

# The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

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

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

## Message From Your Superintendent

Dear Grand Island Families and Community:

Over the last three 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.



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

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, May 21, 2019.

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 2019-20 budget total is \$63,661,704. This budget will result in a tax increase for Grand Island homeowners of 2.75%, 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 \$79.50.

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.

Please take the time to read our newsletter before going to vote on May 21. 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 2019-20 school budget is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**The annual Community Perception Survey will be available at the budget vote. Please consider taking a few moments to provide us with your valuable feedback and input on our district. The survey will also be available on the district website May 20-31.**

# VOTE

**Grand Island Schools  
2019-2020**

**Budget/Trustee Vote**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

Grand Island High School Gym  
1100 Ransom Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

### Find Out More

Copies of the District's proposed budget will be available at any of the District's five schools, the Grand Island Public Library and in the District Office as of May 6, 2019.

Please contact your 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 do so now. If you are not registered in advance, you will be required to register on vote/election day.

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 (2019-2020 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, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$63,661,704, 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 therefore 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

Elect two (2) members to the Board of Education.

1. Colleen Wilkinson
2. Donna Tomkins
3. James Grover
4. Lisa Pyc
5. Nicole Novak

Candidate biographies can be seen at [www.grandislandschools.org/budget19-20](http://www.grandislandschools.org/budget19-20)

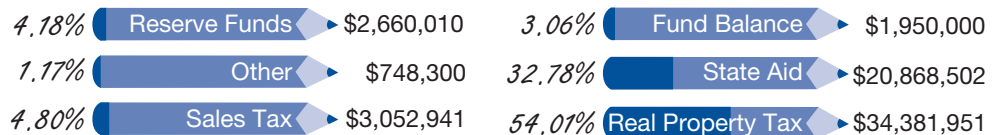
### Budget Public Hearing

Monday, May 13, 2019  
7 p.m.  
Grand Island High School  
Professional Development Room

## 2019-2020 Budget Proposal at a Glance

	2018-2019	2019-2020	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ADMINISTRATION - 9%</b> Consists of these examples and others: Daily operating activities which indirectly provide a benefit to students and staff.	\$5,546,224	\$5,528,620	-\$17,604	-0.32%
<b>PROGRAM - 72%</b> Consists of these examples and others: Activities which directly benefit students.	\$44,519,638	\$45,865,767	\$1,346,129	3.02%
<b>CAPITAL - 19%</b> Consists of these examples and others: Activities involving maintenance and up-keep of district buildings.	\$12,415,850	\$12,267,317	-\$148,533	-1.20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,481,712</b>	<b>\$63,661,704</b>	<b>\$1,179,992</b>	<b>1.89%</b>

### Where Does School Funding Come From?



## What are some of the items included in the 2019-2020 proposed budget?

- Maintains our current elementary class sizes
- Continues the implementation of our regular instructional program
- The addition of a .5 elementary counselor and .5 social worker enhances student support.
- Improves upon a safe and secure campus through the addition of School Resource Officers
- Maintains current transportation services
- Maintains the current interscholastic athletic and co-curricular programs
- Continues the practice of \$100,000 capital outlay project
- Includes transfer to capital to assist with \$24 million capital project
- Well-planned reserves address potential future reductions in federal and state aid.

## Local Impact

Our District spent \$61.4 million in 2017-18 to educate students. Below are estimates of the local impact.

	Direct	Spillover	Total
Employment	500	300	800
Income	\$30.4M	\$18.3M	\$48.7M
Income Tax	\$1.6M	\$0.9M	\$2.5M
Sales Tax	\$0.9M	\$0.6M	\$1.5M

GICSD directly employees about 500 people. The District's purchase of goods/services and other expenditure is responsible for about 300 additional spillover jobs, making GICSD responsible for a total of about 800 jobs. These jobs generate \$48.7 million in income. \$30.4 million is directly connected to Grand Island employees. Another \$18.3 million is produced by spillover spending that yields additional jobs. This income builds an estimated \$2.5 million in state income tax in total and \$1.4 million in sales tax.

