



ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY REPORT

May 2013 / 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 Chicken Barbecue Dinner on Tuesday, May 21st from 3-7 p.m. or until they run out on the Freeman Road side of the High School. Chicken dinners are \$9.50. 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 or call the Central Registrar at 209-6325.



2013-2014 Annual School Vote Budget, Bus Proposition, and School Board Member Election

Tuesday, May 21st 2013
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Orchard Park High School
4040 Baker Road

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

www.opschools.org www.facebook.com/OPCSD

Total Operating Budget: \$86,043,423

Budget to Budget Increase 2.87%

Tax Levy Increase 3.28%

Keeps Budget **Under** the 3.29% Allowable Tax Levy Cap

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 2nd vote is defeated, a contingent budget would be adopted:

Contingent Budget = \$84,301,525

Contingent Budget Tax Levy Increase = 0%

Further reductions needed = \$1,741,898
(The equivalent of about 27 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

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 2013 - 2014 Annual School Vote may be obtained at the District Clerk's Office, 3330 Baker Road, Orchard Park.

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 21, 2013.

For more information on absentee ballots, please contact the District Clerk at 209-6280.

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 21, 2013. 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

Anthony Agnello (1A On the Ballot)

Dwight Mateer (4A On the Ballot)

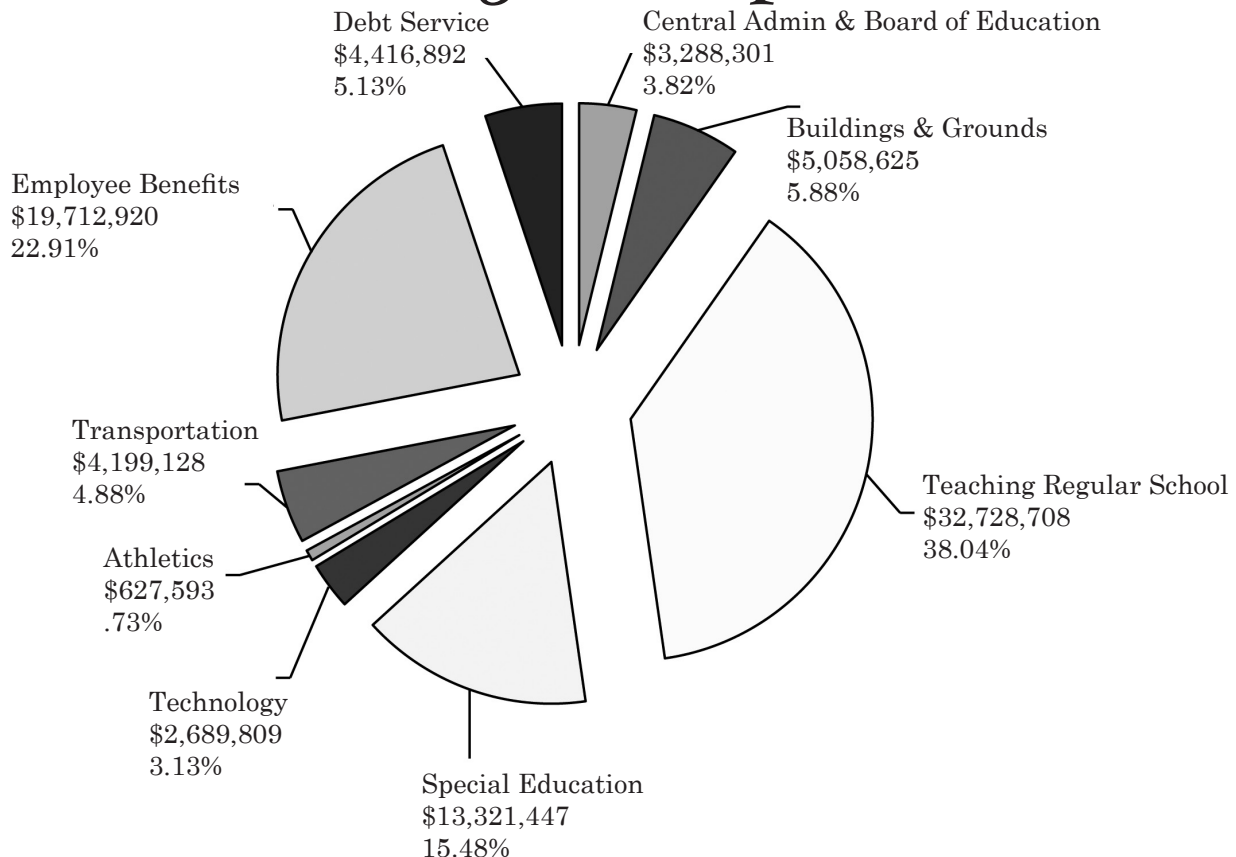
Donna Omar (Bonitati) (6A On the Ballot)

