

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Community Members,

We have worked hard over the past several months to create a school budget for 2019-2020 that will continue to support our students through the academic excellence and personalized environment that is the hallmark of a Wheatland-Chili education in a fiscally responsible fashion. Our small schools provide students with an environment where many caring adults are committed to their success. Whether it is through academic classes, extra-class activities, art and music experiences, interscholastic opportunities, or intramurals, the adults at Wheatland-Chili know the students' strengths and interests because they interact with them through these varied experiences. Our students graduate with the self-confidence that grows from participating in and experiencing success in a wide variety of activities. **We have created the 2019-2020 budget without eliminating these programs for our students to support their future success and with a 2% increase in the tax levy.**



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

The school district strengthens our entire community by delivering educational excellence that prepares our students for successful futures. To support our continued growth toward excellence, we sought and were **awarded Accreditation by the Commissions on Elementary and**



*Middle States Association
of Colleges and Schools
Commissions of Elementary
and Secondary Schools*

Accredited Since 2016

Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Middle States Accreditation is an external process that validates school quality and student achievement, and provides a focus for continuous school improvement. This is something of which each of us should be proud.

Strong schools are in everyone's interest. At Wheatland-Chili, we have a very strong school. When schools are successful, students are successful, and our community will continue to be successful.

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 21, 2019.

*Deborah Leb, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

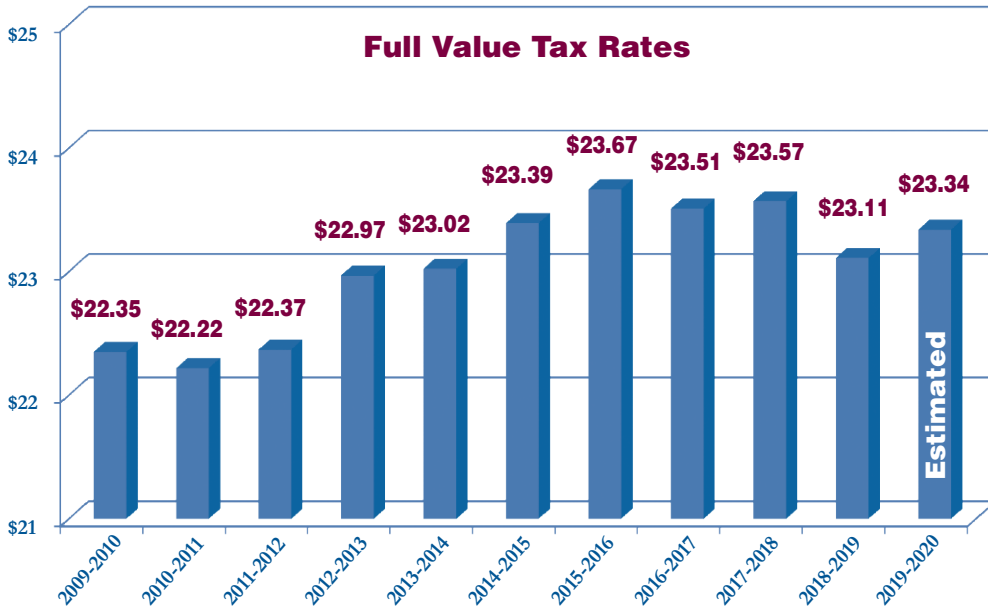
The Board of Education and I are committed to continuing to provide an education built on excellence for our students. In the 2019-2020 budget, we will continue to offer:

- Career and technical classes at WEMOCO;
- K-12 Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) opportunities through Project Lead The Way elementary modules, and middle and high school course offerings;
- Dual credit courses that lead to college credit through Monroe Community College, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Genesee Community College;
- Online courses;
- Advanced Placement courses;
- Electives in Art, Business, Technology, Band, and Chorus with appropriate enrollment;
- Enhanced academic supports and special education services as needed;
- All sports opportunities with appropriate enrollment at Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Modified levels;
- Intramural options;
- Extra-classroom clubs with appropriate enrollment;
- High school summer school opportunities;
- Drivers' education;
- Professional development for our teachers and staff; and
- Resources to support social and emotional learning of our students, including the addition of up to two school counselors within the District depending on a services audit that is underway.



2019-2020 ~ PROPOSED BUDGET FACTS ~

- Budget **increase of 4.02%** over the current year's budget.
- Full value tax rate is projected to increase approximately 0.995%.



Where can I find budget information?

- Attend the Meet the Candidates Night and Public Hearing on the budget:

Monday, May 13, 2019

♦ 6:30 p.m. - Meet the Candidates Night

♦ 7:00 p.m. - Public Hearing and Board of Education Meeting

**T. J. Connor Elementary School
3rd Floor, Board Room**

- 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 2019-2020 fiscal year \$19,522,419 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 Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$232,000), less trade-in allowance, to be used for the purchase of three (3) replacement vehicles for the transportation of District students, those vehicles being one (1) 65-passenger bus, and two (2) 29-passenger buses.