Source: ASBO New York, 2019



## 2019-2020 Tax Information

	2018-2019 Actual	2019-2020 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Assessed Value *	\$1,728,408,178	\$1,728,408,178	\$0.00	0.00%
Equalization Rate	93%	93%		0.00%
Tax Levy	\$33,463,153	\$34,381,951	\$918,798	2.75%
Tax Rate	\$19.360677	\$19.892264	\$0.531587	2.75%

\*The 2019-2020 proposed tax rate is based on an estimated assessment. Final assessment values for calculation of the 2019-2020 tax rate are not available at this time.

### 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 2019-2020 proposed tax rate is based on estimated assessment. Final assessment values for calculation of the 2019-2020 tax rate are not available at this time.

## Contingent Budget Information

	Proposed Budget 2019-2020	Contingency Budget 2019-2020
Total Budget	\$63,661,704	\$62,742,906
Budget Increase/Decrease	\$1,179,992	\$261,194
% Increase/Decrease	1.89%	0.42%
Change in Consumer Price Index	2.44%	2.44%

### 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, 2019 from having an increase in salary in 2019-2020.

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 the youngest students in the district in UPK, kindergarten and grade 1. A new, dynamic Tinker Space in our 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 are invited to tinker, experiment, build, take apart, investigate and create.

**Huth Road Elementary School** - Huth Road was one of 19 schools in NYS recognized as 2018-2020 National PTA Schools of Excellence for building strong, effective family-school partnerships. In the classroom, our students will focus on key ideas and details in their ELA writing and using more manipulatives to reinforce math concepts. Our teachers will begin delving into the instructional shifts for Next Gen Science Standards and new Social Studies frameworks.

**Kaegebein Elementary School** - Our school garden now has 10 raised beds, two apple trees and a pollinator garden. Our school theme is "Work Hard And Be Kind." We opened a STEAM room (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) and teachers use the space for problem-solving projects and coding. We have also installed a sensory trail for students to use to help with focus and input needs.

**Veronica E. Connor Middle School** - We are working to accomplish the goals of the District's Strategic Action Plan by incorporating collaboration, teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and creativity into curriculum and instruction. Science teachers lead the way in WNY in transitioning to the newly created Science Learning Standards. The Family and Consumer Science program is successfully making strides in the transition to a CTE Business program. We will continue to focus on building positive relationships with and among students by implementing the nationally recognized W.E.B. (Where Everyone Belongs).

**Grand Island High School** - Architecture and Construction students have been learning about Frank Lloyd Wright and his connection to Western New York. Participating in the Jr. Docent Program at the Darwin Martin House has been inspiring to staff and students. Students in the Drones and Robotics technology unit have learned the FAA rules and regulations for flying small unmanned aircraft while also honing their piloting skills. They also use state-of-the-art VEX robotics to design, construct, and program robots to do simple tasks or to compete in class contests.

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

**Board of Education**

Ashli Dreher, President  
Susan Marston, Vice President  
Glenn Bobeck  
Joy LaMarca  
Robin McCreary  
Lisa Pyc  
Donna Tomkins

**Superintendent**

Brian Graham, Ed.D.

**Resident**



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<b>Overall Budget Proposal</b>	<b>Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year</b>	<b>Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year</b>	<b>Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year</b>
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$62,481,712	\$63,661,704	\$62,742,906
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-2020 School Year		\$1,179,992	\$261,194
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.89 %	0.42%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$33,463,153	\$34,381,951	
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)	\$33,463,153	\$34,381,951	\$33,463,153
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$915,375	\$686,897	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$32,547,821	\$33,695,054	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$32,547,778	\$33,695,054	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$43	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$5,546,224	\$5,528,620	\$5,476,726
Program Component	\$44,519,638	\$45,865,767	\$45,199,863
Capital Component	\$12,415,850	\$12,267,317	\$12,066,317

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 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

<b>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year</b>	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings*	<b>\$581</b>

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the Grand Island Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the High School in said District on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the High School Gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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