



Orchard Park Central School District Community Report 2021 Budget /Vote Edition

Middle School Teacher Named Recipient of Reed Taylor Award

Orchard Park Middle School social studies teacher Daryl Helfman was selected as the

2021 recipient of the Academy for Human Rights' Reed Taylor Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education. The award is named in living honor of local Holocaust educator Dr. Reed Taylor, the designation is meant to honor a teacher who



Mr. Daryl Helfman, proudly holds up the Reed Taylor Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education.

inspires their students and colleagues to live a life of service that is dedicated toward humanity.

In addition to receiving the Reed Taylor Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education, Mr. Helfman will receive a \$500.00 cash prize and two scholarships for his students to attend next year's Summer Symposium. The Summer Symposium is the Academy's annual week-long program that provides student participants with the opportunity to learn from human rights experts, historians, and advocates, and to take part in hands-on activities, discussions, and field trips in order to inspire its students to take positive, meaningful action towards improving their world.

Continued on page 11

Marty Kelley, Author and Illustrator, Virtually Visits Ellicott

April 15th and 16th Ellicott Elementary, along with students from the Orchard Park Virtual School, were virtually visited by author and illustrator Marty Kelley. This was an awesome way for students to experience a socially distanced version of the annual author visit.

Marty Kelley is a children's author and illustrator. Kelley's career as an artist began at a young age and by the time he was a freshman in high school he had a comic strip published in his local paper. He went to college to become an animator and was even a second grade teacher for several years-before deciding to pursue writing and illustrating full-time. Kelley has written and illustrated many published children's books, including: *Fall Is Not Easy*; *The Rules*; *Winter Woes*; *Summer Stinks*; *Spring Goes Squish*; *The Messiest Desk*; *Twelve Terrible Things*; *A Capel!*; and *Fame, Fortune, and the Bran Muffins of Doom*.

Students at Ellicott Elementary and the Orchard Park Virtual School prepared for Kelley's visit by reading his books or watching his books being read on Youtube and doing creative writing based on Kelley's books.

Kelley was able to present to each grade level at Ellicott Elementary by doing a Zoom and each classroom joined. He gave each grade level a tour of his studio. He shared how he creates his books including his writing process, how he illustrates both digitally, and by hand. Kelley explained the timeframe for writing a book including how many drafts of both the text and illustrations are necessary, possibly taking years to prepare a book before it is published. Kelley also read each grade level one of his books. Fifth grade students even got a sneak peak of his new book *Experiment #256*. At the end of each presentation students from each class were able to ask Kelley questions.

This event was funded by Ellicott Elementary's PTO.



Ellicott Elementary first grader, Ava Frascella is pictured holding one of author and illustrator Marty Kelley's books "Top Secret Author Visit".

Community Education Summer Programs

To learn more about Community Education's summer course offerings including Driver Education visit www.opschools.org/communityeducation. The site will be updated as new program information becomes available.

Superintendent's Column

Matthew P. McGarrity

Over the last few months, the administrative team has been working on the development of the 2021-22 operating budget.

The 2021-22 operating budget will support our enhanced safety precautions including: Enhanced cleaning procedures; Technology help desk support for our teachers, students and families; Additional academic and mental health support including the launch of the summer Quaker Camp; Maintains staffing to allow for reduced class size and density in classrooms and on school buses as necessary under current NYSDOH & CDC guidance; Finally, a budget that is fiscally responsible and keeps the tax level within the tax cap requirements.

Throughout the last several years the Orchard Park Central School District has implemented several cost saving initiatives in order to offset rising costs and stay within the parameters of the tax cap. The 2021-22 Operating Budget is \$111,978,005. This will be Proposition I on the May 18, 2021 ballot. The 2021-22 Operating Budget will help to ensure this continued commitment to our students success in grades Pre-K to 12, while staying within the parameters of the tax cap

Also on the ballot is Proposition II which includes the purchase of four 77- passenger school buses, three 34 passenger



school buses and one wheelchair accessible school bus for a total of no more than \$818,000. Again this year there will be no budget impact on the purchase of the buses. The payment is offset by state aid reimbursement. Finally, the vote will include the election of two members to the Board of Education. Mr. Cimo and Mrs. Kane's terms will expire on June 30, 2021.

