

Learning at...



BUDGET 2020

# Wallkill

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALLKILL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Letter from Superintendent Kevin Castle Regarding the COVID-19 Situation

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

- The essential workers, including our healthcare workers and emergency responders, who risk their lives every day to ensure our safety. You are our heroes!
- Our parents/guardians, who have been amazing partners during this current school closure. Your patience and support during this time is truly appreciated.
- Our faculty, staff, and administrators, who have worked countless hours ensuring our students are being provided with meaningful learning experiences and social/emotional supports. We had to transition to online learning overnight, and you were able to adjust immediately to ensure that learning was not interrupted.
- The volunteers who have been donating time to deliver food and supplies to our families. Your generosity has ensured that our families remain safe and well nourished.
- Our students, who have shown perseverance during this time of adversity. Your strength and resilience will get you through this very unfortunate situation. Keep up the great work! We miss you!

Together we will make a difference!

**Stay Panther Strong!**

## Wallkill High School Announces Valedictorian and Salutatorian



*Wallkill High School has announced its valedictorian, Conor Bready (left), and its salutatorian, Andrew Conklin.*

### **WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (WSHS) HAS ANNOUNCED THIS YEAR'S VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN.**

These students reached the highest level of achievement, not only in academics, but also in an array of extracurricular endeavors.

Valedictorian Conor Bready, the son of Robert and Jennifer Bready of Highland, leads his class this year with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 102.5840, which he maintained while enrolled in numerous college-level and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. While his passion for learning encompasses all subjects, he especially enjoys classes in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields.

Reflecting upon his achievements, Conor expressed gratitude to his family. "I'd like to thank my family for their continued support throughout my entire life," he said. "Whether it was school, sports, or whatever else I decided to participate in, my family was always there to cheer me on and push me to be my best." He is especially grateful to his older brother, Brenden, who he says supported his goals, served as a role model, and helped him to create countless positive memories.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Conor credits his teachers, all of whom impacted him in some way. Especially inspiring, he said, were Chemistry teacher Ed Davis and Physics/Computer Science teacher Samrat Pathania, who influenced his plans for future studies. In college, he plans to focus on chemistry and mathematics, and also possibly computer science. Conor has a particular interest in studying the efficiency of batteries and renewable resources.

Outside of the classroom, Conor played on the JV and Varsity soccer teams, and ran track during the indoor and outdoor seasons. During his freshman year, he competed on a gymnastics team at an outside gym in Poughkeepsie. After an injury, he switched from competing to coaching, serving as a coach for the team.

Conor also served as President of the National Honor Society, a member of the Spanish Honor Society, a student representative for the Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP), and a volunteer with the Athletes Helping Athletes organization.

Andrew Conklin, the son of Marlene and Shane Conklin of Wallkill, is this year's salutatorian. During his High School career, Andrew took numerous AP, honors, and college-level courses, earning multiple Academic Excellence Awards along the way. He also found time to participate in the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society, and to compete on the Junior

Varsity Baseball team and the Nordic Ski team.

Andrew appreciates the strong support he received from Wallkill faculty and staff over the years. "I found it very easy to approach my teachers with questions regarding my schoolwork and my future," he said. "Everyone has provided me with advice that has been helpful and encouraging."

Andrew also noted the lifelong support of his family, who he says encouraged him to work hard to achieve his goals. In addition to expressing the "utmost gratitude" towards his parents, he cherishes the bond he shares with his younger brother William.

In the fall, Andrew plans to attend college and major in Biochemistry while pursuing additional interests, including Management and Photography. He has been accepted at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Binghamton University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Vermont, but has yet to make a decision about which one he will attend. "My ultimate goal," he says, "is to help individuals with lost limbs and nerve damage through regenerative cell research."

As he prepares to leave WSHS, Andrew would like to thank everyone who assisted him along the way, including his classmates. "I'd like to congratulate the Class of 2020 and wish all the graduates luck in identifying their talents and pursuing their goals!" he concluded.

## Keeping "Panther Pride" Alive During the School Closure

To help keep away boredom—and prevent "academic slide" during the initial days of the school closure, Plattekill Grade 1 teacher Barbara Bouck gave her students a series of "boredom busters" to complete at home. Mrs. Bouck's assignment for March 18 was as follows:

"Today we see the sun again, and it feels like it is just calling us to go out for some fresh healthy air! Today's boredom buster is to go out for an outdoor math scavenger hunt and look for patterns. Try to find patterns in nature and manmade patterns around your yard. Take a picture of one nature pattern, or sketch it so I can see what you found. Mine is a manmade circular pattern using something from nature. Good luck!"

Student Miley Morales found a rock-shaped like a panther paw print, which she decided was nature's way of saying that we will all be OK. She then wrote out the words "Panther Strong" on the ground, using sticks and stones.

Miley was right—we are all Panther Strong!



# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## A Message from the Superintendent

### Dear Wallkill Community,

The Wallkill Central School District Board of Education and Administration have worked diligently over the past several months to prepare the proposed 2020-2021 school district budget. As a result of the fiscal foresight of the Board of Education and Administration over the last several years, our proposed 2020-2021 budget will result in a tax levy that is either at or below the limit for the ninth year in a row.

In preparing the 2020-2021 budget, the Board of Education and Administration made it a priority to maintain small class sizes, academic programs, extracurricular activities, and social/emotional supports, including police officers stationed at each school building. The challenge we faced in the development of this budget was the uncertainty of State Aid. Due to the fiscal foresight of the Board of Education and the establishment of reserves and fund balance, we were able to accomplish these goals with a few exceptions. Please see the question and answer document on pages 4 and 5 for further information.

