



ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# COMMUNITY REPORT

May 2014 / Annual Budget Vote Information

*Summer  
Community  
Education  
Brochure  
Enclosed  
Pull Out and  
Save Center  
Insert!*

## *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 20th from 3-7 p.m. or until they run out on the Freeman Road side of the High School. Chicken dinners are \$10. 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 dance.

For information about Kindergarten Registration please visit [www.opschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.opschools.org/kindergarten) or call the Central Registrar at 209-6325.



## *2014-2015 Annual School Vote Budget, Bus Proposition, and School Board Member Election*

*May 20th 2014*

*7 a.m. to 9 p.m.*

*Orchard Park High School  
4040 Baker Road*

*(For easy access, please use the Freeman Road Entrance)*

# Total Operating Budget: \$89,192,508

Budget to Budget Increase 3.66%

Tax Levy Increase 4.22%

Keeps Budget **Within** the 4.22% Allowable Tax Levy Cap which will result in a “tax freeze rebate” issued to homeowners with the STAR Exemption

## You can vote if you are:

- At least 18 years old
- a US citizen, and
- 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 (i.e. driver's license, rent/mortgage receipt).

## Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots for the 2014 - 2015 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 20, 2014. 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.

## CONTINGENT BUDGET INFORMATION *WHAT HAPPENS IF THIS BUDGET DOESN'T PASS?*

The Board of Education has 2 options:

- 1) Put up a 2nd vote in June, or
- 2) Adopt a Contingent Budget

If a 2<sup>nd</sup> vote is defeated, a contingent budget would be adopted:

**Contingent Budget = \$86,878,095**

Contingent Budget Tax Levy Increase = 0%

Further reductions needed = \$2,314,413

(The equivalent of about 38 full-time employees)

Possible reductions to close this gap could include:

- Additional increases to class sizes grades K-12
- Further reductions or eliminations of non-mandated programs, such as

-Kindergarten

-Gifted & Talented

-Athletics

-Co-Curricular Clubs & Activities

# An Investment In Student Achievement Kindergarten to Graduation

## Annual Vote and Election of School Board Trustees

Voting will take place at Orchard Park High School, 4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park, from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. For easy access to the Gymnasium, please use the Freeman Road Entrance.

### Proposition 1

General Fund Budget - Pages 3-5

### Proposition 2

Purchase of Buses - Page 7

## Election of Three Trustees to the Board of Education

Page 8 & 9

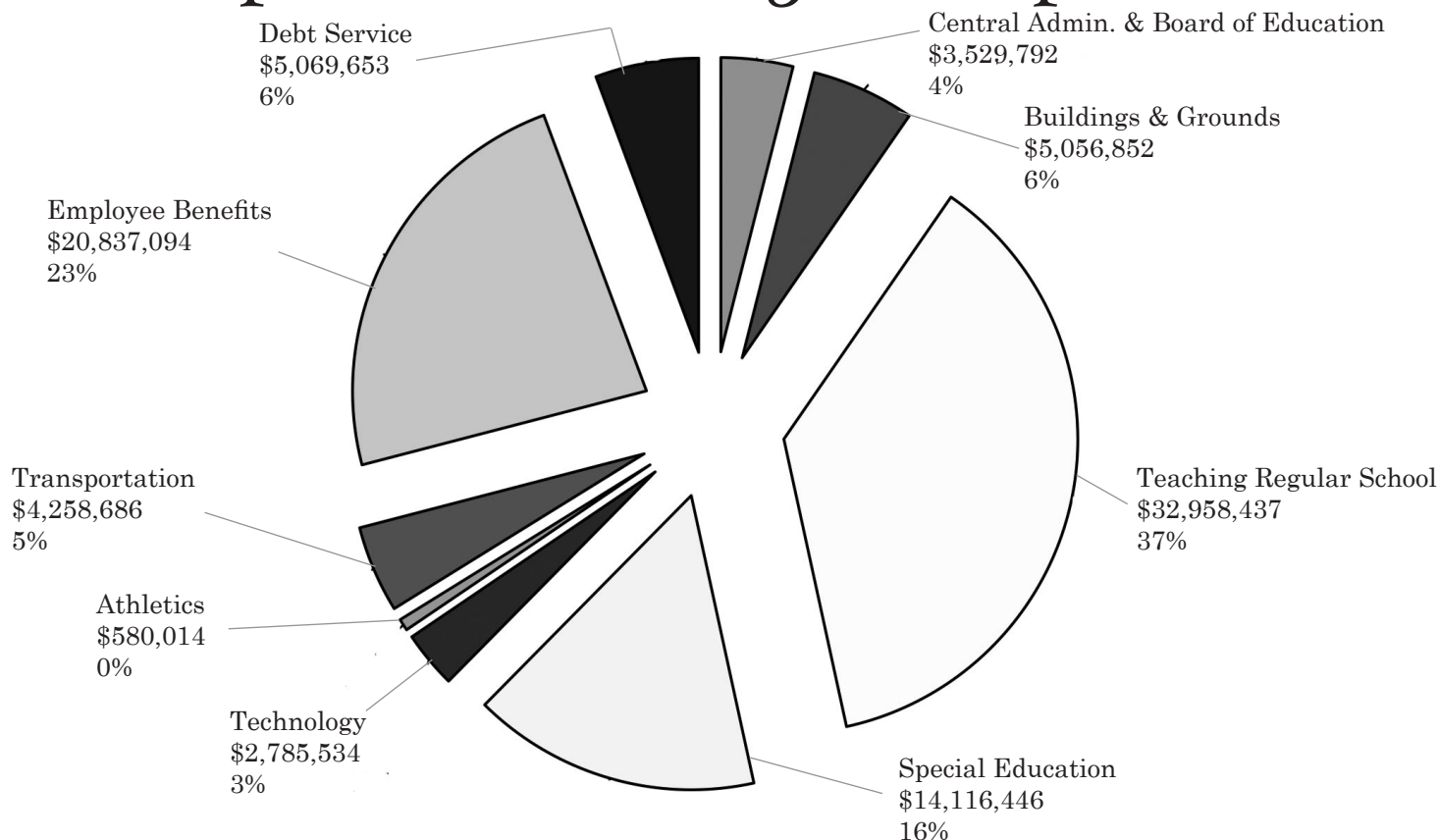
David Nielsen (1A On the Ballot)

