



SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT,
ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.**

2023 - 2026
#WEARESWEETHOME





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OUR MISSION: EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY,
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Tonight's Presentations

- Town of Amherst West Side Interceptor Project
- Heritage Heights Blended Classroom
- Tax Rates and Reserve Recommendations

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Introductions

Project Owner – Town of Amherst

- Jeff Burroughs – Town Engineer
- Vaishali Reberholt – Assistant Town Engineer

Owner's Engineer – GHD Consulting Services, Inc.

- John Story – Project Manager
- David Woolley – Design Manager



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Agenda



Project Background



Overall Project Scope



Impact on Sweet Home High School



Construction Timing/ Schedule Restrictions



Project Schedule



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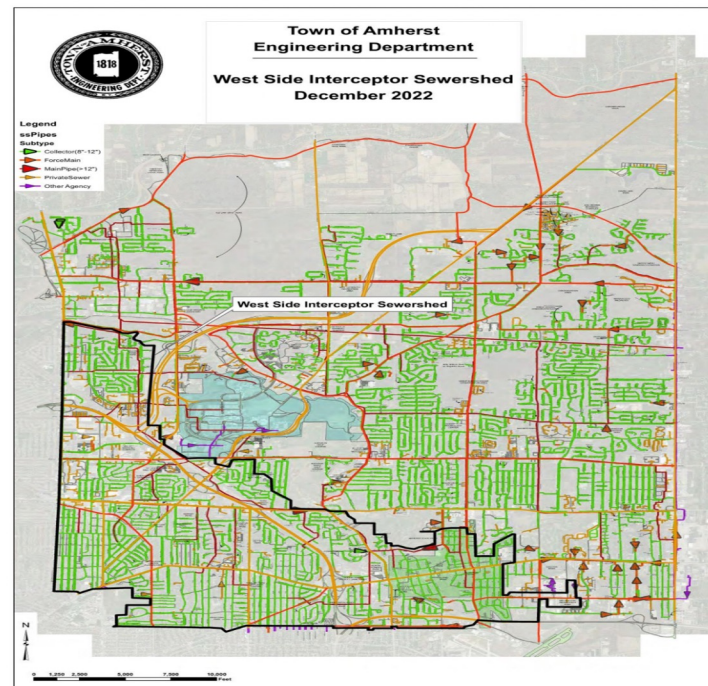
Project Background

1. Opportunity Zone Redevelopment

- Amherst Opportunity Zone identified by the federal Opportunity Zone community development program
- Town Development hindered by zoning restrictions, traffic limitations, and capacity of public infrastructure

2. West Side Interceptor

- The Amherst Opportunity Zone is located within the WSI service area
- The WSI would accept the flow from the proposed new developments
- The WSI is known to surcharge during low intensity rain events

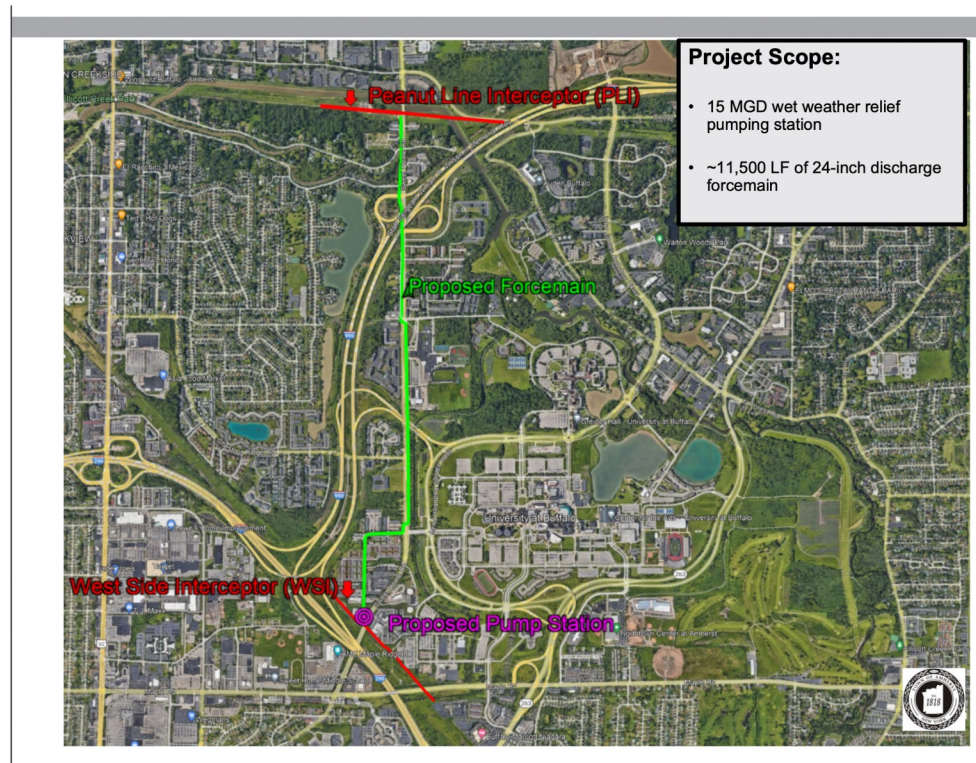


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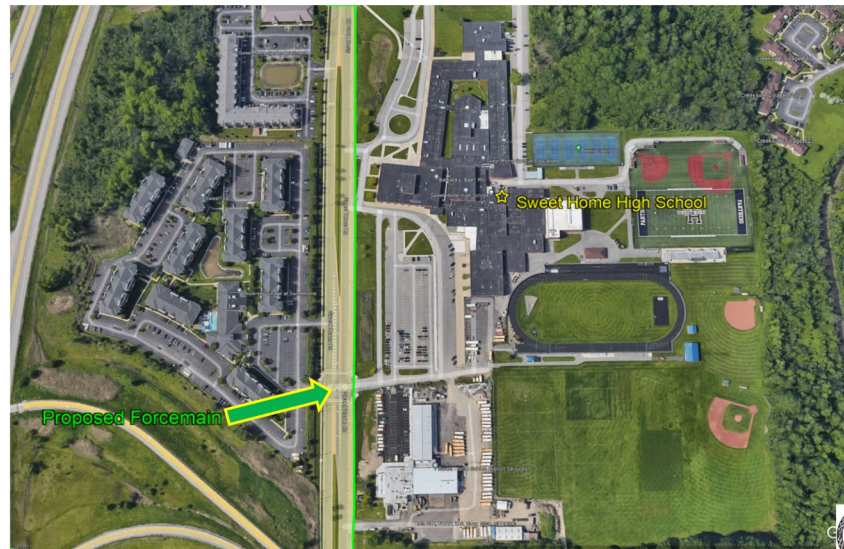
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Proposed Forcemain near Sweet Home High School