There is a second proposition on the ballot for the purchase of a building to replace the current Administrative Office Building, which requires costly renovations. The cost to renovate the current building is approximately \$3,300,000, compared to the cost of \$575,000 to purchase a building. Furthermore, the District would purchase the building with existing monies rather than having to borrow, resulting in additional savings to the taxpayers. In addition, current lease payments for a parking lot, storage, and space for administrative offices will be eliminated from the budget with the purchase of this building, resulting in additional annual savings of \$27,000. The purchase of this building will provide a cost savings to taxpayers now and in the future. Please see pages 8 and 9 for more information on this proposition.

The District is proposing a 1.53% budget increase for the 2020-2021 school year that equates to a 2.49% tax levy increase. Since the proposed tax levy is at the tax levy limit, the proposed budget will require a simple majority of voters for approval (50% +1) instead of a super majority for approval (60% or more). Furthermore, the five (5) year average for our budget increase is 1.86% and the five (5) year average for our tax levy increase is 1.98%.

This issue of *Learning at Wallkill* provides the public with valuable information on District program highlights, the candidates who are running for the Board of Education, and the proposed 2020-2021 school district budget.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all District residents for your continued support for our students.

Sincerely,



Kevin Castle, Superintendent of Schools

### 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Total Proposed Budget Amount .....</b>         | <b>\$77,697,248</b> |
| <b>Increase from the 2019-20 School Year.....</b> | <b>\$1,173,102</b>  |
| <b>Percentage of Increase....</b>                 | <b>1.53%</b>        |

### 2020-2021 District Revenue

| Revenue Source             | Amount Received     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Estimated State Aid        | \$29,100,000        |
| Appropriated Fund Balance  | \$1,950,000         |
| Appropriated Reserves      | \$1,626,000         |
| Other Sources              | \$1,000,000         |
| Maximum Allowable Tax Levy | \$44,021,248*       |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>       | <b>\$77,697,248</b> |
| Tax Levy Increase          | 2.49%               |

\*At the tax levy limit

## Annual Budget Vote & Election of Trustees

The Annual Budget Vote and Election of Trustees will happen by absentee ballot only on June 9. If you are a qualified voter and have not received an absentee ballot, please contact the District Clerk at [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) or 845-895-7101.



# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2020-2021 School District Budget

### What is the proposition to be voted on?

The propositions voters will cast a ballot for on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 will be:

**Proposition #1:** RESOLVED, that the proposed Wallkill Central School District budget for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$77,697,248 be approved and the Board of Education of said School District be authorized to levy the necessary tax therefore.

**Proposition #2:** SHALL the Board of Education of the Wallkill Central School District be hereby authorized to acquire a parcel of land and the building thereon located at 1500 NYS Route 208, in Wallkill, New York, for use as a Central Administrative Office and associated uses, including incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$575,000, which amount shall be entirely paid out of the District's undesignated general fund balance for the 2019-2020 school year.

### What is the percent increase of the proposed 2020-2021 budget when compared to the 2019-2020 budget?

The 2020-2021 budget increase is **1.53%**. The average budget increase over the past five (5) years has been **1.86%**.

### What is the tax levy limit?

Essentially, it is an eight-step formula that each school district must use to calculate the tax levy limit. The result (the limit) is the maximum allowable tax levy (including permissible exemptions) that a school district can propose and would require only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% + 1). Any proposed tax levy amount above the limit would require budget approval by a super majority (60% or more) of voters. For more information on the tax levy limit, please visit [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

### Is the Wallkill Central School District's 2020-2021 tax levy within the limit?

Yes, the 2020-2021 tax levy is within the limit; therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval (50% + 1). The tax levy increase with permissible exemptions is **2.49%**. The average tax levy increase over the past five (5) years has been **1.98%**.

### Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No, the tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay toward the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another based on such things as equalization rates and assessed property values. At this time, individual town tax rates are undetermined due to the lack of final equalization rates and total town assessed values.

### How much State Aid is the District projected to receive?

There is still some uncertainty as to how much State Aid the District will receive. Therefore, the District reduced the State Aid projections by \$900,000. As a result, the District is budgeting \$29,100,000.

### What strategies were used to have a tax levy within the tax cap while facing a State Aid reduction?

1. Reduction of one (1.0) FTE Secondary Social Studies Teaching position through attrition
2. Reduction of one (1.0) FTE Teaching Assistant position through attrition
3. Reduction of two (2.0) FTE Teacher Aide positions through attrition
4. Reduction of one (0.97) FTE Part-Time Teacher Aide position through attrition
5. The K-8 Summer Learning Academy will not be offered this summer
6. The Senior High School Night School Program will not be offered in the 2020-2021 school year
7. Lower health insurance renewal rates
8. Refinancing of existing bond, giving the District a yearly savings
9. Reduction of District-wide textbook, contractual and supply budget allocations
10. Ulster BOCES expenses were reduced
11. Utility costs were stabilized due to bidding and the Energy Performance Contract
12. Use of fund balance and reserves
13. Multi-year financial planning

### What programs for students are included in the 2020-2021 budget?

1. Maintain low class sizes for K-12 to allow for enhanced learning opportunities (K-6 average class size of 20)
2. Maintain current programs and extracurricular activities except for those identified in the previous question
3. Maintain support services to address the social-emotional needs of our students
4. The continued assignment of Police Officers in all five (5) school buildings

### What are advantages to purchasing the building located at 1500 NYS Route 208, Wallkill, NY 12589?

- ▶ The current Central Administration Building requires renovations in the next five (5) years, with an anticipated renovation cost of more than \$3,300,000
- ▶ The purchase of the building would not require borrowing, as the District would use current year monies from the 2019-2020 school year
- ▶ Elimination of current lease payments for a parking lot, storage, and space for administration will be eliminated from the budget with the purchase of the building

# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## What happens if voters reject the proposed budget?

