

# The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

[www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org)

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

# VOTE

## Grand Island Schools 2020-2021 Budget/Trustee Vote

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

Absentee ballots ONLY

All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.

Submit ballots to District Clerk by June 9 at 5 p.m.

### Find Out More

Copies of the district's proposed budget will be available online, the Grand Island Public Library and in the District Office as of May 12, 2020.

Please contact the district with questions about the budget development process. Visit the district website at [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org) for more information.

### Voter Registration Information

Poll books will be used during this vote/election. If you have not registered for the primary or general election, please view resources on the district website, [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org) under the 2020-21 Budget Information page.

## Message From Your Superintendent

Dear Grand Island Families and Community:

Over the last four years, I have been continuously impressed with our incredible school system and the wonderful opportunities available for all of our students. I have also been impressed with our Board of Education and their commitment to the budget planning process. Each board member has been actively involved in the development of the budget, asking thoughtful questions and reviewing all aspects of our expenditures as well as anticipated revenues.

As a result of the extensive planning, analysis and future projections, the Grand Island Central School District is committed to providing our families and community with the necessary budget information to make an informed decision on **Tuesday, June 9, 2020**.



*Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools*

Our proposed budget balances the needs of both the taxpayers of the Grand Island School Community and our students through the development of a fiscally responsible budget designed to provide our students with the best diversified educational program.

The 2020-21 budget total is \$64,626,568. This budget will result in a tax increase for Grand Island homeowners of 2.26%, which is within the state's tax levy cap limit. The school tax bill on a \$180,000 home, with a basic STAR assessment reduction, will increase by \$66.75.

This fiscal plan upholds the goals of the Board of Education and maintains our current elementary class sizes; continues the implementation of our regular instructional program; maintains current transportation services; enhances our student support programs; improves upon a safe and secure campus; and provides exceptional literacy support in our elementary schools.

Furthermore, it maintains the current interscholastic athletic and co-curricular programs and appropriates well-planned reserves to address potential future reductions in federal and state aid, while still considering the District's fiscal future.

As a result of the extended school closure, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please take the time to read our newsletter before returning your absentee ballot to vote. All absentee ballots must be received on Tuesday, June 9th by 5:00 PM. You may also wish to review our Budget presentation, which can be accessed on our website at [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org). Your consideration of the 2020-21 school budget is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**The annual Community Perception Survey is now available on our website. Please consider taking a few moments to provide us with your valuable feedback and input on our district.**

The Grand Island Board of Education supports this budget and encourages residents to call with questions or attend the regularly scheduled meetings. For further information call 773-8805 or visit [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org).

### Proposition No. 1 (2020-2021 Budget)

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Grand Island Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$64,626,568, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

YES     NO

### Proposition No. 2

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED: (a) That the Board of Education of the Grand Island Central School District, in the County of Erie, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to acquire various school buses and vehicles, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$685,000; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the amount of not to exceed \$685,000 to finance such cost, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; (c) that the District is authorized to issue serial bonds to finance all or part of said cost, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) that, in lieu of bonds, the District is authorized to enter into one or more installment purchase contracts for the purchase of some or all of said buses and vehicles, for a term of not to exceed five (5) years; and a tax is hereby voted to pay each installment on any such contract.

YES     NO

### Board of Education Election

Candidates for two (2) seats as follows:

1. Ashli Dreher
2. Susan Marston

Candidate biographies can be seen at [www.grandislandschools.org/budget2020](http://www.grandislandschools.org/budget2020)

### Budget Public Hearing

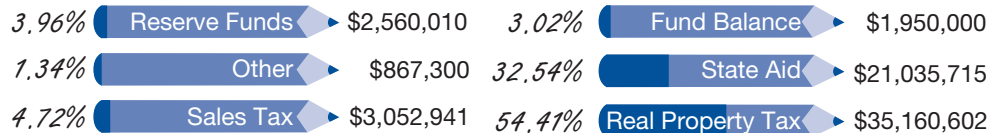
Tuesday, May 26, 2020 • 7 p.m.

Held virtually (Google Hangouts).

