

Iroquois Central Schools

IROQUOIS
NEWSLETTER
BOX 32
Elma, New York
14059

Volume 55 Issue 2

May 2022



Budget Vote

May 17, 2022

Intermediate School Gymnasium

7:30 AM - 9:00 PM

Voter Qualifications for May 17 Budget Vote

- * Citizen of the United States;
- * At least 18 years old;
- * District resident for at least 30 days just prior to the vote;
- * Must be eligible under Section 5-106 of the Election Law;
- * No pre-registration required.

Note: Individuals who are first-time voters should be prepared to provide identification to the poll inspector at the time of voting.

Instructions for obtaining an Absentee Ballot

Absentee Ballot applications for the May 17, 2022 Budget Vote/Board of Education Election are currently available in the District Clerk's office.

To request an **application**:

- * Stop in the District Clerk's office (Room 33) of the Intermediate School Building or;
- * Email nspecht@iroquoiscsd.org and request an application or;
- * Mail your request to Nora Specht, District Clerk, PO Box 32, Elma, NY 14059.

Applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than **May 10, 2022** if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter.

SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE

ANNUAL VOTE MAY 17, 2022

INTERMEDIATE GYMNASIUM 7:30 AM — 9:00 PM

VOTE

**Iroquois Central School District
2022-2023
Budget Vote/Board of Education Election
May 17, 2022
7:30 AM - 9:00 PM**

VOTE

**PROPOSITION NO. 1
ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BUDGET 2022-2023**



Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Iroquois Central School District, Erie County (the “District”) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted, in an amount not to exceed \$54,984,552 and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

**PROPOSITION NO. 2
PURCHASE OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Iroquois Central School District (the “District”) is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of three diesel fuel 63-passenger buses (at a maximum average cost of \$131,890 each), and one cutaway bus (at a maximum estimated cost of \$78,500 each) for use in the transportation program of the District, and having an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$474,169, less trade-in value, if any; and that such aggregate sum (or so much thereof as may be necessary) shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be partially offset by state transportation aid available and received therefore; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the District shall be issued in an amount not to exceed \$474,169, or the District may enter into a lease/purchase or installment purchase contract up to such stated amount (and having a term of not more than five years), if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the District to finance the purchases using that method.



VOTE

**Iroquois Central School District
2022-2023
Budget Vote/Board of Education Election
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7:30 AM - 9:00 PM**

VOTE

**PROPOSITION NO. 3
PROPERTY ACQUISITION: ELMA FIRE SUBSTATION**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:



RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Iroquois Central School District, Erie and Wyoming Counties, New York (the “District”) is hereby authorized to purchase a parcel of real property commonly known as 2070 Girdle Road, Elma, New York, SBL No. 138.03-7-30 for the price of \$470,000, subject to certain conditions set forth in the purchase contract between the parties, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board shall deem appropriate, with such expenditures to be made from available funds of the District, without the necessity of borrowing.

**PROPOSITION NO. 4
AT-LARGE VOTING FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

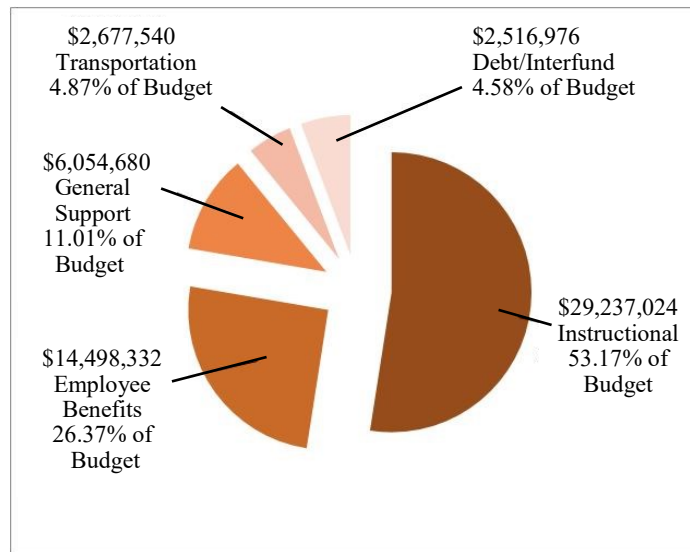
Shall the following resolutions be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that commencing on or after May 18, 2022, and at all subsequent elections held to fill vacancies on the Board of Education, vacancies upon the Board of Education shall not be considered separate specific offices and that the nominating petitions shall not describe any specific vacancy upon the Board of Education for which the candidate is nominated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consistent with New York Education Law §2018(b), this at-large voting process shall continue until repealed by the electors of the district at a regular election by the adoption of a proposition to repeal the same.



