

# Orchard Park Central School District

2017-2018 Annual School Vote Budget, Bus Proposition,  
and School Board Member Election  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

See pages 3-5 for additional budget/vote information

## Budget Edition 2017 Community Report

### Orchard Park High School Students Receive Chromebooks to Use as 1:1 Devices

The purchasing of Chromebooks for Orchard Park High School students was made possible through the Smart Schools Bond Act. In 2014, Governor Cuomo called for a \$2 billion technology investment in New York State schools. The Smart Schools Bond Act was enacted to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to enhance learning opportunities for students across New York State. The implementation of 1:1 devices fit well within the categories allowing the Orchard Park High School to give each student a Chromebook for use in their classrooms and at home with no impact on the school district budget or our local school taxes.

In early March the Orchard Park Central School District rolled-out over 1500 Chromebooks to be used as 1:1 devices to all students in grades 9-12. The Google Steering Committee has been working diligently for the last 18 months developing a plan for the implementation of the 1:1 devices. The Google Steering Committee consists of representatives from all of the departments at the high school. They developed the plan for the roll-out and will continue to meet to discuss best practices and different ways to incorporate the technology into the classrooms.

High school students were given their Chromebooks on March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. The model that the students received is the Lenovo Yoga 11e. This is a ruggedized Chromebook model specifically designed for education and meets military-specification guidelines for ruggedness, durability, and quality.

The students went through several stations in the gymnasium in order to make sure they had signed off on the acceptable use policy, received their Chromebooks and chargers and successfully logged in. According to technology coach Nicole Holler, "The roll-out was like a well-oiled machine and it went exceptionally well."

The seamless distribution of the Chromebooks was truly a team effort after many months of planning. District Technology Coaches were on site along with the entire Technology Department, the Physical Education Department and the High School librarians to assist in the roll-out and distribution. The Buildings and Grounds Department helped by making sure the Chromebooks were in place for distribution to the students.

Prior to the distribution of the Chromebooks faculty and staff participated in professional development focusing on Google Apps For Education. This professional development helped to give our teachers the opportunity to learn how best to incorporate the



*The high school students are all smiles after successfully receiving and logging in to their Chromebooks.*

*Continued on Page 3*

Summer Community Education Brochure Enclosed Pull out and Save Center Insert!



# Superintendent's Column

*Matthew P. McGarrity*

I'm pleased to share that the Orchard Park Central School District has been named one of the "Best Communities in the Nation for Music Education." It is a testament not only to the comprehensive education that Orchard Park offers its students but our dedicated teachers, students and community members. Orchard Park is one of only 527 districts in the country receiving this designation in 2017.

Over the last few months, the administrative team has been working on the 2017-18 operating budget. Once again this year the budget will focus on improving safety and security. The budget will provide improvements to our phone system and fix the continued outages that have plagued the district over the last few years. The budget will add security coverage during the summer months and on Saturdays. We have many community members using our buildings during the summer and on Saturdays throughout the year so it is a priority to ensure their safety. Our other priorities are to ensure we can continue to maintain our current programs and continue putting students first while staying under the "tax cap." This year's tax cap is 2.3% which will result in a "property tax relief credit" for homeowners with a star exemption.

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 including: Reducing our energy costs; Moving to a self-funded healthcare plan; Reducing our workers' compensation & liability insurance premiums; and Refinancing the 2006 & 2008 serial bonds which has reduced our annual debt payment by \$135,000. Because of these cost saving initiatives and sound financial practices, the Orchard Park Central School District is ranked # 7 in administrative efficiency and # 6 in cost effectiveness according to *Business First*.

Also on the May 16, 2017 Ballot: Proposition II which includes the purchase of three seventy-seven passenger school buses, one fifty-seven passenger school bus with two wheelchair capacity, two universal wheelchair van-type buses and two thirty-four passenger school buses. Again this year there will be no budget impact on the purchase of the buses, the payment is offset by state aid and negotiated contract concessions. Proposition III is the establishment of a Capital Reserve. The external auditors of the district are recommending the establishment of this reserve. The resolution, if approved will only establish the reserve. The Board of Education would decide at a later time if the district has the ability to fund the reserve. A Capital Reserve would help the district to offset the cost of future capital projects to the local tax base. Finally, the vote will include the election of three members to the Board of Education.