There are three individuals seeking election to two seats on the Board of Education with terms beginning on July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2024. Mr. Ryan

Cimo, Mr. Dwight Mateer and Mrs. Karen Srienawski are the candidates for the two available Board seats. Mrs. Karen Kane has been on the Board since 2015 and has served on numerous committees. She has chosen to not seek re-election. We are thankful for her service and the time and dedication, including time spent away from family events, as she volunteered as a Board Member. Throughout her time on the Board, Karen has been a strong advocate for public education and supporting the needs of all children, she believes in the importance of volunteerism.

Finally, I want to thank the Orchard Park School Community for your support over the last 11 years. It has been my greatest honor to serve as the Superintendent of Schools here in Orchard Park.

I will retire at the end of June. Over the last 11 years I believe that the partnership between parents and the District has strengthened, due to effective communication and parent advocacy. I'm proud that we have maintained and grown programs for students to continue our high-quality comprehensive program. The support for our budgets and facility improvements have also transformed many structural, functional and security needs in all buildings. I will always cherish my time and relationships that I have built in Orchard Park.

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

**Annual Budget Vote and Board Member Election
7 a.m. - 9 p.m. at the Orchard Park High School**

Proposition # 1 - Proposed Operating Budget

The 2021-22 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District, is \$111,978,005. This is a budget to budget increase of 4.21%. The estimated tax increase is 2.46%. This keeps the budget within the 2.46% allowable tax levy cap.

Proposition # 2 - Purchase and Financing of Vehicles

Voters will decide on the purchases of (4) seventy-seven (77) passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$132,000 each; (3) thirty-four (34) passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$70,000 each; and (1) eighteen (18) passenger wheelchair school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$80,000 each. The purchase is part of the District's long-range bus replacement schedule which will not add to the tax burden. These eight buses, at a total cost not to exceed \$818,000, will be funded through state education department reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions over the last sixteen years; and, if approved will have no new tax impact to local taxpayers.

Election of Two Candidates to the Board of Education

See pages 6 & 7 for Candidate Profiles.

District Receives Upgrade to Moody's Bond Rating

As a result of our stable fund balance and reserves, finances, and responsible budgeting, The district received notice that the Moody's Bond Rating was upgraded from Aa3 to Aa2! There are only a few districts in the state with a bond rating of Aa2. The Moody's Bond Rating upgrade helps the district when the district is going out to market to bond projects and bus purchasing with lower interest rates on the borrowing.

Expenditures

Components	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Program	\$81,342,609	\$83,874,251	\$2,531,642
Capital	\$16,448,880	\$18,252,990	\$1,804,110
Administration	\$9,661,709	\$9,850,764	\$189,055
TOTAL	\$107,453,198	\$111,978,005	\$4,524,807

Program Expenditures

Proposed Operating Budget - Program Component

The program or instructional component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for the district's over 5,000 students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies, textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for employees assigned to this category are reported here.

Program	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Regular Education	\$41,690,371	\$43,275,413	\$1,585,042
Special Education	\$15,418,900	\$15,777,100	\$358,200
Transportation	\$5,034,338	\$5,029,238	-\$5,100
Benefits	\$19,199,000	\$19,792,500	\$593,500
TOTAL	\$81,342,609	\$83,874,251	\$2,531,642

Capital Expenses

Proposed Operating Budget - Capital Component

The capital component of the budget includes maintenance and upkeep of the district's facilities and property including electricity, gas, water, sewer, and telephone services. It also includes principal and interest payments on capital projects and salaries and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

Program	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Operations & Maintenance	\$6,363,605	\$7,191,605	\$828,000
Debt Service	\$7,631,975	\$8,287,585	\$655,610
Benefits	\$2,453,300	\$2,773,800	\$320,500
TOTAL	\$16,448,880	\$18,252,990	\$1,804,110

Administrative Expenses

Proposed Operating Budget - Administrative Component

The administrative component of the budget provides for overall general support and management activities including the Board of Education, the superintendent's office, business and personnel departments, curriculum and staff development, and supervision and support in each of the six schools. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance, BOCES administrative costs, and salaries and benefits for all staff in the administrative offices.

Program	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Board & District Office	\$5,102,770	\$4,963,752	-\$139,018
Building Supervision	\$2,061,939	\$2,086,012	\$24,073
Benefits	\$2,497,000	\$2,801,000	\$304,000
TOTAL	\$9,661,709	\$9,850,764	\$189,055

Estimated Revenue

School Districts are funded through State Aid, property tax, and other revenue sources including sales tax and fund balance.