Dwight D. Mateer (2A On the Ballot)

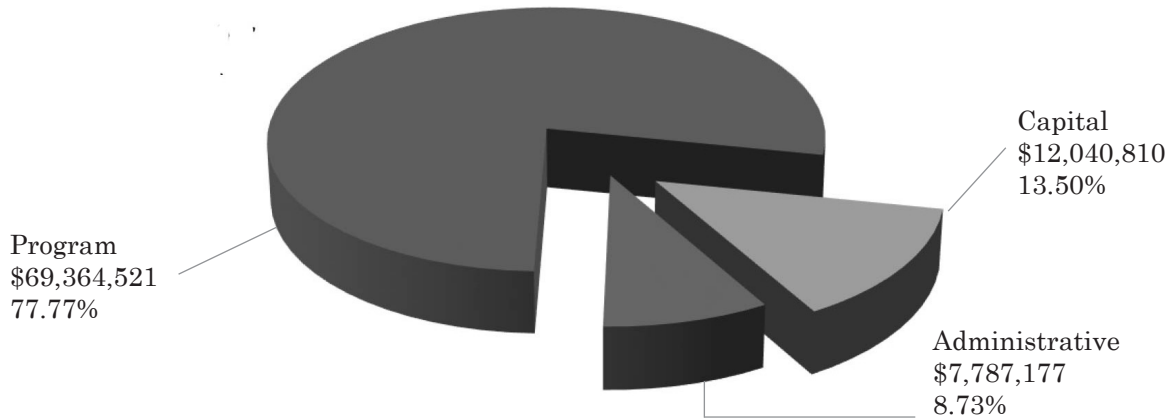
Christine Gray Tinnesz (3A On the Ballot)

Jacquelyn M. Giese (4A On the Ballot)

## Departmental Budget Comparison



# 2014-2015 Three-Part Budget (Common Language)



<b>Administrative Component:</b>	<b>2013-14</b>		<b>2014-15</b>	
Board of Education	\$7,750		\$7,750	
District Clerk	\$200		\$200	
District Meetings	\$20,000		\$35,000	
Chief School Administrator	\$285,436		\$294,245	
Business Administration	\$443,862		\$448,056	
Auditing	\$33,000		\$33,000	
Treasurer	\$250		\$250	
Tax Collection	\$14,000		\$14,000	
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Legal Services	\$160,000		\$160,000	
Personnel	\$325,477		\$328,617	
Public Information	\$61,065		\$63,919	
Central Printing & Mailing	\$198,000		\$183,000	
Unallocated Insurance	\$255,293		\$312,020	
School Association Dues	\$28,000		\$23,000	
Assessments on School Property	\$45,000		\$45,000	
Refund on Real Property Taxes	\$25,000		\$25,000	
BOCES Administration & Capital	\$547,237		\$680,330	
Curriculum Development	\$731,072		\$755,715	
Supervision - Regular School	\$1,974,527		\$2,030,806	
Research, Planning & Evaluation	\$94,054		\$96,876	
Employee Benefits	\$1,935,961		\$2,129,703	
<b>Administrative Component Total:</b>	<b>\$7,292,843</b>	<b>8.48%</b>	<b>\$7,787,177</b>	<b>8.73%</b>

