



# WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

*School and Community Working Together*

VOLUME 29, No. 11

2023-2024 BUDGET ISSUE

## A BUDGET FOCUSED ON EDUCATIONAL GOALS

On May 16, the community will vote on a proposed spending plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Maintaining all existing programs and services for students, the budget reflects both a commitment to academic excellence as well as a sensitivity to the tax burden placed on residents.

Our approach to developing this budget proposal has been to plan proactively and thoroughly, always with an eye focused on our educational goals. What we have been able to accomplish over the past years during the pandemic is truly amazing and our collaborative approach benefited all. We are so proud of our entire school community.

Planning and preparation continue to be our approach to the development of the \$9,447,255 budget for 2023-2024. The West Valley Central School District uses a multi-year long-range forecast to consider not only the immediate needs for the district, but also to anticipate the impact these decisions may have in the future.

We adopted a spending plan on April 18 that prioritizes cost effectiveness, administrative efficiency, and low per pupil spending.

Furthermore, to reduce the impact on local taxpayers, the spending plan strategically incorporates funds from both the federal Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Care Act (CRRSA) as well as the American Rescue Plan (ARP).



*Front row: Heather Klahn (President), Tracy Chai, Charlie Davis (Vice President), Jonathan Boberg;  
Back row: George Kazmierczak, Mike Harmony, Gary Niesyty*

The 2023-2024 budget includes:

- Staying within the tax cap. The 2023-2024 budget proposes a tax levy increase of 2.95% that requires a simple majority vote for approval.
- An estimated tax rate increase of approximately 2%.
- A budget increase mainly due to first full payment on our capital project, much of which is offset by NYS aid.
- Bus Purchase Proposition using funds from the Transportation Reserve so there is NO impact on taxpayers.
- We are taking steps of a phased plan to roll the multiple supports that have been funded through the Federal Stimulus Funds for Education into the general fund to reduce reliance on federal funding that we know will end.

We present this budget proposal to the community with confidence that it meets the school district's mission to prepare all students to excel in a dynamic world while being responsible to the needs of our taxpayers. Stay informed at [www.wvalley.org](http://www.wvalley.org). We value input in the budgeting process, and we ask that individuals reach out with any ideas, questions, or concerns. Please take the time to visit the school's gymnasium on May 16th from noon to 9:00 p.m. to vote.

Respectfully,

*West Valley Central School Board of Education*

West Valley Central School Board of Education

**May 16, 2023**

**Annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election  
from Noon to 9:00 p.m. in Gymnasium**

**Proposition 1:**

Proposed Budget \$9,447,255  
Tax Levy Increase 2.95%

**Proposition 2:**

Purchase of Bus using  
Transportation Reserve

**Board Member Election**

Three seats are available.

Candidates are:

- 1st Seat (5 years) Mike Harmony  
and Adam Fisher
- 2nd Seat (5 years) Gary Niesyty,  
running unopposed
- 3rd Seat (4 years) George  
Kazmierczak,  
running unopposed

**Budget Hearing**

May 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m.  
WVCS School Auditorium

**School Budget Vote**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
Noon until 9:00 p.m.  
WVCS Gymnasium



# 2023-2024 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Admin. Component	2023-24	2022-23	% Change
District Offices/BOE/Ins/Data Processing	\$1,066,880.00	\$1,062,199.00	0.44%
BOCES Admin.	\$73,500.00	\$77,815.00	-5.55%
School Supervision/Admin/Training	\$258,950.00	\$253,116.00	2.30%
Benefits	\$241,912.00	\$235,856.00	2.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,641,242.00</b>	<b>\$1,628,986.00</b>	

Capital Component	2023-24	2022-23	% Change
Operations & Maintenance	\$631,300.00	\$627,984.00	0.53%
Bus Capital Purchase	\$130,000.00	\$130,749.00	-0.57%
Debt Service on Bonds (incl.new project)	\$370,000.00	\$149,507.00	147.48%
Capital outlay	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	0.00%
Benefits	\$174,088.00	\$169,807.00	2.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,405,388.00</b>	<b>\$1,178,047.00</b>	

Program Component	2023-24	2022-23	% Change
Regular Instruction	\$2,077,360.00	\$2,015,896.00	3.05%
Special Education	\$898,490.00	\$898,661.00	-0.02%
Specials (Lib/OccEd/Guidance/Health/Psyc/Soc)	\$715,220.00	\$700,256.00	2.14%
Athletics & Co-Curricular	\$140,445.00	\$134,945.00	4.08%
Transportation	\$523,610.00	\$519,175.00	0.85%
Interfund Transfers	\$13,000.00	\$38,000.00	-65.79%
Benefits	\$2,032,500.00	\$1,981,732.00	2.56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,400,625.00</b>	<b>\$6,288,665.00</b>	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,447,255.00</b>	<b>\$9,095,698.00</b>	
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## SUMMARY...2023-2024