As we move forward, we will continue to make our students our first priority. I am very thankful that Orchard Park has extraordinary teachers, support staff and administrators, and that we are supported by a community that values exceptional public education. We will continue to advocate for adequate state aid, high standards for our students and support for the local control of public education by our community. I thank you for your continued support.

## OPCSD Named One of "Best Communities in the Nation for Music Education"

The Orchard Park Central School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education from the NAMM Foundation for its high commitment and access to music education. Orchard Park is one of 4% of schools across the nation receiving this prestigious award in 2017.

The Best Communities 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 program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

The Orchard Park Central School District strives for excellence in academics, athletics and the arts, and with the support of our community, we are proud of our students' accomplishments in these areas. Being recognized by the NAMM Foundation is a testament to the commitment and efforts of our teachers, administrators, students, parents and community to make music education a priority in Orchard Park," said Matthew McGarrity Superintendent of the Orchard Park Central School District.



*Fifth grader Matthew Fischer is warming up before his music lesson at Ellicott Elementary.*

### *Students Receive Chromebooks Continued from cover*

Chromebooks into their curriculum. With Chromebooks now part of our students' daily learning, teachers are looking forward to continued Professional Development. Many of the teachers are finding it useful for the students to have the technology and access right at their fingertips! The teachers are also having good luck with a piece of management software called LanSchool. This allows teachers to see what the students are seeing on the Chromebooks. This can ensure that students are staying on track and if anyone is struggling the teacher has the ability to see it.

The students are also taking responsibility to ensure that their Chromebooks are safe. The students are conscientious about keeping them in backpacks or put away as they transition from class to class. Not only are students being responsible with their own devices but student volunteers are working in the library as a first line of defense when it comes to any Chromebook issues or malfunctions. The student volunteers have been trained by Mr. David Coder, Computer Support Aide, to troubleshoot potential issues. This assists with making sure the technology department is not inundated with minor issues that can be easily resolved.

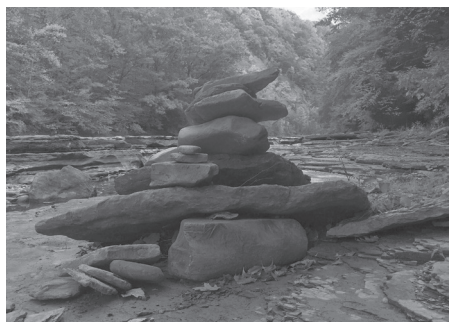
With Chromebooks now in the hands of students in grades 5-12 the Orchard Park Central School District as a whole is looking forward to really integrating the technology into the classrooms to provide new and exciting learning opportunities for Orchard Park students.



*Students lined up by grade level to receive their Chromebooks purchased through the Smart Schools Bond Act.*



Photograph by: Adele Eagan  
Orchard Park High School



Photograph by: Cameron Hassen  
Orchard Park High School



Photograph by: Anna Mosey  
Orchard Park High School

## Vote May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

### **Proposition # 1 - Proposed Operating Budget**

RESOLVED that the 2017-18 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District, in the total amount of \$98,313,735, be adopted. The budget to budget increase is 3.89%. The tax levy increase is 2.30%. This keeps the budget within the 2.30% allowable tax levy cap which will allow homeowners to receive the property tax credit relief checks in the fall.

### **Proposition # 2 - Purchase and Financing of Vehicles**

Voters will decide on the purchase of three (3) seventy-seven (77) passenger school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$123,000 each; one (1) fifty-seven (57) passenger school bus with two wheelchair capacity at an estimated maximum cost of \$145,000; two (2) universal wheelchair van-typ buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$76,000 each; and two (2) thirty-four passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$62,000 each. The purchase, part of the District's long-range bus replacement schedule, will not add to the tax burden. These eight buses, at a total cost not to exceed \$790,000, will be funded through state education department reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions over the last twelve years; and, if approved, will have no new tax impact to local taxpayers.

### **Proposition # 3 - Capital Reserve Fund**

This proposition only creates the fund. The Board of Education will decide if and when to fund the reserve. The creation of the reserve was recommended by the external auditors of the District. Part of the District's cost-effective long-range plan to support our aging facilities.

### **Election of Three Candidates to the Board of Education**

See pages 8 and 9 for Candidate Profiles.