Source	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$68,153,068	\$69,826,734	\$1,673,666
PILOTS	\$700,000	\$763,070	\$63,070
State & Federal Aid (*)	\$28,490,290	\$28,923,361	\$433,071
Erie County Sales Tax	\$4,300,000	\$5,800,000	\$1,500,000
Other Revenues	\$864,000	\$719,000	-\$145,000
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$4,945,840	\$5,945,840	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$107,453,198	\$111,978,005	\$4,524,807

* Recently approved American Rescue Plan (ARP) & Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) federal funding is budgeted for and will be expensed out of the Special Aid Fund as per NYSED guidance. This funding can be utilized for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 fiscal years.

Orchard Park Central School District Estimated Tax/STAR Impact of Typical Home 2021-22

	Actual 2020	Estimated 2021
Home Value (Orchard Park)	\$100,000	\$100,000
Rate per \$1,000	37.0611	37.8947
Tax Bill w/o STAR:	\$3,706	\$3,789
Increase		\$83
Percentage Increase		2.25%
Tax Bill w/Basic STAR Exemption:		
STAR Reduction (43.0% equalization rate)	-\$549	-\$539
Tax Bill	\$3,157	\$3,250
Increase		\$93
Percentage Increase		2.96%
Tax Bill w/Enhanced STAR Reduction:		
(For persons over 65, under \$90,550 income)		
STAR Reduction (43.0% equalization rate)	-\$1,180	-\$1,180
Tax Bill	\$2,526	\$2,609
Increase		\$83
Percentage Increase		3.30%

Orchard Park By The Numbers

Business First Rankings

Metric	Western NY (Out of 96 Districts)
Academic Ranking	#4
Cost Effectiveness	#8
Per Pupil Spending	#17

ArtSplash and ArtWalk

Beginning May 15th the 33rd year of ArtSplash will kick off along with the first ever ArtWalk. A virtual exhibit of ArtSplash will be posted to the Orchard Park Visual Art Boosters (OPVAB) website.

The first ArtWalk will take place throughout the village of Orchard Park primarily along North and South Buffalo St. All student artwork will be located in business windows facing the street so work can be viewed safely outdoors while socially distanced. Detailed information about the ArtWalk will be available on our website www.opschools.org.



South Davis Students Practice MindUp



Students in Mrs. Vuich's classroom at South Davis are pictured strengthening their focus and balance by doing a MindUp lesson. Each lesson offers easy strategies for helping students focus their attention, improve their self-regulation skills, build resilience to stress, and develop a positive mind-set in both school and life.



High Flyers: Orchard Park Middle School Technology Department Revolutionizes Instruction using Drones

By: Dr. Lisa M. Krueger,
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
James Roland, OPMS Technology Instructional Leader
Lukas Gill, OPMS Technology Teacher

When students pose the question, "Why do we need to learn this?" it reveals students may not be seeing the value in a concept being taught or how it may be useful to them in the future. A team of teachers at Orchard Park Middle School are determined to help students answer the question, "Why do we need to learn this?" while increasing student engagement through authentic, hands-on learning.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems, "drones," have the ability to infuse applications of science, mathematics and engineering to create meaningful learning experiences for students. Over the past year, the District supported James Roland and Lukas Gill in their pursuit of becoming certified FAA Part 107 drone pilots. Through this rigorous study, Mr. Roland and Mr. Gill learned of FAA regulations, flight management, principles of flight, weather patterns and flight conditions, and airspace considerations.

Through collaboration with OPMS science teachers Margaret Staebell and Steven Dillsworth, and math teacher Ryan Bischof, the OPMS Tech Department overhauled their curriculum with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) integration. The curriculum connections were seemingly endless. Newton's Laws of Physics including gravity, outside forces, speed and acceleration can authentically be studied through drones. Measurement and analysis opportunities are bountiful. For example, students can study how the temperature differs at different altitudes, stable versus unstable air, and answer the question, "Why do we experience turbulence on airplanes?"

In mathematics, students can study measurement and conversion ratios, rates of speed by analyzing distance/time graphs, or experience the Pythagorean Theorem through hands-on learning. When student engagement is increased, retention of the concept deepens and motivation for learning thrives. Not to mention, flying a drone is a very cool and fun experience.