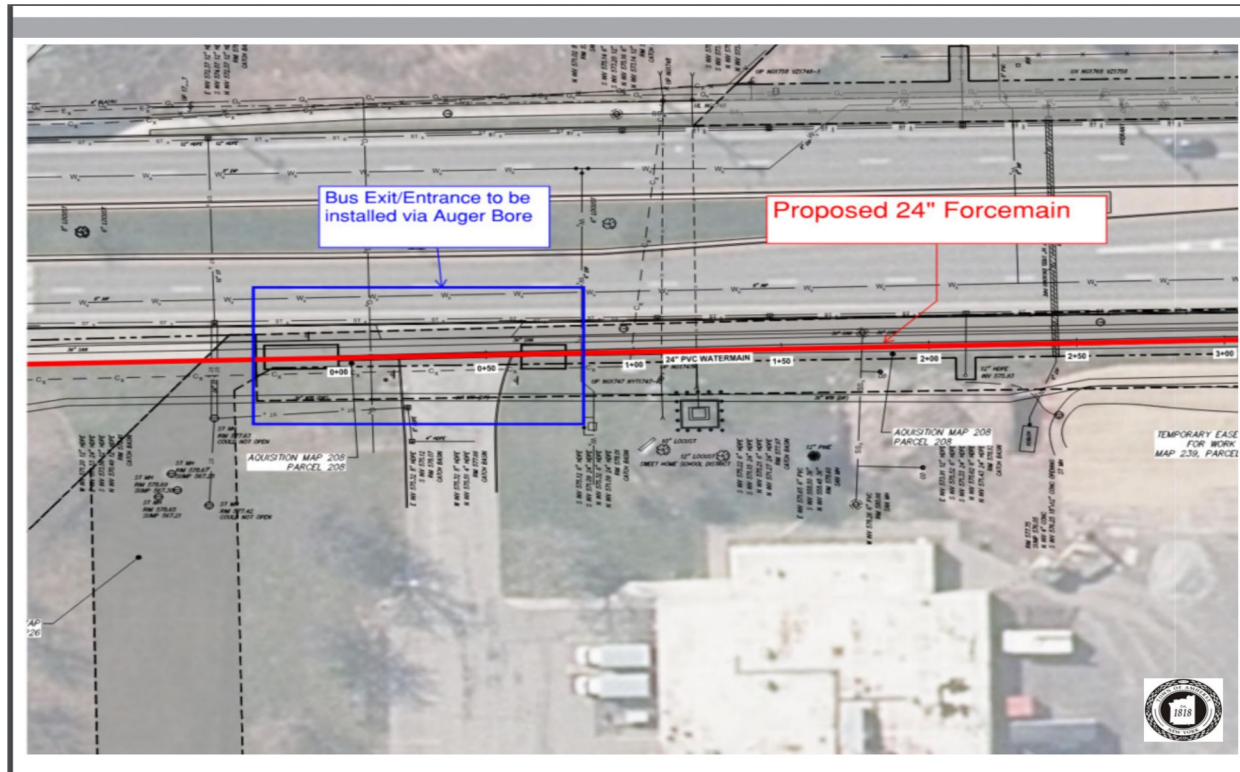


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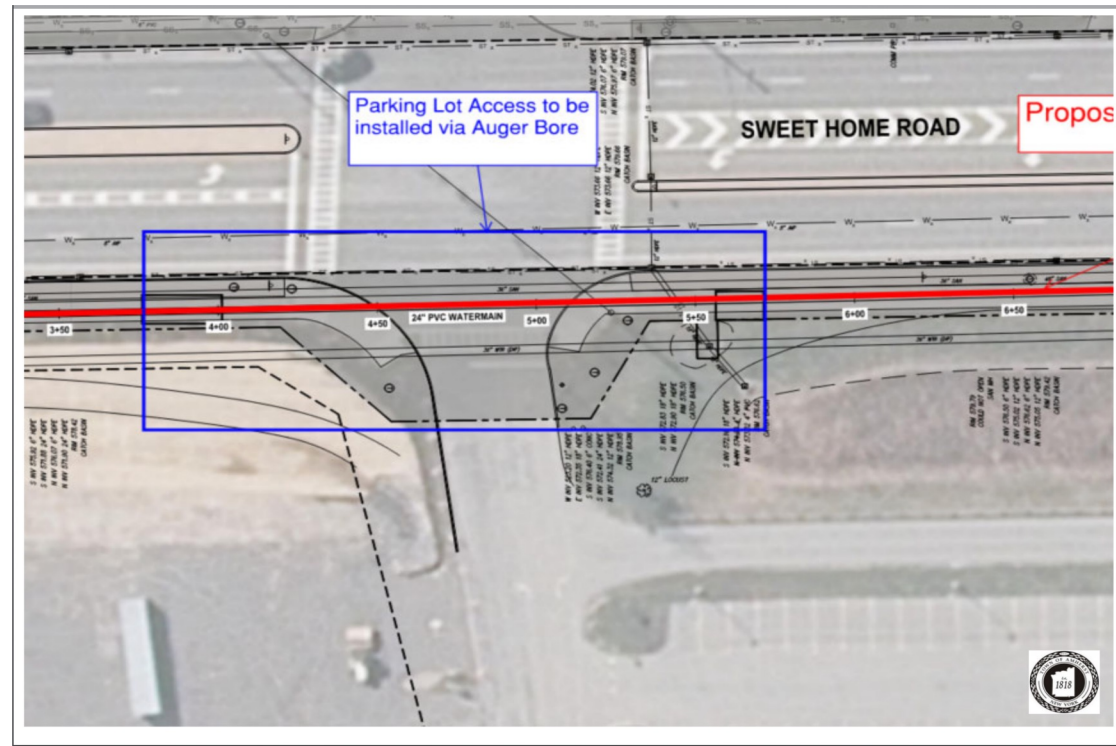