## Expenditures

Components	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Program	\$72,998,263	\$74,804,707	\$1,806,444
Capital	\$13,390,711	\$14,959,157	\$1,568,446
Administration	\$8,243,659	\$8,549,871	\$306,212
TOTAL	\$94,632,633	\$98,313,735	\$3,681,102

## Program Expenditures

### Proposed Operating Budget - Program Component

The program or instructional component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for the district's 4,971 students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies, textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for employees assigned to this category are reported here.

Program	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Regular Education	\$36,062,785	\$37,204,166	\$1,141,381
Special Education	\$14,986,841	\$15,573,900	\$587,059
Transportation	\$4,454,576	\$4,487,281	\$32,705
Benefits	\$17,494,061	\$17,539,360	\$45,299
TOTAL	\$72,998,263	\$74,804,707	\$1,806,444

## Capital Expenditures

### 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	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,744,348	\$6,037,196	\$292,848
Debt Service	\$5,426,263	\$6,505,301	\$1,079,038
Benefits	\$2,220,100	\$2,416,660	\$196,560
TOTAL	\$13,390,711	\$14,959,157	\$1,568,446

## Administrative Expenditures

### 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	2016-2017	2017-18	Change
Board & District Office	\$3,926,394	\$4,230,993	\$304,599
Building Supervision	\$2,102,565	\$2,052,698	-\$49,867
Benefits	\$2,214,700	\$2,266,180	\$51,480
TOTAL	\$8,243,659	\$8,549,871	\$306,212

## Estimated Revenue

Source	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$60,170,654	\$61,554,907	\$1,384,253
PILOTS	\$696,397	\$695,220	-\$1,177
State & Federal Aid	\$25,494,742	\$27,212,768	\$1,718,026
Erie County Sales Tax	\$5,000,000	\$5,025,000	\$25,000
Other Revenues	\$725,000	\$830,000	\$105,000
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$2,545,840	\$2,995,840	\$450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94,632,633</b>	<b>\$98,313,735</b>	<b>\$3,681,102</b>

## Revenue Facts

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

## Orchard Park Pride

The Orchard Park Central School District, the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce and the business community would like to recognize 36 seniors recognized as Orchard Park Pride. These students were recognized for their outstanding character, leadership and achievement at an awards dinner held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Orchard Park Pride honorees are pictured to the right. In the first row is: Alyssa Strade, Hanna Walker, Morgan Beres, Kristen Zablonksi, Katrina Wardner, Amber Piniewski, Emily Zhang and Kelsey Wenger. In the second row is: Grant Merkel, Christian Cappello, Taylor Sayoc, Megan Filipski, Leah Wardner, Erin O'Rourke, Hope VanDerwater, Joseph Even and Elizabeth Conforti. In the third row is: Lauren Smith, Rebecca Ferer, Hannah Brown, Cole Wilkinson, Aislinn Hoover, Olivia Sapio, Michael Totaro and Thomas Flannery. In the back row is: Paul Hackford, Adam Ziccardi, Tanner Probst, Daniel Kubik, Matthew Chiavetta, Griffin O'Brien and Dillon Janca. Not pictured are Christine Davenport, Madelyn Jensen, Elizabeth Koman, Maria Lauria and Nico Rapini.



## Orchard Park By The Numbers

### 2016 Business First Rankings

Metric	Western NY (Out of 96 Districts)	Upstate NY (Out of 431 Districts)
College Readiness	#1	#2
Academic Ranking	#4	#15
Cost Effectiveness	#6	#11
Administrative Efficiency	#7	#14
Per Pupil Spending	#6	#44

## Grab Dinner To Go at the Vote

The Orchard Park High School Post Prom Committee will host a BW's Barbecue Chicken Dinner on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 p.m. or until they run out on the Freeman Road side of the High School. Chicken dinners are \$9. Meals include meat, potato salad, coleslaw, roll and butter. Proceeds benefit the Post Prom Party, a school supported, drug & alcohol-free event for seniors and their dates after the Prom.