This drone experience was made possible in part by donations from the Orchard Park Middle School PTO.



Seventh grade students Evan Mitskovski and Mark Schleif are pictured practicing some basic drills like taking off, turning and landing with the drones.

Students At Windom Create a Mistake Tree



Third grade students at Windom Elementary read "Because of Winn Dixie" by Kate DiCamillo as a mentor text in their Character Studies ELA unit. One of the characters within the book has a mistake tree that helps teach the important lesson that people make mistakes and learn from them. Windom Elementary's third grade students created their own mistake tree, pictured above and wrote mistakes they had made on a wind chime and what they learned by making that mistake. According to Mrs. Besecker "We had great discussions about how we shouldn't be afraid to make mistakes since we can actually achieve more when we make mistakes, learn from the mistake and move forward." The students were really able to make a connection to their own lives!

Eggert Celebrates Kindness



Throughout the months of March and April, Eggert Elementary acknowledged students that said please and thank you. Students were given shamrocks in March and flowers in April when staff heard them using these words. After receiving a shamrock or flower, their name was written on it and it was displayed in the main hallway. The name of the hallway display is "We are lucky to have each other". Hayden Conway, pictured above was using great manners in the lunch room and received a flower to add to Eggert's wall of names.

Board of Education Candidates - Elect Two

Below and on the following page are the candidates running for the Orchard Park Board of Education. They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot. District residents will elect two candidates to the Board.

The information was provided by the candidates. The Board of Education is elected by District voters to govern schools and determine educational policies. Technically, Board of Education members are Local Officials, their authority and duties are defined by the state and federal constitutions and laws as well as by rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Regents and commissioner of education, and other regulatory agencies. Members of the Board of Education are volunteers and receive no salary for their work. They do not have the day-to-day duties of running a school district, rather their role is oversight and setting policy; the Superintendent is responsible for all aspects of the district and he/she reports to the Board.

1A On The Ballot – Ryan Cimo

**Candidate Address:**

23 Braunview Way, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Family Information:

Wife - Brenda, Kids - Alex, 9th grade at OPHS and Audrey, 7th grade at OPMS

Education:

MBA - Strategic Management and Public Policy - George Washington University (DC)

BA - Government and Law - Lafayette College in Easton, PA

Career:

Group Vice President and Head of Risk and Branch Operations for M&T Bank (23 years)

Reasons for Running:

I am running for re-election to continue my advocacy for students and taxpayers. Having a diversity of thought on a school board is critical. I'll continue to ask questions on your behalf. Let's be smart with tax dollars, keep our kids and staff safe and spend every hour of energy to get our kids back full-time.

2A On The Ballot – Karen Sreniawski

**Candidate Address:**

4753 Mosey Lane, Blasdell, NY 14219

Family Information:

- Joe Sreniawski, Husband
- Three children all OPCSD graduates: Jennifer, Megan and Kyle
- Eight grandchildren all residing in the OPCSD (3 currently enrolled in OP elementary schools)

Education:

- B.S. in Education, SUNY Fredonia
- M.S. in Education, University at Buffalo

Career:

- OPCSD Elementary Education Teacher
- Eggert Elementary and Orchard Park Middle School
- 22 years of service - retired July 2020

Reasons for Running:

My candidacy for Trustee of the Orchard Park School District Board of Education (BOE) is a continuation of decades of advocating for children and public education. During my 22-year teaching career, I regularly attended BOE meetings and spoke on behalf of students, parents, and teachers. I was the Vice President of the Orchard Park Teachers' Association for 13 years and sat on numerous school and district committees. My work in these areas was to ensure OP students of all academic levels receive a strong, comprehensive education that will allow them to be successful lifelong learners.

As a community member, I was an active PTO member, Odyssey of the Mind/Destination Imagination coach, Girl Scout leader, as well as a member of the OP Girl Scout Service Team. I am an original founder and Board Member of the Orchard Park Little Loop Football and Cheerleading Organization. My three children graduated from Orchard Park and all eight of my grandchildren currently reside in the District.

I believe my teaching background as well as my experience in leadership roles within the community will be an asset to the Board. Finally, I am grateful for our hard-working educators and staff. I want to provide them with the support needed to continue to be leaders in the academic arena, while maintaining fiscal responsibility at the District level. I look forward to working together with our schools, families, and community to always do what is best for our students.

