

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Community Members,

It's hard to believe that we are already looking forward to the next school year. Not only have we navigated unprecedented challenges this year, but we also encountered unprecedented levels of uncertainty in preparing the 2021-2022 school budget. With constant rumors of painful cuts to New York State aid, expected increases to Federal aid, and new expenses to deal with the protocols and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, preparation of this budget certainly kept us on our toes. We are proud to say, however, that this budget maximizes our pursuit of academic excellence, provides a personalized educational environment for each of our students, and honors our commitment to fiscal responsibility – a modest 1.25% increase to the tax levy.

Despite the challenges of this past school year, we look to next year with an incredible sense of optimism. We are excited about our rigorous course offerings and a return to normal extracurricular, art, music, and athletic activities. We have an incredible body of staff members that have

demonstrated remarkable resiliency and dedication to our students, and we will continue to lean on them in 2021-2022, as they know best how to connect with students and prepare them for what comes next.

While we have little control over some of the curve balls the world throws at us, we are poised to make substantial investments in our District, staff, and most importantly: our students. The success of our students ensures the continued success of our community and we are proud to work towards that goal each and every day.

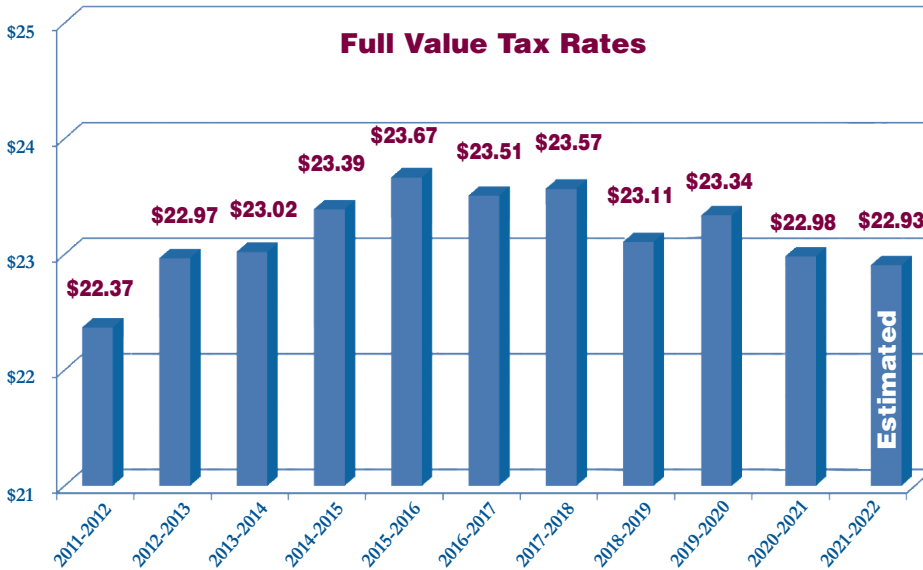
Please use the information in this newsletter to make an informed vote on the school budget and election of Board of Education members on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Lynda Quick
Superintendent



2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET FACTS

- Budget increase of 2.44% over the current year's budget.
- Full value tax rate is projected to decrease approximately 0.2%.



Where can I find budget information?

- Attend the Meet the Candidates Night and Budget Public Hearing on May 10, 2021 via video conference.
 - ◇ 6:30 p.m. – Meet the Candidates Night
 - ◇ 7:00 p.m. – Public Hearing and Board of Education Meeting
- Contact the District Office at 585.889.6247 with questions.
- Visit our website at www.wheatland.k12.ny.us and click on the “Budget Information” Quick Link on the left-hand side.

PROPOSITION 1: Budget Resolution

SHALL the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to spend for school purposes during the 2021-2022 fiscal year \$20,909,493 and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

PROPOSITION 2: School Transportation Purchases

SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to withdraw and expend from the District's existing “Capital Reserve Fund 2018 (Bus and Grounds Equipment)” a sum of money up to Two Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$210,000), less trade-in allowance, to be used for the purchase of two (2) replacement vehicles for the transportation of District students, those vehicles being one (1) 65-passenger bus and one (1) 29-passenger bus. Also being purchased is one (1) replacement vehicle to be used for Driver's Education within the District.

PROPOSITION 3: Classroom Furnishings Purchase

PROPOSITION NO. 3 SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District be authorized to withdraw and expend from the District's existing “Capital Reserve Fund 2017 (School Equipment)” a sum of money up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be used for the purchase and/or replacement of the Middle/High School classroom furnishings to support instruction.