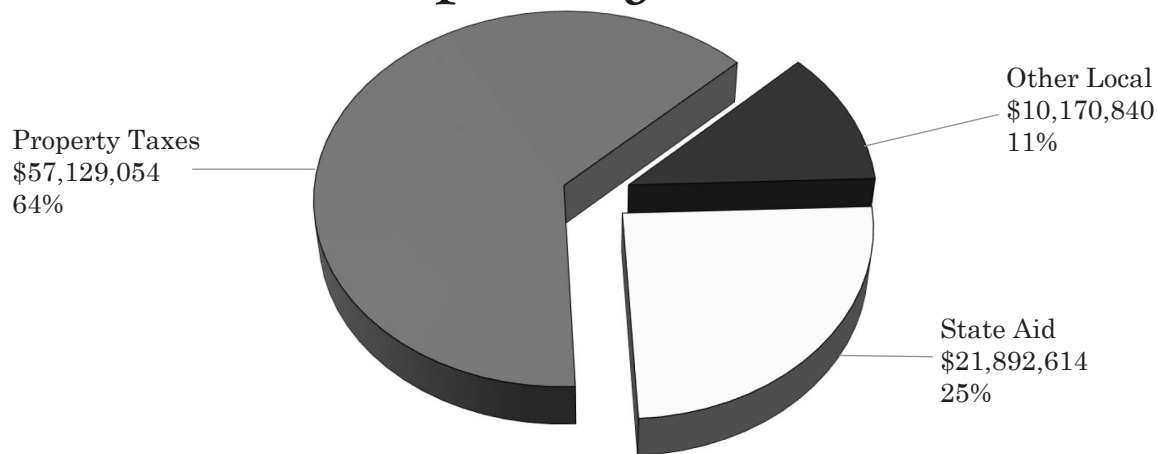
<b>Program Component:</b>				
Teaching - Regular Day School	\$26,251,409		\$26,568,890	
Special Education	\$13,321,447		\$14,116,446	
Occupational Education	\$737,496		\$674,518	
Teaching - Special School	\$248,160		\$250,497	
School Library & Audiovisual	\$490,817		\$500,646	
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$2,595,755		\$2,688,658	
Guidance & Counseling	\$1,026,705		\$995,781	
Health Services	\$680,097		\$651,765	
Psychological & Social Work Services	\$809,617		\$793,254	
Co-Curricular Activities	\$349,880		\$352,280	
Interscholastic Athletics	\$627,593		\$580,014	
Transportation	\$4,199,128		\$4,258,686	
Employee Benefits	\$16,045,630		\$16,793,086	
Interfund Transfers	\$160,000		\$140,000	
<b>Program Component Total:</b>	<b>\$67,543,734</b>	<b>78.50%</b>	<b>\$69,364,521</b>	<b>77.77%</b>

<b>Capital Component:</b>				
Operation of Plant	\$3,689,585		\$3,684,070	
Maintenance of Plant	\$1,369,040		\$1,372,782	
Employee Benefits	\$1,731,329		\$1,914,305	
Debt Service	\$4,416,892		\$5,069,653	
<b>Capital Component Total:</b>	<b>\$11,206,846</b>	<b>13.02%</b>	<b>\$12,040,810</b>	<b>13.50%</b>

**GENERAL FUND TOTAL: \$86,043,423      \$89,192,508**



# 2014-15 Anticipated General Fund Revenues



## SOURCE OF REVENUE

	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	Tax Levy Increase
Property Tax Levy	\$49,514,641	\$48,761,630	\$51,129,054	\$2,314,413
STAR	\$5,300,000	\$6,071,038	\$6,000,000	
<b>Total Property Tax:</b>	<b>\$54,814,641</b>	<b>\$54,832,668</b>	<b>\$57,129,054</b>	<b>4.22%</b>
<b>Other Local</b>				
Other Payments In Lieu Of	\$750,000	\$643,945	\$660,000	
Interest & Penalties On	\$4,000	\$7,505	\$4,000	
Non-Property Tax Distribution	\$4,500,000	\$5,500,000	\$4,700,000	
Community Education Tuition	\$150,000	\$170,000	\$150,000	
Textbook Charges	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	
Admissions	\$15,000	\$15,007	\$15,000	
Other Charges for Services	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$55,000	
Day School Tuition	\$50,000	\$171,703	\$100,000	
Health Services - Other Districts	\$40,000	\$51,000	\$40,000	
Transport for Other Districts	\$1,000	\$7,614	\$1,000	
Interest and Earnings	\$70,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Rental of Property- Individual	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	
Rental of Property - (BOCES)	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$175,000	
Rental of Equipment - Individual	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	
Commissions	\$0	\$400	\$0	
Sale of Equipment	\$0	\$13,545	\$0	
Insurance Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Refunds - Prior Year Expenses	\$0	\$102,696	\$0	
Refunds - Prior Year BOCES	\$300,000	\$442,456	\$325,000	
Premium on Bonds	\$0	\$919,670	\$0	
Unclassified	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Turf Project Reserve	\$35,200	\$35,200	\$35,200	
Playground Reserve	\$10,640	\$10,640	\$10,640	
From Reserves	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$575,000	
\$24 Million Project Balance	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$0	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$3,250,000	\$0	\$3,250,000	
<b>Total Other Local Share:</b>	<b>\$9,956,840</b>	<b>\$8,938,881</b>	<b>\$10,170,840</b>	
<b>State Aid</b>				
Foundation Aid	\$14,960,630	\$14,960,630	\$15,103,458	
Excess Cost / Private & High Cost	\$1,407,997	\$1,807,020	\$1,648,341	
BOCES	\$1,669,570	\$1,827,239	\$1,954,385	
Building Aid (w/EXCEL Aid)	\$2,968,459	\$2,499,126	\$2,482,138	
Transportation	\$3,584,115	\$3,290,441	\$3,430,465	
Textbook/Soft/Hard/Library/AV	\$549,914	\$547,531	\$535,917	
(Gap Elimination Adjustment)	\$(4,298,072)	\$(3,868,743)	\$(3,868,743)	
Gap Elimination Restoration	\$429,329	\$0	\$546,653	
Other State Aid (Other & Homeless Aid)	\$0	\$69,784	\$0	
<b>Federal Aid</b>				
ARRA (Deficit Reduction Assessment)	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Federal Jobs Fund Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$0	\$114,818	\$60,000	
<b>Total State &amp; Federal Aid:</b>	<b>\$21,271,942</b>	<b>\$21,247,846</b>	<b>\$21,892,614</b>	<b>3.03%</b>
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$86,043,423</b>	<b>\$85,019,395</b>	<b>\$89,192,508</b>	