## 2019-2020 Budget Proposal at a Glance

|   | 2019-2020    | 2020-2021    | \$ Change | % Change |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>ADMINISTRATION - 9%</b><br><b>Consists of these examples and others:</b><br>Daily operating activities which indirectly provide a benefit to students and staff. | \$5,528,620  | \$5,534,530  | \$5,910   | 0.11%    |
| <b>PROGRAM - 72%</b><br><b>Consists of these examples and others:</b><br>Activities which directly benefit students.  | \$45,865,767 | \$46,559,605 | \$693,838 | 1.51%    |
| <b>CAPITAL - 19%</b><br><b>Consists of these examples and others:</b><br>Activities involving maintenance and up-keep of district buildings.                        | \$12,267,317 | \$12,532,433 | \$265,116 | 2.16%    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | \$63,661,704 | \$64,626,568 | \$964,864 | 1.52%    |

### Where Does School Funding Come From?



## What are some of the items included in the 2020-2021 proposed budget?

- Maintains our current elementary class sizes.
- Continues the implementation of our regular instructional program.
- Enhances our student support programs through the addition of a .5 elementary counselor, making this a 1.0 FTE with the assistance of grant funds.
- Maintains the safety and security of the campus through the School Resource Officers.
- Maintains current transportation services.
- Maintains the current interscholastic athletic and co-curricular programs.
- Appropriates well-planned reserves to address potential future reductions in federal and state aid, while still considered in the District's fiscal future.

## Local Impact

Our District spent \$61 million in 2018-19 to educate students. Below are estimates of the local impact.

|            | Direct | Spillover | Total   |
|------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Employment | 500    | 300       | 800     |
| Income     | 30.8M  | \$17.6M   | \$48.4M |
| Income Tax | \$1.6M | \$0.8M    | \$2.4M  |
| Sales Tax  | \$0.9M | \$0.5M    | \$1.4M  |

The Grand Island School District directly employs about 500 people. The district's purchase of goods and services as well as employee personal spending is responsible for about 300 additional spillover jobs in the Western Region. The school district is responsible for a total of about 800 jobs. These jobs generate \$48.4 million in income. \$30.8 million is directly connected to Grand Island employees. Another \$17.6 million is generated by spillover spending that generates additional jobs. This income generates an estimated \$2.4 million in state income tax in total and \$1.4 million in sales tax.



## 2020-2021 Tax Information

|                   | 2019-2020<br>Actual | 2020-2021<br>Proposed | Dollar Change | Percent<br>Change |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Assessed Value *  | \$1,749,972,792     | \$1,749,972,792       | \$0.00        | 0%                |
| Equalization Rate | 88%                 | 85%                   | \$0.00        | 3%                |
| Tax Levy          | \$34,381,951        | \$35,160,602          | \$778,651     | 2.26%             |
| Tax Rate          | \$19.647135         | \$20.092085           | \$0.444950    | 2.26%             |

### Tax Levy

The tax levy is the total amount of property taxes a school district must collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources including state aid. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rate for each of the cities, towns or villages that make up a school district.

### Tax Rate

Tax rate is determined by your property's assessed value divided by 1,000, and multiplied by the tax rate. This rate is established using the Town of Grand Island Assessed Value.

**\*The 2020-2021 proposed tax rate is based on estimated assessment. Final assessment values for calculation of the 2020-2021 tax rate are not available at this time.**

## Contingent Budget Information

|                                | Proposed Budget<br>2020-2021 | Contingency Budget<br>2020-2021 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Total Budget                   | \$64,626,568                 | \$63,847,917                    |
| Budget Increase/Decrease       | \$964,864                    | \$186,213                       |
| % Increase/Decrease            | 1.52%                        | 0.29%                           |
| Change in Consumer Price Index | 1.81%                        | 1.81%                           |

### What happens if the proposed budget is not approved?

If a proposed budget is defeated by voters, a school district - as in the past - has two options: to put the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or to adopt a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, a district must adopt a contingent budget.

### Does the law make any changes to the requirements for a contingent budget?

Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect which prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, elimination of all proposed increases in staff, prohibit purchasing of new equipment (i.e. buses) and prevent any member of a bargaining unit which does not have a contract beyond June 30, 2020 from having an increase in salary in 2020-2021.

