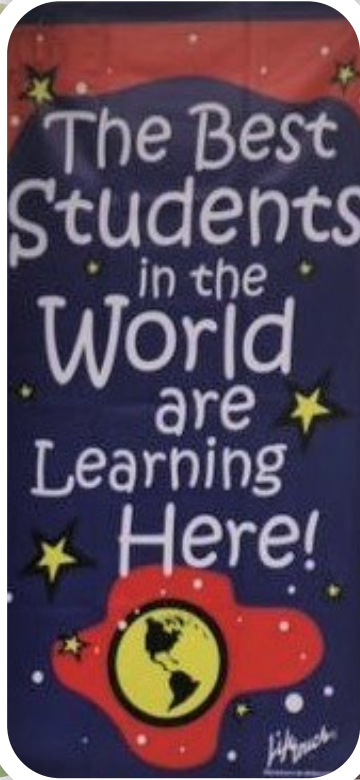


# Iroquois Central Schools

IROQUOIS  
NEWSLETTER  
BOX 32  
Elma, New York  
14059

Volume 55 Issue 2

May 2021



## *Budget Vote*

*May 18, 2021*

*Intermediate School Gymnasium*

*7:30 AM - 9:00 PM*

### *Voter Qualifications for May 18 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 18, 2021 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 34) of the Intermediate School Building or;
- \* Email [csadowski@iroquoiscsd.org](mailto:csadowski@iroquoiscsd.org) and request an application or;
- \* Mail your request to Cindy Sadowski, District Clerk, PO Box 32, Elma, NY 14059.

Applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than **May 11, 2021** if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter.

## **SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE**

**ANNUAL VOTE    MAY 18, 2021**

**INTERMEDIATE GYMNASIUM    7:30 AM — 9:00 PM**

VOTE

**Iroquois Central School District  
2021-2022  
Budget Vote/Board of Education Election  
May 18, 2021  
7:30 AM - 9:00 PM**

VOTE

**PROPOSITION NO. 1  
ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BUDGET 2021-2022**



**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, 2021, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted, in an amount not to exceed \$53,807,898 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.**

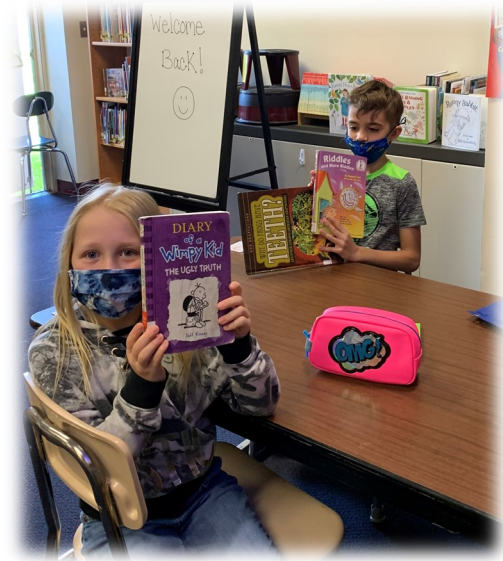
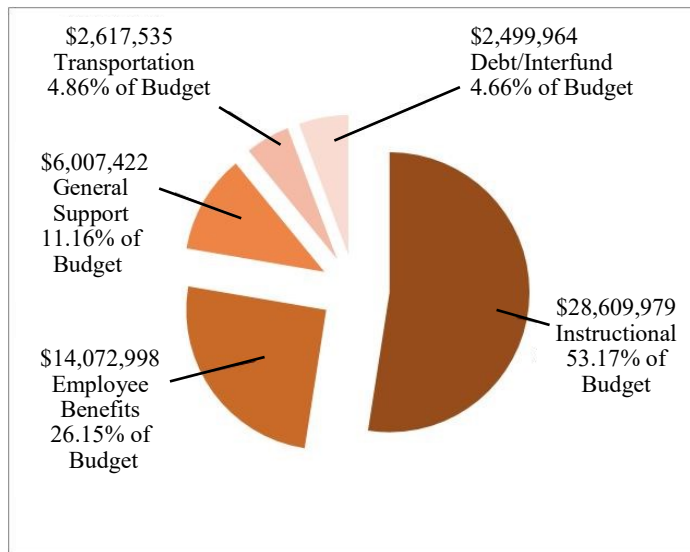
**PROPOSITION NO. 2  
PURCHASE OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES**

**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 \$127,749 each), and two cutaway buses (at a maximum estimated cost of \$64,052 each) for use in the transportation program of the District, and having an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$511,351, 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 \$511,351, 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.**



