200th Anniversary Committee and participates in their choir. "I would be very honored to serve on the Marcellus Central School District Board of Education. My children both had wonderful educational experiences at Marcellus and I would like to give back to this wonderful community. My experience and qualifications include extensive leadership experience, solid business acumen, project management and problem solving. I hope that my unique experience and love for this district can be a benefit to the Board and to the children of Marcellus."



ELISABETH SWENSON is seeking her first term on the Marcellus School District Board of Education. Elisabeth and husband Dean have two children in the district. Alex (freshman) and Paul (junior) attend Marcellus Senior High School and actively participate on Marcellus sports teams, band and Character Education.

A district resident since 2015, Elisabeth is a Special Education Liaison in the Syracuse City School District, where she serves as an advocate for students and families and ensures that Individual Education Programs (IEPs) follow New York State requirements. She also serves as an Educational Advocate for students and families in multiple districts in Onondaga County. She is a staunch advocate for students' rights who fosters collaborative relationships between schools and families through clear and consistent communication.

Elisabeth holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Le Moyne College, and a Master of Science degree in Inclusive Special Education and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership from Syracuse University. She participates in the Marcellus Sports Boosters program.

"I want to support, guide and encourage purposeful diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging for all students in Marcellus," said Mrs. Swenson. "I believe that students are only able to learn when they believe that they are part of a community; that they are cared for by their peers and adults. I have served the multi-culturally and socio-economically diverse students and families in the Syracuse City School District for the past 28 years and look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience with the Marcellus community."