PROPOSITION 3: Grounds Equipment 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 Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) to be used for the purchase of one (1) compact utility tractor, and one (1) gator utility vehicle for grounds maintenance and snow removal.

PROPOSITION 4: Classroom Furnishings Purchase

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 Three Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$326,000) to be used for the purchase and/or replacement of T. J. Connor classroom furnishings to support instruction.



~ 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 3.42% for 2019-2020. **The adopted budget for 2019-2020 is based on the tax levy increase of 2.00%.** 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 increase to the projected 2019-2020 tax rate is 0.995%.

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. In Wheatland-Chili, we have created a 2019-2020 budget with a 2% 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 \$108,573 reduction in a contingency budget.



ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

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 on **Monday, May 13, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**, as part of the Board of Education meeting. Additional questions may be addressed to Deborah Leh, Superintendent, at 585.889.6246 or email at: deborah_leh@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.

Voter Qualifications

A person shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting for the election of school district officers and upon all other matters which may be brought before such meeting, who is:

- 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.

Absentee Ballot

Residents who qualify can vote by absentee ballot in the budget vote to be held on **Tuesday, May 21, 2019**. 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 Office at 585.889.6247, or in person at 13 Beckwith Avenue, Scottsville, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Requests for applications must be received by the District at least seven days before the vote, if mailed, and the day prior to the vote if in person.

✂ 2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET ✂

Administrative Budget	2018-2019	2019-2020	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	29,063	31,360	2,297	
Central Administration	263,764	266,058	2,294	
Finance	300,158	310,148	9,990	
Legal, Personnel, and Information	207,808	258,138	50,330	
Central Data Processing	110,156	125,131	14,975	
Insurance, BOCES Administrative/Capital	260,814	270,114	9,300	
Instruction, Administrative	437,688	450,468	12,780	
Curriculum	294,862	334,902	40,040	
Employee Benefits	413,251	427,420	14,169	
Total Administrative	2,317,564	2,473,739	156,175	6.74%

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	2018-2019	2019-2020	\$ Change	% Change
In-Service Training	73,806	75,428	1,622	
Instruction, Other than Administrative	7,016,295	7,206,684	190,389	
Library and Computer Instruction	940,634	1,018,752	78,118	
Counseling, Support, and Health Services	479,147	600,252	121,105	
Co-Curricular and Athletics	375,802	385,363	9,561	
Pupil Transportation	927,806	952,128	24,322	
Employee Benefits	3,902,931	3,975,886	72,955	
Special Aid and Food Service Transfer	46,527	46,527	0	
Total Program	13,762,948	14,261,020	498,072	3.62%

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.

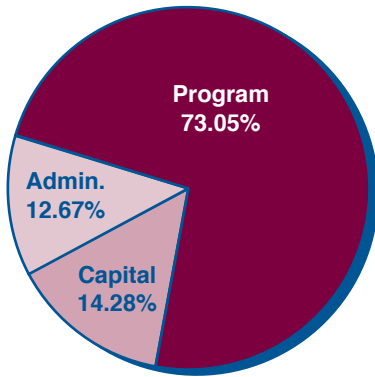
2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET (CONT.)

Capital Budget	2018-2019	2019-2020	\$ Change	% Change
Central Services, Maintenance and Operations	1,030,025	1,060,210	30,185	
Employee Benefits	275,501	281,062	5,561	
Debt Service, Energy Performance Contract	1,381,449	1,446,388	64,939	
Total Capital	2,686,975	2,787,660	100,685	3.75%

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	\$18,767,487	\$19,522,419	\$754,932	4.02%
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The Program component is the largest portion of the 2019-2020 budget, reflecting 73.05% of the total expenses. The Capital expenses represent 14.28% of the budget, with Administrative costs representing the smallest portion of the budget at 12.67%.



PROJECTED TAX BILL CHANGES

Hypothetical home with \$100,000 assessed value.

How will this affect my tax bill?	Per Year	Per Month
Increase on tax bill (full value on \$100,000)	\$23.00	\$1.92
Increase on tax bill (full value with STAR on \$100,000)	\$16.10	\$1.34

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

- State aid revenues as of April 4, 2019.
- Assessed valuations and STAR exemptions estimates as of April 4, 2019.
- Equalization rates are currently estimated at 100% for the towns of Brighton, Chili, and Caledonia; 93.42% for Wheatland; and will be finalized by August 2019.
- 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.

2019-2020 PROJECTED REVENUE

**State and Federal Sources – \$8,441,260
(3.77% increase from 2018-2019)**

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

Appropriated Reserves – \$300,000

The District will use reserves to the extent needed.

- Retirement Contribution Reserve – up to \$300,000.