# Where the Money Goes



EXPENDITURES	2020-21	2021-22	% Change	% of Budget
<b>Instruction</b> Includes: K-12 instructional programs, supervision, BOCES, special education, occupational education, community education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, library programs and computer instruction.	\$28,295,178	\$28,609,979	1.11%	53.17%
<b>Employee Benefits</b> Includes: Teacher & Employee Retirement Systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Workers' Compensation.	\$13,273,077	\$14,072,998	6.03%	26.15%
<b>General Support</b> Includes: Insurance, school board, refunds on property tax, utilities, BOCES administrative fees, central offices, buildings and grounds.	\$ 5,950,487	\$ 6,007,422	0.96%	11.16%
<b>Transportation</b> Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational music trips and children with handicapping conditions.	\$ 2,560,562	\$ 2,617,535	2.23%	4.86%
<b>Debt/Interfund Transfer</b> Includes: Principal and interest payments for renovation projects/additions approved by voters. <b>(off-set by Revenue Building Aid)</b> Includes \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project for building repairs. *	\$ 2,504,364	\$ 2,499,964	-0.18%	4.66%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$52,583,668</b>	<b>\$53,807,898</b>	<b>2.33%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*The 2021-2022 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 2022.



## Iroquois Central School District Projected Revenues

	2020-21	2021-22	\$ Change	% Change
State Formula Aid	\$13,811,518	\$14,498,960	\$ 687,442	4.98%
State Building Aid	\$ 2,009,363	\$ 2,076,314	\$ 66,951	3.33%
Medicaid	\$ 110,000	\$ 100,000	\$ (10,000)	-9.09%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,773,612	\$ 1,773,612	\$ -	0.00%
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 2,632,882	\$ 2,632,882	\$ -	0.00%
Use of Reserves	\$ 520,091	\$ 428,691	\$ (91,400)	-17.57%
Other Sources	\$ 645,353	\$ 608,171	\$ (37,182)	-5.76%
Tax Levy	\$31,080,849	\$31,689,268	\$ 608,419	1.96%
Totals	\$52,583,668	\$53,807,898	\$ 1,224,230	2.33%

Tax Levy



Iroquois Tax Levy History	
Year	Levy %
1999-00	3.78
2000-01	3.26
2001-02	4.89
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

### 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.

## The Password is..... Transition

Maybe I am dating myself, but recently I have been thinking about the old gameshow, Password. For those unfamiliar, or too young, it consisted of two-member teams that each were given a secret term and based on their clues, their team member had to guess the word. In reflecting upon this past school year, the “password” is *transition*.



September 2020 seems so long ago. So much has changed since our first day back to school. The pace of placing students

in cohort learning situations, ensuring they and the faculty had the proper technology and other materials, such as PPE, was intense. But what I remember most from that first day were the smiles of the students, how happy they were to be in the buildings and the joyfulness their teachers had as well.

In November we were informed about how the increasing positivity rates were forcing our schools to suspend in-person instruction. The students and staff *transitioned* once again to full remote learning which would last past the holidays. In order to resume in-person instruction, students and staff needed to be randomly tested, once again *transitioning* back to hybrid learning. Thankfully, the testing proved successful and after a few weeks, we were no longer mandated to administer them.

Since December, and the roll-out of the vaccination, our goal has been to bring our students back full time. Our K-1 students *transitioned* to full time in-person instruction, as rooms were redesigned to provide more learning space. Recently, the CDC and NYS officials outlined new guidelines for instructional spacing that allows for more students to return to school on a full-time basis. Our most recent *transition* occurred on April 19, when we welcomed all our K-8 students back to 5-day in-person instruction.

If you have been keeping track, we experienced at least four successful transitions. There are several reasons for the accomplishments this year.

*Team Work and Community:* every person, from students, families, faculty, nurses, transportation, buildings and grounds, etc. focused on supporting student learning in the best way possible. Every transition required multiple steps, some were very difficult, but everyone shared the same vision for success.

*Communication:* weekly phone calls, emails, website postings were used to inform the community of what, why and how changes would take place.

*Stamina and Perseverance:* each transition was difficult especially on students, families and their teachers.

*Compassion:* there isn't one person who didn't experience stress. Yet, we also witnessed incredible support given.

*Hope:* came with each transition that we were all one step closer to returning full-time.

This year has not been the year any of us wanted. However, it is important to accentuate the positives. Our ability to transition is rooted in our ability to be flexible. It is hard, but it so important for our students' success.

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.