3A On The Ballot – Dwight Mateer

**Candidate Address:**

36 Hobby Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Family Information:

My wife and I are parents of two Orchard Park Central School District graduates.

Education:

- Masters of Engineering in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo
- Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo
- Associates of Science in Liberal Arts and Science from Erie Community College

Career:

- As a Professional Engineer and Project Manager I have decades of experience partnering with concerned citizens, community groups municipalities and private businesses while maintaining municipal infrastructure and planning, designing & constructing large capital projects.
- I was on the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education from 2014-2020 serving on every board committee and representing the district at the county and state level.

- For the past fourteen years, I've served the Town of Orchard Park on both the Town Public Safety Committee and the Town Zoning Board of Appeals.

Reasons for Running:

A highly effective school board is comprised of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and skills working diligently and collectively for the benefit of students and the community.

To get back to a sense of normality, permanent changes to district facilities are necessary. My technical background and experience will help the district navigate regulation and prepare the buildings & grounds for permanent full-time instruction and activities.

In the past, I brought value to school district construction projects and guided wise spending. Many of my ideas for student safety were implemented in school construction projects. I want to see in person full-time instruction and I have the technical background to get it done safely.

I'll be reachable to the community by attending PTO meetings, activities, and public events. Hearing your ideas and concerns is important because we are all partners in this process.

Students deserve better. They're the collateral damage of this pandemic. For years it was widely known they had too much screen time and not enough physical activity. Now, with hundreds of students participating in full-time remote learning and the majority of students attending school half-time, we're failing to provide students with an education of distinction and excellence. The negative effects of this pandemic will last a lifetime. We must do better.

You deserve a highly effective school board and students deserve positive change, hope for a brighter future, and an education of distinction & excellence. I'll be the person who can be your voice.

OPCSD Named One of the Best Communities For Music Education

Orchard Park has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for the fifth year in a row.



Now in its 22nd year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Orchard Park answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"We truly value our district music program here in Orchard Park as music education has a profound effect on academic ability. Research also supports that students in high-quality school music programs score higher on standardized tests in both math and ELA. The Orchard Park Central School District will continue to strive for excellence through support of the music program, by offering diverse music coursework to our students, and by further development of our community music-making program," said District Music Coordinator, Missy Szczesniak.

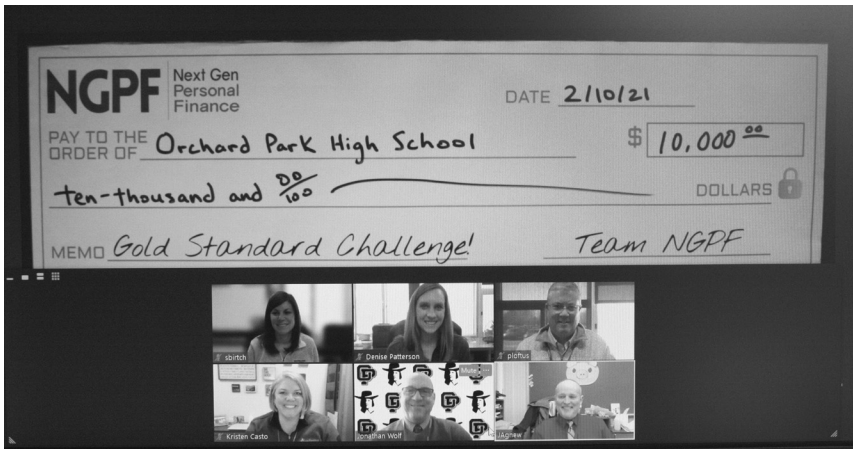


Virtual Backpack

The Orchard Park Central School District is sending flyers home through the Virtual Backpack available on our website. You can visit the Virtual Backpack for your child's building at the link below or use the QR code. www.opschools.org/opcsdvirtualbackpacks



Business Department Receives Next Gen Personal Finance Gold Standard Challenge Grant



Orchard Park High School Principal, Jon Wolf congratulated the business department in a virtual meeting earlier this spring.

In February the Orchard High School Business Department was named the recipient of the 'Next Gen Personal Finance Gold Standard Challenge' grant for \$10,000.