Natalie Schaffer (3A On the Ballot)

Christopher Shively (2A On the Ballot)

Christine Gray Tinnesz (5A On the Ballot)

Departmental Budget Comparison



2013-2014 Three-Part Budget (Common Language)



Administrative Component: 2012-13

Board of Education	\$7,750
District Clerk	\$200
District Meetings	\$20,000
Chief School Administrator	\$272,187
Business Administration	\$421,362
Auditing	\$33,000
Treasurer	\$225
Tax Collection	\$13,000
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$3,000
Legal Services	\$140,000
Personnel	\$315,320
Public Information	\$59,656
Central Printing & Mailing	\$227,288
Unallocated Insurance	\$252,000
School Association Dues	\$25,000
Assessments on School Property	\$45,000
Refund on Real Property Taxes	\$75,000
BOCES Administration & Capital	\$525,154
Curriculum Development	\$676,843
Supervision - Regular School	\$1,940,846
Research, Planning & Evaluation	\$108,147
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$91,315
Employee Benefits	\$1,817,999
Administrative Component Total:	\$7,070,292

2013-14

Board of Education	\$7,750
District Clerk	\$200
District Meetings	\$20,000
Chief School Administrator	\$285,436
Business Administration	\$443,862
Auditing	\$33,000
Treasurer	\$250
Tax Collection	\$14,000
Fiscal Agent Fees	\$3,000
Legal Services	\$160,000
Personnel	\$325,477
Public Information	\$61,065
Central Printing & Mailing	\$198,000
Unallocated Insurance	\$255,293
School Association Dues	\$28,000
Assessments on School Property	\$45,000
Refund on Real Property Taxes	\$25,000
BOCES Administration & Capital	\$547,237
Curriculum Development	\$731,072
Supervision - Regular School	\$1,974,527
Research, Planning & Evaluation	\$104,659
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$94,054
Employee Benefits	\$1,935,961
Administrative Component Total:	\$7,292,843

Program Component:

Teaching - Regular Day School	\$26,364,839		\$26,251,409	
Special Education	\$11,981,713		\$13,321,447	
Occupational Education	\$616,866		\$737,496	
Teaching - Special School	\$245,144		\$248,160	
School Library & Audiovisual	\$675,343		\$490,817	
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$2,523,495		\$2,595,755	
Guidance & Counseling	\$920,397		\$1,026,705	
Health Services	\$599,399		\$680,097	
Psychological & Social Work Services	\$739,115		\$809,617	
Co-Curricular Activities	\$367,880		\$349,880	
Interscholastic Athletics	\$613,826		\$627,593	
Transportation	\$4,271,563		\$4,199,128	
Employee Benefits	\$14,880,870		\$16,045,630	
Interfund Transfers	\$146,060		\$160,000	
Program Component Total:	\$64,946,510	77.65%	\$67,543,734	78.50%

Capital Component:

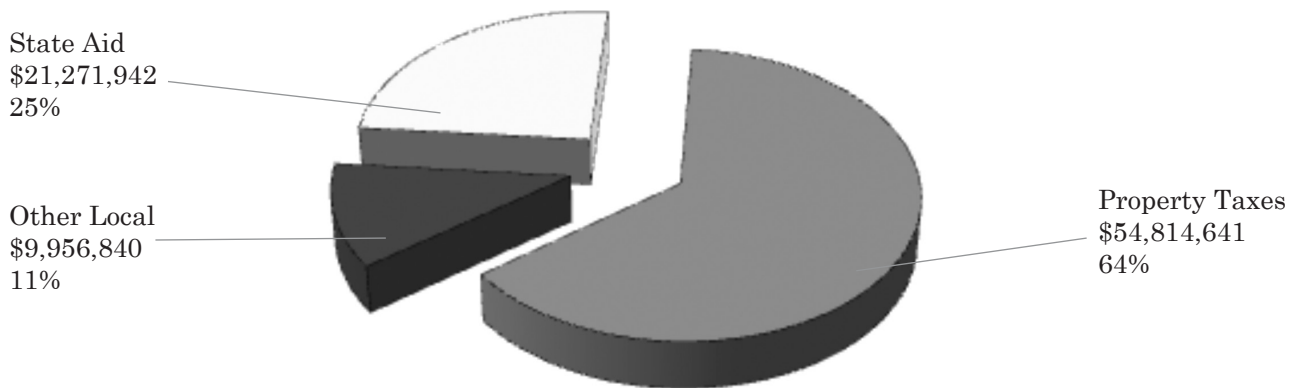
Operation of Plant	\$3,757,600		\$3,689,585	
Maintenance of Plant	\$1,244,390		\$1,369,040	
Employee Benefits	\$1,688,437		\$1,731,329	
Debt Service	\$4,932,879		\$4,416,892	
Capital Component Total:	\$11,623,306	13.90%	\$11,206,846	13.02%

GENERAL FUND TOTAL:

\$83,640,108

\$86,043,423

2013-14 Anticipated General Fund Revenues



SOURCE OF REVENUE	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	Tax Levy Increase
Property Tax Levy	47,772,743	47,786,677	49,514,641	1,741,898
Total Property Tax:	\$53,072,743	\$53,086,677	\$54,814,641	3.28%
Other Local				
Other Payments In Lieu Of	724,963	745,564	750,000	
Interest & Penalties On	4,000	4,799	4,000	
Non-Property Tax Distribution	4,300,000	5,250,000	4,500,000	
Community Education Tuition	140,000	170,000	150,000	
Textbook Charges	2,000	1,500	2,000	
Admissions	7,000	9,250	15,000	
Other Charges for Services	35,000	30,000	30,000	
Day School Tuition	45,000	137,657	50,000	
Health Services - Other Districts	40,000	50,000	40,000	
Transport for Other Districts	1,000	7,306	1,000	
Interest and Earnings	70,000	60,000	70,000	
Rental of Property- Individual	0	400	0	
Rental of Property - (BOCES)	135,000	146,744	135,000	
Rental of Equipment - Individual	8,000	9,060	8,000	
Commissions	0	375	0	
Sale of Equipment	0	0	0	
Insurance Recoveries	0	0	0	
Refunds - Prior Year Expenses	0	86,799	0	
Refunds - Prior Year BOCES	300,000	470,125	300,000	
Unclassified	5,000	6,696	5,000	
Turf Project Reserve	35,200	0	35,200	
Playground Reserve	10,640	0	10,640	
From Reserves	250,000	0	550,000	
\$24 Million Project Balance	0	0	51,000	
Appropriated Fund Balance	3,850,000	0	3,250,000	
Total Other Local Share:	\$9,962,803	\$7,186,275	\$9,956,840	
State Aid				
Foundation Aid	14,907,214	14,897,057	14,960,630	
Excess Cost / Private & High Cost	1,332,234	1,232,802	1,407,997	
BOCES	1,697,912	1,811,728	1,669,570	
Building Aid (w/EXCEL Aid)	2,870,676	2,943,121	2,968,459	
Transportation	3,535,249	3,351,263	3,584,115	
Textbook/Soft/Hard/Library/AV	559,349	554,944	549,914	
(Gap Elimination Adjustment)	(4,295,510)	(4,298,072)	(4,298,072)	
Gap Elimination Restoration	2,562	0	429,329	
Federal Aid				
ARRA (Deficit Reduction Assessment)	0	0	0	
Federal Jobs Fund Restoration	0	0	0	
Medicaid Reimbursement	0	0	0	
Total State & Federal Aid:	\$20,604,562	\$20,586,744	\$21,271,942	685,198 3.33%
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE	\$83,640,108	\$80,859,696	\$86,043,423	\$2,403,315 2.87%