### 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

**\$53,807,898**

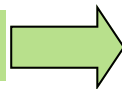
Budget-to-Budget Increase: 2.33%

### Projected Tax Levy Increase

**1.96% Increase Over Current Levy**

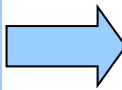
**Total Levy of \$31,689,268**

1.96% Tax Levy



All current academic, athletic and extracurricular programs remain intact.

If Budget is Defeated  
Determine:

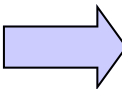


A) Reduce athletic expenditures by eliminating modified and low participating junior varsity and varsity sports along with reduction of extra-curricular clubs and increase in class sizes

**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

**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 2020-21 Tax Rate (Per \$1,000)	Estimated 2021-22 Tax Rate (Per \$1,000)	Dollar Tax Increase	Estimated % Increase
Erie	Aurora	\$200,000	\$ 60,500	\$ 45.80	\$ 46.70	\$54.25	1.96%
Erie	Elma	\$200,000	\$ 7,340	\$378.90	\$386.32	\$54.45	1.96%
Erie	Lancaster	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$ 14.11	\$ 14.38	\$55.23	1.96%
Erie	Marilla	\$200,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 40.96	\$ 41.76	\$54.52	1.96%
Erie	Wales	\$200,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 38.61	\$ 39.36	\$54.42	1.96%
Wyoming	Bennington	\$200,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 40.01	\$ 40.73	\$54.16	1.80%

\*Estimates do not include Star subsidies.

\*The estimates are based on 2019-20 equalization rates; actual equalization rates for 2020-2021 are not available for the May 18, 2021 vote date.

\*Individual assessments may vary.

### School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 52,583,668	\$ 53,807,898	\$53,199,479
Increase/Decrease for the <b>2021-22</b> School Year		\$ 1,224,230	\$ 615,811
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.33%	1.17%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$31,080,849	\$31,689,268	
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)	\$31,080,849	\$31,689,268	\$31,080,849
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 14,861	\$ 37,557	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 31,065,988	\$ 31,651,711	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 31,065,988	\$ 31,165,711	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 5,377,688	\$ 5,610,532	\$ 5,555,285
Program Component	\$ 40,209,723	\$ 41,146,355	\$ 40,889,122
Capital Component	\$ 6,996,257	\$ 7,051,011	\$ 6,755,073

Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the contingency budget calculation complies with all the requirements for a contingent budget including adherence to the administrative cap. 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, and the Capital outlay project.

Description	Amount
Proposition #2: Purchase of transportation vehicles	\$ 511,351

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 423.10

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-2022 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 18, 2021 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

The 2020-21 school year has been like no other school year before due to the COVID-19 pandemic and New York State's guidance in response. The collaboration and understanding of the entire Iroquois community provided the support the District needed to persevere in this everchanging environment. This year exemplified the statement that "Iroquois is a family." It also highlights that, in order to be future focused, districts must balance instruction for students with budget for the community. Iroquois has and will continue this balance with the 2021-22 school budget and be able to continue maintaining the current programs and services for the students.

For next year a major focus will be addressing learning loss for the students in Iroquois. The new federal funding will be used to address this concern allowing the district to be below the average levy increase of the past five years. The district has also looked to the future to extend the federal funds to be used to the greatest extent possible in future years to protect the community's interests and provide for the student's instruction. In addition, Iroquois will continue its commitment to traditional programs that prepare children to become young adults that are prepared to take their place as productive members of society and can face the challenges of the "real world."

The annual school budget vote and Board of Education election will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 am through 9:00 pm in the Intermediate Gymnasium. Following COVID-19 prevention guidelines, the District will have safety precautions in place to assist in protecting everyone with their COVID concerns. If you still 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](mailto:dscofield@iroquoiscsd.org) if you have questions about the 2021-2022 proposed budget. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 18.

## Questions & Answers

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

**A:** Yes. The Iroquois Board of Education has begun developing a Strategic Plan with members of the community, students, staff, teachers and administration. This process reflects on current practices and future goals to create a comprehensive plan.

**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: 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 2021-2022 school budget.

**Q: Does the state tax cap guarantee a 2% change in my taxes?**

**A:** No. The tax cap has exemptions that are used within a formula to develop the true percentage.



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**Questions & Answers cont.**

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**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: 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](http://www.iroquoiscsd.org), under Site Shortcuts.

**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: How are reserves funded?**

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

**Q: How does the District plan to protect the taxpayers' investment of the facilities within the 2021-2022 budget?**

A: The District will refurbish the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade cafeteria through the \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project.

**Q: What happens if the May 18th 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, decrease 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.

