

### BUDGET NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024

## School budget vote set for May 21

### Message from the Hermon-DeKalb CSD Board of Education

Dear Hermon-DeKalb Central School District Residents:

This budget newsletter has been prepared to provide you with an overview of the 2024-25 proposed school budget. Residents will vote Tuesday, May 21, 2024, on the proposal, which maintains all current academic programs and is well below the state's tax levy limit, or cap.

Polls will be open from 1-8 p.m. in the Hermon-DeKalb Central School District Cafeteria, 709 E De Kalb Road.

In addition to voting on the \$14,420,973 budget proposal, residents will have the opportunity to elect two individuals to the board of education (see page 3) and vote on a \$250,000 proposition to purchase one 65-passenger bus and one 8-passenger van.

Residents will also decide on a proposition to increase the annual tax collected by the district for the Hepburn Library of Hermon by \$30,000 for a total of \$40,000. This amount helps with support and maintenance of the library (see page 3).

Next year's proposed budget balances the expansion of programs and student offerings while being mindful of the impact on our taxpayers.

The following items are included in the 2024-25 budget proposal:

- Expanded STEM program.
- College courses for credit for students in grades 10-12.
- Close Up, a civics education program.
- Afterschool programming previously funded by federal grants.

In addition, the budget proposal also includes a capital outlay project to upgrade the building's chlorination containment system and domestic water pumps. This is an essential system that treats and handles the water supply from the district's wells. Approximately 93% (or \$93,000) of the money will be returned to the district in the form of future state aid, reducing the project's cost to taxpayers to \$7,000.

The 2024-25 budget proposal calls for a spending increase of \$158,522, or 1.11%, over the current

school year's budget. Most of this increase can be attributed to the elevated costs of goods and services to the district. Taking these factors into consideration, we are proposing a tax levy increase of 2.99%, or \$81,439. After carefully watching this year's expenditures, we are able to apply unspent money to next year's budget to keep the tax levy well below our actual tax cap of 6.96%.

The tax levy is the total amount of money the district collects from district property owners to support the school budget. It is also one of the factors used to calculate the tax rate, which is typically less than the tax levy because of property tax base growth.

We believe we have developed a very responsible spending plan for the upcoming year based on the future needs of the district. The budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 1-8 p.m. in the Hermon-DeKalb Central School Cafeteria.

You can find out more information about the proposed budget and board of education candidates on our district website, [www.hdcsk12.org](http://www.hdcsk12.org). If you have questions, please call any of us, Superintendent Mark White or Business Manager Kimberly Fuller for more information.

Sincerely,

Hermon-DeKalb Central School District Board of Education

Ronald Smith, *President*  
Michael Mac Cue,  
*Vice President*  
Martin Amo  
Jordan Deleel

Ross Putman  
Michael Robinson  
Jaclyn teRiele  
Anne Williams  
John Wright

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**



Polls open 1-8 p.m.  
in the Hermon-DeKalb  
Central School Cafeteria

### BUDGET DETAILS

Budget Total:

**\$14,420,973**

Tax Levy Increase:

**2.99%**

### DISTRICT GOALS

The 2024-25 budget proposal supports the following goals developed by the HDCSD Board of Education:

- Improve student achievement by fostering a climate of academic excellence.
- Maximizing quality and value for the community.
- School safety.

**For more information, visit our website: [www.hdcsk12.org](http://www.hdcsk12.org)**

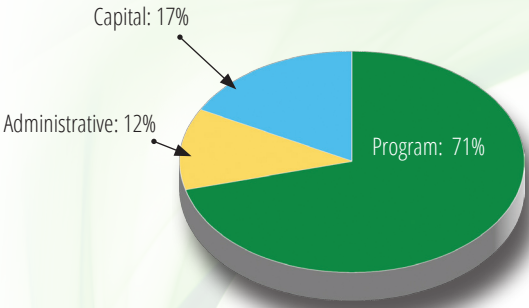
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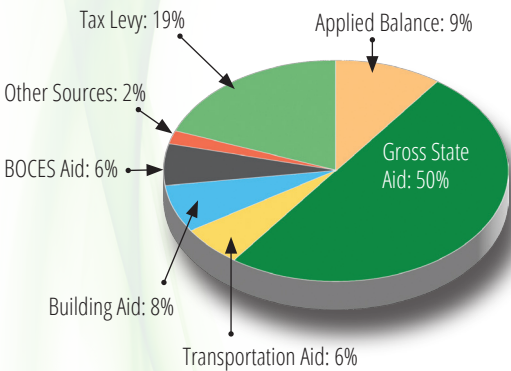
Hermon-DeKalb students, staff and community members gathered on April 8 to watch the total solar eclipse. Photo: Catherine Wheeler/North Country Public Radio