Orchard Park Pride



Congratulations to the 39 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 24th. Orchard Park Pride honorees are pictured above, from left to right; Row 1: Laura Gutsin, Lindsey Kreuzer, Madelyn Sheehan, Megan Hylkema, Kara Manzanara, Katie McGarrity, Madison Hornung, Alicia Sahr, Melissa Stoj, and Molly Schaffstall. Row 2: Amanda

Saeli, Shreya Sood, Molly Bogolin, Corinn Deibel, Cassidy Kozub, Amanda Dragonette, Kevin MacKrell, Jacob Carriero, Melissa Vaughn, Katherine Filipski, and Sarah Badagliacca. Row 3: Chelsea Lepore, Kaely Kwitek, Lucy Koehler, Madeline Shiley, Christine Breindel, Anthony Cimorelli III, Emily Wiencek, Kara Weigel, Sydney Metzger, and Sarah Filsinger. Row 4: Richard Ruh, Jacob Eneix, Nathaniel Rominger, Joel Ross, Christopher Sanfilippo, Samantha Shaffner, and Dominique DesRoisiers. Katherine Chiavetta is not pictured.

Energy Program Saves District Money

At the March Board of Education meeting, Tom Schaner, the energy specialist for the Orchard Park Schools, presented a report on the energy savings our district has realized due to the concerted efforts of all district staff and students.

From the energy conservation program's beginning in January 2012 through February 2013, our schools have achieved \$ 129,808 in savings that are attributable to changes in energy use and conservation within the district. That is a 12.5% overall reduction in energy cost compared

to a "base" year's usage (Sept 2010-August 2011). We reduced our electricity consumption by 858,077 KWH or 12% from January 2012 through February 2013. The same time period saw natural gas consumption fall by 77,025 CCF (hundreds of cubic feet).

Orchard Park Schools have been designated an "Energy Star Partner" by the U.S. Department of Energy for our commitment to energy conservation and good stewardship of our natural resources.

Superintendent's Column

By Matt McGarrity, Superintendent of Schools

Each year, the district's budget planning process faces greater challenges than previous years. Now more than ever, we need to do everything we can to preserve and nurture quality programs in Orchard Park. The Orchard Park School District has a very long history of providing our students with a wide breadth of academic, athletic and artistic pursuits. We believe that this comprehensive program allows our students greater options in their pursuit of a college track or various career opportunities. In order to accomplish this, we must continue to be creative financially, especially considering the reductions in state aid, ever increasing mandates and the requirements of the tax levy cap legislation. We are continually pursuing areas of cost reduction that are within our control.

The Orchard Park Central School District continues to try and 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. Maintain all current academic programs
2. Follow the goals of the Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP)
3. Stay with the Board of Education class sizes guidelines
4. Stay within the tax cap levy requirements

Local media have recently reported on tax levy estimated increases of neighboring districts, and our estimated levy increase is lower than last year's budget and well below most similar districts in the area. We have put several cost saving initiatives in place over the last few years (i.e. energy education) and we will continue to research new and innovative ways to reduce expenditures.

Our Orchard Park community has also truly stepped up to the plate with donations to the district. Since last July the

district has received at least 25 donations, many of them being quite substantial. For example, donating the funding to purchase iPads for students, donating the funds needed to run extra-curricular programs for students, and donating funding for student field trips. While these are just a few examples of the generosity of our community it truly demonstrates the commitment in our community to support our students. On our district website (www.opschools.org) you find information listed on our welcome page regarding how to make a donation to the district. We also have listed all of the donations and the donors from this school year. I encourage you to visit this page on our website it is a testament to the kindness and continued community support for our district.

Many districts across New York State are being forced to cut student programs and some are to the point of insolvency with the possibility of literally closing their doors within two years. This has come about due to significant decreases in state aid. For Orchard Park alone, our state aid has decreased by nearly \$4 million since 2008. Add to that the many additional unfunded mandates and a tax cap limit; this has been a recipe for disaster for school districts.

But as I mentioned at the beginning of the article we view these challenges as opportunities. 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 support.