If voters reject the proposed budget, the school district will be required to adopt a contingent budget.

## What additional programs/positions will be reduced if the budget fails (contingent budget)?

- ▶ Reduction of nine (9) instructional positions, resulting in larger class sizes and loss of programs for our students
- ▶ Reduction in BOCES Services
- ▶ Reduction in 9-12 Summer Learning Academy Offerings
- ▶ All field trips (including Ashokan)
- ▶ All equipment (except for technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment necessary for health and safety purposes)
- ▶ Charges to community groups that result in identifiable costs for use of buildings

## What is included, as allowed by New York State Education Law, in a contingent budget?

A contingent budget will allow:

- ▶ All regular transportation to and from school at current levels of more than .6 miles and to private/parochial schools for students residing less than 15 miles from their home to school
- ▶ All legal obligations
- ▶ All health and safety repairs
- ▶ All expenses to maintain mandated educational programs
- ▶ All other budgeted items as determined by the Board of Education

## Who can vote on June 9, 2020?

Voters are eligible to vote if they are: (a) a U.S. Citizen; (b) at least 18 years of age; (c) a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to June 9, 2020; and (d) not otherwise ineligible to vote under Section 5-106 of the Election Law. Individuals do not need to be registered to vote. Please contact the District Clerk at 845-895-7101, or by email at: [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) if you have any questions regarding how you may obtain an absentee ballot. Information on how an unregistered voter, who meets the definition of a qualified voter, may receive an absentee ballot is available at: [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us).

## Preguntas frecuentes sobre el presupuesto del distrito escolar 2020-2021

### ¿Quién puede votar, el 9 de junio de 2020?

Los votantes son elegibles para votar si son: (a) un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos; (b) de al menos 18 años de edad; (c) residente del distrito escolar durante al menos 30 días antes del 9 de junio de 2020; y (d) no ineligible para votar de acuerdo con sección 5-106 de la Ley Electoral. Las personas no necesitan estar registradas para votar.

Si necesita una versión en español de estas preguntas, vaya a nuestro website - [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)

## Yearly Analysis Budget Increase vs. Tax Levy Increase

The Tax Levy increase has remained at or below the Tax Cap level beginning with the 2012-13 school year.

| Year           | Budget Increase | Tax Levy Increase  |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| 2016-17        | 1.48%           | 0%** (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)                       |
| 2017-18        | 2.47%           | 1.99%* (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)                     |
| 2018-19        | 1.91%           | 2.74* (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)                      |
| 2019-20        | 1.90%           | 2.68%* (Eligible homeowners received a tax rebate)                     |
| <b>2020-21</b> | <b>1.53%</b>    | <b>2.49%* (This increase is at the tax levy limit with exemptions)</b> |

**5-Year Average Budget Increase: 1.86%**  
**5-Year Average Tax Levy Increase: 1.98%**

**\*at the tax levy cap**  
**\*\*below the tax levy cap**

## District-Issued Devices Ease Transition to At-Home Learning

During the extended school closing, Wallkill students and teachers in Grades K-12 moved to virtual classrooms and online learning.

To facilitate that transition, internet-accessible devices were distributed to the parents and guardians of Elementary School students, who had previously used District-issued computers only in their classrooms. (Middle and High School students, who had been allowed to take their devices home nightly throughout the school year, had them with them when the school closure went into effect.)

The District also assisted families who needed help connecting to a Wi-Fi network, and provided technical support upon request to students, parents, and faculty members across all grade levels.

At Ostrander, Plattekill, and Leptondale Elementary Schools, Kindergarten students were issued iPads, while students in Grades 1-6 were assigned Chromebooks. The students were then able to use the devices to conduct research, complete assignments, and stay in touch with their teachers.

At Ostrander, a drive-through distribution system ensured safety and efficiency, said Principal Natalie Harjes. "Families arrived at their designated grade-level time, and volunteers handed out 378 devices," she recalled. "The faculty and staff were filled with joy to see the kids, and so many students said how much they missed us. I was so grateful for the Ostrander team!"

At Plattekill, the distribution process was organized and efficient, reported Principal Monica Hasbrouck. "We had 20



*At Ostrander Elementary School, School Psychologist Donna Otto (far left) and Principal Natalie Harjes helped hand out Chromebooks and iPads to parents and guardians who drove to a tent set up outside of the school (above).*

teachers, parents, and staff members volunteer their time," she said. "Parents received their devices in less than three minutes. Parents signed the release form, received their device, and were back home in no time." More than 380 devices were distributed.

At Leptondale, the deployment was well organized and ran smoothly, noted Principal Scott Brown, who said that 430 devices were given out at his school. "Parents came in through the side entrance to the gym, and then went right out again. We were so grateful to the Leptondale families for their kindness and support!"

During the school closure, Technical Services staff have been working from home supporting the faculty and students, said Director of Technology Thomas Hein. "Hotlines have been set up for parents to call or email issues. We have one Tech come in each day, at the High School, and we do repairs and exchange equipment with parents."

The District's tech initiatives were already focused on a cloud computing environment, Mr. Hein added, which meant that students were not restricted to learning just at school. "The infrastructure was already in place to support remote learning," he said.