PROPOSITION 4: Capital Reserve Fund 2021 (School Equipment)

SHALL the following proposition be adopted: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Wheatland-Chili Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to N.Y. Education Law § 3651 to be known as the Capital Reserve Fund 2021 (School Equipment); the purpose of such fund shall be to finance the purchase

and/or replacement of equipment in support of the District's instructional and athletic programs, including related necessary renovations, improvements, upgrades and/or ancillary work (including, but not limited to, computer hardware and software, cabling, networking equipment, sports equipment); the probable term of such fund to be ten years from adoption of this proposition, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated according to Education Law or until the funds are exhausted; the ultimate amount of such fund to be Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000) plus accrued interest; and the sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are: (1) an initial transfer of unexpended funds from the School Equipment Capital Reserve Fund 2017 which shall be liquidated in accordance with law by this Proposition; (2) current and future unappropriated fund balance as directed by the Board of Education; (3) transfers from other reserve funds in accordance with law; (4) New York State aid as directed by the Board of Education; (5) proceeds from sales of used equipment; and (6) interest earnings.

THE PROPERTY TAX CAP

Although New York State has what is commonly called a “two percent property tax cap,” the law does not restrict the proposed tax levy increases to two percent. The law establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by two percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. School districts are then allowed to take certain exemptions that may increase their tax levy limits to more than two percent or the inflation rate.

If a school district’s proposed tax levy increase is within its limit, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval.

The tax levy limit with exclusions for Wheatland-Chili was calculated at 1.25% for 2021-2022. **The adopted budget for 2021-2022 is based on the tax levy increase of 1.25% as well.** Therefore, a simple majority of voters is needed for budget approval.

Does the tax levy indicate how much my taxes will rise?

No. The tax levy is the amount of money the school district can raise through property taxes. The amount an individual will pay to contribute to the levied amount is the tax rate. Tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another based on such things as equalization rates and assessed property values. Based on current data, the anticipated decrease to the projected 2021-2022 tax rate is 0.2%.

What happens if voters reject the proposed tax levy and the budget is defeated?

If voters in the district reject the proposed budget, the school board may put up the same or a revised budget for a second vote, or adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied the previous year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, schools must adopt a budget with the same tax levy as the prior year – essentially a zero percent cap. For Wheatland-Chili, we have created a 2021-2022 budget with a 2.44% increase. The contingency budget was calculated under NYS Education Law. Certain equipment purchases and capital projects not necessary to maintain the health and safety of the students, and some raises for non-union employees, must be eliminated under the law. For Wheatland-Chili that would mean a minimum \$243,266 reduction in a contingency budget.

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 • 7am-9pm

Middle/ High School Gym • 940 North Road, Scottsville, NY

To assist you in finding the voting location, blue flags will be placed outside of the school gym. This sign will also be placed on the Middle/High School gym door.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Voters must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- At least eighteen years of age; and
- A legal resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the meeting at which he/she offers to vote.

RESIDENTS UNABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE OF MILITARY SERVICE

Residents unable to vote because of military service (as defined under the Commissioner’s Regulation Part 122, and by reason of such military service, is absent from the school district in which he or she is qualified to vote on the day of registration or election; or a spouse, parent, child or dependent of a voter as described above, accompanying or being with such voter, if a qualified voter of the State of New York and a resident of the District) may request applications for absentee ballots. Applications may be requested from the District Clerk, Diane Stocking, at 585.889.6247 or by email to diane_stocking@wheatland.k12.ny.us. Applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 25 days, prior to the vote on May 18, 2021. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

BUDGET INFORMATION

Copies of the budget document will be available in the District Office, High School Office, Elementary School Office, Chili Library, and Scottsville Library. See additional information at: www.wheatland.k12.ny.us.

The proposed budget will be discussed at a public hearing via video conference on Monday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m., as part of the Board of Education meeting. Additional questions may be addressed to Lynda Quick, Superintendent, at 585.889.6246 or email at: lynda_quick@wheatland.k12.ny.us.

School Board members are also eager to help constituents understand the spending plan and revenue picture and will be pleased to talk with community members.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Residents who qualify can vote by absentee ballot in the budget vote to be held on May 18, 2021. Residents unable to vote in person because of disabilities, illness, travel, or other reasons listed as valid under Election Law, may request applications for absentee ballots by contacting the District Clerk, Diane Stocking, at 585.889.6247, or in person at 13 Beckwith Avenue, Scottsville, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For this vote only, voters who do not wish to vote in person for fear of contracting or spreading COVID-19 can request an absentee ballot. Requests for applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote, if mailed, and the day prior to the vote if in person. In all cases, the ballots must be returned to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on May 18, 2021.