# Superintendent's Column

*By Matt McGarrity, Superintendent of Schools*

Once again we had the challenging task ahead of us of adopting a budget for the 14-15 school year that supports our K-12 programs. Unlike many other organizations, public schools do not have the luxury of choosing to serve fewer customers, or of taking longer to process transactions. Our customers are our students. Our business is children. We have to educate every child within our district boundaries and we have to do it within a 180-day calendar, year after year, for 13 grades. We are held accountable and evaluated for our efforts by the NYS Education Department through state assessments and Regents exams, our local taxpayers and our Board of Education.

Over the last few years we have made substantial reductions to our public school program to close the significant budget gap imposed by the prolific decreases in funding by New York, year after year in the state budget. We have raised class sizes, reduced extra-curricular opportunities for students, reduced staff, and we have also looked for other ways to reduce costs in our operating budget. For example, we have implemented a self-funded insurance program, energy education program to reduce energy consumption, and we continue to look for ways to reduce expenditures in order to save our outstanding programs. In spite of this, the state continues to push unfunded mandates our way, such as the Annual Professional Performance Review, the new Common Core Curriculum, and the Dignity for All Students Act.

While we were able to reduce in many areas that are not "student-centered", there is really no way to close a budget gap of over \$1.7 million dollars, and not reduce learning and growth opportunities for students. Although the state had not adopted their budget when we began planning our budget, the Governor's recommendation for Orchard Park schools was an increase to our state aid of \$20,000- Let me repeat that \$20,000 - that

is a tenth of one percent change in funding. We knew we would no longer be able to sustain our K-12 program. Thankfully our parents, teachers and community members reached out to our local legislators and advocated for more aid to help offset further reductions to our programs. The final state adopted budget allocated just over \$770,000 to Orchard Park.

The budget you will be asked to vote on May 20th reflects months of meetings by the administrative team and the Board of Education. We prioritized, we agonized, and we worked together to try and keep intact as much of the K-12 program as possible for our students.

As I have stated in the past, we must continue to view these challenges as opportunities to maintain and grow our comprehensive education program.

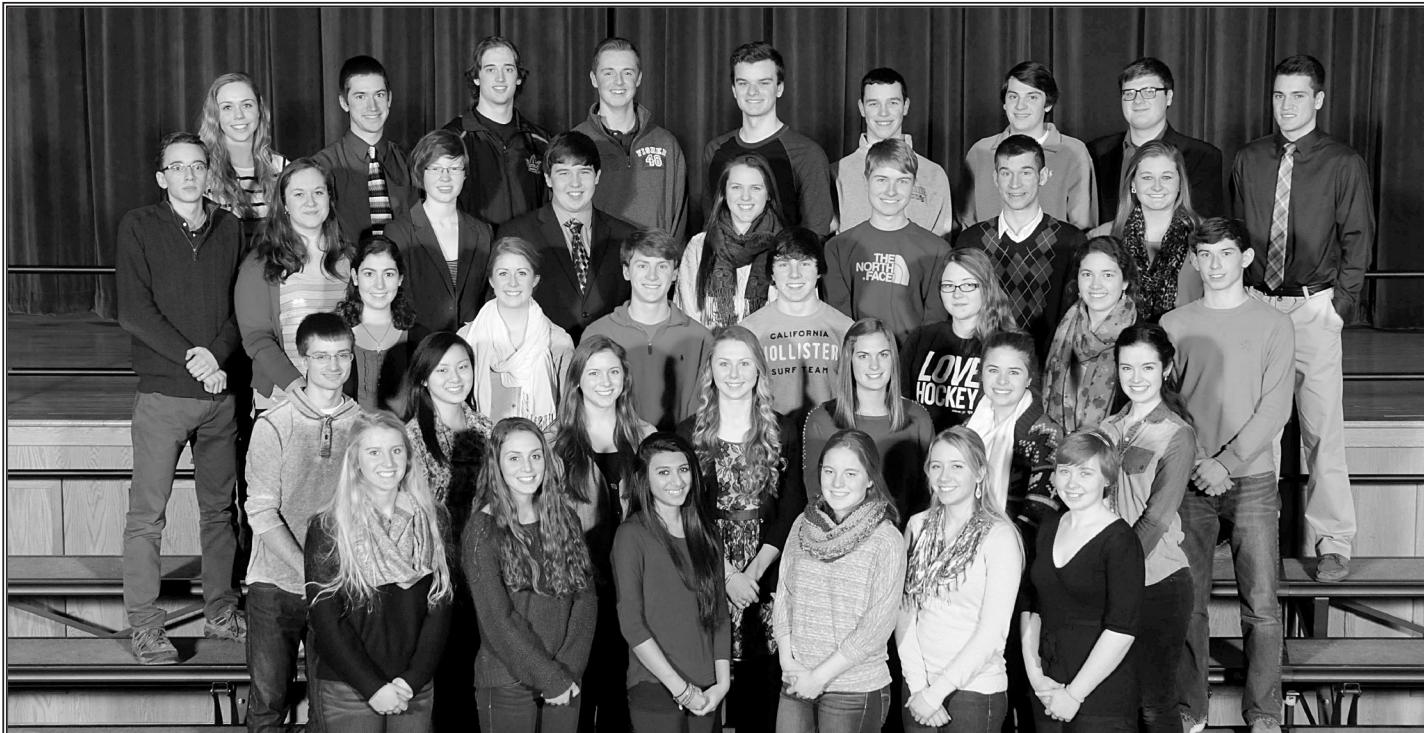
Next year's proposed budget allows us to accomplish the following:

1. Focus Resources on Student Programs & Academics
2. Maintain a Comprehensive Program
3. Keep Class Sizes Within Current Board Guidelines
4. Keep the Tax Levy Increase within the Tax Cap Requirements Resulting in a "TAX FREEZE REBATE" (no tax increase) for Home Owners with a STAR Exemption.

We are continually pursuing areas of cost reduction that are within our control and continue to strive to grow our programs and challenge our students.

While we have made many reductions over the last few years, I believe that we are moving in a positive direction and with the support of the community we will continue to be successful. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

# Orchard Park Pride



Congratulations to the 37 seniors recognized by the District, the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce and the business community as Orchard Park Pride. These students were recognized for their outstanding character, leadership and achievement at an awards dinner held on April 30th. Orchard Park Pride honorees are pictured above, from left to right; Row 1: Noelle Poloncarz, Ellie Markarian, Felicia Patel, Sarah Weber, Sydney Wawrzyniak and Melissa Barton. Row 2: Jacob Youngman, Waverly Colville, Annie Randle, Madison Gossel,

Emily Markarian, Megan Podgorski and Emma Freedenberg. Row 3: Stephanie Macchia, Abigail Narbe, Thomas Baldinger, Aydan Hanlon, Stephanie Pickard, Emily Radziwon and Matthew Roder. Row 4: Kevin Steyer, Christine McCune, Taylor Heywood, David Even, Laurie Beth Koller, Kevin Zablonksi, Ben Goodman and Jessica Wasiewicz. Row 5: Rebecca Higgins, Bradley Roman, Christian Zimmerman, Todd Stebbins, William Mann, Alex Rand, Jackson Wolf, Brandon Mellerski and Camron Murray.

## Proposition 2 - Purchase and Financing of Vehicles

Voters will decide on the purchase of four (4) seventy - seven (77) - passenger school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$120,000 each, and three (3) thirty-five (35) - passenger van - type gasoline buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$70,000 each; and one (1) universal wheelchair van-type bus at a maximum cost of \$80,000. The purchase, part of the District's long-range bus replacement schedule,

will not add to the tax burden.

These eight buses, at a cost of no more than \$770,000, will be funded through state education reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions passed over the last nine years and if approved, will have no new tax impact on local taxpayers.

## Board of Education Candidates - Elect Three

On the following pages are the candidates running for the Orchard Park Board of Education. They are listed in alphabetical order. 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.



## Jacquelyn M. Giese (4A On the Ballot)

**Address:** 68 Nina Terrace, West Seneca, NY 14224

**Children in School:** Sarah age 23, Ryan age 15 and Megan age 11.

**Education:** I graduated from Buffalo State College with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education. Most recently, I completed my Master's degree at St. Bonaventure University in literacy.

**Career:** I have worked for the Orchard Park School District since 1996 as a substitute teacher, completing over seven years of classroom time. I have recently expanded my career to both the Frontier and Lancaster School Districts.

**What do you feel the District's priorities should be when developing the budget?** I believe the districts priority when developing the budget should be to maintain a well-rounded education for all of our students. Our district is successful because it currently offers a wide variety of experiences for our students. We offer a variety of choices for expanding our student's musical talents; we offer spectrum for our gifted and talented; we maintain manageable class sizes to ensure students are receiving the attention necessary to be successful, and so much more. I believe the budget can maintain all current programs by taking a little from each and not eliminating any programs.

**Do you support the Tax Levy Cap?** I believe the tax levy cap is a necessary evil. While it protects the tax payers by forcing districts to pick only the most important programs; it limits the amount of money a school district can increase taxes which makes it difficult for the district to fund some of the necessary programs.

**What do you think is currently the most important issue the District is facing?** Currently I believe the district's most important issue is to create a budget that meets the needs of all students and complies with the state's common core standards. We need a budget that allows our gifted students to grow and that supports our struggling students in the quest for success.

**What do you think the District's most important priority should be?** The district's most important priority should be filling in the gaps created by the terrible implementation of the common core. We currently have third graders dividing when they were not properly taught to multiply. These are skills that will be necessary for success. The district needs to slow down the implementation and teach the skills that are missing. We need to educate our parents on the new strategies in order to provide assistance to our students outside of school. Parents are rendered helpless when dealing with the common core math strategies, and they are a key aspect in forming a successful student.