Business Teacher Mrs. Kristen Casto learned of Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) at a Business Teachers conference in 2019. Next Gen Personal Finance's mission is to revolutionize the teaching of personal finance in all schools in order to improve the financial lives of the next generation of Americans. They plan to do this by providing free up-to-date curriculum, engaging professional development and advocacy resources to increase access to financial education. In addition to providing free curriculum and PD, NGPF issues various grants and sponsorships to schools, teachers, students, and like-minded organizations. Since learning of this resource Mrs. Casto along

with her colleagues have utilized the resources and professional development tools to enhance their curriculum.

In the fall of 2019 NGPF had reached out to find out more about what the Orchard Park High School Business Department was doing. During their virtual meeting Mrs. Casto and the rest of the Business Department discussed the Gold Standard Challenge Grant. The OPHS Business Dept. was able to qualify for the grant because in March of 2020 the Superintendent recommended the Board of Education support revised graduation requirements that included all students taking a course in Personal Finance to graduate.

Mrs. Casto spearheaded the grant application process with input from Mr. Pat Loftus, the department's Instructional Leader. The application required a description of how the personal finance graduation requirement came to fruition and a signed copy of the BOE minutes.

The Orchard Park High School Business Department began addressing the need for financial literacy education in 2005 when they implemented the Academy of Finance program. The AOF program is part of NAF (www.naf.org), which is a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure high school students are college, career, and future ready.

The Orchard Park High School Business Department is looking forward to using these funds to advance their mission to graduate students who are knowledgeable of the free enterprise system, have successful careers, contribute positively to their communities and share their experiences with future generations. The department empowers its students through the sharing of information and knowledge with classroom and field experiences. These grant funds will be dedicated to furthering the goal of financial literacy for all Orchard Park High School students. In the past, the financial literacy efforts have been focused on the Academy of Finance students and has been funded through the AOF Advisory Board. These grant funds will allow the department to expand their efforts to the larger student population. In the coming months the Business Department will be determining exactly how the funds will be utilized.

"As we strive to prepare our students for their next chapter, it was clear that all students will benefit greatly from deepening their financial literacy. From understanding debt such as when considering student loans or credit cards, contemplating whether to buy or lease a vehicle, or saving for retirement, having a financial literacy foundation will serve students well," said Dr. Lisa Krueger, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction.



Mrs. Casto spearheaded the grant application process with input from Mr. Pat Loftus, the department's Instructional Leader.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 107,453,198	\$ 111,978,005	\$ 110,304,339										
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$ 4,524,807	\$ 2,851,141										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.21%	2.65 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 68,153,068	\$ 69,826,734											
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)	\$ 68,153,068	\$ 69,826,734	\$ 68,153,068										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,432,820	\$ 3,914,527											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 64,720,248	\$ 65,912,207											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 64,720,248	\$ 65,912,207											
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 9,661,709	\$ 9,850,764	\$ 9,795,654										
Program Component	\$ 81,342,609	\$ 83,874,251	\$ 83,500,385										
Capital Component	\$ 16,448,880	\$ 18,252,990	\$ 17,008,300										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>The exact change to the 2021-22 budget would still need to be determined, however, there would be employee positions eliminated and all equipment purchases would be eliminated, with the exception of state aided computer hardware and equipment essential to assist children with special needs.</p>													
<p>** 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)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2021-22 Tax Impact)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$818,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2021-22 Tax Impact)	\$818,000						
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NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 539

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Orchard Park Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Orchard Park High School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Orchard Park High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



Meeting Student Needs in the Changing Landscape of Public Education

By: David Lilleck Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Pupil Services

As a district, we have been committed to meeting the needs of all of our students during this challenging year. We are very proud of the programming and educational offerings we have provided to all of our students this year. We know that the pandemic has negatively impacted all students to some degree, and it is essential that we continue to address student needs in a specific data-driven, whole child manner to ensure we are focusing our resources on closing academic gaps, as well as supporting our students in the social-emotional realm.

As we move forward and adapt and grow as a district, our focus must be centered on developing a program that is flexible and can pivot quickly to meet the ever-changing landscape of public education and the needs of our students. As the Orchard Park Central School District and public education enter a new period of change and transition, the likes of which we have never seen before, it is imperative

that we develop out-of-the-box solutions to meet the needs of all of our students and constituent groups. Times of crisis present opportunities for growth and can offer exciting ways in which to transform systems for the better. We must be willing to move out of our comfort zones to examine our systems and adjust to meet the new and future demands we will face. Public education is the great equalizer in our nation. It is the key to opening the door to the American dream. This dream can only be accomplished when we meet our students and families where they currently are as we give them a voice, as well as the skills, fortitude, grace, and mercy to grow into all they are destined to be.