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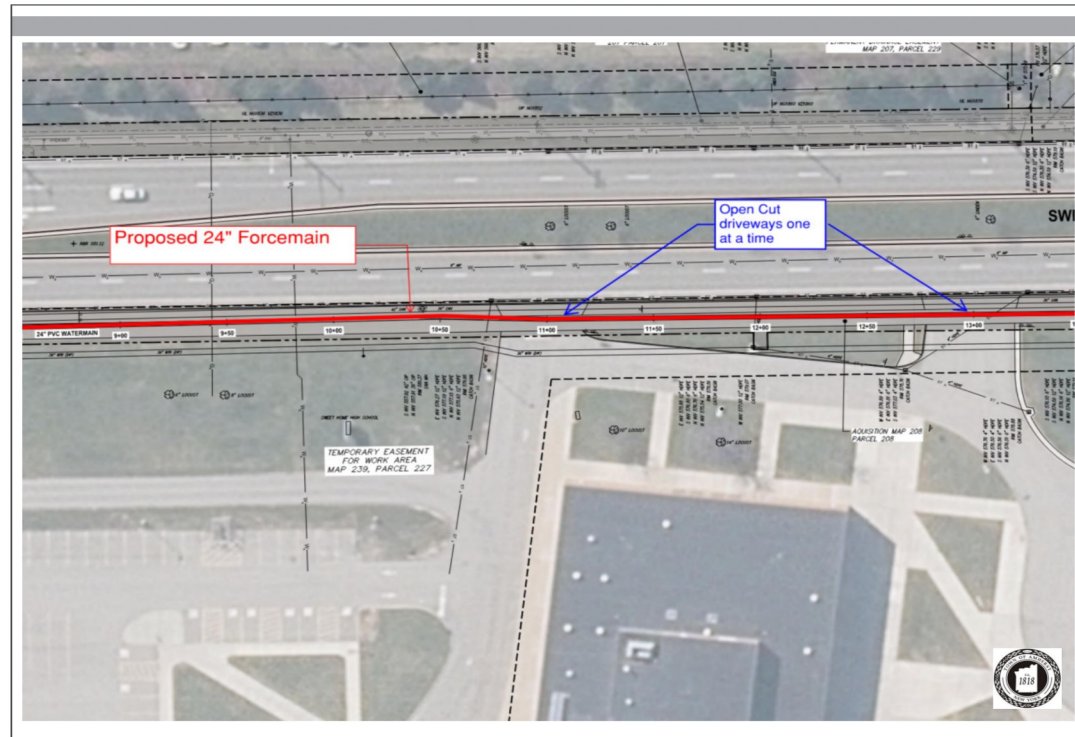


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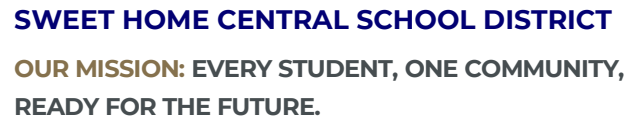


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Impact on Sweet Home High School

1. Forcemain is within the sidewalk along SHHS
 - No Permanent Easement Required
 - Possible Temporary Work Easement
2. Temporary sidewalk to be constructed during Work to maintain pedestrian traffic
3. Minimize disruption on school access roads
 - Auger Bore bus access roads
 - Open Cut one entrance at a time



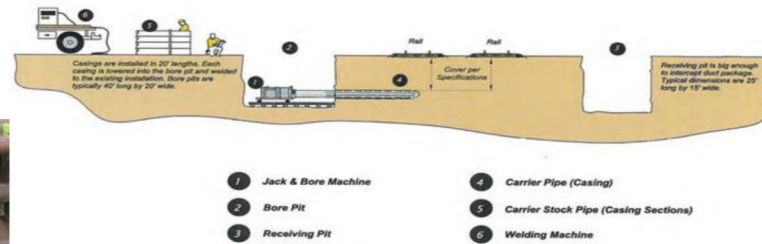
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Forcemain Installation via Auger Bore



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Forcemain Installation via Open Cut methods



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Timing/Scheduling Restrictions for Construction

July 1 - Aug 31 2025	Sept 1 - Oct 15 2025
Forcemain Installation completed during summer break	Final Restoration



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Questions?

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K-1 Combination Classroom

2023-2024

How did we get here?

- Enrollment/Class size data
- Reviewed previous options: combination classroom or additional classroom as enrollment rises mid year
- Research based articles on combination classrooms
- Analyzed academic data
- Utilized multiple stakeholders knowledge (Teachers, counselors, coaches, and psychologists)



Classroom Description

In our combination classroom, students will learn and grow together across more than one grade level. It is our goal to create an equitable environment to prepare each student to reach their full potential by nurturing all areas of children's development and learning.