Administration	\$1,641,242
Capital	\$1,405,388
Program	\$6,400,625



# EXPLANATION OF THREE PART BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 require public school boards of education to present the proposed budget in three parts. As a result, this presentation is organized around the following components: administrative, capital, and program:

- **Administrative Component:** Includes expenses associated with the operation of the school board, superintendent's office, and business office.

Includes salaries and benefits for all certified administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time

performing administrative duties, consulting costs not directly related to instructional programs, and all other activities that are administrative in nature.

- **Capital Component:** Includes debt service for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district, lease expenditures, costs resulting from judgments in tax certiorari proceedings, awards from court judgments, administrative orders and settled claims, cost of construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and

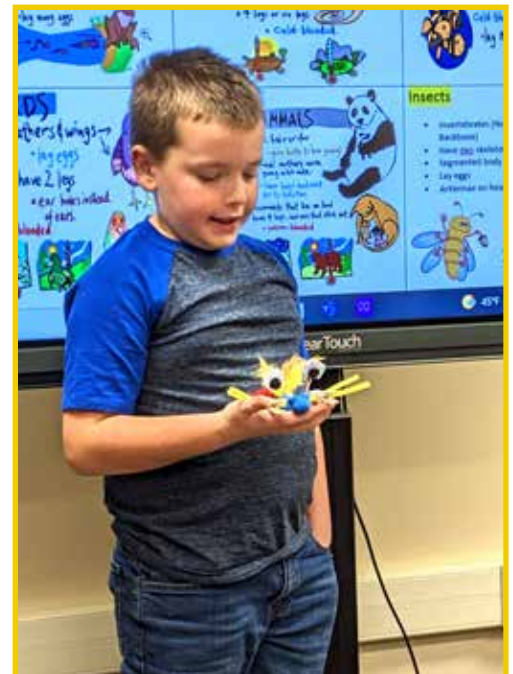
improvements of school buildings, all expenses associated with custodial and maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, and repair of school facilities.

- **Program Component:** Includes salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrator or supervisor who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties, and all transportation operating expenses.

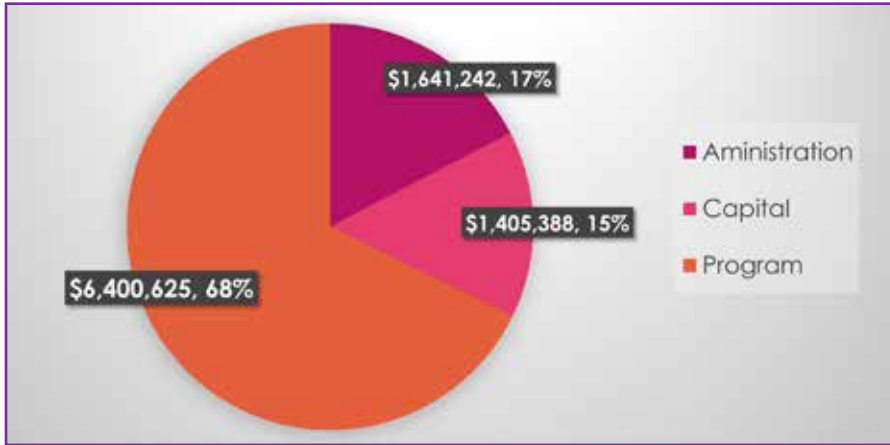
## SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE - PROPOSITION #2

The 2023-2024 budget provides a line item for the purchase of a 65 passenger IC Bus. The cost of the bus is \$167,000. The budget appropriates the \$167,000 from the Transportation Reserve to cover the cost of the bus. Therefore, there is no impact on your school tax bill as a result. In addition, New York State provides direct aid to schools for transportation expenses. For every dollar spent on the bus purchase the District will receive approximately 75 cents back from New York State. This reduces the local cost to approximately \$41,750.

The District is approximately 64 square miles in size. We have four regular bus runs as well as bus runs that transport our students with special needs. It is a top priority for the Board of Education and school administration to keep the students safe going to and from school.