## Orchard Park Central School District Estimated Tax/STAR Impact of Typical Home 2017-18

	Actual 2016-17	Estimated 2017-18
Home Value (Orchard Park)	\$100,000	\$100,000
Rate per \$1,000	33.9050	34.6850
<b>Tax Bill w/o STAR:</b>	\$3,391	\$3,469
Increase		\$78
Percentage Increase		2.30%
<b>Tax Bill w/Basic STAR Exemption:</b>		
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (53.5% equalization rate)	-\$544	-\$557
Tax Bill	\$2,847	\$2,912
Increase		\$65
Percentage Increase		2.28%
<b>Tax Bill w/Enhanced STAR Reduction:</b> (For persons over 65, under \$86,000 income)		
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (53.5% equalization rate)	-\$1,184	-\$1,208
Tax Bill	\$2,207	\$2,261
Increase		\$54
Percentage Increase		2.45%

\*\*\* This keeps the budget within the 2.30% allowable tax levy cap which will allow homeowners to receive the property tax credit relief checks in the fall.\*\*\*

## Eggert Student Places at Braille Competition



*Sarah McDonald is pictured above reading a story that she wrote in braille.*

Eggert Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> grade student Sarah McDonald competed at the Braille Challenge held in Batavia in February. The Braille Challenge is competition for students in grades 1-12 who are braille readers in the United States and Canada. The students compete regionally and if they excel they could have an opportunity to compete in Los Angeles at the Braille Institute. Sarah came in second place at the apprentice level which is for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. The competition in February was Sarah's first time competing.

## Makerspace Available in Middle School Library

Orchard Park Middle School librarians Paul Kloster and Christine Tempestoso are working with library aide Lori Werner to



*A Middle School student is pictured using the Makey Makeys to change the inputs on her Chromebook, allowing her to use playdough to play a simple keyboard, or run through a game.*

create "Makerspaces" within the Middle School Library. These spaces provide a place for students to create whatever is interesting to them that may not be a part of their school curriculum; some of these activities include paper crafts, knitting, crocheting, and even simple wiring and coding.

The Makerspace movement began officially in 2005 with the launch of MAKE Magazine by Dale Dougherty and his team, which encouraged the development of these creative spaces. Makerspaces have increasingly been appearing in libraries and other educational institutions.

In the library, "Makey Makeys," which allow students to wire and code, became available to students on January 23rd, and have thus far been very popular with students. Students may either attend "drop-in" classes that specialize in one craft, or they may sign up for an independent study project that replaces a study hall. With this option, students can choose what to focus on without the pressure of grades or due dates.

Librarians are always standing by to help and encourage students in whatever they pursue. The library hopes to expand the range of activities so that students can express their creativity in any way that they would like.



## Five Orchard Park Seniors Sign Their National Letters of Intent



*Pictured above are the five Orchard Park High School seniors that signed their letters of intent on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Pictured standing from left to right are Amber and Alyssa Piniewski. Pictured seated are Michael D'Amato, Billy Major and Jake Graves.*

Five Orchard Park High School seniors signed their national letters of intent to play their sports at the college level. The seniors signed their letters at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park Central School District Offices on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Michael D'Amato will be playing soccer at Daemen College next year. He chose to go to Daemen because he loved everything about Daemen including the academic side. Michael is planning to study Sports Management.

Jake Graves plans to attend Geneseo next year to run track. He chose to attend Geneseo because it has a great academic program and a great track program. Jake plans to major in Business Management and hopefully go into a Sports Management position in the future.

Billy Major will be playing soccer at Slippery Rock University next year. Billy chose to attend Slippery Rock next year because he liked the campus, enjoyed meeting the soccer players and coaches. He will begin school with an undeclared major and possibly go into business in the future.

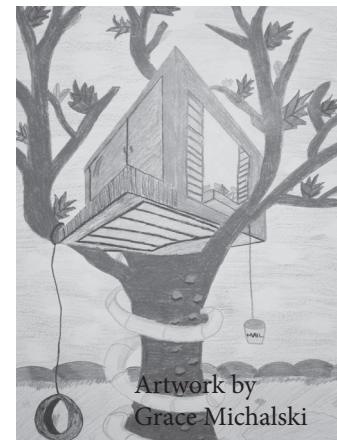
Alyssa Piniewski will be playing softball at Fredonia next year. She is looking forward to playing in college and selected Fredonia because she loved the campus and likes the softball coach and the family like aspect of the softball team. Alyssa plans to major in Childhood Education and hopes that one day she can return to teach in Orchard Park.

Amber Piniewski also plans to play softball at Fredonia next year. She chose to go to Fredonia because she didn't want the harsher commitment of playing Division I or II softball so Fredonia seemed to be the perfect fit. She also liked the campus and that it is still close enough to home to go home for the weekend. She too plans to major in Childhood Education.