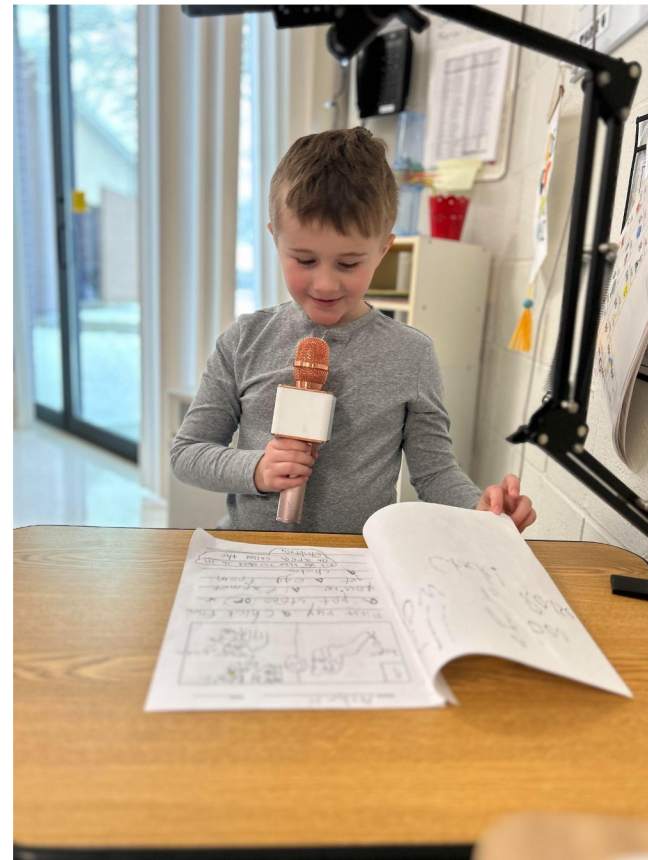
The Whole Child Approach

- Differentiating to meet the needs of each child
- K-1 Individual Student Profile
- Progress monitoring
- Collaborative learning
- Leadership opportunities
- Mentorship



Where We Want to Be

- Future leaders of Heritage Heights
- Lifelong learners
- Preparing students for their future educational journey inside and outside of the classroom
- Confidence in the areas of self awareness, academics, and social/emotional





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2023-24 TAX RATES & RESERVE ALLOCATIONS

Sweet Home Board of Education

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

Tax Levy vs. Tax Rate

Tax Levy: Total amount of property taxes to be collected

- ❑ Developed during the budget process
- ❑ Property Tax Cap law applies to the **levy**
- ❑ Tax Levy, state aid, other local revenue, and fund balance/reserves finance the budget to operate the District



Tax Levy vs. Tax Rate

Sweet Home Tax Levy for 2023-24: \$53,321,588

- ☐ Increase of \$0
- ☐ Percentage increase of 0%
- ☐ Within the New York State Tax Cap Law



Tax Levy vs. Tax Rate

Tax Rate: The rate per thousand of assessed value that is needed to attain the Tax Levy

Variables Affecting Tax Rate:

- ▣ Amount of the Tax Levy (set by school district)
- ▣ Total assessed value of real property (set by assessor)
- ▣ Equalization Rate (determined by the State)



Tax Rate Projection May 2023



Assumptions:

- Assessed Values remain at 2022 levels
- Amherst Equalization Rate reduced from 88% to 74%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate reduced from 33% to 29%
- Rates based on going to balanced budget 23-24 cap of \$53,321,588

School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home				
	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2022-23	2023-24 *est	2022-23	2023-24 *est
Equalization Rate	74.0%	74.0%	29.0%	29.0%
Assessed Value	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$55,500	\$55,500
Tax Rate	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$40.25	\$40.25
Calculated Tax Bill	\$2,352	\$2,352	\$2,234	\$2,234
Estimated Increase		\$0		\$0