**Community Service:** I serve our community by assisting on the 12U travel softball team, teaching religious education, and volunteering at school events such as; science nights, shamrock night and McDonalds fundraisers. I am a regular at local restaurants and stores. I believe it is important to support our town in every way possible.

**Describe your reasons for running and/or why you are asking community members to support your candidacy:** I have decided to run for the school board to educate the public about the nepotism currently destroying our district. I have witnessed at least ten family members being hired in the last three or four years. This is not a privately owned business, and therefore it is no one's birthright to be given a job in this district. We have had many substitute teachers leave the district to pursue jobs in districts where hard work and proving their abilities will get them a job. Due to teacher contracts, they are not willing to discuss the problem. However, at the December 10th board meeting, Mr. Ziccardi (the union president) did refer to the fact that this District is struggling to attract the people it used to attract. The common core is requiring our teachers to be stronger than ever, yet our district is hiring people without experience or masters degrees. We recently let a fifth grade teacher go just to hire another fifth grade teacher who had never taught fifth grade before. The original teacher had experience, wonderful evaluations, her master's degree, training and much more. The new teacher had no experience in a long term assignment, and no evaluations completed; but the principal knew her. I am asking the community members to support my candidacy because I will work hard to resolve the nepotism issue and ensure that our wonderful district makes choices that are in the best interest of our children not our employees friends and family.

## Dwight D. Mateer (2A On the Ballot)

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

**Children in School:** My wife and I have two children in Orchard Park Middle 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 over twenty years experience as a Civil Engineer building, designing and managing large civil works projects. I work with community groups, municipalities, concerned citizens and private business to solve problems and incorporate ideas that benefit communities.

**What do you feel the District's priority should be when developing the budget?** I feel the District's top budget priority is to provide an excellent and diversified curriculum for students along with the tools to succeed while managing the costs and value to taxpayers.

**Do you support the Tax Levy Cap?** I don't agree with budget increases that continually outpace inflation. I see the need to control runaway spending, however for this to work there also needs to be a cap on unfunded mandates so District's don't have to cut student curriculum opportunities and vital resources from their budgets every year.

**What do you think is currently the most important issue the district is facing?** Finances. The District must continue to stay under the tax levy cap while implementing mandated programs like Common Core. The District must find creative ways to fund and expand team & club opportunities for students, professional development opportunities for teachers, and maintain school infrastructure.

**What do you think the District's most important priority should be?** The District is dealing with the poorly rolled out Common Core State Standards Initiative. There are curriculum cut backs to balance the budget when non-mandated classes like computer training and additional foreign language offerings need increased. Buildings are in dire need of repair. Club and team funding cuts years ago haven't been re-budgeted. Teachers need more professional development opportunities. Taxpayers don't want large tax increases and seniors need tax relief. There are many important priorities facing the District however I think the most important priority is finding creative ways to provide a high quality education with dwindling financial resources.

**Community Service:** My current community service includes serving on: the Town of Orchard Park Public Safety Committee, the Town of Orchard Park Zoning Board of Appeals and the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Board of Directors. My past community service includes serving as: a member of the Orchard Park Central School District Instructional Start Time Committee, a member of the Town of Orchard Park Trails Task Force, Cub Scout Pack 219 Committee Chair and Soccer Team Manager.

**Describe your reasons for running and/or why you are asking community members to support your candidacy:** People come into challenges carrying what they know something about. I'm an engineer so I know how to solve difficult problems through analysis, teamwork, planning, and creativity. I balance budgets, negotiate agreements and listen to stakeholders. I am also a parent and long standing community volunteer. I know what it takes to offer my time and energy to the community. I believe members of the School Board must seek to consistently find reasonable value while balancing costs to taxpayers and benefits for students. For the past two years I've regularly attended School Board meetings to learn about what the District needs and what it needs to provide its residents. I feel reasonable people are needed to volunteer and participate in community service, to provide vision and guidance in the decision-making process, and make a concerted effort to make their community a better place. This is why I offer my time and experience to you as a School Board Candidate. I hope you vote May 20th to support me as your next School Board Member.



## David Nielsen (1A On the Ballot)

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

**Children in School:** Clare (5th grade at South Davis), Molly (Pre-K)

**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.

**What do you feel the District's priority should be when developing the budget?** We need to expand the academic opportunities for the students. Any additions or reductions to the budget should be made in a thoughtful manner as part of a long term plan and not be done just to respond to a current budget situation or state mandate. A large portion of this long term plan needs to include the maintenance and upgrades to the school buildings so we may offer these opportunities in different and more efficient ways.

**Do you support the Tax Levy Cap?** Yes. There are some flaws in the current regulations that need to be fixed, but I am not opposed to the concept.

**What do you think is currently the most important issue the district is facing?** Complacency with the academic programs. We are a higher performing district with excellent faculty/staff and parents who expect their children to do well. There is no reason why we could not be the top ranked district in Western New York by moving our academic programs forward.

**What do you think 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 will allow our students to adapt to whatever those changes may be.