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 \$115,000 each, and three (3) thirty (30) - passenger van - type gasoline buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$56,000 each; and one (1) universal wheelchair van-type bus at a maximum cost of \$72,000 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 cost of no more than \$700,000, will be funded through state education reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions passed over the last eight years.

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.

Anthony Agnello (1A On the Ballot)

Address: 6392 Ward Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127

Children in School: Jason, Jon & Matthew are all OPHS Alumni

Education: B.A., Northern Arizona University; M.S. Ed., Buffalo State College

Career: Teacher, (retired) Coach, Adviser (In Orchard Park since 1975.)

Community Service: I was the 2012 Buffalo Bills/ M&T Bank Teacher of the Year and was named to the prestigious OP Post of Fame, which annually recognizes an Orchard Park citizen for a lifetime of service to the community. I am a 2013 nominee for the Harkins Alumni Award at my Alma Mater, Northern Arizona University, which recognizes distinguished service to nonprofit or governmental organizations. My community service includes: Coaching OP Football, Track and Wrestling seasons since 1975, Track and Basketball coach for championship teams at Nativity of Our Lord Elementary School, Coached 21 OP Little League Teams in 17 years. As OPHS Educational Outreach adviser, I volunteered and coordinated student efforts at: Vive la Casa and the Journey's End refugee resettlement centers, coordinated Habitat for Humanity Projects, Buffalo City Mission/Women's Shelters volunteer missions, supported an orphanage in Bosnia, earthquake disaster relief in India and Haiti, tsunami relief in South Asia, and educational projects in South America and Africa. I have also led a coalition of student groups to support equitable educational programs for Afghan girls. Under my leadership, OP Students have built six schools for girls and sent computers, books and school supplies to Afghanistan.

Why I should be elected: Education reform is a cutting edge issue in communities throughout America today. I believe that success is not an accident. I am an experienced educational reformer with a track record of measurable results inside our school district. I was a principal designer for the collegial communication model used in restructuring our Biology Department that has produced consistent results, which rank our Biology students among the best in New York State. My first educational assignment as a provincial science supervisor in Afghanistan, which is still in use today, was to design a hands-on curricular adjunct to the lecture/memorization model commonly used in developing nations throughout South Asia. I also designed an ESL/American-Culture immersion program for use in Ukraine. Serving as a participant/observer working closely with previous Orchard Park, Board of Education Trustees on significant issues of educational reform, I have concluded that there are usually three major reasons why citizens of our community want to become board members. Most candidates either have a personal advocacy issue to promote, an educational vision to share or service to offer to our school-community. I am an Orchard Park Maroon and White patriot with a long history of service to our school-community. Education has been my professional vocation as well as a personal calling. If the members of our school-community agree, I would be honored to continue to work to help our students and our district reestablish our educational priorities and preserve our position among the premier school districts in our region and our state.

Dwight D. Mateer (4A 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 twenty years 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.

Community Service: Giving back to the community is important to me. My current community service includes: Town of Orchard Park Public Safety Committee, Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Board of Directors, and Boy Scout Troop 483 Assistant Scout Master. My past community service includes: Town of Orchard Park Zoning Board of Appeals, Town of Orchard Park Trails Task Force, and Cub Scout Pack 219 Committee Chair & one of the co-founders

Why I should be elected: These are trying times for our educational system to maintain a standard of excellence. I believe my experience the past 20 years as an engineer and volunteer provide me with the necessary skills to work with community stakeholders and make difficult decisions. As both a taxpayer and parent of school age children, I believe members of the school board must seek to consistently find reasonable value while balancing costs and benefits for students and taxpayers. Costs continue to rise for everyone, including school districts, and my paycheck like many taxpayers, has decreased. It makes me mindful of people on fixed budgets and I will work to ensure OPCSD continues preparing budgets under the 2% tax cap while still providing quality academics, athletics and club activities. We must enable quality educators and there comes a point where reducing district staff is not the best way to save money. I welcome open dialog on selling surplus assets, reducing energy consumption, improving efficiency and increasing innovation. Finally, I continue to look for ways to improve school safety. A few years back I proposed some of the implemented drop off safety measures at South Davis and requested the school speed limit on Eggert Road. I'm ready for the challenges ahead and I hope you vote May 21st to support me as your next School Board Member.