Tax Rate Recommendation August 2023

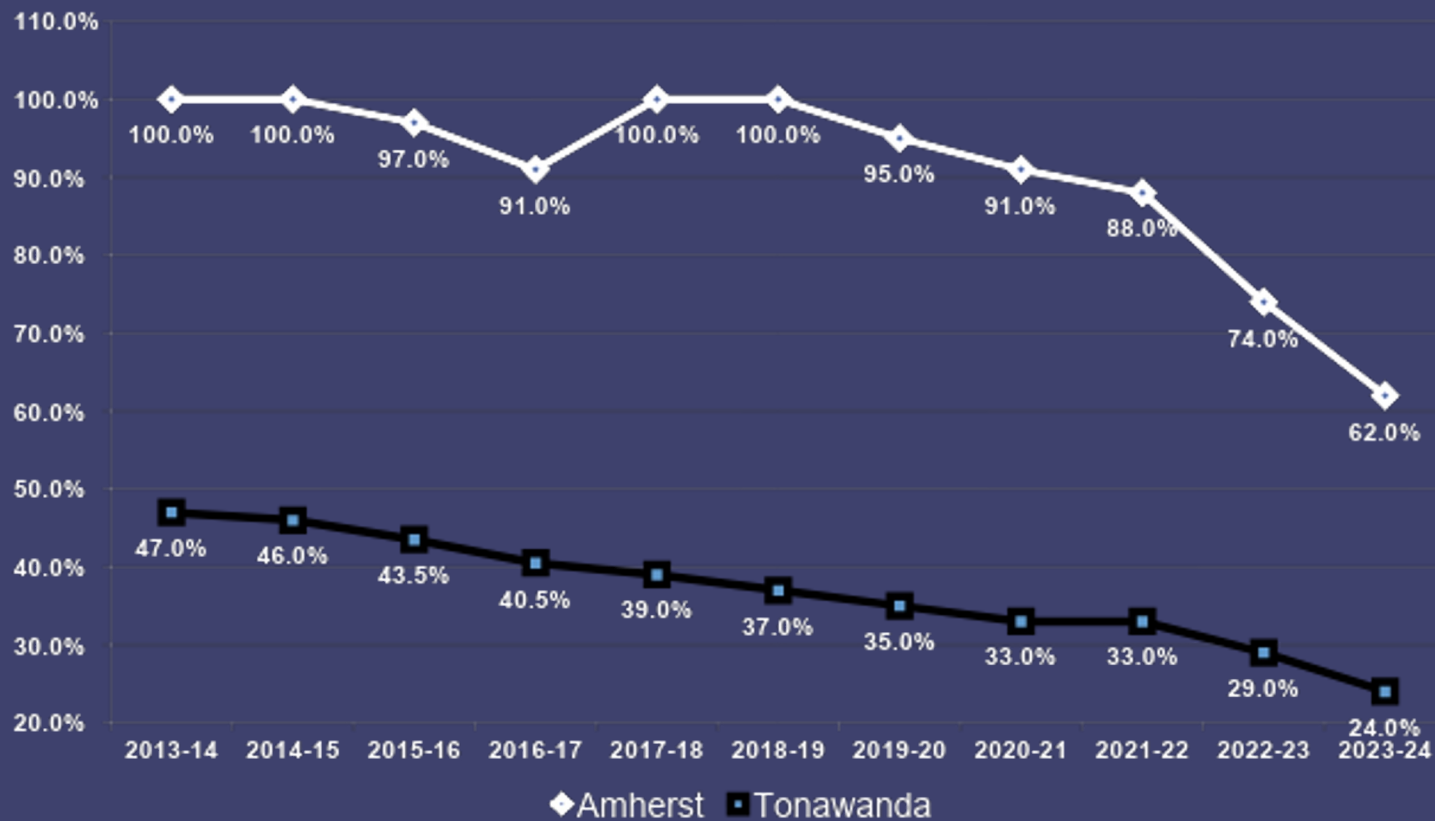


Assumptions:

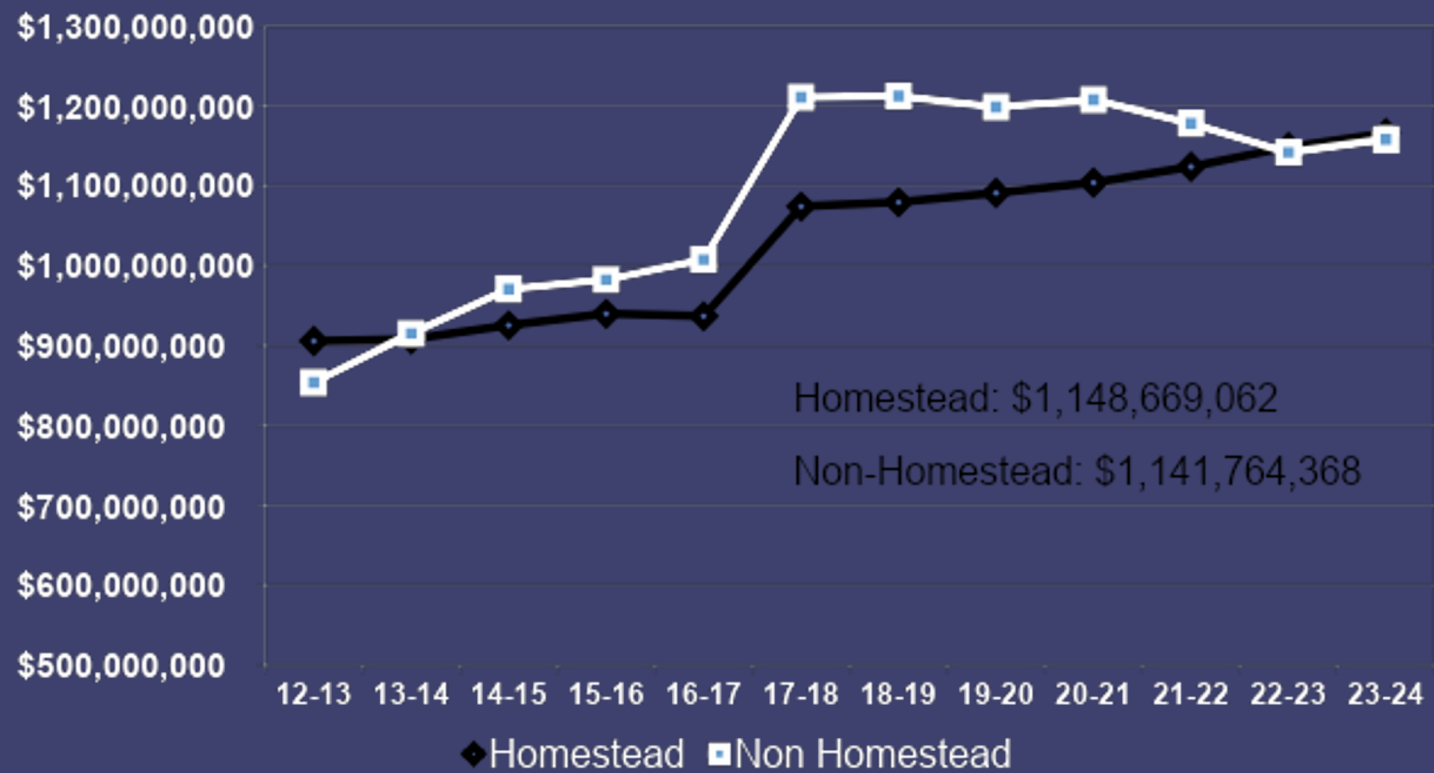
- Assessed Values adjusted to 2023 levels
- Amherst Equalization Rate reduced from 74% to 62%
- Tonawanda Equalization Rate reduced from 29% to 24%
- Rates based on going to balanced budget 23-24 cap of \$53,321,588

School Tax on an Average Assessed Value Home				
	Amherst		Tonawanda	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
Equalization Rate	74.0%	62.0%	29.0%	24.0%
Assessed Value	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$55,500	\$55,500
Tax Rate	\$15.68	\$15.47	\$40.25	\$40.11
Calculated Tax Bill	\$2,352	\$2,321	\$2,234	\$2,226
Estimated Increase		(\$31)		(\$8)

