



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

BY DR. TAWEEPON FARRAR



The 2021-22 budget process has been a long process as all schools have faced some uncertainty with the Governor's budget. Fortunately, as his budget passed with no decrease to school aid, schools were given the opportunity to build fiscally sound budgets and balance the budget to support student programming. There have been multiple budget development presentations at the last several Board of Education meetings. On April 20, 2021, the Board of Education adopted the budget.

### Public Hearing

The public hearing will be May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. This will be an opportunity for the community to learn about the district budget and learn more about those running for the board vacancies.

### Budget Vote

The budget vote will take place on May 18 from noon to 9:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. I encourage each of you to come vote to support our school. I also look forward to meeting more of our community members on this day as you come to vote.

*Continued on next page...*

## SUMMARY OF BUDGET INFORMATION

### Proposition 1:

Proposed Budget	\$9,038,905
Tax Levy Increase	0%

### Proposition 2:

Creation of a Transportation Reserve

### Board Member Election

Seat #1 (5-years) Amanda Lawrence

Seat #2 (3-years) Tracy Chai

Seat #3 (1-year) Jordan Robbins, Carla Heitman

### Budget Hearing

May 11, 2021 7:00 p.m.

WVCS Auditorium

### Budget Vote

Transportation Reserve and Board Member Elections

May 18, 2021, Noon to 9:00 p.m.

WVCS Gymnasium

*This location will provide enough room to socially distance, face masks are required, and temperatures will be taken upon arrival. The district will again rent the electronic voting machines from Cattaraugus County.*

**May 18, 2021 - Annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election from Noon to 9:00 p.m. in Gymnasium**

# 2021-2022 BUDGET INFORMATION CONTINUED...

## 0% Tax Increase

The Board of Education has worked very hard to develop a budget that is fiscally responsible. As a result of this hard work, the budget presented to our taxpayers results in a **0% increase** in the tax levy.

## American Rescue Act

The district did learn that we will receive extra funds from the Federal Government called the “American Rescue Act.” We do not know yet when we will receive these funds, but we do know that the funds will be used for the next three years to help with “learning loss recovery.” Specific guidelines will be forthcoming, and a plan will be developed when we know more.

## 5-Year Plan

I am also proud to share that the district has been working on a 5-year plan surrounding financial stability,



facilities, and academic programming. This next school year begins an exciting time for West Valley as we embark on our Smartschools Bond project, Capital Outlay projects and major Capital

Project. In addition, we look forward to having some athletics back in district plus a focus on improving our academic programming. Great things are happening here at West Valley!

## SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE

The 2021-2122 budget provides a line item for the purchase of a 65 passenger IC Bus. The cost of the bus is \$126,891.17. The budget appropriates an amount from reserves to cover the cost of the bus. As a result there will not be an increase in the tax levy to cover the cost of the bus. NYS provides direct aid to schools for transportation expenses. For every dollar spent on the bus purchase we will receive 76.5 cents back from NYS. This reduces the local cost to approximately \$30,000. Bus #88, a 2008 International with over 112,000 miles will be retired.

The District is approximately 64 square miles in size. We have five 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.

## TRANSPORTATION RESERVE

The school budget and election vote will consists of a second proposition to create a Transportation Reserve up to an amount of \$750,000. This will allow the board to create a savings account for the purchase of school buses and other vehicles that transport students. Once the board of education transfers money into this account they will need voter

approval to use it. The District is not allowed to replenish the reserve after funds are used to purchase a bus. The life of the reserve account is five years. In order to establish a new transportation reserve after five years, the District would need voter approval. Having a transportation reserve makes sense as it allows the District to further manage its resources, allows for transparency and creates a long term plan for bus purchases.