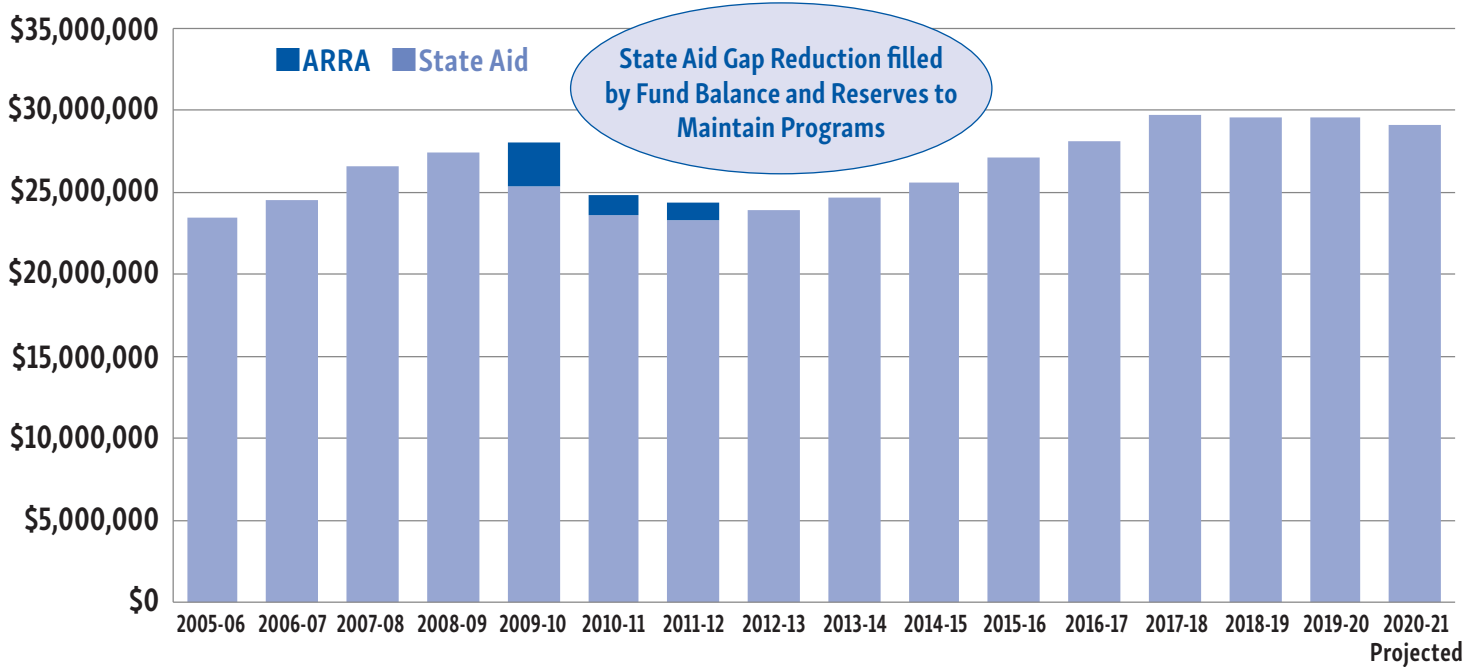


*Social distancing was observed at Plattekill Elementary School as volunteers distributed iPads and devices to facilitate at-home learning.*



# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## History of State Aid 2005-2020



## Meal Service Continues During School Closure

**ALTHOUGH WALLKILL'S CAFETERIAS ARE SHUTTERED DURING THE STATE-MANDATED EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE MISSING OUT ON NUTRITIOUS SCHOOL BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHES.**

"We currently have meals available for pickup or delivery on Mondays and Thursdays," said Brian Devincenzi, Wallkill's Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, who notes that approximately 290 children aged 18 or younger are taking advantage of the food service.

The free meals distributed on Mondays and Thursdays provide families with a breakfast and lunch for each child Monday through Sunday. Meals are available for pick-up from a bus parked in front of the High School and at Plattekill Elementary School.

Whitsons Culinary Group, the District's food contractor, is preparing and packaging the meals. Wallkill's bus contractor, Orange County Transit, is delivering the breakfasts and lunches, along with any other needed items (learning packets, for example) to students' homes.

"The District will continue to assist families by providing meals to families in need for the duration of the COVID-19 closure," said Mr. Devincenzi.



*Nutritious breakfasts and lunches have been delivered to students' homes during the school closure.*



# Proposition 2: District Seeks Permission to Acquire

## Q: WHY WOULD THE DISTRICT PURSUE THE PURCHASE OF THIS BUILDING NOW?

**A:** At this time, the District has the opportunity to purchase a building that will result in a cost savings to the taxpayer because the infrastructure of the current Administrative Building requires costly renovations. The building is approximately 140 years old, and the annex (modular) was added in 1988 to fulfill a need at that time. The modular needs to be replaced, and the main building requires substantial renovations. The cost of this work would be at a minimum \$3,300,000. As an alternate option, the District has the opportunity to purchase a building for \$575,000. The building is located near John G. Borden Middle School and Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School on Route 208. Furthermore, the District has the ability to purchase the building with current-year monies and would not have to borrow money, resulting in future savings to taxpayers. In addition, lease payments associated with the current administrative offices would be eliminated from the budget, resulting in additional savings.

## Q: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING?

**A:** The District would seek to sell the building. A recent appraisal of the current Administrative Office Building estimates the value of the building to be \$250,000. If the District is able to sell the building, the proceeds from the sale would be used to reduce property taxes over a period of time.

## Q: CURRENTLY, THE ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LEASES SPACE IN THE BUILDING. WILL THIS CONTINUE IF THE DISTRICT OWNS THE BUILDING?