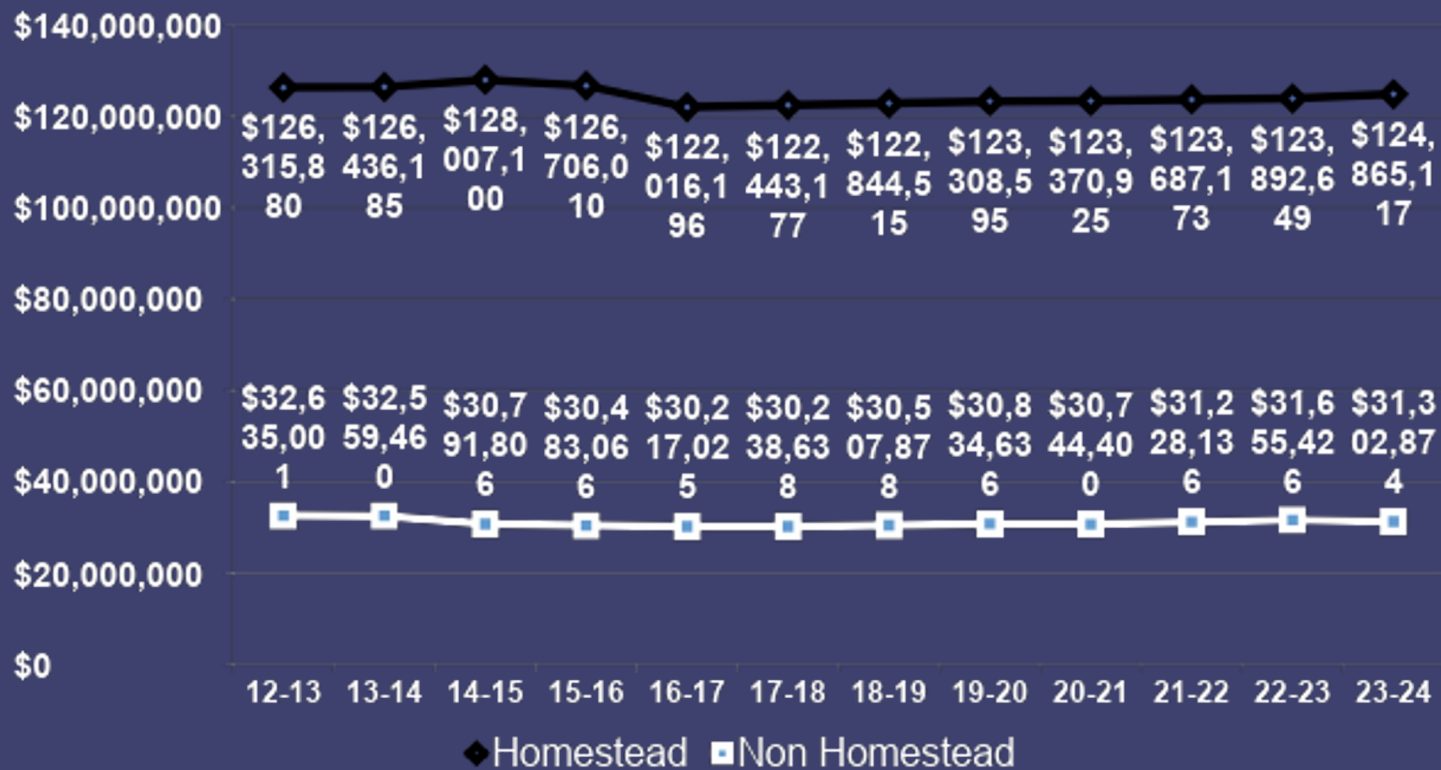
Equalization Rates



Amherst Taxable Assessed Value



Tonawanda Taxable Assessed Value

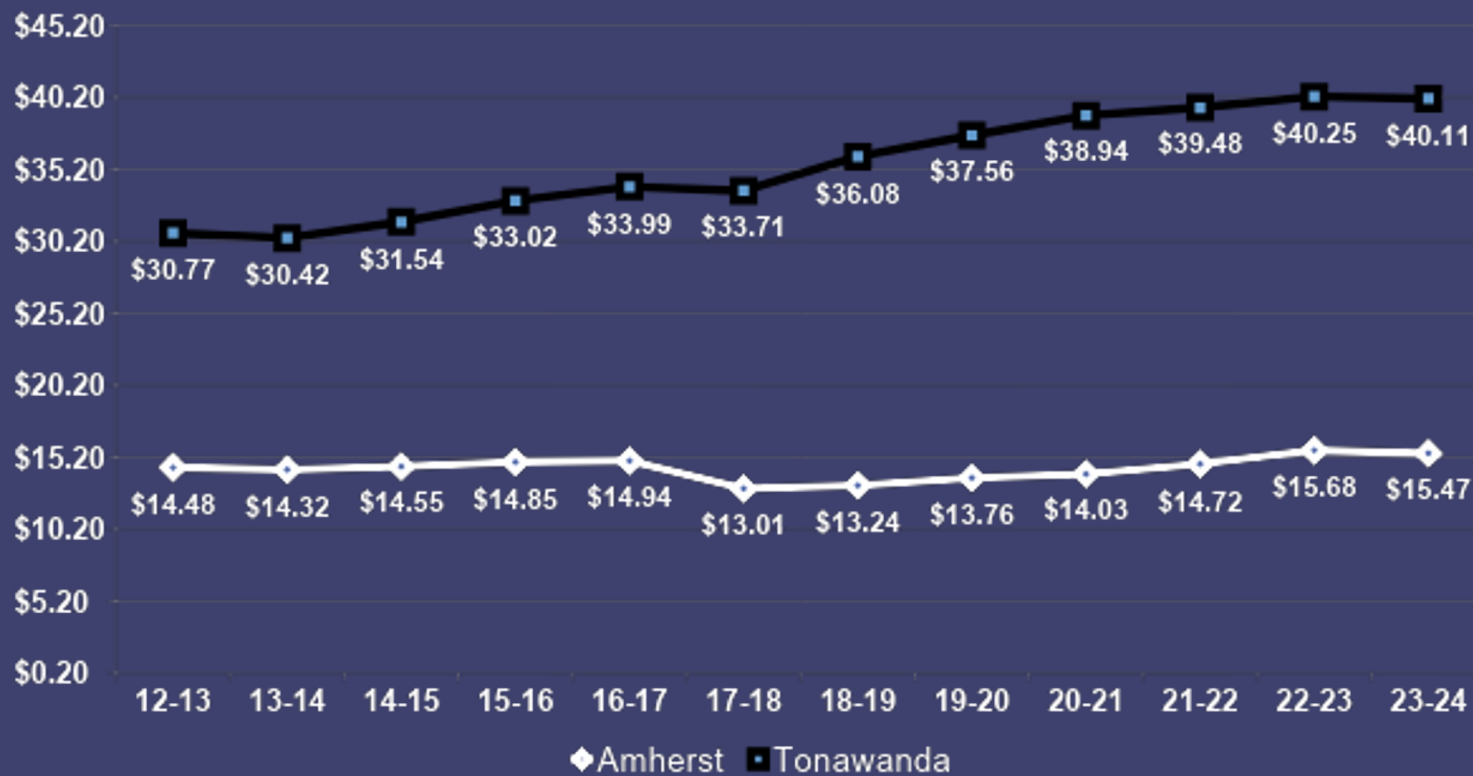


Proposed Tax Levy



	2022-23	2023-24
Amherst		
Homestead	\$18,012,849	\$18,038,080
Non-Homestead	\$28,345,291	\$28,328,158
Total Amherst	\$46,358,140	\$46,366,238
Tonawanda		
Homestead	\$4,987,136	\$5,008,628
Non-Homestead	\$1,976,312	\$1,946,722
Total Tonawanda	\$6,963,448	\$6,955,350
Total Tax Levy	\$53,321,588	\$53,321,588

Sweet Home Tax Rate History



Tax Rate Summary

Tax Rate to the Nearest Cent	2022-23	May Projection	2023-24
Amherst Homestead	\$15.68	\$15.68	\$15.47
Amherst Non-Homestead	\$24.83	\$24.83	\$24.46
Tonawanda Homestead	\$40.25	\$40.25	\$40.11
Tonawanda Non-Homestead	\$62.43	\$62.43	\$62.23



Fund Balance & Reserve Fund Activity

2022-23 Approved Budget: \$89,351,588
4% of Budget: \$3,574,064

Recommendation Unassigned Fund Balance: \$6,349,533
Percentage of 2022-23 Budget: 7.11%
Difference: \$2,775,469

Why the Recommendation?

GASB 84 – regulation regarding District 105h funds for employee medical expenses

- Traditionally booked as a long term expense in a Trust & Agency Account
- Recommendation from our external auditor to move to Unassigned Fund Balance
- **TOTAL 105h FUNDS MOVED/ACCOUNTED FOR: \$1,241,812**

INCREASED CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION COSTS

SERVICE EMPLOYEE CONTRACT SETTLED BEYOND BUDGETED

- Move remainder of 21-22 surplus to Unassigned Fund Balance
- **\$1,533,657**

District will monitor 22-23 overall budget performance.

- May not need to use all of these monies. Will provide an update in January.
- Costs will need to be budgeted for in coming years.
- Monies not used could be put into reserves next August.

2016-22 OSC Audit:

District was sighted for an Unassigned Fund Balance above mandated 4%.



Fund Balance & Reserve Fund Activity

2022-23 Year End

2022-23 Budget Year Key Points of Interest

- ☐ Challenging budget year because of unknowns going into the year / items not budgeted for:
 - ☐ New service employee contract - \$350,000
 - ☐ Increase in Contracted Transportation - \$1.8 million / gap year aid