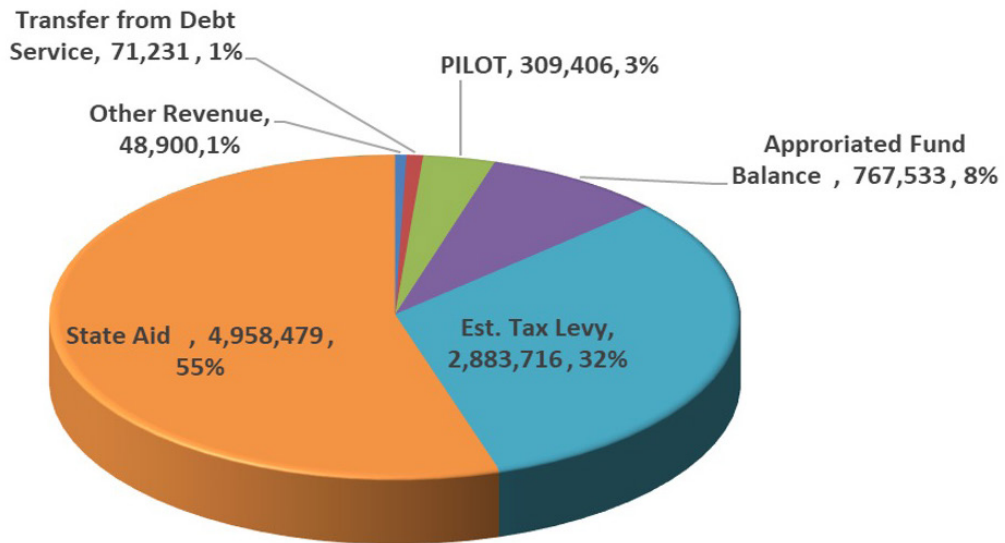
## CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT 2021-2022

The District would like to continue to undertake small capital projects (less than \$100,000) to maintain and improve its facilities. Thanks to your support we are gearing up to do some masonry work this spring. This capital outlay project was approved by the voters in the previous budget.

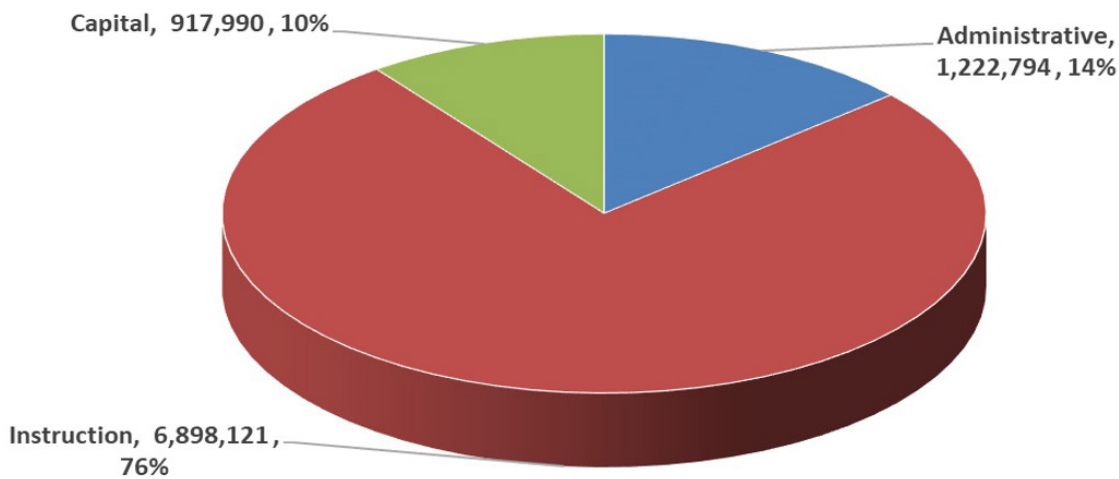
For the 2021-2022 school year we would like to undertake another small project to remove and replace a number of the older interior doors. There is a line item in the budget (transfer to capital) in the amount of \$100,000. Of the \$100,000, we will receive \$85,000 back in building aid. This leaves the local share at \$15,000 which is covered by the district budget. 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.



## 2021-2022 SOURCES OF EDUCATION FUNDING



## 2021-2022 USES OF EDUCATION FUNDING



## 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:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Program Component:** Includes salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrator or supervisor who spends a majority of their time performing teaching duties, and all transportation operating expenses.