Specifically, regarding special education and student support services, though we are still working with unknowns, the planning for next year is well underway. We do understand that this year is a year like no other we have experienced before and you may have questions or concerns that develop between now and the end of this school year. If this is the

case, please reach out to your child's current team. Your child's classroom teacher, primary service provider, and building principal are the go-to individuals to begin these conversations. For further information and resources, please visit the District's Special Education website:

<https://www.opschools.org/domain/31>

I also wanted to take a moment and thank both Mrs. Lynn Czemerynski, our Director of Special Education, who will be retiring at the conclusion of this school year after 23 years of service to the Orchard Park Central School District and Mrs. Wendy Gloss, our Director of Special Programs who will be retiring after 32 years of service to the district. Both their leadership and devotion to our students and the District will be missed. We thank them for all of their work over the course of their careers. We are currently in the process of hiring Mrs. Czemerynski's and Mrs. Gloss's successors and the anticipated start date for both successful candidates is July 1, 2021.

Welcome School Resource Officers



Officer John Starr



Officer Courtney Mackey

Orchard Park police officers John Starr and Courtney Mackey became the Orchard Park Middle School and High School School Resource Officers respectively during the 2020-2021 school year.

Officer Starr began his career in Law Enforcement in 2015 and joined the Orchard Park Police Department in 2019. He is currently a police instructor in a variety of topics and a member of the Orchard Park Police Department's Emergency Response Team. He began his role as a School Resource Officer at the Orchard Park Middle School in November 2020.

Officer Starr hopes to create relationships and provide resources and support to the students at the middle school so they are able to grow into successful and healthy young adults while ensuring a safe environment for all the students and staff at OPMS.

Officer Mackey began her career in Law Enforcement in January of 2018 working with the University at Buffalo Police Department. She graduated from the Erie County Police Academy in June of 2018 and transferred to the Orchard Park Police Department that August. Officer Mackey began as the SRO at the Orchard Park High School in February of 2021 after previous Orchard Park High School SRO Officer Lukowski was promoted.

Officer Mackey's biggest goal as the high school SRO is to provide the safest environment possible for Orchard Park students to learn. She also hopes to educate youth about perspectives on law enforcement and making the right choices. She hopes to be seen as a law enforcer, informal counselor, educator and an emergency manager.

Both Officer Starr and Officer Mackey will undergo additional trainings during the summer at the 46th Annual State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association.

A Word From Board of Education President

Christine Gray Tinnesz, Ed.D

On March 30, 2021, the Board of Education adopted the 2021-2022 budget recommended by Superintendent McGarrity. The budget focuses on District safety and security which includes PPE, polycarbonate barriers, and enhanced cleaning procedures to ensure safety during the pandemic.

The budget also provides funding for academic and mental health support and maintains staffing to allow for reduced class size and density in classrooms and on school buses as necessary under current NYSDOH and CDC guidance. This budget is fiscally responsible and stays within the tax levy cap.

The adopted budget represents months of building-level and district-level meetings and a tremendous effort by Superintendent McGarrity and the entire administrative team. We are fortunate to have a group of administrators so committed to both the stability and excellence of the District. The Board is hopeful that the community will vote on May 18, 2021.

In addition to voting on the budget, the community will also be asked to approve a proposition for the purchase of buses, identical to the bus-buying proposition that has been on the ballot for the past 16 years. The yearly purchasing of several buses permits the District to keep its fleet in top condition, to keep bus maintenance costs low, and to maximize state aid for the purchase.

With the retirement announcement of Mr. McGarrity, the Board of Education (BOE) is working with David O'Rourke, District Superintendent and Chief Executive Of-



ficer of Erie 2 BOCES to hire a new superintendent for the Orchard Park School District. The deadline for applications was March 19 and the preliminary screening of candidates started on March 26. Preliminary interviews were conducted by the BOE April 13-16 and final interviews will be conducted by stakeholder committees and the BOE May 3-6, 2021.