 - ☐ Increase in BOCES services - \$200,000 / gap year aid
 - ☐ Increase in legal fees - \$110,000
- ☐ 22-23 Budget realized surplus of \$2,176,735



2022-23 Budget Surplus

What helped?

2022-23 Budget realized a \$2,176,735 surplus...how?

- ☐ Influx of Federal Funds tied to salaries
- ☐ **\$1,533,657 approved by the BOE for unassigned fund balance**
- ☐ Helped to offset costs associated with:
 - ☐ Gap in expense driven aids (transportation and BOCES) - \$1,000,000
 - ☐ Unassigned fund balance – increase of \$300,000 at 4%



2022-23 Budget Surplus 105h Monies

2023-24 Budget accounted for \$1,241,812 for 105h monies:

GASB 84 – regulation regarding District 105h funds for employee medical expenses

- Traditionally booked as a long term expense in a Trust & Agency Account
- Recommendation from our external auditor to move to Unassigned Fund Balance
- **TOTAL 105h FUNDS MOVED/ACCOUNTED FOR: \$1,241,812**
- To become FULLY funded and move all funds to P&A, District must use \$1,093,286 in surplus funds
- By doing this, it will benefit future budgets if 105h reimbursements run high.



Fund Balance & Reserve Fund Activity 2023-24

	Employee Benefits	Tax Certiorari	Workers Comp	ERS/TRS	Debt	Unemployment	Capital	Total Reserves	Unassigned Fund Balance
Balance 6/30/22	\$632,272	\$789,209	\$840,759	\$2,700,071	\$2,312,995	\$324,068	\$2,601,471	\$10,200,845	\$6,349,533
Interest Income	\$7,624	\$7,442	\$10,283	\$33,864	\$95,363	\$3,907	\$18,753	\$177,236	
Use of Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$1,093,286	-\$705,000	\$0	-\$500,000	-\$2,298,286	
Additions Per BOE	\$0	\$221,735	\$0	\$1,100,000	\$0	\$105,000	\$750,000	\$2,176,735	
Balance 6/30/23	\$639,896	\$1,018,386	\$851,042	\$2,740,649	\$1,703,358	\$432,975	\$2,870,224	\$10,256,530	\$3,875,464



Fund Balance & Reserve Fund 2023 Recommendations Summary

Reserve	Proposed 2023 Additions
Tax Certiorari	\$221,735
ERS Reserve	\$1,100,000
Unemployment Reserve	\$105,000
Capital Reserve	\$750,000
TOTAL	\$2,176,735

2023-24 Unassigned Fund Balance	Percentage of Budget
\$3,875,464	4.0%
Full Compliance with Education Law	





2023-24 Tax Rates & Reserve Allocations

QUESTIONS??