Where the Money Goes



EXPENDITURES	2021-22	2022-23	% Change	% of Budget
Instruction Includes: K-12 instructional programs, supervision, BOCES, special education, occupational education, community education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, library programs and computer instruction.	\$28,609,979	\$29,237,024	2.19%	53.17%
Employee Benefits Includes: Teacher & Employee Retirement Systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Workers' Compensation.	\$14,072,998	\$14,498,332	3.02%	26.37%
General Support Includes: Insurance, school board, refunds on property tax, utilities, BOCES administrative fees, central offices, buildings and grounds.	\$6,007,422	\$6,054,680	0.79%	11.01%
Transportation Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field trips and children with handicapping conditions.	\$2,617,535	\$2,677,540	2.29%	4.87%
Debt/Interfund Transfer Includes: Principal and interest payments for renovation projects/additions approved by voters. (off-set by Revenue Building Aid) Includes \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project for building repairs. *	\$2,499,964	\$2,516,976	0.68%	4.58%
TOTAL	\$53,807,898	\$54,984,552	2.19%	100.00%

*The 2022-2023 budget includes a capital outlay project for \$100,000. This project will address upgrades and improvements to the Intermediate Building cafeteria. The work is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2023.

Iroquois Central School District Projected Revenues

	2021-22	2022-23	\$ Change	% Change
State Formula Aid	\$14,498,960	\$14,693,493	\$194,533	1.34%
State Building Aid	\$2,076,314	\$2,082,109	\$5,795	0.28%
Medicaid	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$20,000	20.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,773,612	\$1,773,612	-	0.00%
Erie County Sales Tax	\$2,632,882	\$2,782,882	\$150,000	5.70%
Use of Reserves	\$428,691	\$428,691	-	0.00%
Other Sources	\$608,171	\$620,395	\$12,224	2.01%
Tax Levy	\$31,689,268	\$32,483,370	\$794,102	2.51%
Totals	\$53,807,898	\$54,984,552	\$1,176,654	2.19%

Tax Levy



Understanding Your School Taxes

Three Factors That Affect Your Tax Rate

1. The **Tax Levy** from the school district.
 - ◆ From the budget approved by district voters;
 - ◆ Set by district voters at the May budget vote.
2. The **Equalization Rate** set by New York State.
 - ◆ New York State balancing property values in the different townships;
 - ◆ The lower the equalization rate, the higher the full value and the higher your tax rate;
 - ◆ Fixed in August by New York State Property Tax Division.
3. The **Total Assessed Value of the District** set by the Tax Assessors of the towns.
 - ◆ Home values and new construction;
 - ◆ The more improvements to the entire community, the higher the assessed value and the lower the tax rate;
 - ◆ Set by Town Assessors in June;
 - ◆ Individual households value changes from improvements and similar house sales.

Iroquois Tax Levy History

Year	Levy %
2002-03	5.07
2003-04	7.95
2004-05	8.80
2005-06	8.78
2006-07	5.99
2007-08	8.03
2008-09	5.93
2009-10	4.97
2010-11	3.98
2011-12	4.98
2012-13	3.42
2013-14	2.24
2014-15	3.14
2015-16	3.41
2016-17	0.81
2017-18	2.58
2018-19	2.89
2019-20	2.77
2020-21	2.08
2021-22	1.96
2022-23	2.51

We're Just Getting Started!



Although the temperatures may not be what we would like, spring is here. It may be hard to believe, but there are less than 50 school days left. Knowing this may cause one to think that the school year is winding down. However, this couldn't be further from the truth.

tion of learning concludes with Regents exams, projects and presentations. All the students' hard work is displayed for the community to see. Art shows, music programs, sports games in addition to moving up days, awards days, prom and graduation remind everyone of the tremendous amount of learning, hard work and the fun times we have had since last year.