# 2021-2022 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	Budget Components			2021-2022 Total	2020-2021 Total	Inc (Dec) \$
	Administrative	Capital	Program			
GENERAL SUPPORT						
Board of Education	23,953	-	-	23,953	23,464	489
Central Administration	178,507	-	-	178,507	169,339	9,168
Finance	231,661	-	-	231,661	214,731	16,930
Legal/Personnel/Public Info	210,495	-	-	210,495	188,001	22,494
Operations & Maintenance	-	617,297	-	617,297	602,330	14,967
Insurance/Refunds/Dues/Unclassified	56,208	-	-	56,208	55,472	736
BOCES Central Data/Admin/Capital	142,886	50,363	124,567	317,816	313,844	3,972
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	843,710	667,660	124,567	1,635,937	1,567,181	68,756
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT						
Curriculum/Supervision/Inservice	151,842	-	128,323	280,165	255,065	25,100
Instruction - Regular School	-	-	2,062,178	2,062,178	1,965,056	97,122
Instruction - Special Needs, Occ Ed,Summer			1,189,964	1,189,964	1,267,004	(77,040)
Instruction - Media/Technology	-	-	310,971	310,971	325,062	(14,091)
Guidance/Health/Psych/Soc Work	-	-	286,493	286,493	277,266	9,227
Co-Curricular/Interscholastic Activities	-	-	117,000	117,000	117,360	(360)
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	151,842	-	4,094,929	4,246,771	4,206,813	39,958
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	-	-	646,180	646,180	506,506	139,674
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS						
TRS & NYS ERS/Retirement	74,223	62,698	395,793	532,714	493,721	38,993
Social Security	42,332	25,143	254,430	321,905	318,480	3,425
Worker's Compensation	3,029	1,799	18,203	23,031	13,729	9,302
Unemployment Insurance	1,972	1,172	11,856	15,000	15,000	-
Health Benefits/Other	105,686	88,287	1,214,163	1,408,136	1,363,653	44,483
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	227,242	179,099	1,894,445	2,300,786	2,204,583	96,203
DEBT SERVICE						
Serial Bonds - Building	-	71,231	-	71,231	73,631	(2,400)
Bus Bonds	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	-	71,231	-	71,231	73,631	(2,400)
INTERFUND TRANSFERS						
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	-	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	-
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	-	-	13,000	13,000	13,000	-
Transfer to Capital	-	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS	-	100,000	38,000	138,000	138,000	-
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	1,222,794	1,017,990	6,798,121	9,038,905	8,696,714	342,191
	TAX LEVY INCREASE 0%			BUDGET INCREASE 3.93%		



# STAR OVERVIEW (SCHOOL TAX RELIEF)

Available for primary residences.

## BASIC

- Income limit for BASIC STAR **credit** is \$500,000
- Income limit for BASIC STAR **exemption** is \$250,000
- BASIC STAR is based on the first \$30,000 of full value on a home

## ENHANCED

- Provides an increased benefit for senior citizens (age 65 or older) whose annual income is \$90,550 or less
- For 2021-2022 ENHANCED STAR is based on the first \$70,700 of full value on a home
- Additional information on the STAR program can be found at: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/star/>

# ESTIMATE OF SCHOOL TAX FOR PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

	Tax Bill Last Year	Tax Bill This Year	Increase/ Decrease
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### Full Value of Property \$50,000

With Enhanced STAR	\$0	\$0	\$0
With Basic STAR	\$344	\$344	\$0
Without STAR	\$860	\$860	\$0

### Full Value of Property \$70,000

With Enhanced STAR	\$0	\$0	\$0
With Basic STAR	\$688	\$688	\$0
Without STAR	\$1,205	\$1,205	\$0

### Full Value of Property \$100,000

With Enhanced STAR	\$504	\$504	\$0
With Basic STAR	\$1,205	\$1,205	\$0
Without STAR	\$1,721	\$1,721	\$0

### Full Value of Property \$150,000

With Enhanced STAR	\$1,365	\$1,365	\$0
With Basic STAR	\$2,065	\$2,065	\$0
Without STAR	\$2,581	\$2,581	\$0