✂ 2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET ✂

Administrative Budget	2020-2021	2021-2022	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	31,710	25,188	-6,522	
Central Administration	228,470	278,663	50,193	
Finance	309,503	327,227	17,724	
Legal, Personnel, and Information	263,097	210,863	-52,234	
Central Data Processing	126,127	187,050	60,923	
Insurance, BOCES Administrative/Capital	287,800	277,272	-10,528	
Instruction, Administrative	466,056	539,448	73,392	
Curriculum	340,485	226,452	-114,033	
Employee Benefits	647,276	666,403	19,127	
Total Administrative	2,700,524	2,738,566	38,042	1.41%

The **ADMINISTRATIVE** component provides for overall general support and management of the operations of the District and includes:

- Board of Education costs;
- Central and school administration;
- Finance (including tax collection, purchasing, legal and auditing expenses);
- Curriculum development; and
- BOCES administrative expenses.

Program Budget	2020-2021	2021-2022	\$ Change	% Change
In-Service Training	76,798	50,864	-25,934	
Instruction, Other than Administrative	7,335,575	7,556,487	220,912	
Library and Computer Instruction	1,028,692	1,041,571	12,879	
Counseling, Support, and Health Services	618,369	690,314	71,945	
Co-Curricular and Athletics	394,890	412,030	17,140	
Pupil Transportation	995,062	973,014	-22,048	
Employee Benefits ¹	3,862,929	3,990,394	127,465	
Special Aid and Food Service Transfer	46,527	96,527	50,000	
Total Program	14,358,842	14,811,201	452,359	3.15%

The **PROGRAM** component is the largest portion of all planned expenditures for instruction and support services and includes:

- Instructional, co-curricular, and athletic programs;
- Counseling and health services; and
- Pupil transportation.

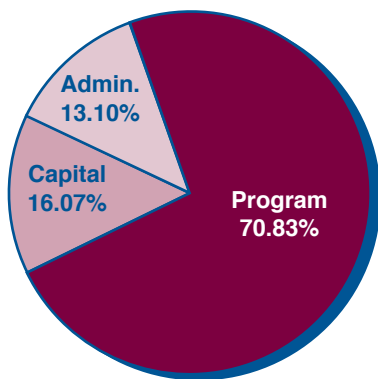
2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET (CONT.)

Capital Budget	2020-2021	2021-2022	\$ Change	% Change
Central Services, Maintenance and Operations	1,191,552	1,022,842	-168,710	
Employee Benefits	274,002	277,285	3,283	
Debt Service, Energy Performance Contract	1,886,550	2,059,599	173,049	
Total Capital	3,352,104	3,359,726	7,622	0.23%

The **CAPITAL** component includes costs associated with maintaining facilities and grounds:

- Building and equipment repairs;
- Custodial and maintenance supplies;
- Utilities; and
- Debt service.

Total Budget	\$20,411,470	\$20,909,493	\$498,023	2.44%
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The Program component is the largest portion of the 2021-2022 budget, reflecting 70.83% of the total expenses. The Capital expenses represent 16.07% of the budget, with Administrative costs representing the smallest portion of the budget at 13.10%.



PROJECTED TAX BILL CHANGES

Hypothetical home with \$100,000 assessed value.

Impact on Homeowners	Per Year	Per Month
Decrease on tax bill (full value on \$100,000)	(\$5.00)	(\$0.42)
Decrease on tax bill (full value with STAR on \$100,000)	(\$3.50)	(\$0.29)

Actual tax rates are finalized in August. The following assumptions were used for current tax rate estimates:

- State aid revenues as of April 6, 2021.
- Assessed valuations and STAR exemptions estimates as of April 6, 2021.
- Equalization rates are currently estimated at 95% for the town of Brighton, 100% for the town of Chili, 93% for the town of Caledonia, & 89% for the town of Wheatland, and will be finalized by August 2021.
- The budgeted levy as projected above.
- STAR Basic exemptions calculated at \$30,000 (may vary by towns).

NOTE: Property assessments and equalization rates in the four municipalities will affect actual tax bill.