However, under the new law, a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount which would impose, in effect, a zero percent cap. Districts will not be allowed to increase the tax levy to the extent needed to fund expenditures excluded from the tax cap (no growth factor, nor capital, court order/judgements, or pension expenditures.).

## Our Successes

### Sidway Elementary School -

Our Early Childhood Center houses 2 UPK sections, 11 kindergarten sections and 11 first-grade sections. Our Tinker Space in the library allows students to rotate through hands-on activity stations with creative projects that bring basic math, science and engineering concepts to life. In this space, students can tinker, experiment, build, take apart, investigate and create.

### Huth Road Elementary School -

Our faculty worked diligently in providing a remote instructional program for all students. Teachers have been committed to reimagining instruction in this virtual world. Through platforms such as Google Classrooms and Seesaw, teachers have maintained the strong relationships forged before the closure and created opportunities for students to interact with each other.

### Kaegebein Elementary School -

During the closure, teachers created Google Classrooms, and all students receive regular emails. There has been a high number of volunteers for delivering lunches, technology and school materials. Each student received at least two books to read, as well. Students are continuing our emphasis on kindness by leaving painted rocks in the front garden.

### Veronica E. Connor Middle School -

During the closure, we have quickly adapted to providing a continuity of instruction through distance learning. Teachers are using different platforms such as Google Classroom, Google Meet, websites and Schoology, among others. We are proud of our students working hard to manage this ever-changing learning environment and adapting to social distancing protocols.

### Grand Island High School -

This year, business teachers worked to approve our new National Academy of Finance. The community has established a board to oversee program implementation and the establishment of internships. Currently, our first cohort of students are planning coursework for next year to begin preparing to be future community leaders. Additionally, this past fall, students celebrated the school's first ever state championship. Congratulations to the Boys Varsity Volleyball team for their historic NYSPHSAA Division II victory!



1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, NY 14072  
www.grandislandschools.org

### Board of Education

Ashli Dreher, President  
Susan Marston, Vice President  
Glenn Bobeck  
Jay Grover  
Joy LaMarca  
Robin McCreary  
Nicole Novak

### Superintendent

Brian Graham, Ed.D.



## Resident

Visit [www.grandislandschools.org](http://www.grandislandschools.org) and Follow us on Twitter @GrandIslandCSD

## Overall Budget Proposal

|   | Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year |
|---|--|---|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions  | \$63,661,704                               | \$64,626,568                                | \$63,847,917                                   |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2019-2020 School Year   |  | \$964,864                                   | \$186,213                                      |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget   |  | 1.52%                                       | 0.29%  |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index  |  | 1.81%                                       |  |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount   | \$34,381,951                               | \$35,160,602                                |  |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable  |  |   |  |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable  |  |   |  |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy  |  |   |  |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)  | \$34,381,951                               | \$35,160,602                                | \$34,381,951                                   |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions   | \$686,897                                  | \$446,076                                   |  |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions  | \$33,695,054                               | \$34,714,526                                |  |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$33,695,054                               | \$34,714,526                                |  |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)   | \$0  | \$0   |  |
| Administrative Component  | \$5,528,620                                | \$5,534,530                                 | \$5,481,530                                    |
| Program Component   | \$45,865,767                               | \$46,559,605                                | \$45,941,954                                   |
| Capital Component   | \$12,267,317                               | \$12,532,433                                | \$12,424,433                                   |

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law: The contingent budget is calculated using the NYS Contingent budget formula which excludes non-contingent budget items. In addition, a contingency budget would require the district to charge for the use of its facilities.

| Separate Proposition for Vehicle Purchase | Description      | Amount    |
|---|------------------|-----------|
|   | Vehicle Purchase | \$685,000 |

| Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year |       |
|---|-------|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings*               | \$548 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the Grand Island Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be by absentee ballot only, pursuant to the Executive Order No. 202.26 of the Governor of the State of New York dated May 1, 2020. Ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than Tuesday, June 9, 2020 before 5:00 p.m..

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