**\*\*Estimated tax increases are based on 2020 equalization rates and assessed values. The final tax rates will be established when the Board of Education adopts the tax warrant in August 2021.**

# SUMMARY OF REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget	Inc (Dec) Over Prior Year
State Aid	\$4,745,980	\$4,958,479	\$212,499
PILOT(Payments in Lieu of Tax)	280,046	309,046	29,000
Other Revenue	90,900	48,900	(42,000)
Estimated Tax Levy & STAR Reimbursement	2,883,716	2,883,716	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$8,000,642</b>	<b>\$8,200,141</b>	<b>\$199,499</b>
Interfund Transfer of Debt Service	73,631	71,231	(2,400)
Appropriated Fund Balance	591,571	736,663	145,092
Appropriated Retirement Reserve	30,870	30,870	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>	<b>\$8,696,714</b>	<b>\$9,038,905</b>	<b>\$342,191</b>



# 2021-2022 BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

## TRACY CONRAD CHAI

I am a candidate for the 3-year seat on the WVCS Board of Education. I was raised in West Valley and returned to town about 10 years ago. My husband, Gordon, is a high school technology teacher in south eastern Virginia, where he cares for his elderly mother. I have four children (and a granddaughter!). My daughter, Kelsey, is a 2017 WVCS alum and is graduating from Haverford College later this month. My youngest daughter, Chloe, is graduating in June and will be attending Denison University. The education that they received at West Valley has prepared them well as they continue on. WVCS is special public school with a unique and nurturing environment. As a member of the School Board I will advocate for quality academic and extracurricular opportunities for our kids.



## CARLA HEITMAN

Hello, my name is Carla Heitman. I am a 12-year resident of West Valley and have 2 children that attend WVCS. I am currently the office manager of a local disposal company, with many years of customer service experience. I have decided to run for a seat on our Board of Education this year because I would like to be a part of the positive changes that are taking place. I believe I can offer perspective and insight as a community member, and I am capable of making decisions based on merit and necessity. I consider myself to be a fair individual who looks at situations from all sides before taking a stance. I want to see



our school thrive as it once did, and have our community feel the pride in our district that we deserve!



## AMANDA LAWRENCE

My name is Amanda Lawrence and I am a PROUD Mother of 6. My husband Craig and I have been together for almost 11 years and had the opportunity to move to West Valley 4 years ago. We chose this community because it had everything, we were looking for to build our dream: small school, individual teacher time with our children, small caring close community feel and views that are forever breath taking!! I was appointed by the current board of education to fill one of the 2 vacant seats in September 2020. Within this short amount of time, the board has gone through some hard times; we have had to stop and listen to the community. With great conversations, meetings, and trainings we needed to come together as a board. There was a need to figure out what is important and what would work, not only for the community but most importantly our students. We are moving in a positive direction and I sincerely have enjoyed every moment of the forward progression of this district. Speaking with parents and community members, it has inspired me to run for the five-year term. I hope to be part of the positive future of West Valley Central School and accomplish

everything that is possible.

Four of our children are enrolled at West Valley Central School District. I am a stay at home Mom, actively involved in the West Valley PTO, classroom helper when needed and watch children from our community! I am fully committed to all children, this school, and the community!

Please vote for me, Amanda Lawrence for WVBOE on May 18, 2021!

## JORDAN ROBBINS

Hello, my name is Jordan Robbins. I have been a resident of West Valley for 11 years. I am married and have 4 children. Three of them attend West Valley currently and my fourth will be starting in September. For the past 9 years I have worked as a New York State Corrections Officer. As a parent and community member, this school is very important to me and my family. Becoming more involved in the school and its future seemed to be the next step for me. I have decided to run for the 1-year seat on the Board of Education and look forward to serving the school that once served me as a former West Valley student. West Valley Central School District needs to remain as a PreK-12th grade school. The district seems to be pointing in a positive direction and I would like to part of this process. Together we can accomplish so much.