2021-2022 PROJECTED REVENUE

State and Federal Sources – \$9,410,924
(3.05% increase from 2020-2021)

Projected state and federal aid, including foundation aid, lottery, BOCES, building, transportation, high cost, and other aids, plus Medicaid reimbursements.

Appropriated Reserves – \$245,000

The District will use reserves to the extent needed.

- Retirement Contribution Reserve – up to \$200,000
- Unemployment Reserve – up to \$45,000

Appropriated Fund Balance – \$370,000

Projected unexpended funds plus unanticipated revenues used to offset the levy.

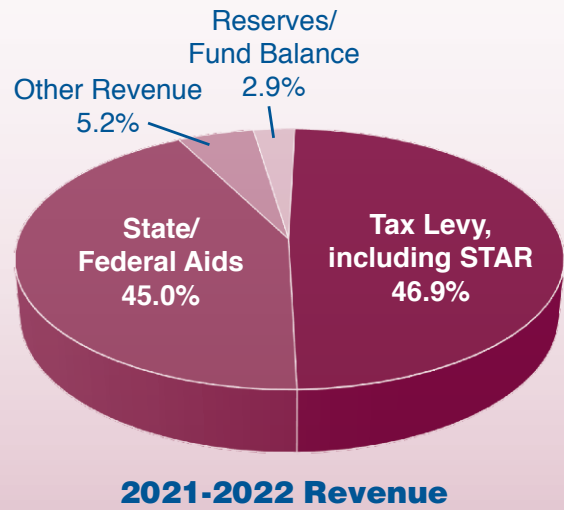
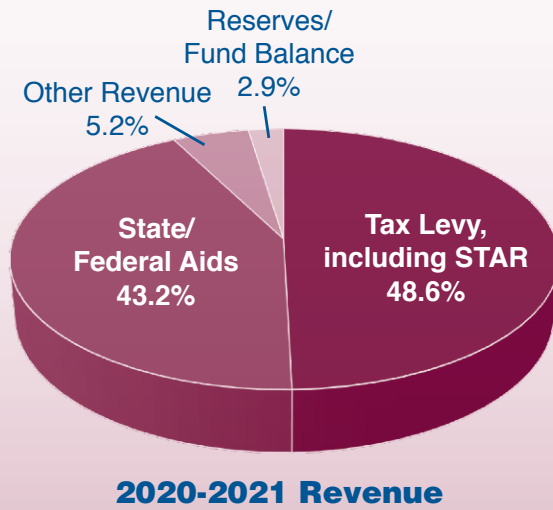
Other Sources – \$1,079,462

Other earnings, tuition from other schools and individuals, payments in lieu of taxes, rental of property and equipment, refunds from prior years, gifts, etc.

Property Tax Levy - \$9,804,107

Amount needed after all other revenue sources are projected. The estimated STAR portion is about \$1,189,614 of this total.

Total Budget - \$20,909,493
(2.44% increase from 2020-2021)



MINI-RENOVATION PROJECT

Wheatland-Chili CSD seeks to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the District's tax dollars. Continuing a strategy from last year, a mini-renovation project is again being proposed this year that will include upgrades at the Middle/High School. This mini-renovation project takes advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project, the District would incur the full cost of the work. By including the \$100,000 budget for this work in a mini-capital project within the proposed annual budget, the District will receive approximately \$74,600 in additional aid during the 2022-2023 school year. This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional mini-renovation projects as a regular part of the District's budget.



☞ BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES ☜

Two candidates will seek election to two seats on the Board of Education for three-year terms. The candidates are identified in the order they will appear on the ballot.

The candidates were each asked to respond to questions to help voters understand their positions.



JAMES MUSSHAFEN

Background: I have been a resident of the district for the past 25 years and my two children graduated from WCCS. I have been an active member of the community participating in activities and functions specifically related to the school district, as well as committees associated with the Town of Wheatland and my local church. My wife and I are proud to reside in a great community in upstate New York. My professional career involved working for great companies such as Bosch and Eastman Kodak. Over a 40-year timeframe I have had the opportunity to develop and lead teams responsible for servicing and supporting customers. I hold a Bachelors degree in Business, Economics and Marketing.

Why are you running for election to the board? I am running for re-election to the BOE as I feel it is my responsibility as a resident of the district to commit my time and experience to help all students succeed in becoming young adults who will gain career and/or college aspirations from Wheatland-Chili. Additionally, I believe that our school district is the most important asset within our community, and I hold myself accountable for oversight of this asset.

What do you see as the major challenges facing public education and specifically the Wheatland-Chili Central School District?