One might think we are nearing the end of the year, but, we are just beginning. Already, counselors are meeting with their students about next year's classes, making plans for college visits and begin preparations for applying to them. Administrators are working with faculty to discuss courses and training needs that will be held during the summer and throughout next year. Teachers continue their work to develop and define their course scope and sequences, that provides the "road-map" for what they teach.



This is one of the best parts of a school district. We work hard, play hard and support one another. Our work is never done. We are just getting started!

MaryJo Dudek, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent



Considerations for Budget Preparation

Completely and unwaveringly committed to serving the interests of our students.
 Committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the resources with which we are entrusted.
 Committed to conducting business in an open, objective, and professional manner.
 Future-focused planning and committed to constant improvement.

2022-2023 Proposed Budget

\$54,984,552

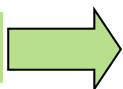
Budget-to-Budget Increase: 2.19%

Projected Tax Levy Increase

2.51% Increase Over Current Levy

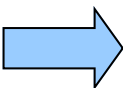
Total Levy of \$32,483,370

2.51% Tax Levy



All current academic, athletic and extracurricular programs remain intact.

If Budget is Defeated
Determine:

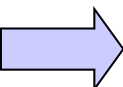


A) Reduce athletic expenditures by eliminating modified and low participating junior varsity and varsity sports along with reduction of extra-curricular clubs and increase in class sizes

OR

B) Return to voters with the same proposed budget.

0.00% Tax Levy
(adopted with two (2)
failed budgets)



100% of Athletic and Extracurricular Clubs Eliminated

High School Reductions: AP Offerings, Electives, Increased Class Size, Computer Labs, Art Classes, Business/Tech Classes & Dept. Chairs.

Middle School Impact: Class Sizes Increase to Maximum of 27, Reduction of Computer Lab & Technology Classes.

Primary Levels: Increased Class Size to maximum of 27, Elimination of Instrumental Band and Chorus.

Community: All non-school organizations would be required, by law, to pay for the use of school building facilities.

PLEASE NOTE

Estimated School Tax Bill* Based on \$200,000 Property

PLEASE NOTE

County	Town	Property Market Value	Equalized Assessed Property Value	Actual 2021-22 Tax Rate (Per \$1,000)	Estimated 2022-23 Tax Rate (Per \$1,000)	Dollar Tax Increase	Estimated % Increase
Erie	Aurora	\$200,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 47.26	\$ 48.44	\$68.68	2.51%
Erie	Elma	\$200,000	\$ 7,220	\$380.81	\$390.35	\$68.89	2.51%
Erie	Lancaster	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$ 13.95	\$ 14.30	\$68.89	2.51%
Erie	Marilla	\$200,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 43.02	\$ 44.10	\$68.99	2.51%
Erie	Wales	\$200,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 39.25	\$ 40.24	\$68.85	2.51%
Wyoming	Bennington	\$200,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 41.75	\$ 42.90	\$81.54	2.75%

*Estimates do not include Star subsidies.

*The estimates are based on 2021-22 equalization rates; actual equalization rates for 2022-2023 are not available for the May 17, 2022 vote date.

*Individual assessments may vary.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 53,807,898	\$ 54,984,552	\$ 54,190,450
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 1,176,654	\$ 382,552
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.19%	.71%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 31,689,268	\$ 32,483,370	
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)	\$ 31,689,268	\$ 32,483,370	\$ 31,689,268
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 37,557	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 31,651,711	\$ 32,483,370	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 31,651,711	\$ 32,483,370	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 5,610,532	\$ 5,711,451	\$ 5,614,583
Program Component	\$ 41,146,355	\$ 42,164,111	\$ 41,803,740
Capital Component	\$ 7,051,011	\$ 7,108,990	\$ 6,772,127

The contingent budget represents expenses that are related directly to student instruction and required support activities. The contingent budget excludes non-contingent equipment and program expansion. It would also include cutbacks as follows: a percentage of extracurricular clubs, a percentage of athletics, some supplies, and the Capital Outlay Project.