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The 2023-2024 School Year

- 1. The implementation of the Sweet Home Central Strategic Plan.**

- 1. Year 3 of our DEI Initiative.**
 - a. Equity Audit of Operations**

- 1. Planning for our next capital project with an expected vote date in late Fall, 2025.**
 - a. Community Input**
 - b. Focus Groups**
 - c. Building Use Committee**

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STRATEGIC PLAN

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OUR GOALS

Teaching & Learning

Sweet Home provides learning experiences that are focused on supporting students in developing strong academic skills through experiential learning while amplifying student voice.

Future Focused

Sweet Home coursework provides real-world experiences that engage students across a series of pathways while teaching and nurturing critical life skills in everyone.

Whole Child

Sweet Home students grow and learn in an environment that is fully engaging, welcoming, accepting, and safe, where students believe their voices are heard and where they have opportunities to actively engage with each other in all subject areas through relationships and the real world.

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2023 - 2026

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Community Partnerships

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Pilot Program with UB

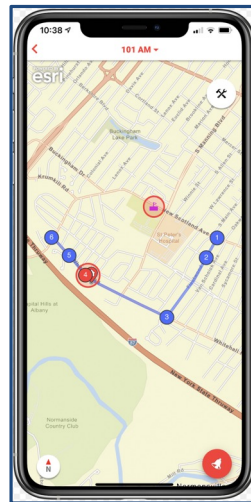
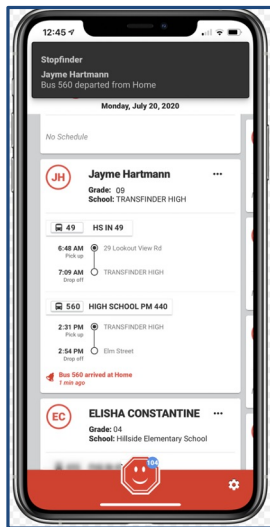
- Project Read STOP Write: Multicomponent intervention in grades 4-5
 - Focus on foundational reading skills (word recognition, word formation, and fluency), reading comprehension, writing, and motivation for reading informational text.
- Innovative approach with built in supports when reading and writing during Math & Science
- 10 week program (fall and spring) with teacher stipends to support PD
 - Available to all four schools
- Embedded support for implementation from UB team of experts
- UB Grant funded and supported by large foundations
- Learn more at [Advanced Education Research & Development Fund](#)

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**Your child's school is now using Stopfinder to share transportation
schedules!**

What is Stopfinder?

Stopfinder is the all-in-one parent app that allows your school district to share your student's transportation schedule, announcements, and more. Stopfinder works with your district's transportation software to provide you the most accurate schedule information as quickly as possible.

Stopfinder is secure and only for registered users. Your school will send you an invitation providing access to log in to the Stopfinder app. Invitations will be sent through email.

Stopfinder is available anytime for Stopfinder Subscribers. View your student's schedule from your mobile device. Share student schedules with caregivers and family members and view announcements and notifications in the Stopfinder Message Center.

**Check your email for a Stopfinder invitation and visit the App Store or Google Play to
download Stopfinder.**

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September is Homecoming Month

September 9

Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

Community Day

Football Game vs. Hamburg, 2 p.m.

Week of September 18

Spirit Week

September 21

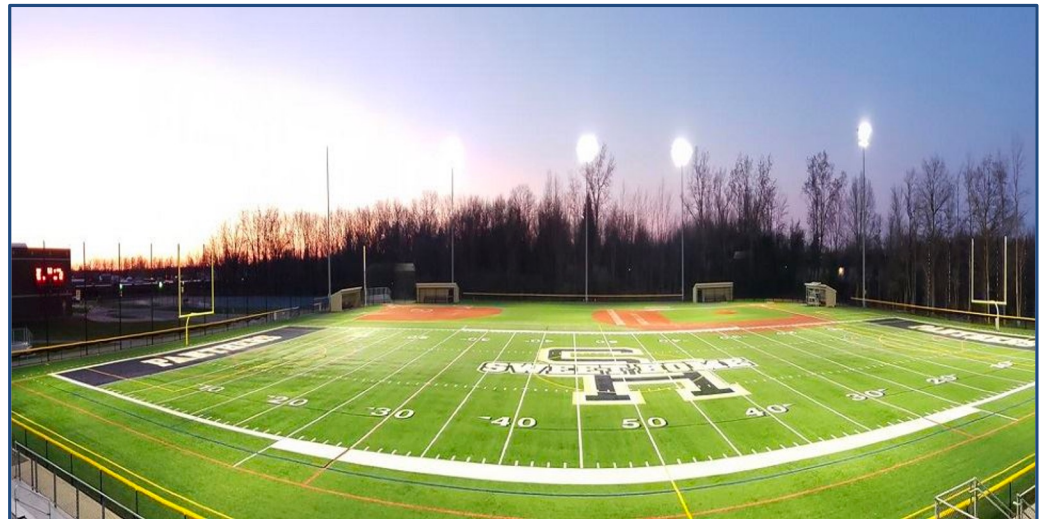
Powder Puff Game

September 22

In-School Pep Rally

September 23

Homecoming Dance



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Superintendent Athletic Advisory Council

Why?

- To properly develop the student athlete and ensure each athletic program as Sweet Home has the best chance at success.
- To define what we want out of our athletic program and define what the SH athlete is and what they will become.

Who?

Key stakeholders in athletics.

- DO, AD, Administrator/s, Coaches, Athletes, Parents, Youth Organizations

What?

Review each aspect of operation to ensure athletics is meeting our mission of the District.

- Enrollment, Academics, Youth Development, Facilities, Branding, Coaching Development, Uniforms, Wellness, Nutrition, etc....

When?

- Develop the Council during this school year.
- Develop mission and vision for athletics at SH.
- Develop plans to meet the mission and vision.

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Northwest Amherst Community Center Grand Opening

Sunday September 10
2 - 4 p.m.



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Opening Day! Welcome Students

Tuesday, September 5
Superintendent Conference Day
Welcome Back Faculty and Staff!

Wednesday, September 6
First day of class for all students!



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