Over the course of the last year, the pandemic has really challenged public education on many different venues. I believe some of these challenges will continue into the future. For example, remote education. I am in favor of this, but it needs to be executed properly. It will take time to redesign coursework and develop the solutions required to emulate the present classroom environment. We need to provide high quality programs and learning solutions for our children that will help them meet or exceed their goals. This needs to be accomplished while being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

Culturally responsive, as well as social and emotional teaching needs to continue to be addressed within the district. Positive progress has been made, but these are topics that continue to evolve and need to be accomplished while maintaining or exceeding the learning experience for all students within our district. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the Board must work as a unified community in addressing these issues.

What experiences or skills could you bring to the board to address these challenges?

My experience as a board member for the past 18 years, coupled with my extensive leadership experience in the business world, provides me with expertise in the following areas: effective communication, project management, negotiation, workplace diversity, decision making, and teamwork.



KIM SNYDER

Background: I am a proud alumni and a lifelong member of the district. My husband of 32 years, Joe and I chose to educate our four children at Wheatland-Chili. All of our children have graduated and had success in their college experiences. Since graduating from Cornell University in Agricultural Economics I have returned to become part of the management of the family farm. I have enjoyed my past experience on the board and look forward to the opportunity to continue.

Why are you running for the board? I am committed to our community and district. Serving on the board allows me to contribute to the continual improvement in the education of the

next generation of leaders. As a parent, I want to give my children an education that will afford them the ability to solve any problem they are faced with. As a board member it is my same wish for each and every student at Wheatland.

What do you see as the major challenges facing public education and specifically the Wheatland-Chili Central School District?

The greatest challenge is to provide quality education programs with smaller student numbers in a fiscally responsible way. We need to be a destination district, where parents are moving into the district to allow their children to experience an extraordinary education of Wheatland-Chili. Outstanding service coupled with responsible resource management throughout all areas are critical. The district needs to continue exploring fiscal opportunities in such uneasy times at the state level.

What experiences or skills could you bring to the board to address these challenges?

My experience as a small business owner as well as past years of service on the school board will be invaluable resources. The knowledge gained by serving on audit and fiscal committees is a valuable resource as we plan for next 5 years. I believe in continuous improvement for all. I'm motivated to do my part by serving as a board member where students' education is the top priority by parents, teachers, staff and the community.

Wheatland-Chili Central School District

13 Beckwith Avenue
Scottsville, NY 14546
585.889.6247

Board of Education (2019-2020)

James Musshafen, President
Shanna Fraser, Vice President
Gregory Berl
Cindy Dawson
Beth Nolan
Courtney Panek
Kim Snyder

Superintendent

Lynda Quick

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Henrietta, N.Y.
Permit No. 7

How is an Equalization Rate Determined?

Equalization rates are determined by the Office of Real Property Tax Services. The rates per municipality are determined after the total assessments are submitted by the Town Assessor's Office. They are a measure of a municipality's level of assessment as follows: $\text{Total Assessed Value} / \text{Total Market Value} = \text{Equalization Rate}$.

Where the Equalization Rate equals 100

- Town is assessing property at 100% of market value
- Most likely a reassessment was conducted in recent years
- Your property's assessment should be roughly its market value (the price for which you could sell your property)

Where the Equalization Rate is less than 100

- Overall property in the town is assessed at less than market value
- The lower the equalization rate, the longer it has probably been since the last reassessment
- For instance, an equalization rate of 43 means overall property in the town is assessed at 43% of market value

Where the Equalization Rate is more than 100

- Overall property in the town is assessed higher than market value
- Property values may have decreased since the last reassessment, but assessments were not adjusted downward

How Does the Equalization Rate Affect My Taxes?

- There are four municipalities within the Wheatland-Chili Central School District
 - ◆ Wheatland, Chili, Brighton, and Mumford
- There are slightly different tax rates for each municipality
 - ◆ In order for a school district to fairly distribute its property tax levy (the total amount of school taxes to be collected), the levy is divided in proportion to the total market value of each municipality. This allows for an equitable distribution of taxes based upon the market value of each municipality.
 - ◆ If the assessed values of homes in a municipality are below market value as noted to the left, the municipality or NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services sets an equalization rate that increases the tax rate of properties to provide for the payment of their fair share of taxes within the District.
 - ◆ The estimated \$22.93 rate per \$1,000 of assessed value is the blended tax rate (of all four municipalities) for 2021-2022.



**A Top 100 High School
New York State 2013, 2015**