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

**Describe your reasons for running and/or why you are asking community members to support your candidacy:** 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 first priority has always been to evaluate the current academic programs and expand them when appropriate. The school budget process is a balancing act between the need to provide a solid education, including co-curricular activities, to the students of the district and the ability for the residents to fund it. Every district in the state is facing the same budget constraints that we are, but we still need to move our academic programs forward. For example we should be looking at ways to expand the foreign language offerings to include Mandarin or Arabic. We also need to review and modify our Advance Placement program. 95% of our graduates go onto college, but we are currently unable to offer all of these students the opportunity to take an AP course. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for voting on the 20th.

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

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

**Children in School:** Ellie Tinnesz at Orchard Park Middle School and Casey Tinnesz, at Eggert Elementary

**Education:** Doctorate - University at Buffalo, Masters of Science - Syracuse University, Bachelors - SUNY Oswego

**Career:** I currently teach students who are majoring in education at Buffalo State and Medaille Colleges.

**What do you feel the District's priorities should be when developing the budget?** The District's priorities should be to ensure they are providing a quality education while being fiscally responsible. I support keeping class size within Board guidelines. I have been in classrooms around Western New York and have seen that when class sizes get too large, learning suffers. I think the District has done a great job with cost saving initiatives. It should continue with plans such as the self-funded workers comp program. Keeping our budget within the tax levy cap should also be a priority when developing the budget.

**Do you support the Tax Levy Cap?** I support the tax levy cap because school districts cannot keep raising taxes to pay for ever increasing school expenses. However, costs continue to rise for health care and retirement and the state continues to add on mandates. This makes it very difficult for schools to operate. Despite the tax levy cap being higher than previous years, eligible homeowners will get a STAR exemption which will help offset the tax rate increase.

**What do you think is currently the most important issue the District is facing?** The Orchard Park School District needs to remain fiscally responsible while maintaining a quality education. Therefore, I think it is important to continue supporting the teachers for their efforts, continue working with CDEP, and keep class size within Board guidelines. Also the District must continue listening to the community.

**What do you think the District's most important priority should be?** I believe the District's most important priority should be working toward balancing the budget. I am sympathetic and understand the extremely tight constraints the District is under. The state continues to require mandates and costs continue to rise, while the District must stay under the tax cap. Managing the budget is very difficult. However, if we want to continue to provide an excellent education to our students, then finding a way to balance the budget needs to be a priority. I think OP has done a good job with energy saving plans and health insurance savings. I would continue looking for ways to cut costs without sacrificing education.

**Community Service:** My work in the Orchard Park community has been extensive. I brought Girls on the Run to Orchard Park 4 years ago and have been a coach for 8 seasons. I currently sit on the Board of this organization. Also, I am on the Shared Decision Making, Character Education, and Wellness committees at Eggert Elementary. I am also an active participant in community service for the Western New York area. I help with the Breast Cancer Foundation charity tennis event every year. I am the President of the Board for Adoption STAR and was on the Board at the University at Buffalo's childcare center.

**Describe your reasons for running and/or why you are asking community members to support your candidacy:** As a native of Orchard Park with 2 children enrolled in the district, I feel it is my duty to give back to my community. I have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of education and I am committed to improving education for all students. As a board member, my goal would be to commit myself to the on-going improvement of the Orchard Park School District and advance the lines of communication between the students, staff and community. Because of my education and career choices, I have a wealth of knowledge about what is going on in schools today. I look forward to continuing Orchard Park's tradition of educational excellence.



# An Ever-Evolving Curriculum

*By: Lisa Krueger, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Services*

The Orchard Park Central School District is continually analyzing our curriculum to ensure we are offering rigorous courses to best prepare our students. The phrase “college and career ready” is one that is synonymous with creating a curriculum to ready students with the skills needed to be successful in higher education and the workplace. Throughout the past three years, we have concentrated our curriculum efforts to provide more opportunities for honors and accelerated courses. We have been able to offer new courses in a fiscally responsible manner by discontinuing or offering fewer sections of other courses. The careful orchestration of our curriculum revisions, curriculum projects, and new course offerings is one managed by building level Curriculum Councils, Instructional Leader Councils, and our district-wide Leadership Council. These groups strive to ensure our students’ graduation requirements are fulfilled while providing choice and opportunity for students to explore their interests through academically challenging courses.

In alignment with our Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP), our middle school and high school have expanded their course offerings to include more opportunities for acceleration and participation in honors or Advanced Placement (AP) classes. AP World History, for example, is a recently added course offered to qualifying students in lieu of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Regents level Global History course. The AP course extends learning beyond the Regents Global History course with additional readings, essay writings, and topics not taught in the Re-

gents level course. While this course still concludes with the NYS Regents examination as a graduation requirement, students also have the opportunity to take an AP examination that may be eligible for college credit. We are proud to offer several social studies AP courses. In addition, we provide AP classes in the foreign languages of Spanish, French, and Latin. Sensitive to the need to provide rigorous courses in “STEM” (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), we provide AP courses in Statistics, Physics, and Computers. Such rigorous learning experiences keep students motivated and challenged while deepening the understanding in the content studied.

In the 2013-14 school year, our middle school began offering an Honors 8 ELA. The creation of this course took careful planning and consideration to ensure the essential elements of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA curriculum were maintained while providing opportunities for additional and more challenging readings, discussion, reflection, and writing.