**BOE Election**  
**Three (3) Vacancies**  
**to be filled on May 18!**  
**(1) 5 Year Term**  
**(1) 3 Year Term**  
**(1) 1 Year Term**



# IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION



## PERSONAL REGISTRATION

Registration will be held in the district office on **May 6 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Please bring personal identification and proof of address with you to register.** You may also register online at the Department of Motor Vehicles website at:

<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>

If you are not registered, you may not cast a ballot. Please take the time to register, everyone's vote is important. If you are in doubt, call Carolyn Boberg, District Clerk at 942-3100 ext. 4102 to determine your status.

If you have voted in recent years your name will be on the list.

*To qualify to vote, you must be:*

- (1) a citizen of the United States,
- (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older,
- (3) a resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the next meeting at which he/she offers to vote,
- (4) a college student whose legal residence is in the school district,
- (5) on the Personal Registration of Voters list for West Valley Central School District which is provided by the Cattaraugus County Board of Elections.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

West Valley Central School District is required by law to make absentee ballots available to qualified district voters for our May 18, 2021 Annual Budget Vote, proposition to approve a bus/vehicle reserve and board members election. Call Carolyn Boberg, District Clerk at 942-3100 ext. 4102 for an application or question.

A qualified district voter must request in advance an

**application for absentee ballots** and select the reason you will not be able to appear in person on May 18th, 2021 to vote in person on this particular day.

(a) are/or will be a patient in the hospital, or unable to appear personally at the polling place on such day because of illness or physical disability or,

(b) duties, occupation, business or studies will require him/her to be outside of the country/county or city of their residence on such day, or

(c) on vacation outside the country/county or city of his residence on such day; or,

(d) absent from his voting residence because detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial or is confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

(e) COVID concern

The district clerk must receive the **application** at least seven days before May 18, 2021 (**if the ballots need to be mailed to you**), this will give ample time to be returned to the district). Completed absentee ballots will be accepted by Carolyn Boberg until 5pm on May 18, in the District Office.

## ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 11, 2021 **WVCS Auditorium** at 7:00 p.m.

## ANNUAL BUDGET/BUS RESERVE/BOE ELECTION

ANNUAL BUDGET, PROPOSITION FOR BUS/VEHICLE RESERVE and BOARD MEMBERS VOTE will be held on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from noon until 9:00 p.m. in the WVCS GYMNASIUM.** This location will provide enough room to socially distance, face masks are required, and temperatures will be taken upon arrival.

The district will again rent the electronic voting machines from Cattaraugus County.



**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**

Timothy Ploetz, President  
Charlie Davis, Vice-President  
Michael Harmony  
Amanda Lawrence  
Gary Niesyty  
Heather Klahn  
Brad Frank

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Dr. Taweepon Farrar**, District Superintendent  
**Daniel Amodeo**, Pre-K–12 Principal  
**Ann O'Brien**, Business Official  
**Shawna Gugino**, Director of Special Education

**HELP  
WANTED!**

The District is currently seeking substitute teachers, a part-time cleaner with benefits, as well as substitute monitors and cleaners.

Applications can be found at:  
[wvalley.wnyric.org](http://wvalley.wnyric.org) under  
District/Employment.

## Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

May 18, 2021, Noon to 9:00 p.m.  
WVCS Gymnasium

**CCAA EAST V SOFTBALL**

4:30 p.m. Start Time / 11:00 a.m. on Saturday

5/13/21	vs. Tapestry Charter
5/18/21	vs. North Collins
5/20/21	vs. Catt-LV
5/21/21	@ Franklinville
5/25/21	@ Portville
5/27/21	@ Salamanca
6/1/21	vs. Ellicottville
6/4/21	@ North Collins
6/8/21	@ Catt-LV
6/10/21	vs. Franklinville
6/12/21	vs. Portville
6/15/21	vs. Salamanca
6/17/21	@ Ellicottville

**TRACK AND FIELD**

5/22/21	vs. Salamanca , 10:00 a.m.
5/25/21	vs. Chautauqua Lake, 6:00 p.m.
6/1/21	@ Portville, 6:00 p.m.
6/5/21	vs. Gowanda, 10:00 a.m.
6/8/21	@ Silver Creek/Forestville, 6:00 p.m.

**SPRING SPORTS  
SCHEDULES**