**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.

## Candidates for the Board of Education

Seeking Election to a Five-Year Term

*Seat presently held by Gunnar Haberl (vote for 1)*



**Christina Uebelhoer** - I am running for the position on the school board for many reasons not the least of which is because I am interested in the education of our children who will be the next leaders of this country. I am a married mother of three children that are all currently in the Iroquois School District. I work as a Registered Nurse in a local hospital. School board members have a lot of responsibility to guide the district and provide decisions that are in the best interest of the school district and maybe more importantly our students.

If elected I intend to serve with the rest of the board to make decisions to progress and move the Iroquois District for our best path to the future.

*~printed as submitted by candidate*



**Heather Jacobs** - Heather is a 1993 graduate of Iroquois High School. She received her bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Buffalo State College in 1997. After graduation, she was hired by Marine Midland Bank. Over the last 24 years, Heather has worked for HSBC Bank to focus on IT Compliance Financial Crime. Heather has a longstanding reputation for being a leader with moral values, a solid work ethic, and a well-respected member of the Iroquois community.

Heather currently lives in Marilla with her husband, Andy, and two children, Carson and Shea.

Heather is reminded of what M. K. Soni wrote, "A house is made of brick and mortar, but a home is made by the people who live there." Neighbors, we understand this quote means that this community is special; it encompasses all of us; it is our home! Heather is seeking to make a difference for your children and be the voice of our community. Please come and show your support and vote as

Heather McPartlan Jacobs runs for an Iroquois Central School Board member. Once a Chief, Always a Chief!

*~printed as submitted by candidate*



**Thomas Greier** - Moving to Elma in 2002 with his wife Sharon, Tom Greier has four children, including three Iroquois graduates and a middle school student. He works at Moog developing automated construction equipment. From UB, he earned a BS in Computer Science with a Classical Guitar minor, 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 Scoutmaster of a local Boy Scout troop. Tom works with local students in the Moog internship program, witnessing successes of Iroquois graduates first-hand.

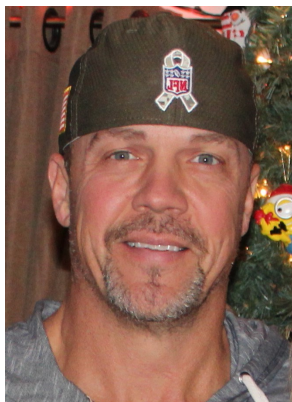
Covid has been detrimental to the learning and progress of Iroquois students. Tom looks forward to working with the school board in supporting the development of programs designed to bridge the gaps caused by disruptions in learning. He is committed to ensuring that all students continue to receive every opportunity to achieve their maximum potential while working to keep Iroquois as a top district in WNY.

Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tomgforicsb>.

*~printed as submitted by candidate*

**Candidates for the Board of Education**

Seeking Election to a Five-Year Term

*Seat presently held by David Lowrey*

**Robert Barry** - I have grown up in Elma and I am a 1990 graduate of Iroquois High School. Proud to be a member of this great community and to raise a family here. My wife Kim who is a teacher of 22 years, my 2 boys Tyler who will be graduating from Iroquois and moving on to college and Trevor who is a Freshman at the High School.

The great reputation of the Iroquois School district education and low tax rates is the main reasons I chose to stay and raise my family in the district. The sense of community and the way we all come together to help our neighbors is what makes the Iroquois School district so great.

After graduating from Iroquois, I received dual Bachelor's degrees in Geology/Earth Science education received my Master's degree in science both from Buffalo State College. I continued my educational journey by starting to pursue my

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership.

This a very exciting and scary time in the world and in education. We as leaders must think out of the box to continue to give every child in our district the best quality education we can possibly give them.

*~printed as submitted by candidate*

**The second candidate for the BOE seat of David Lowrey withdrew his candidacy on April 26, 2021.**

**VOTE - MAY 18, 2021  
Intermediate School Building  
Gymnasium  
7:30 AM - 9:00 PM**

**If you have questions about the 2021-2022  
Iroquois Central School District budget,  
Please email questions to:**

**Superintendent Douglas Scofield:  
[dscofield@iroquoiscsd.org](mailto:dscofield@iroquoiscsd.org)**

**Business Administrator John Wolski:  
[jwolski@iroquoiscsd.org](mailto:jwolski@iroquoiscsd.org)**



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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Sharon Szeglowski, President**

**Gunnar Haberl  
Michele Hovey  
David Lowrey  
Charles F. Specht  
Jane Sullivan  
Louise Toth**

**Douglas R. Scofield**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Cindy Sadowski**  
District Clerk

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**This is your official School District Newsletter**



**VOTE**  
**MAY 18, 2021**  
**Intermediate Building**  
**Gymnasium**  
**7:30 AM - 9:00 PM**