## 2023-2024 EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS



## BUDGET SUMMARY

	2023-24 Budget	2022-23 Budget
Property Taxes	\$3,013,400	\$2,927,113
Misc Revenues/PILOTS	\$343,900	\$337,946
All Aid & Transfers (NYS/Medicaid)	\$5,484,000	\$5,119,419
All Appropriated Balances	\$605,955	\$711,220
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$9,447,255</b>	<b>\$9,095,698</b>

## 2023-2024 REVENUES



## WEST VALLEY SCHOOL TAX ESTIMATE

It is extremely difficult to properly estimate the final assessments and equalization rates for the many municipalities that comprise our district. Last year's total assessment was nearly \$195 million and should grow to approximately \$197 million; this is true growth not assessment variances. This would raise the average tax rate **less than 2%.**



# CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT 2023-2024

The district would like to continue to undertake small capital projects (less than \$100,000) to maintain and improve its facilities. We are grateful for last year's support for this initiative. We are gearing up this summer to replace the exterior doors by the gym entrance, the flooring between the doors in the gym entrance way, and the flooring in the elevator. For the 2023-2024 Capital Outlay Project we would like to undertake another small project. The project would include fixing foundation issues on the exterior of the building to repair small cracks in the stone on parts of the building. There is a line item in the budget (transfer to capital) in the amount of \$100,000. Of the \$100,000 we will receive \$85,000 back in building aid. This leaves the local share at \$15,000. Providing for a capital outlay project each year is an efficient way of taking care of small improvements to the buildings with a minimal impact to the taxpayers.



# 2023-2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

## Adam Fisher

Adam has lived in the West Valley community for over 20 years. He has been involved as a Scout leader for 13 years helping build character, integrity and leadership in area youth.



### Why are you running for the board?

“My wife and I chose to raise our family in West Valley, partly because of the quality of education our children would receive. We currently have 2 children attending WVCS, one in high school and one in middle school. It is important to me for the district to continue to offer its students positive educational opportunities.”

### What qualities do you possess that make you a good board candidate?

“I am an effective communicator. I work regularly with groups of people at work and in community activities. It is important to me to consider all points of view before coming to the most fair decision.”

## Mike Harmony

Mike has lived in the West Valley district for approximately 23 years. He has one child who attends West Valley.



### Why are you running for the board?

“I would like to continue on the board for one more term. There have been many positive changes made throughout the last couple of years to the facilities, admin/staff, curriculum and after school activities for the kids, such as sports. With the Admin/staff/teachers/BOE and community this school can be a focal point for people to bring their children.”

### What qualities do you possess that make you a good board candidate?

“I believe with the community giving me input and direction we as a board can keep the momentum going for more improvements. If you know me or have met me, you know I am not afraid to speak for you and your children. I would be glad to serve you.”

## George Kazmierczak

George has lived in West Valley for over 50 years. He is currently on the board and previously served for 15 years. He coached and helped run the West Valley Little League Football for more than 10 years.



### Why are you running for the board?

“To help guide the school’s policies for the future while keeping taxes as low as possible. I look forward to working with our fantastic administration at WVCS to continue to offer the best possible education to our student body.”

### What qualities do you possess that make you a good board candidate?

“I would like to think I am a good listener and fair to all opinions.”

## Gary Niesty

Gray has lived in West Valley for 8 years. He has served on the school board for the past 5 years and is an active parishioner at St. John the Baptist Church in West Valley. He has 4 children, 3 of whom attend WVCS.



### Why are you running for the board?

“I am running for the WVCS School Board to continue to help make it an excellent place of education for our children as well as cost effective for our community.”

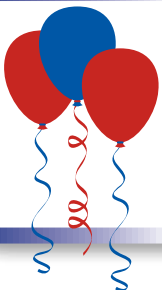
### What qualities do you possess that make you a good board candidate?

“Being a board member for the past 5 years has given me the skills and understanding of how a school board works and what it is supposed to do. I have a passion for education and a strong desire to see our small town prosper.”

## Memorial Day Ceremony

May 29, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

There will be a ceremony sponsored by the American Legion, Town of Ashford, and West Valley Central School District at the school.



## WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

5359 School St.  
West Valley, NY 14171  
(716) 942-3100

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 5  
West Valley, NY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Klahn, President  
Charlie Davis, Vice President  
Jonathan Boberg  
Tracy Chai  
Michael Harmony  
George Kazmierczak  
Gary Niesyty

***OR CURRENT RESIDENT***

***POSTAL PATRON LOCAL***

## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Taweepon Farrar**, Superintendent  
**Barbara Sporyz**, Business Administrator  
**Daniel Amodeo**, Pre-K–12 Principal  
**Danielle Behringer**, Assistant Principal, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