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY



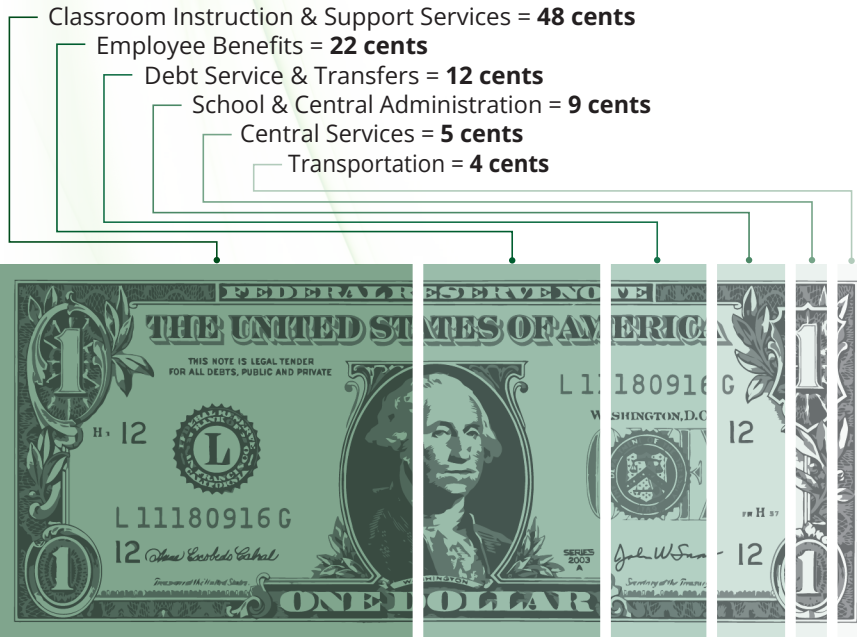
	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Difference	% Change
Administrative	\$1,654,210	\$1,732,259	\$78,049	4.72%
Capital	\$2,507,594	\$2,472,827	-\$34,767	-1.39%
Program	\$10,100,647	\$10,215,887	\$115,240	1.14%
TOTAL	\$14,262,451	\$14,420,973	\$158,522	1.11%

REVENUE BREAKDOWN



	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Difference	% Change
Applied Balance	\$1,276,430	\$1,363,565	\$87,135	6.83%
Reserves (Unemployment)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	0.00%
BOCES Aid	\$906,343	\$898,624	-\$7,719	-0.85%
Building Aid	\$1,277,103	\$1,092,731	-\$184,372	-14.44%
Gross State Aid	\$7,062,177	\$7,187,018	\$124,841	1.77%
Other Aids	\$36,032	\$35,650	-\$382	-1.06%
Transportation Aid	\$789,897	\$847,477	\$57,580	7.29%
High Tax	\$164,835	\$164,835	\$0	0.00%
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Tax Levy	\$2,714,634	\$2,796,073	\$81,439	2.99%
TOTAL	\$14,262,451	\$14,420,973	\$158,522	1.11%

MAKING CENTS OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET:



Hermon-DeKalb Central School District offers its students a wide variety of unique academic programs, including Wilderness Studies. The class provides high school students with an immersive experience in outdoor education, blending classroom learning with hands-on exploration. A highlight of the class each year is when students participate in an annual hiking trip, allowing them to strengthen connections with nature and each other.



## Hermon-DeKalb alumni celebrated for 1,000-point scoring achievements

This school year, more than a dozen former Hermon-DeKalb Central School District students were honored for their achievements on the basketball court.

The honorees were recognized during a ceremony in December commemorating the fact that they had scored at least 1,000 varsity points during their basketball careers at the school. The ceremony was held between the two varsity basketball games on that day.

Out of the fourteen honorees, eleven were able to attend the ceremony. The individuals were from classes spanning more than five decades. They include:

- Lynn Gray - Class of 1968
  - Heidi Aldous - Class of 1983
  - Brigitte Aldous - Class of 1986
  - Jon Bardeschewski - Class of 1992
  - Andy Bardeschewski - Class of 1994
  - Fred Foster - Class of 1994
  - Kim Carpenter - Class of 1994
- Matt Brabaw - Class of 1998
  - Brittany Whitton - Class of 2007
  - Brianna Sayer - Class of 2012
  - Dylan Amo - Class of 2012
  - Hunter Hitchman - Class of 2014
  - Bridget Rust - Class of 2016
  - Zach Denesha - Class of 2020

**Note:** 3 pointers were not allowed until 1987.

They all received plaques made from pieces of the old school gym floor. The 1,000-point Scorer Celebration event was organized by former Athletic Director Shelly Amo, the Hermon-DeKalb Booster Club, the Hermon-DeKalb Alumni Association, and several other district families and friends.