Description	Amount
Proposition #2: Purchase of transportation vehicles	\$ 474,169
	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 420.80

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

** 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)

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-2023 by the qualified voters of the Iroquois Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Iroquois Intermediate School Building in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:30 AM and 9:00 PM prevailing time in the Iroquois Intermediate School Building Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Message from the Superintendent



Douglas R. Scofield

To the joy of everyone the 2021-22 school year started with the return of 100% in-person instruction. As the year continued, Iroquois persevered through the many challenges of the pandemic. I would like to thank everyone, including students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, and the community for their continued support for student instruction. COVID presented unique challenges, but the Iroquois community responded in the unified fashion that makes Iroquois so great. Student instruction continued at one of the highest levels in WNY and NYS. This accomplishment exemplifies the statement that “Iroquois is a family” that puts students first to overcome any obstacle. It also highlights our continuing focus on the future, balancing instruction for students while mindful of the fiscal impact on the community. Iroquois will continue this balance with the 2022-23 school budget enabling us to continue maintaining the current programs and services for the students in addition to the new Strategic Plan that has been developed and adopted by the Board of Education this year.

The Strategic Plan contains three main areas of focus: Communication, Student Experience, and Facilities. Communication will focus on providing accurate, timely and meaningful information at all levels to all stakeholder groups. This will include every level of the District with continual surveys to provide feedback on areas of success and areas in need of improvement. Student Experience focuses on achieving 100% of our K-12 students having access to a high quality Multi-Tiered System of supports for both academic and social emotional learning. Additionally, Iroquois will focus on having students develop leadership aptitudes, advocacy skills, and community involvement expertise to meet the needs of their future professions. Facilities focuses on developing and implementing an action plan based on a critical analysis of all structures and spaces district-wide to determine what is in the best interest of teaching and learning as well as protecting the investments of the community.

The annual school budget vote and Board of Education election will take place on May 17th from 7:30 am through 9:00 pm in the Intermediate Gymnasium. If you have concerns with voting in person, please contact the District Clerk to obtain an absentee ballot. Please contact me at 652-3000 ext. 1001 or dscofield@iroquoiscsd.org if you have questions about the 2022-2023 proposed budget. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 17th.

Questions & Answers

Q: Has the Board of Education initiated any new future focused planning?

A: Yes. The Iroquois Board of Education adopted a Strategic Plan developed by members of the community, students, staff, teachers and administration. This process reflects on current practices and goals to create a comprehensive plan for the future.

Q: How will Purchasing the firehall benefit the District?

A: It will provide both short- and long-term instructional and fiscal benefits to students and the community. Some of these include: replacement of temporary structures from the 1960's, increased instruction space by the relocation of back-office operations, centralization and increased efficiency of Building and Grounds, reduced future capital project costs, increased maintenance and care of equipment, space for transportation requirements and future instructional space opportunities.

Q: Does this purchase save expenditures for future capital projects?

A: Yes, based on the 2019 NYS Building Condition Survey, there is over \$1.4 million in reduction of future capital projects by the purchase due to the immediate replacement of the temporary structures built in the 1960s.

Q: What is the funding source to purchase the firehall?

A: The funds will be transferred from allotments that would otherwise be directed to the capital reserve. The reduction in future capital project expenditures allows for the modification in long-range planning.

Q: Is the property adjacent to current District property?

A: Yes, the District owns the property directly to the south.

Questions & Answers cont.

Q: Has the current real estate market impacted the purchase price of the property?

A: No, the negotiated price has remained the same even though market prices have increased. It is important to note that if the District was to construct the same building the cost would be more than double the purchase price.

Q: Did the Iroquois School District remain within the tax cap limit?

A: Yes. Iroquois has remained within the tax cap every year since its inception and is doing so again for the 2022-2023 school budget.

Q: Does the increase in the tax levy actually equal the increase on my school tax bill?

A: No. There are additional factors, such as equalization rate and assessment, that cause the individualization of each resident's tax bill.

Q: How are reserves funded?

A. After all expenditures are complete, the remaining balance is used to fund reserves.

Q: Is the total dollar amount stated in the bus purchase proposition the actual amount expended?

A. No, by law we must state the maximum cost, but we always trade in buses which reduces the final cost of the buses purchased.

Q: With the change in enrollment, has the District reduced staff?

A: Yes. Annually the District reviews the staff/enrollment ratio to adjust for changes in enrollment. In the last ten years, the district has reduced general education staff by 15% and administration by 5%.

Q: Has the District implemented any new practice to make budget information more available to community members?

A: Yes. The District has implemented an email service that allows any resident to sign up and receive emails directly from the school which include budget information, newsletters and mailings. The link to sign up is on the website, www.iroquoiscsd.org, under *Announcements*.

Q: What methods does the Iroquois Board of Education use to hear public opinion?