Donna M. Omar (Bonitati) (6A On the Ballot)

Address: 5470 Newton Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Children in School: 2 Children, 7th & 8th grade

Education: Certified Fitness Specialist /Weight Loss/Nutrition, '85-Present, Art Teacher, '96-'06., BS Art Education (k-12), '94 & BS Design, '90 – Buffalo State College. OPHS Class of '85 /OPMS /Ellicott.

Career: Self-employed local business owner/operator – Anytime Fitness, '06-Present.

Certified Fitness Specialist(Exercise/Personal Training/Weight Loss, Nutrition, Health & Wellness,'06-Present.

Community Service: Trustee, Orchard Park School Board, '10-Present. District Committees; Curriculum & Policy (CAP),'12-Present. Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP),'10-Present. Olweus,'11-Present. Contract Negotiation,'12-Present. Communication Group,'11-Present. Key Communicators Group,'11-Present. OP Focus Group (Superintendent),'09-'10. Planning,'10-'12. PTO/Safehomes,'06-Present. Health Awareness Speaker,'07-Present. OPLLF (football) Team Mgr., '07-Present. OPLL (baseball) Team Sponsor,'10-Present. Performing Arts Dance Academy (costumes,tickets,backstage),'06-Present.

Why I should be elected: Re-Elect Donna M. Omar (Bonitati) 6A. During these tough economic times stability & consistency on the school board is imperative. Serving as a three year veteran, Orchard Park native (40+yrs.), mother of two children at OPMS, wife, homeowner, taxpayer, local business owner (7yrs.) & retired educator (10yrs) I have a greater understanding of the community, district, buildings, policy, regulation & school law. This knowledge is obtained by years' experience as an OP Board Trustee as well as my life experiences. It is important to me to uphold open communication/transparency, maintain class size/programs, analyze & balance needs/concerns of all, monitor care, maintenance, safety & security of facilities, negotiate fair & equitable contracts, encourage long range planning & technology. I am seeking re-election to the Orchard Park school board to continue my dedicated service. I will responsibly represent the needs of our students, parents, community, and dedicated teachers/staff while maintaining high standards of education. It is important to me to be open-minded, ethical & remain fiscally dedicated to the community.

Natalie A. Schaffer (3A On the Ballot)

Address: 35 Redbrick Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Children in School: Lucas (grade 4), Cole (grade 4), Ava (grade 4), Jacob (grade 6), Maxwell (grade 7), Austin (Freshman, SUNY at Buffalo Honors College)

Education: 1993, J.D. cum laude, SUNY at Buffalo School of Law, 1990 B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, William Smith College, Geneva, NY, 1986 Batavia High School

Career: Upon my admission the New York State Bar in 1993, I worked as a criminal defense and civil litigation attorney and thereafter taught at the SUNY at Buffalo School of Law. In 2001, I made the decision to remain at home with my children. In 2012, I opened my own law practice in order to do some *pro bono* work. I am also currently working as the Project Coordinator of the construction of a private medical facility.

Community Service: I have been an active volunteer in the OPCSD community since I moved to Orchard Park in 2004. Some of my volunteer activities include: Vice President and Trustee, OPCSD Board of Education; Committee Member and Popcorn Sale Chair, Boy Scout Troop 230; Team Manager, Destination Imagination; Team Manager, Empire Revolution Buffalo U12 Boys Soccer Team; Member, Elementary Explorations Committee; Team Manager, Orchard Park Little Loop Football; House League Coach, Orchard Park Soccer Club; Travel League Coach, Orchard Park Soccer Club; Committee Chair and Member, Ellicott PTO; Committee Chair and Member, Orchard Park Middle School PTO; Member, HOPE for Kids

Why I should be elected: I am seeking re-election to the Board because I believe that my personal background, knowledge of the district's operations, and experience on the Board will allow me to continue to be a thoughtful and knowledgeable contributor during this challenging time for public education. I have been a leader on the Board, advocating for transparency, increased communication with the community, data-driven decisions, fiscal responsibility and the maintenance of a comprehensive educational program that promotes the development of each student to their fullest potential. I have consistently demonstrated both my independence and my belief that the Board is a check and balance to the administration by my willingness to ask difficult questions and take unpopular positions. I am currently on the district team negotiating a new contract with OPTA, the bargaining unit representing our teachers, and I believe that my legal background and negotiation experience in the district makes my re-election particularly important in order to maintain consistency in the negotiations and to ensure that the process results in a contract that is fair and sustainable. I hope that the school district community shares my view that I have served them well and will re-elect me to another term on the Board.