## Questions & Answers

**Q**  
**A**

**What will I see on the ballot?**

- Proposition 1 — Consideration of the proposed 2024-25 district budget, totaling \$14,420,973.
- Proposition 2 — School Bus Purchase: One 65-passenger bus and one 8-passenger van at an estimated maximum cost of \$250,000.
  - State transportation aid is a significant part of our transportation program, returning us 90% aid on each bus, part or service we purchase. For example, a bus purchase of \$185,000 would cost the district \$18,500 after aid. The cost of school buses has risen sharply over the last few years. This year, we plan to purchase one 65-passenger bus to replace an older unit and one 8-passenger van.
- Proposition 3 — Hepburn Library of Hermon Tax Collection, in the additional amount of \$30,000 for a new total of \$40,000 annually.
- Board of Education Election

**Q**  
**A**

**Why is there a library funding proposition on the school district ballot?**

New York state education law allows libraries to place a funding proposition on school district ballots. It requires school districts, at the libraries' requests, to levy and collect taxes for libraries. Libraries are separate legal entities from the school district, with their own funding and budgets. The school district does not endorse, control or recommend any aspect of how the libraries spend money. If voters approve the proposition, the school district would continue to levy and collect taxes for the library each year. The amount authorized for library services is listed as a separate line on residents' tax bills.

**Q**  
**A**

**What is the state's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR?**

New York State's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR, provides partial school property tax savings to eligible homeowners. Most New Yorkers who own and live in their homes are eligible for STAR savings on their primary residences. Because the STAR program is not a district program, taxpayers STAR savings are not factored into a school budget. The 2024-25 STAR exemption amount will be the same as the current fiscal year.

More information about STAR can be found at:  
<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/eligibility.htm>.

## Estimated Property Tax Rate

The estimated impact of the proposed levy would result in a decrease in the full tax value rate. The example below is based on a home assessed at a \$100,000 value.

	2023-24 Tax Year	2024-25 Tax Year
Full Value Tax Rate*	\$15.52	\$14.03
Home Assessed at:	\$100,000	\$100,000
Tax \$ Amount	\$1,552	\$1,403
Less STAR Exemption**	\$457	\$457
Net Taxes after STAR	\$1,095	\$946
Increase \$ Amount (Decrease)	(\$57.99)	(\$149)

\*Based on the last assessment roll.

\*\*Star Exemption amount varies by township; savings shown above is based on the maximum amount for the largest township in the district.

## Voters to elect two members to the board of education

Each of the two new board of education terms will begin July 1, 2024. The seats carry five-year terms. The two candidates who receive the most votes will receive the five-year terms. The two seats are currently held by Ronald Smith and Michael Mac Cue.

Candidates are listed alphabetically. Please visit our website, [www.hdcsk12.org](http://www.hdcsk12.org), for individual biographies of the candidates.

- Rebecca Fenlong
- Michael Mac Cue
- Dale O'Donnell
- Ronald Smith
- Kiera Warner



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## Board of Education

- Ronald Smith, President
- Michael Mac Cue, Vice President
- Martin Amo
- Jordan Deleel
- Ross Putman
- Michael Robinson
- Jaclyn teRiele
- Anne Williams
- John Wright
- Donna Anson, Clerk

## Superintendent of Schools

- Mark White

## Pre-K-12 Principal

- Megan Foster

## ECRW SS POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Required School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$14,262,451	\$14,420,973	\$14,205,973
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$158,522	(\$56,478)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.11 %	(.40%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$2,714,634	\$2,796,073	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$10,000	\$40,000	
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)	\$2,724,634	\$2,836,073	\$2,724,634
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$156,420	\$296,506	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$2,585,368	\$2,605,790	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$2,558,214	\$2,499,567	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$27,154	\$106,223	
Administrative Component	\$1,654,210	\$1,732,259	\$1,672,259
Program Component	\$10,100,647	\$10,215,887	\$10,200,887
Capital Component	\$2,507,594	\$2,472,827	\$2,332,827

\* Reduction of the Administrative Component for \$60,000, multiple equipment lines for \$55,000 and the transfer to the Capital Fund for the Outlay Project for \$100,000.

\*\* 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
Purchase of one (1) School Bus and a Passenger Van	\$250,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$457.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Hermon DeKalb Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, will be held at Hermon DeKalb Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, between the hours of 1:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Cafeteria at Hermon DeKalb Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

## Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 | 1-8 p.m.  
Hermon-DeKalb Central School Cafeteria  
709 E. De Kalb Road

## VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days and must not be prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot voting is available. The new Early Mail Voter Act, effective Jan. 1, 2024, also allows for early voting via mail without any reasons needed for voting early. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications for voting by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the District Office at 315-347-3442.

If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 14. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 20. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 21.

For more budget information, visit [www.hdcsk12.org](http://www.hdcsk12.org).

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