A: The Board of Education uses multiple methods to hear the public as a whole. There is time devoted at every meeting to listen to the public directly. In addition, the email addresses of all board members are posted on the district website and a community roundtable takes place every year.

Q: What happens if the May 17th budget vote is not supported?

A: If the budget is not supported, on May 18th, the Board of Education will decide to either:

- Return to voters with reduced athletic and extracurricular club expenditures, decreased course offerings and increase class size; or,
- Return to the voters with the same proposed budget and corresponding tax levy; or,
- Adopt a contingent budget.

Q: What does it mean if the budget is defeated and we are required to adopt a contingent budget?

A: A contingent budget would cause elementary class sizes, in a majority of the classes, to increase up to approximately 27 students per class. There would be a reduction of elective courses, including art and music, as well as advanced placement courses. It would also be necessary to eliminate some modified, junior varsity and varsity sport teams, as well as some extracurricular clubs. Equipment purchases would be eliminated. In addition, all non-school organizations would be required, by law, to pay for the use of school building facilities.

Candidates for the Board of Education
Seeking Election to a Five-Year Term
Seat presently held by Michele Hovey
(vote for 1)



James Michalek—My wife, Jennifer, and I moved into the Iroquois School District to start our family in 2002, having been drawn by the area's strong sense of community and this school district's reputation for excellence. We have two amazing kids (daughter, Alexis, and son, Athan) who both attend Iroquois Middle School. We are very interested in all aspects of their education and the school's impact on our community.

After graduating from St. Francis High School in 1993, I served in the U.S. Navy until 1997. My experiences in the military have contributed to the management skills I've developed and utilized in restaurant and retail management, where I currently manage the Goodyear Tire Store in Buffalo.

I have been afforded many opportunities to contribute to our community by supporting youth athletics in various capacities, including managing a hockey team, coaching youth football, serving as Empire West Youth Football and Cheerleading Vice President. I have served on the EMW Sports, Inc. Board since 2013 and was elected President in 2017. I have enjoyed service on the EMW Football and Cheerleading Board as President, especially the

opportunity to meet and work with so many great people. I am currently the President of the Iroquois Football Boosters.

I look forward to bringing my experience and passion for working with people, particularly our developing youth, along with proven leadership and management to the Board to make a positive impact on Iroquois schools for many years to come. I am particularly eager to support initiatives that will enhance Iroquois' academic excellence and ensure that we graduate students who are "well-rounded", highly proficient and extensively prepared for their next phase in life. I look forward to gaining additional insights on NY State's regulations and offering recommendations that can best serve all of our constituencies, including our students, parents and tax-payers.

~printed as submitted by candidate



Thomas Greier - Residents of Elma for over 20 years, Tom Greier and his wife Sharon have four children, including three Iroquois graduates and a middle school student. He works at an Elma technology company developing automated construction equipment. From UB, he earned a BS in Computer Science and attained his MS degree in Engineering Management at Arizona State University. For fun, Tom performs with a local Americana band.

Tom participates in many community-based organizations, such as coaching EMW baseball and soccer, and was also a Tae Kwon-do instructor for 20 years. He served on the Elma Relay for Life Committee, volunteers as a poll worker, and is the leader of a local scouting troop. Tom works with local students in his workplace internship program, witnessing successes of Iroquois graduates first-hand.

As a school board member, Tom will focus on the following goals:

- Increase district engagement with the community, treating the community as a partner.
- Strengthen the student-parent-teacher partnership within the schools to improve the academic development and well-being of all students.
- Ensure responsible spending of taxpayer investment in our district, improve transparency and communication on spending and policy decisions.
- Keep the interests of students first, ensure all students have the resources they need to succeed.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tomgforiesb>

~printed as submitted by candidate

VOTE - MAY 17, 2022
Intermediate School Building
Gymnasium
7:30 AM - 9:00 PM

IROQUOIS NEWSLETTER
U.S.P.S. 270-040

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jane Sullivan, President

**Robert Barry
Michele Hovey
Heather Jacobs
Charles F. Specht
Sharon Szeplowski
Louise Toth**

Douglas R. Scofield
Superintendent of Schools

Nora Specht
District Clerk

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ECRWSS

This is your official School District Newsletter



VOTE MAY 17, 2022
INTERMEDIATE BUILDING
7:30AM-9:00PM