## Follow Us On Facebook and Twitter!

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OPCSD](http://www.facebook.com/OPCSD) or  
follow us on Twitter @OPSchools.

## ArtSplash 2017



The Orchard Park Central School District is pleased to announce the 29<sup>th</sup> year of ArtSplash, the two week, district-wide art show held each spring. Opening night will be held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. This year the District is pleased to announce that the Orchard Park Public Library will be hosting ArtSplash. The Orchard Park Library, located at 4570 South Buffalo Street in Orchard Park, will provide an ideal venue for the amazing pieces of student artwork to be displayed and enjoyed. The student artwork will remain on display in the library until May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Career Fair



The business department at the Orchard Park High School held their first annual Career Fair for Career and Financial Management students at Bryant & Stratton on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Approximately 90 Career and Financial Management students had the opportunity to meet and talk with 35 employers from Western New York. Afterward Bryant & Stratton held several workshops for the students including: Social Media Do's and Don'ts, a LinkedIn workshop and a Personal Branding workshop.

## OPHS Students & Staff Go Bald For Bucks



On Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup> Orchard Park High School went Bald for Bucks. Twelve students and four faculty members shaved their heads or participated in Pantenes Beautiful Lengths. Over 200 people participated in Caps for a Cure! The shaved heads and haircuts were compliments of BOCES Cosmetology students and teacher Denise Heary.

On the financial side, the high school raised a total over \$3,200. Orchard Park High School has raised over \$80,000 for Roswell in the 12 years the high school has been participating in Bald for Bucks.

*Pictured to the left an Orchard Park High School student goes Bald For Bucks!*

## Board of Education Candidates - Elect Three

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 three candidates to the Board.

The information was provided by the candidates. The District does not provide further candidate information. The Board of Education is elected by District voters to govern schools and determine education policy. Board members are state officials operating within guidelines set forth by New York State Education Law, the State Board of Regents, judicial decisions and other regulatory agencies.

### Dwight D. Mateer (1A on the Ballot)

**Address:** 36 Hobby Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127

**Family Information:** My wife and I have two children in Orchard Park High School.

**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:** I have 23 years of experience as a Civil Engineer working with community groups, municipalities, concerned citizens and private business while managing, designing and constructing large highway, bridge, and building projects.

**Describe your reasons for running, any experiences you have that support your candidacy and why you are asking community members to support you:** Representing the district voters on the Orchard Park Central School Board of Education for the past three years has been an honor.

I feel it's important to not just serve the community, but serve it well by always listening to resident's concerns and by learning all I can about district operations, functions, needs & accomplishments. I have asked tough questions, made difficult decisions and provided ideas & solutions while striving to find reasonable value when balancing costs and benefits for students and taxpayers.

I've had the opportunity meet many exceptional hard working staff supporting a high standard of student distinction and excellence. These outstanding people enable students to achieve their fullest potential. I've supported and would continue to support programs providing effective staff development and the recruiting of a highly qualified & motivated workforce.

For the last three years, the Orchard Park Central School District budget has been under the tax cap while still providing quality academics, athletics and club activities for students. Being mindful of people on fixed incomes and the community costs of budget decisions. I will work to keep future budgets under the tax cap through long-range planning and fiscal responsibility.

I always welcome open dialogue and look for innovative ways to improve efficiency.

Although accomplishing a lot the past three years, I feel there is still more work to be done.

I am ready for the challenges of the next three years and humbly ask for your support when you vote on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**What do you feel the District's most important priority should be?** The most important thing of the many District priorities is achieving academic excellence while maintaining a balance budget. The District must continue to seek ways of functioning under unfunded mandates and a tax cap while providing a high quality education for students.

**Community Service:** My current community service includes: Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education, Town of Orchard Park Zoning Board of Appeals, Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Board of Directors. My past community service includes: Town of Orchard Park Trails Task Force, Boy Scout Troop 483 Assistant Scout Master, Cub Scout Pack 219 Committee Chair.



## David Nielsen (2A on the Ballot)

**Address:** 51 Harvard Place Orchard Park, NY 14127

**Family Information:** Clare (8th grade at the Middle School), Molly (Kindergarten at South Davis)

**Education:** High School: City honors, Buffalo; College: Buffalo State College, BS Biology Education (dual degree)

**Career:** Currently employed as the Director of Information Technology and Internal Operations with Catholic Medical Partners and work daily with budgets, contracting, compliance reporting and program evaluation. Prior to joining CMP in 2007 I worked with Independent Health for 10 years focusing on regulatory reporting, quality of care measurement and financial analysis.