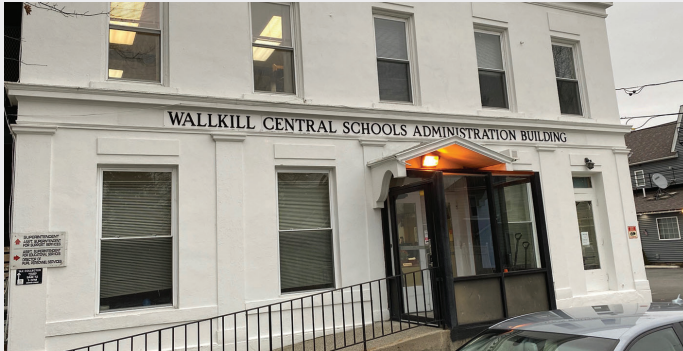
**A:** Although we have not entered discussions with Ulster County, the District would explore the continuation of the lease. The lease is scheduled to expire December 31, 2021. The District would also need to explore if the current leased space would be needed for District purposes in the future.

|  | Current Central Administration Building  | Proposed Central Administration Building   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Year Built</b>  | 1880, with modular building added in 1988  | 2001   |
| <b>Square Footage</b>                                    | 3,048 (main building); 1,300 (modular building)  | 5,760  |
| <b>Heating Systems</b>                                   | Baseboard hot water and electric   | Oil and electric   |
| <b>Parking Lot</b>                                       | The District currently leases a portion of the parking lot for \$240 a month – 3,200 square footage (14 parking spots)   | Own – 7,920 square footage (34 estimated spots)  |
| <b>Estimated Storage</b>                                 | 940 square feet  | 1,500 square feet in the attic and additional basement storage   |
| <b>Ability to Expand/Acreage</b>                         | None   | 2.7 acres  |
| <b>Monthly Debt Payment for Building</b>                 | None   | None – to be purchased with undesignated funds from the 2019-2020 budget   |
| <b>Current Administrative Offices</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent and Secretary</li> <li>• Assistant Superintendent for Support Services and Secretary</li> <li>• Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services and Secretary</li> <li>• Data Coordinator</li> <li>• Special Education Department (5 employees)</li> <li>• Tax Collector</li> <li>• Accounts Payable</li> <li>• Payroll Clerk</li> <li>• District Treasurer</li> <li>• Central Registration</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent and Secretary</li> <li>• Assistant Superintendent for Support Services and Secretary</li> <li>• Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services and Secretary</li> <li>• Data Coordinator</li> <li>• Special Education Department (5 employees)</li> <li>• Tax Collector</li> <li>• Accounts Payable</li> <li>• Payroll Clerk</li> <li>• District Treasurer</li> <li>• Central Registration</li> </ul> |
| <b>Estimated Monthly Electric Costs in Winter months</b> | \$660 for electric   | \$266 for electric   |
| <b>Dedicated Conference Room</b>                         | None   | Yes  |



# Building at Cost Saving to Taxpayers

## Current Building



Wallkill's current Administrative Office Building, which was built in 1880, is in need of extensive and costly renovations. A new, modern building can be purchased with available funds at a fraction of the cost of the repairs of the old building. The old building can be sold to further offset costs.



This aging modular building, added to the Administrative Offices in 1988, has outlived its useful life and needs to be replaced.



Another view of the Administration Office Building's modular annex, which is in poor condition and in need of replacement.



Costly repairs, including work on this water-damaged ceiling, are needed for the current Administrative Office Building. It is estimated that the needed work would cost at least \$3,300,000.

## Proposed Building



The District is proposing to purchase a building located at 1500 NYS Route 208 in Wallkill, which would better meet the space needs of its administrative staff while providing significant cost savings to taxpayers. There is no associated tax increase related to the building purchase.



The proposed building, which was built in 2001, would provide ample space for Central Administration offices.



The District currently pays \$240 a month to lease a portion of the parking lot located next to the Administrative Office Building—a cost that would be eliminated with the purchase of the new building. The new parking lot includes space for 34 vehicles—20 more than the current building's parking lot.



Modern, adequately sized offices in the proposed Central Administrative Building are in move-in condition.

# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## Wallkill Central School District Budget Notice

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL  | Budget Adopted<br>for the 2019-20<br>School Year | Budget Proposed<br>for the 2020-21<br>School Year | Contingency Budget<br>for the 2020-21<br>School Year* |
|--|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions   | \$76,524,146                                     | \$77,697,248                                      | \$76,628,974  |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year  |  | \$1,173,102                                       | \$104,828   |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget  |  | 1.53 %  | 0.14%   |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index   |  | 1.81%   |   |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount  | \$42,952,974                                     | \$44,021,248                                      |   |
| 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)   | \$42,952,974                                     | \$44,021,248                                      | \$42,952,974  |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions  | \$898,212  | \$855,456   |   |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions  | \$42,194,474                                     | \$43,165,792                                      |   |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$42,952,974                                     | \$44,021,248                                      |   |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **      | \$139,712  | \$0   |   |
| Administrative Component   | \$7,314,260                                      | \$7,582,722                                       | \$7,331,890   |
| Program Component  | \$62,652,697                                     | \$63,579,656                                      | \$62,822,214  |
| Capital Component  | \$6,557,189                                      | \$6,534,870                                       | \$6,474,870   |

\*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-2021 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

Elimination of: Nine (9) teaching positions, reduction in BOCES services, reduction in 9-12 Summer Learning Academy offerings, all field trips (including Ashokan) and all equipment purchases (except technology equipment for instructional purposes and equipment for health and safety).  
Total: \$1,068,274

\*\*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 |
|-------------|--------|
|             |        |

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> \$783.60

<sup>1</sup> 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 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the Wallkill Central School District, Ulster/Orange Counties, New York, will be by absentee ballot only.