We are continually striving to review, revise, and enhance our curriculum and course offerings in a fiscally responsible manner. As a result, we are realizing the goals of our CDEP to expand our offerings and enrollment in accelerated, honors, and AP courses. We now have a richer offering of accelerated, advanced, and honors classes at Orchard Park Middle School in the areas of Technology, Art, Foreign Language, Science, and Mathematics and over 30 honors, advanced, or Advanced Placement courses at Orchard Park High School.

<b>District Office,</b> 2240 Southwestern Blvd. 209-6200	<b>High School,</b> 4040 Baker Road 209-6242	<b>Middle School,</b> 60 S. Lincoln Ave 209-6220	<b>Ellicott,</b> 5180 Ellicott Road 209-6278	<b>Eggert,</b> 3580 Eggert Road 209-6215	<b>South Davis,</b> 51 S. Davis Street 209-6246	<b>Windom</b> 3870 Sheldon Road 209-6279
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# *A Word From the President*

*By: Natalie Schaffer, Board of Education President*

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Board of Education unanimously adopted the 2014-2015 budget proposed by Superintendent McGarrity. This budget season, like those of recent years, was challenging due to insufficient state aid, unfunded mandates, rising pension and healthcare costs, and a myriad of other factors outside of the District's control. In crafting the budget, Superintendent McGarrity and his team were guided by the following criteria established by the Board in early February: keep the budget within the tax levy cap; focus reductions in areas that do not directly impact students; ensure staffing to comply with current class-size guidelines; and maintain the comprehensive nature of our program. The adopted budget is a result of months of building-level and district-level meetings and a tremendous amount of effort by all of those involved. I believe that the adopted budget meets the criteria established by the Board and I hope the community will come out and vote on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to voting on the budget, the community will also elect school board trustees. The question asked most often of school board members is undoubtedly "Why do you want to be on the Board?" While the answer to this question varies from person to person, I believe that most serve in order to contribute to the improvement of public education in our community. This has certainly been a frustrating challenge in recent years with the implementation of various one-size-fits-all educational initiatives in NYS that have removed much local control. However, school boards do continue to serve an important purpose and choosing the right people for the job is essential to the successful operation of our school district.

Before you cast your vote for school board trustees, consider these questions suggested by the New York State School Boards Association:

1. What are the candidate's vision and goals for student achievement?
2. Does the candidate understand that the role of the school board is "big picture," to provide oversight and accountability, rather than to get involved in day-to-day operations?
3. Is the candidate focused on a single issue or a broad range of school district concerns?
4. Does the candidate's approach make it likely that he or she will be able to work effectively with the rest of the board?
5. Will the candidate enhance the mix of skills and backgrounds on the board and help represent the diversity of the community?
6. Does the candidate have the commitment to do what's right even in the face of strong opposition?

I strongly urge you to find out more about the candidates by reading the information contained within this Bulletin. Additionally, many candidates can be found outside the polls on Election Day and are more than willing to talk to community members about their positions on various issues.

On behalf of the Board, I encourage everyone to become as informed as possible about the budget and school board candidates, and to make time on May 20<sup>th</sup> to vote. It's your duty and your privilege.



**Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education**

Orchard Park, New York 14127

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## *Orchard Park Central School District Estimated Tax/STAR Impact of Typical Home*

Home Value (Orchard Park) Rate per Thousand	2013 \$100,000 32.0071	2014 \$100,000 32.7365
<b>Impact before STAR Reduction</b>		
School Property Tax Bill	\$3,201	\$3,274
Increase		\$73
Percentage Increase		2.28%
<b>Impact after Basic STAR Reduction</b>		
School Tax Bill (before STAR)	\$3,201	\$3,274
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (57% equalization rate)	\$547	\$558
<b>NET School Tax Bill:</b>	\$2,654	\$2,716
Increase		\$62
Percentage Increase		2.33%
<b>Impact after Enhanced STAR Reduction (for persons over 65, under \$79,050)</b>		
School Tax Bill (before STAR)	\$3,201	\$3,201
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (57% equalization rate)	\$1,155	\$1,178
<b>NET School Tax Bill:</b>	\$2,046	\$2,096
Increase		\$50
Percentage Increase		2.44%

### *Property Tax Report Card 2013-2014*

	<b>Budgeted 2013-2014</b>	<b>Budgeted 2014-2015</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Total Proposed Spending	\$86,043,423	\$89,192,508	3.66%
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Tax Levy to Support Library Debt <sup>1</sup>	\$54,814,641	\$57,129,054	4.22%
Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$1,901,082	\$2,116,353	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt)	\$52,913,559	\$55,012,701	
School Tax Levy Limit <sup>2</sup>	\$52,918,559	\$55,012,701	
Difference (positive value requires 60.00% voter approval)	-5,000	0	
Public School Enrollment	5,285	5,250	-.66%
Consumer Price Index			1.46%
	<b>Actual 2013-2014</b>	<b>Estimated 2014-2015</b>	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$5,166,180	\$5,490,110	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$2,907,613	\$2,893,100	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	3.38%	3.24%	

\* The 2014-2015 Budget keeps the Tax Levy Increase Within the Tax Cap Requirements which will result in a "tax freeze rebate" issued to homeowners with the STAR Exemption