Christopher T. Shively, Ph.D. (2A On the Ballot)

Address: 97 Harvard Place Orchard Park, NY 14127

Children in School: Bryce (MS), Brooke (SD)

Education: Ph.D. Elementary Education; C.A.S Educational Leadership; MS Educational Technology; BA Elementary Education

Career: Assistant Professor of Elementary Education and Reading, Buffalo State College (Present); Elementary School Teacher, Alden, NY (2010 – 2013); Assistant Technology Coordinator/Educational Computer Strategist, Alden, NY (2000 – 2010); Elementary School Teacher, Lake Shore Central School (1993 – 2000); Assistant Teacher, Stanley G. Falk School (1993 – 1994)

Community Service: Orchard Park Little League Baseball Manager (2009 – 2011); Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Alden, NY (2004-2008); Head JV Football Coach, Alden, NY (2003); Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Lake Shore Central School (1996 – 1999); Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Canisius HS (1995); Head Modified Football Coach, Lake Shore Central School (1994).

Why I should be elected: When my wife Susan and I decided to buy our first house and raise our family, we decided to move to a town that had a reputation for academic distinction. We wanted to place our children in a school district that excelled academically, athletically and in the arts. We could not be more pleased with the well-rounded education our children, Bryce and Brooke have received. I am interested in running for the Orchard Park School Board because I would like to share my 20 years of educational experience with the Orchard Park community. As a college professor in the field of education, my job is to prepare future teachers for the new era of accountability in education, while at the same time, reassure them that teaching is still an art and a science. In this new era of education, it is easy for anyone (student, parent, teacher or administrator) to get overwhelmed by assessments, data and data driven decision-making. These feelings can lead to a sense of powerlessness, anxiety and confusion about what it means to learn. Therefore, I would like to serve the citizens of Orchard Park during this time of educational transition and contribute to the conversations among our community members, so that our young Quakers will continue to get the best well-rounded education in Western New York.

Christine Gray Tinnesz, Ph.D. (5A On the Ballot)

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

Children in School: Ellie, 5th grade and Casey, 4th grade at Eggert Elementary

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

Career: Instructor, Schools of Education at Buffalo State College and Medaille College. Consultant, School of Medicine, University at Buffalo

Community Service: Search committee member for Eggert principal, Orchard Park School District; Shared Decision Making Committee, Eggert Elementary; Wellness and Character Education committees, Eggert Elementary; Kindergarten Screening committee, Eggert Elementary; Board member and coach, Girls on the Run, Orchard Park School District; Anti Bullying Teacher Education Initiative, Buffalo State College; Board President, Adoption STAR, Buffalo, NY; Orchard Park PTO member since 2007

Why I should be elected: 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 the on-going improvement of the Orchard Park School District.

I teach students who are majoring in education at Buffalo State and Medaille Colleges and was nominated for "Professor of the Year" in 2012. I have won numerous awards for student retention and given national presentations on student learning. My career and community service opportunities have made me acutely aware of the many changes occurring in education today and its various challenges. 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 have to be made over the next several years. I believe I have the experience, understanding and commitment to provide leadership and serve as a board member for the OP school district.



Understanding Common Core

Lisa M. Krueger, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Pupil Services

Common Core Terminology:

College & Career Ready-

The content, knowledge, skills and habits students must possess to be successful in postsecondary education or in a sustaining career

Evidence- Proof from the text

Judgment- A student's conclusion about what they have read

Non-fiction - Texts about real-life events or facts

Shift- A change in how teachers teach and how students learn

Speed and Accuracy - How quickly a student can solve math problems correctly

Q: What are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

A: The CCSS create clear expectations for what students in Pre-K through 12th grade should be able to do in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics. The standards will help all students across the State learn the same skills to ensure they are prepared for college and careers following graduation. The standards include changes or "shifts," in how teachers teach to help children succeed in the topics and skills that matter most.