## Annual Budget Vote & Election of Trustees

The Annual Budget Vote and Election of Trustees will happen by absentee ballot only on June 9. If you are a qualified voter and have not received an absentee ballot, please contact the District Clerk at [kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcorcoran@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us) or 845-895-7101.

Visit [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)  
for more information



## Programs Offered to Students in the Wallkill Central School District

### LEPTONDALE, CLARE F. OSTRANDER, AND PLATTEKILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- ▶ Full-day Kindergarten
- ▶ Math instruction includes the use of technology and manipulatives for hands-on learning
- ▶ Arts and Environmental Education
- ▶ Active parent organizations
- ▶ Character Education programs
- ▶ After-school programs and events
- ▶ Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) system and specialized multi-sensory instruction for early reading intervention
- ▶ Active Learning Labs and iPad carts
- ▶ SMART Boards in K-6 classrooms
- ▶ 1:1 student computers in Grades K-6
- ▶ D.A.R.E. program
- ▶ Family Nights for Math, Literacy, STEM, and the Arts
- ▶ Grade 6 Olympics
- ▶ Enrichment programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Gifted and Talented programs
- ▶ Climbing walls: leadership and trust building
- ▶ Ashokan Field Campus
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity
- ▶ Safety and wellness programs
- ▶ Fire safety education
- ▶ Field days
- ▶ Project-based learning with makerspaces
- ▶ School newsroom studios
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ STEM lessons
- ▶ Coding instruction
- ▶ Too Good for Drugs program
- ▶ Before and after-school academic support programs

### JOHN G. BORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ▶ SMART Boards in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Instructional teams
- ▶ Interdisciplinary curriculum
- ▶ Enrichment activities
- ▶ Field trip experiences
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students

- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ Character Education program
- ▶ Active Learning Lab
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Active parent organizations and community involvement
- ▶ Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Accelerated courses
- ▶ Choral, band, and string programs
- ▶ Gifted and Talented programs
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Parent forums and workshops
- ▶ Career Day
- ▶ Family Coding Night
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity

### WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Extensive Advanced Placement/college course offerings
- ▶ College offerings in pre-engineering through Project Lead the Way
- ▶ Annual scholarship attainment of over \$4 million
- ▶ Career and Technical Education provided through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- ▶ A wide variety of extracurricular activities
- ▶ A broad intramural and interscholastic athletic program that meets the needs of all students
- ▶ An award-winning vocal and instrumental music program
- ▶ A diverse offering of clubs, organizations, and groups to benefit the ever-changing needs of our students
- ▶ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- ▶ Author's Day
- ▶ SAT prep course
- ▶ Summer school
- ▶ After-school academic support programs
- ▶ Academy Model
- ▶ College fair
- ▶ Instant college admissions program
- ▶ Peer tutoring
- ▶ VEX Robotics team
- ▶ 1:1 Chromebooks for students
- ▶ Inclusion programs for special education students
- ▶ Programs that celebrate diversity



## 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

### Class of 2020 Top Ten Named at Wallkill Senior High School

The Wallkill Central School District congratulates the Top Ten Students in the Class of 2020. The stellar students, in order of GPA, are: Conor Bready, Andrew Conklin, Glynis Craner, Desmond Ley, Mary Seelmann, Dylan Masterson, Grace Hammond, Daniel Torres, Cassandra Rydell, and Patrick Robisch.



*Conor Bready*



*Andrew Conklin*



*Glynis Craner*



*Desmond Ley*



*Mary Seelmann*



*Dylan Masterson*



*Grace Hammond*



*Daniel Torres*



*Cassandra Rydell*



*Patrick Robisch*

### Three Component Budget

**Administrative Component: \$7,582,722**

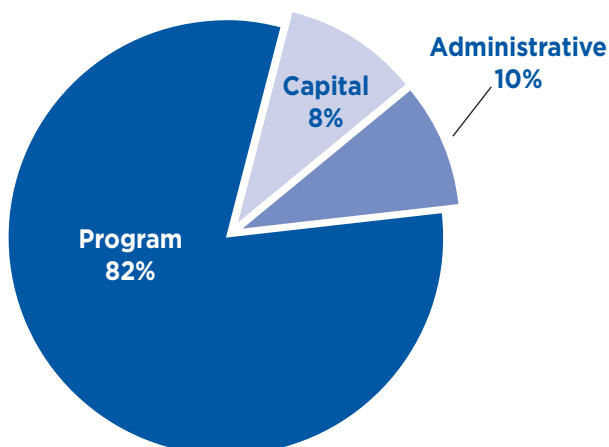
► Central Administration, Building Supervision, BOCES (partial)

**Program Component: \$63,579,656**

► Instructional Areas, Transportation, Extracurricular Activities

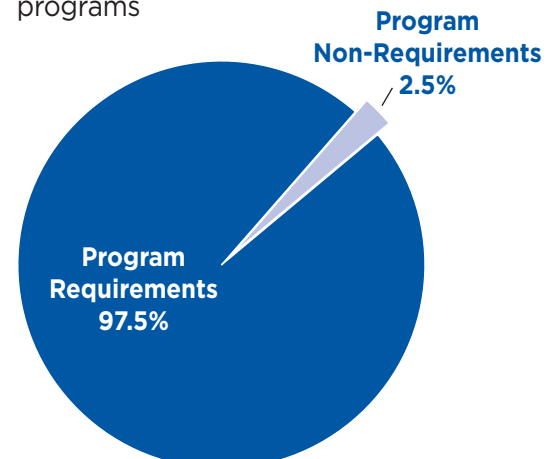
**Capital Component: \$6,534,870**

► Operations and Maintenance, Debt Service



### Program Budget: Required vs. Non-Required

As the chart indicates, 97.5% of the program budget is devoted to New York State Education Department required programs



# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## Tax Levy Limit Calculation 2020-2021

|                                    |                 |                               |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Prior Year Tax Levy                | \$42,952,974    |                               |
| Tax Base Growth                    | x 1.0080        |                               |
| PILOT                              | + \$2,388       |                               |
| Capital Exemption                  | - \$898,212     |                               |
| Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy       | = \$42,400,744  |                               |
|                                    | x 1.0181        | ← Allowable Growth Factor     |
| PILOT                              | - \$2,436       |                               |
| Tax Levy Limit Prior To Exemptions | \$43,165,792    | ← Voter Threshold             |
| BOCES Exemption                    | \$150,339       | } Estimated                   |
| Capital Exemption                  | + \$705,117     |                               |
| TRS Exemption                      | +0              |                               |
| ERS Exemption                      | +0              |                               |
|                                    | = \$44,021,248* | ← *Maximum Allowable Tax Levy |

\*The District will be proposing a tax levy at the limit

## At Ostrander, Learning is Fun-damental

**WHO SAYS SCHOOL CAN'T BE FUN? CERTAINLY NOT OSTRANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, WHO ENJOYED A FAMILY GAME NIGHT HELD AT THE SCHOOL IN LATE FEBRUARY.** Approximately 100 students and family members enjoyed an evening filled with challenging games, good books, delicious food, and plenty of community spirit.

"Our goal with our game nights is to foster a sense of community and strengthen family dynamics," said Principal Natalie Harjes. "We do this by having dinner for the families, followed by educational games."

The games—including Bananagrams, Who Would Win?, and Charades—provided opportunities for students to hone their language skills, noted Mrs. Harjes. While playing, the youngsters were also building reading fluency, making connections between words, and presenting words in different forms.

The event, said Mrs. Harjes, was a District-wide effort. Ostrander faculty and staff prepared and served the food, assisted by Wallkill Superintendent Kevin Castle, who joined the volunteer servers. The Ostrander PTO provided dessert. Members of Wallkill Senior High School's Leo Club helped teach the families new games and distributed books as parting gifts to every child.

"This was a wonderful event that brought the whole community together," said Mrs. Harjes.



High School student Chase Godwin (far right), a member of the Leo Club, playing a game with elementary school students (clockwise from left) Tyler Daly, Abby Asendorf, Ryder Kilpatrick, and Ayva Rodriguez during Ostrander Elementary School's Family Game Night.

# 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

## Candidates for the Board of Education

**The four candidates (in alphabetical order) are seeking election to three “at large” open seats on the Board of Education. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2023.**

### Kathryn Anderson

I am a candidate for the Wallkill Central School District Board of Education. I believe the education of all our children is one of the most important responsibilities we have as a community, for they are our future.

I believe one objective of our educational system should be to promote learning as a lifetime activity. Our goal as a school district should be to give our students the best academic and extra-curricular opportunities for learning and personal growth. Our district strives to be a supportive community where the responsibility is shared by all involved, students, parents, instructional staff and administration.

Now school districts are facing a new challenge brought on by the current Coronavirus Pandemic across our state, nation, and around the globe. We are in “uncharted waters,” facing a situation unlike any in recent history. Rest assured, our school district is ready for the challenge of distance learning with every student provided a Chromebook, teachers and instructional staff who are dedicated to their profession, administrators who lead our district with a shared vision, and a community who supports the Wallkill Central School District.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve you in this capacity as a Board Member.

### David Bartolone

My name is David Bartolone and I am running for the WCSD BOE. I have been a resident for 17 years, where I reside with my wife Brea, who is an employee of the WCSD, and our 3 children.

As a School Board member, I will make it my mission to ensure that I represent the students, parents, and educators with the utmost integrity.

I look forward to working hard to ensure that we create a healthy and safe environment for our students to return to in the Fall of 2020. I will work effortlessly with staff to build a strong remote learning program that meets the needs of all our students. I look forward to working with the members of our current Special Education Program to ensure that we are meeting the needs of students in this program by providing the most innovative technology and up to date core programs to these students.

Sincerely,  
David Christopher Bartolone

### Vincent Petrocelli

To the residents of the Wallkill Central School District: My name is Vinny Petrocelli and I am running for a position for the upcoming Wallkill Central School District Board Elections.

I have totally enjoyed my past service on the Board and especially working with the Administration, Board, the Faculty, Community and especially the students. I am proud also that the Wallkill Central School District has a reputation in Ulster County for outstanding academic excellence.

It is rewarding to know that I had a small part in the positive changes and advancements that have maintained and raised the education standards of the District.

While serving in this position, I have also had the honor of currently representing the Wallkill Central School District as a member at large on the Ulster County BOCES Board.

Thank you,  
Vinny Petrocelli

### Michael Rose

My wife and I have lived in the Wallkill School District since July of 2000. We have 8 children, six girls and two boys, all of whom have either graduated from the WCSD or are currently attending. The oldest three have graduated and are in college. Our second oldest child was the Salutatorian for Wallkill High School in 2017. We currently have five children in the schools in 10th, 8th, 6th, 3rd, and 1st grade.

For twenty years I have taught Art at Orange-Ulster BOCES. Before that I taught for the NYC Board of Ed for two years. I received a BFA with Highest Honors from Pratt Institute in 1989, an MFA from Queens College in 1996, and an MAAS from SUNY New Paltz in 2009.

I love the WCSD. The district is amazing and the staff does a wonderful job.