Appropriated Fund Balance – \$270,000

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

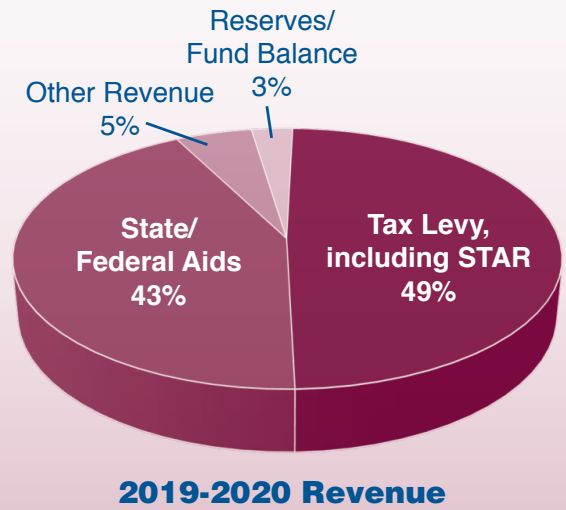
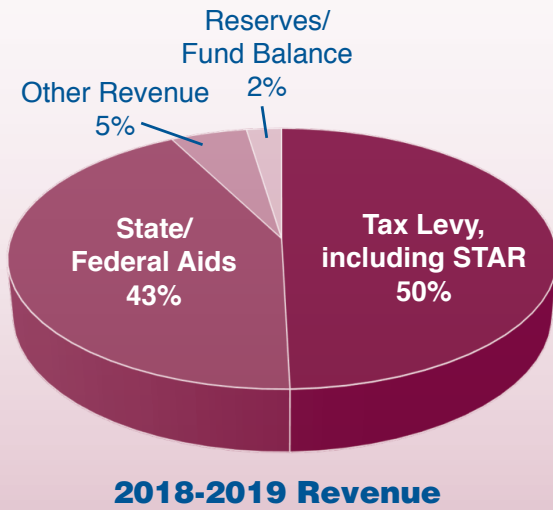
Other Sources – \$1,019,519

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 - \$9,491,640

Amount needed after all other revenue sources are projected. The estimated STAR portion is about \$1,334,172 of this total.

**Total Budget - \$19,522,419
(4.02% increase from 2018-2019)**



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 renovations at the Middle/High School Auditorium. 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 \$74,100 in additional aid during the 2020-2021 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.

Meet the Candidates Night is scheduled for **Monday, May 13, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Board of Education Conference Room, T. J. Connor Elementary School, Third Floor. The candidates were each asked to respond to questions to help voters understand their positions.



GREGORY BERL

37 Browns Avenue
Scottsville, NY 14546

I have been a resident of The Village of Scottsville for 29 years. I have served on both the Planning Board and Zoning Board for the Village. I was the President of Scottsville Athletic Association as well as a soccer coach for 16 years. I have worked in the surveying and construction business for 35 years all across the country. I have three daughters who successfully graduated from WCCSD.

I am running for re-election to continue the work that was started in my first three years. I am very proud of this school and want to see it improve. The biggest issues I see with Public Education is keeping pace with ever-changing use of technology in the classroom.



CINDY DAWSON

1372 North Road
Scottsville, NY 14546

My name is Cindy Dawson. I was born and raised in Fairport, NY. I received my Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from SUNY Plattsburgh and have worked in the bio-pharmaceutical industry for 35 years. I have enjoyed living in Scottsville for almost 27 years with my husband John and our three children who have graduated from Wheatland-Chili. I have been active in the Scottsville Sports Association, the PTA's Honor Roll Breakfast and the Sports Booster Club.

I am running for school board to promote and secure the school as the nucleus of our small town.

The major challenge WC has is its size. As a graduate of a large school, I became more aware and passionate about the great opportunities that surrounded my children at WC. They excelled academically as well as participated in sports, drama, arts, and community services.

I have been an active member of the community and in my profession as Quality Assurance Manager, I see myself as an effective communicator, leader and team player. I see these are key to ensuring students continue to receive the best education at WC.



Wheatland-Chili Central School District

13 Beckwith Avenue
Scottsville, NY 14546
585.889.6247

Board of Education (2018-2019)

James Musshafen, President
Shanna Fraser, Vice President
Gregory Berl
Beth Nolan
Courtney Panek
Michelle Rocha
Kim Snyder

Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Leh

Non-Profit Org.
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Henrietta, N.Y.
Permit No. 7

**BOXHOLDER
SCOTTSVILLE NY 14546**

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: Total Assessed Value/Total Market Value = 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 Caledonia
- 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 \$23.34 rate per \$1,000 of assessed value is the blended tax rate (of all four municipalities) for 2019-2020, and may be higher or lower for individual residents depending on property assessments and equalization rates in the four municipalities.



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.

May 21, 2019

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Middle/High School Gym
940 North Road
Scottsville, NY