**Describe your reasons for running, any experiences you have that support your candidacy and why you are asking community members to support you.** I believe that the ability to receive a strong public education is important to society and that community service is an integral part of being a good neighbor. Orchard Park is a great place to live and raise my daughters and I would like to volunteer my time and talents to benefit the community. I feel that the Board of Education is the best fit based on my abilities and would be the place where I could make the biggest impact. My background in Biology education, statistics, process improvement and healthcare allows me to work with information at both the individual and population levels and reconcile the inherent differences between them. My priority has always been to evaluate the current academic program and expand them when appropriate. For example, we also need to review and modify our Advanced Placement and honors programs. 95% of our graduates go onto college, but we are currently unable to offer all of our students the opportunity to take an AP course.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for voting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**What do you feel the District's most important priority should be?**

To prepare the students for their future. While we provide a basic foundation in the skills necessary for success in the workplace we also need to make sure that we are educating in a manner that allows the students to think and adjust to changing environments and not just encouraging rote answers to tests. It isn't possible to predict how technology will change the work place in the next 30 years, but the ability to work in teams, think both creatively and critically allow our students to adapt to whatever those changes may be.

**Community Service:** Past chairman (2012 & 2013) Baker Victory Nite, a fund raiser for Baker Victory Services and I volunteer my time with their programs. South Davis PTO volunteer. Member of the Orchard Park School Board since 2008 (Vice President since 2013-2016 and current president). Served on the following District committees: Audit, Evaluation, Planning, Curriculum and Policy, Negotiating committees for both the teachers and school related professionals contracts. Also was a member of the Erie County Association of School Boards Budget and Programming committees. I am a parishioner at Nativity of our Lord church and enjoy the Southtowns YMCA

## Christine Gray Tinnesz, Ph.D. (3A on the Ballot)

**Address:** 7278 East Quaker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

**Family Information:** Husband: Dylan, Children: Ellie, 15 and Casey 14

**Education:** Ph.D. in Education, University at Buffalo, M.S. in Higher Education, Syracuse University, B.S. in Elementary Education, SUNY Oswego

**Career:** Instructor, Buffalo State College

**Why I am running:** As a native of Orchard Park with two children enrolled in the district, I am running again for the school board because I am extremely proud to serve my community. I currently hold the position of Vice President on the board. In the past, I have served on the policy and nutrition committees. My current duties include my position on the audit and CDEP committees. As a school board member, I have had the pleasure of attending the New York State School Board Association's Annual Conferences where I had the honor of being the Voting Delegate and Legislative Liaison for Orchard Park.

My career has also led me down the path of education. I have a Ph.D. in Education Foundations and currently teach students who are majoring in education at Buffalo State College. This has provided me with a wealth of knowledge and experience in this field. As a board member, my goal is to utilize this knowledge toward the on-going improvement of the Orchard Park School District. I hope to advance the lines of communication among the students, staff and community. I believe that being an OP school board member carries with it an awesome responsibility. My academic background, career experience, and volunteer opportunities have prepared me to make the difficult decisions that will need to be made over the next several years.

**District's most important priority:** The Orchard Park School District needs to remain fiscally responsible while maintaining a quality education and safe environment for its students. This is an extremely difficult task with budget cuts and mandates coming from the State. I think it is important to continue supporting the teachers for their efforts and remain working with the Comprehensive District Educational Plan. I believe one of the primary roles of the board should be to strengthen communication with students, staff, and the community in an effort to balance the needs of everyone.

**Community Service:** Orchard Park School Board member since 2014, Audit Committee, Orchard Park School Board, CDEP Committee, Orchard Park School Board, Policy Committee, Orchard Park School Board, Nutrition Committee, Orchard Park School Board, OP Chamber of Commerce Board Member, Board President, Girls on the Run Buffalo, Board President, Adoption STAR, PTO Member OPMS & OPHS



# A Word From The Board of Education President

*David Nielsen*

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education unanimously adopted the 2017-2018 budget proposed by Superintendent McGarrity. The budget focuses on District safety and security. It stays within the tax levy cap, ensures staffing to comply with current class-size guidelines, and, perhaps most importantly, maintains the comprehensive nature of the District's educational program.