Q: What are the changes, or "shifts?"

A: The CCSS ask teachers to make 12 major shifts, or changes, in their classroom - six shifts in English Language Arts and six shifts in Mathematics.

ELA

- * Read more non-fiction*
- * Learn about the world through reading*
- * Read more challenging material*
- * Talk about reading using "evidence"*
- * Learn how to write from what is read*
- * Know more vocabulary words*

Math

- * Build on learning year after year*
- * Spend more time on fewer concepts*
- * Use math facts easily*
- * Develop speed and accuracy in solving problems*
- * Really know it, really do it*
- * Use math in real-world situations*

To respond to the new demands of the CCSS, our ELA and Mathematics teachers have participated in staff development, and our curriculum has been revised to align with the new expectations.

For more information and resources on what you can do to help your child adjust to these higher expectations, contact your child's teacher, school principal, or visit: engageny.org

Common Core and Our Children's Test Scores

Q: Why do we need state assessments?

A: Assessment tests do not measure the worth and intelligence of our children, but are an important tool for improving student achievement. The new tests will help principals and teachers identify those students who might need extra support to successfully move on to the next grade level.

Q: Will these new tests be harder?

A: At first, the new tests may seem more difficult because they are based on the "shifts" in the Common Core State Standards.

Q: Will student test scores drop?

A: The number of students who score at or above grade level will likely decrease. This decrease should not necessarily be interpreted as a decline in student learning or a decline in teacher performance. These are new assessments that are more rigorous in nature. The Spring 2013 results are considered baseline results. They cannot truly be compared to our past performance, as they are completely different assessments.

Changes to the ELA and Math Assessments:

Increases in Rigor:

Questions will be more advanced and complex

Focus on Text:

Students will be required to read, analyze passages, and answer questions with evidence fathored from the text

Depth of Math:

Students will demonstrate a conceptual understanding of real-world math

Students will experience these changes with Spring 2013 assessments.



*Ellicott Elementary Students: Robbie Scott, Nathan Hemmerling, Paige Palkowski and Logan Martin reading the non-fiction book **Slippy Seal**, in alignment with the Common Core.*

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Resident

Orchard Park Central School District Estimated Tax/Star Impact of Typical Home

Home Value (Orchard Park) Rate per Thousand	2012 \$100,000 31.2657	2013 \$100,000 32.0130
Impact before STAR Reduction		
School Property Tax Bill	\$3,127	\$3,201
Increase		\$75
Percentage Increase		2.39%
Impact after Basic STAR Reduction		
School Tax Bill (before STAR)	\$3,127	\$3,201
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (57% equalization rate)	\$544	\$547
NET School Tax Bill:	\$2,583	\$2,654
Increase		\$72
Percentage Increase		2.78%
Impact after Enhanced STAR Reduction (for persons over 65, under \$79,050)		
School Tax Bill (before STAR)	\$3,127	\$3,201
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (57% equalization rate)	\$1,128	\$1,155
NET School Tax Bill:	\$1,999	\$2,046
Increase		\$48
Percentage Increase		2.39%

Property Tax Report Card 2012-2013

	Budgeted 2012-2013	Budgeted 2013-2014	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$83,640,108	\$86,043,423	2.87%
Total Proposed School Tax Levy	\$53,072,743	\$54,814,641	3.28%
Permissible Exclusions	\$1,773,003	\$1,901,082	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$51,299,740	\$52,913,559	
(not including Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)			
Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$51,193,054	\$53,072,743	3.67%
(including Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)			
School Tax Levy Limit ²	\$51,302,669	\$52,918,559	
Difference (positive value requires 60% voter approval)	-2,929	-5,000	
Public School Enrollment	5,466	5,348	-2.16%
Consumer Price Index			2.1%
	Actual 2012-2013	Estimated 2013-2014	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$5,374,231	\$5,234,990	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$3,850,000	\$3,250,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$2,992,274	\$3,421,477	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	3.58%	3.98%	