Finally, the community will also elect two school board trustees on May 18, 2021. Our District is fortunate that each year community members of different backgrounds, experiences and interests come forward to run for the school board. Effective school boards are critical to the success of school districts. Before you cast your vote for school board trustees, consider these questions suggested by the New York State School Boards Association: 1. Does the candidate understand the role of the school board? 2. Is the candidate focused on a single issue or on a broad range of school district concerns? 3. Does the candidate's approach make it likely that he or she will be able to work effectively with the rest of the board? 4. Will the candidate enhance the mix of skills and backgrounds on the board and help represent the diversity of the community? 5. Does the candidate have the commitment to do what's right even in the face of strong opposition? On behalf of the Board, I encourage everyone to become as informed as possible about the budget, the bus proposition and the school board candidates, and make time to vote on May 18, 2021.

Middle School Teacher Named Recipient of Reed Taylor Award Cont.

Mr. Helfman was nominated by his colleague Mr. Peter Herman. Mr. Herman sent in the nomination powerfully stating "He has stood up against discrimination in several forms, consciously and unconsciously spread this passion for human rights to his students and colleagues alike."

Mr. Helfman was recognized at a surprise virtual presentation of the award on Wednesday, April 14th. The ceremony was attended by members of the Buffalo Chapter of the Academy of Human Rights, current and former colleagues, his family members and friends. Andrew Bieter, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Academy of Human Rights led the celebration and comments were made by Mr. Herman who nominated Mr. Helfman, Mr. Aaron Grupka Middle School Principal and Daryl's friends and family members were able to chime in with their messages of congratulations.

According to Mr. Helfman, "Being the 2021 recipient of the Academy for Human Rights Reed Taylor Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education is the biggest honor I have received in my 30 years of teaching students in the Orchard Park Central School District. I have always felt the importance of empowering students to stand up for what is right and to treat others with respect, dignity and kindness. Teaching students daily and integrating human rights education simply means understanding and embracing the principle of human equality and dignity. As educators we must foster attitudes of tolerance, respect and responsibility. We all need to have the commitment to respect and protect the rights of all. I feel that it has been my privilege to guide students toward this realization."

"As a social studies teacher, Daryl is a strong voice and advocate of Human Rights education. He is passionate about educating his students as well as the entire school community on social justice, human rights, and equality. He believes strongly in respecting, honoring, and recognizing all cultures, religions, and communities," said Aaron Grupka Orchard Park Middle School Principal.

Parent Information Series Continues with Teen Driving Safety

Orchard Park Central School District's Parent Information Series will continue with a Teen Driving Safety presentation offered virtually on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

To learn more or to sign up for this event please visit www.opschools.org.

Resident

Date, Time and Location of Public Vote

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Orchard Park High School Gymnasium

4040 Baker Road

Orchard Park, NY 14127

(Use Freeman Road Entrance)

On The Ballot

Proposition I: Operating Budget

- The 2021-22 operating budget keeps the tax levy (2.46%) within the tax cap requirements

Proposition II:

- Continues the 16 year Bus Replacement Program (no new tax impact).

Election of Two Board Members

(They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot).

- 1A On The Ballot - Ryan Cimo
- 2A On The Ballot - Karen Sreniawski
- 3A On The Ballot - Dwight Mateer

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots for the 2021-22 Annual School Vote may be obtained at the District Clerk's Office, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or no later than the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered by the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on May 18, 2021. Absentee Ballot applications are also available on our District website: www.opschools.org. For more information on absentee ballots, please contact the District Clerk at 209-6280.

Please note you may request an absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Voter Eligibility

- At least 18 years of age.
- A United States citizen.
- A District resident for at least 30 days before the date of the vote.

Safety Procedures

Voters will be required to follow public health and safety procedures and wear a mask at all times once they have entered the building. There will be floor markings to indicate acceptable distance between voters once they enter the voting area. The district will regularly clean shared surfaces in the voting area and have unused pens available for voters.

Athletes Sign Letters of Intent



Seventeen Orchard Park High School seniors committed to play their sports at the college level this spring. Congratulations: Andrew Descovich, Breanne Gavigan, Christopher Bertola, Connor Bowman, Hudson Harris, Ian Rauh, Jake Hollins, Karly Bray, Matthew Keane, Mollie Collins, Joseph Nicometo, Olivia Ippolito, Olivia Nellis, Patrick McCrone, Riker Smith, Samantha Dzierba and Eric Deitz! Students are listed as they are pictured in the image to the left.