The adopted budget represents 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.

In addition to voting on the budget, the community will also be asked to approve a proposition for the purchase of buses, similar to the bus-buying proposition that has been on the ballot for the past 12 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.

The community will also be voting on a third proposition the Establishment of a Capital Improvements Reserve Fund. This proposition simply creates the fund at the suggestion of the District's external auditors. The creation of the fund itself will have no impact on taxpayers and they would have the opportunity to vote if funds were to be delegated.

Finally, the community will also elect two school board trustees on May 16<sup>th</sup>. 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. There are widespread misconceptions about school board service, most of them based upon the notion that school board members are involved in the day-to-day operations of the district. We are not. Instead, the role of the school board is to oversee district operations and to focus on the "big picture." Some of the more important responsibilities within this oversight function are hiring and evaluating the Superintendent; adopting policies pertaining to all areas of District operations; and, establishing priorities and goals for the short- and long-term success and stability of the district. Yes, much of what school boards do may seem to the public like "rubber-stamping." However, recommendations to the Board should be approved if they align with the Board's policies, priorities and goals, and a good Superintendent will ensure that all recommendations are so aligned.

Voting will be held on Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Orchard Park High School gymnasium. Please use the Freeman Road entrance for easy access. 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 to make time on May 16<sup>th</sup> to vote. It's your duty and your privilege.

## 2016-2017 Calendar Changes

The Board of Education has approved the following changes to the 2016-17 school calendar in order to account for the four snow/emergency closing days district-wide and one additional day for South Davis Elementary (September 16, 2016).

- Friday, May 26 - will be a half day for K-8 students (MS dismissal at 10:30 a.m. and Elementary dismissal at 11:30 a.m.)
- Friday, May 26 - will be an early dismissal for high school students (dismissal at 12:45 p.m.)
- Friday, June 16 - will be a half-day for all elementary students (dismissal at 11:30 a.m.)
- Tuesday, June 20 - will be a full day of attendance for all elementary students. This will be the last day of attendance for Eggert, Ellicott and Windom students.
- Wednesday, June 21 - will be a full day of attendance for South Davis students and this will be the last day of attendance for South Davis students.

## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 94,632,633	\$ 98,313.735	\$ 96,929,482
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$ 3,681,735	\$ 2,296,849
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.89 %	2.43%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 60,170,654	\$ 61,554,907	
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)	\$ 60,170,654	\$, 61,554,907	\$ 60,170,654
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 2,195,632	\$ 1,980,352	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 57,975,022	\$ 59,574,555	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 57,975,022	\$ 59,574,555	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 8,243,659	\$ 8,549,871	\$ 8,442,557
Program Component	\$ 72,998,263	\$ 74,804,707	\$ 73,671,266
Capital Component	\$ 13,390,711	\$ 14,959,157	\$ 14,815,659
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
The Exact changes to the 2017-18 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 to assist children with special needs.			
** 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	
Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2017-18 Tax Levy Impact)		\$ 790,000	
Establishment of a Capital Improvements Reserve Fund not to exceed \$10 million or 15 years		\$ 0	

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmqts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmqts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$ 557

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 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 16, 2017 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.



## Resident

### Date, Time and Location of Public Vote

**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Orchard Park High School**  
**4040 Baker Road**  
**Orchard Park, NY 14127**  
**(Use Freeman Road Entrance)**

### On The Ballot

#### Proposition I: Operating Budget (98,313,735)

- Expenditure Increase is 3.89% & Tax Levy increase is 2.30% (Within Allowable Tax Levy Cap)
- The 2017-2018 Budget keeps the Tax Levy Increase within the tax cap requirements which will result in a property tax credit relief check issue to homeowners with the STAR exemption.

#### Proposition II: Bus Purchase

- Continues the 11 Year Bus Replacement Program (no new tax impact)

#### Proposition III: Capital Reserve Fund

**Election of Board Members** (They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot).

- 1A Dwight D. Mateer
- 2A David Nielsen
- 3A Christine Tinnesz

### Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots for the 2017-2018 Annual School Vote may be obtained at the District Clerk's Office, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca. 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 16, 2017. Absentee Ballot applications are also available on our District website: [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org). For more information on absentee ballots, please contact the District Clerk at 209-6280.

### 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.
- You do not have to be a registered voter to vote in school district elections, but you will be asked to show proof of residency at the polls.