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## Middle School Celebrates Black History Month

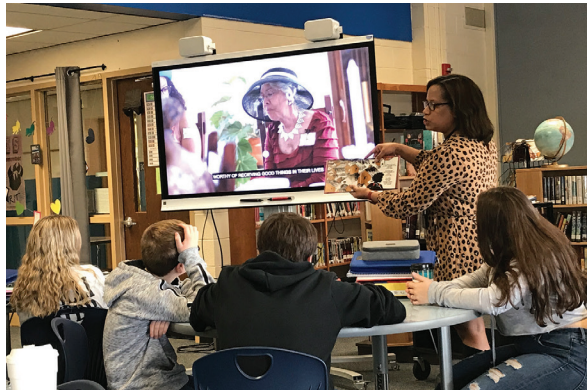
John G. Borden Middle School observed Black History Month in February with a series of educational events. Highlights included a door-decorating contest, a trivia competition, a “Black Tea,” and history-rich readings and presentations.

“It was important for us to foster activities celebrating Black History Month that were divorced from the usual teaching of Black history that is often focused on struggle and trauma,” said Grade 7 English teacher Keicha Kempsey. “With that in mind, the idea of celebration was at the forefront of all the activities, as was authenticity.”

Ms. Kempsey spearheaded the event along with Spanish teacher Irina Gales, with assistance being provided by Library Media Specialist Debra Rosenfeld.

The idea for the Black Tea, said Miss Gales, came from student Alyssa Vega. A video helped the students understand the historical role that Black Teas have played in forging a sense of community among Black females.

During the tea, faculty members and community guests gave presentations about Black history and shared their personal experiences while students sipped tea and nibbled on snacks. Miss Gales’ mother, Evelyn Evans, shared her story about growing up during the Civil Rights Movement in Durham, North Carolina.



Grade 7 English teacher Keicha Kempsey reading “Black Girl Magic: A Poem” by Mahogany L. Browne to students during Black History Month.

Miss Gales was also one of the speakers. “I spoke about my personal experience as the only teacher of color when I first arrived at the Middle School in 2013,” she said.

Other speakers included High School Guidance Counselors Opal Reid Apronti and Voleile Derisse. Mr. Derisse, a Haitian American, read about the history of Haiti and how his experiences as an immigrant of color have guided him through life.

Students Jayden Bofo and Satara Stephenson created trivia questions like “What was the name of the first Major League Baseball

team that Jackie Robinson played on?” and “Who was the first black prima ballerina in a major U.S. ballet company?” Prizes were provided by the school’s PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) team.

The door-decorating contest drew attention to the accomplishments of a slew of historical figures, including mathematician Katherine Johnson, abolitionist Harriet Tubman, and President Barack Obama.

The event, according to Principal Marjorie Anderson, was highly

educational. “Our Black History Month activities provided students with meaningful opportunities to learn from each other, from their teachers, and from the guest speakers,” she said. “We look forward to building on this year’s success!”

## Leptondale Students “Jump 4 Jammies”

**IN FEBRUARY, LEPTONDALE STUDENTS COULD BE FOUND JUMPING FOR JOY**—and for worthy causes. Approximately 60 students participated in an event that involved jump rope-themed games, vigorous exercise, healthy snacks, and lots of laughs.

Organized by the school’s PTO in coordination with Physical Education teachers Rich Daubel and Todd Andrews, “Jump 4 Jammies” raised money to buy PJ’s for children in need at Leptondale and beyond.

According to PTO Vice President Jenn Weber, every student receiving assistance through the school’s holiday and backpack programs was eligible for a new pair of pajamas. Extras were donated to a local charity.

“We all love our school so much, and we wanted to give back to the kids and the community,” said Mrs. Weber. Previous jump-rope events had been very popular, she noted. “It was a win-win situation!”

The event, according to Leptondale Principal Scott Brown, was a success. “The students not only enjoyed some good, heart-healthy exercise—they also learned important lessons about helping others!”





## Wallkill Central School District

Office of Educational Services

19 Main Street, PO Box 310

Wallkill, NY 12589

Non-Profit Org  
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The Wallkill Central School District does not discriminate. Our Non-Discrimination Statement can be read in full at [www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/643](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us/Page/643). A copy may also be requested by contacting Brian Devincenzi, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, by phoning (845) 895-7102, emailing [bdevincenzi@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:bdevincenzi@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us), or writing to 19 Main Street, Wallkill, NY 12589.

[www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us](http://www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us)



## High School Students Build Real-World Skills

Three Wallkill seniors were among 13 Ulster BOCES female students who participated in Habitat for Humanity's International Women's Build Week 2020 in early March. The volunteer builders, who poured a concrete pad, installed and secured decking, spackled drywall, and primed and painted ceilings and walls, were part of a crew working on a new-build home for a local family in Glasco. Pictured is Hope Garrett, a student in the Ulster BOCES Culinary Arts Program.

***"Learning at...Wallkill" is an official publication of the Wallkill Central School District.***

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Joseph LoCicero, *President*

Mr. Thomas Frisbie, *Vice-President*

Mrs. Kathryn Anderson

Mrs. Donna Crowley

Mr. Tom McCullough

Mr. Steven Missale

Mr. Dustin Palen

Mr. Vincent Petrocelli

Mr. Leif Spencer

Student Board Representative: Jerome Futia

Mr. Kevin Castle, *Superintendent of Schools*

Ms. Yvonne Herrington, *Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*

Mr. Brian Devincenzi, *Assistant Superintendent for Support Services*

### ***Important Telephone Numbers to Know***

Leptondale Elementary School..... 895-7200

Clare F. Ostrander Elementary School.....895-7225

Plattekill Elementary School..... 895-7250

John G. Borden Middle School ..... 895-7175

Wallkill Senior High School.....895-7150