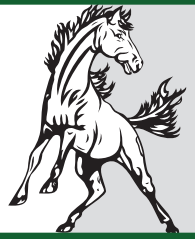




MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Newsletter 2025



Dear Marcellus Community,

Marcellus Central School District residents will vote on the proposed \$42,338,563 budget on Tuesday, May 20. The budget calls for a 1.5 percent increase in spending, and includes a tax levy increase of 3.46 percent, which is the same as the District’s calculated tax levy cap. Because the increase in the levy equals the calculated cap, a simple majority approval is required for passage of the 2025-2026 budget.

By staying focused on its strategic goals and making thoughtful financial decisions, Marcellus continues to provide students with enriching educational experiences while ensuring long-term fiscal responsibility. “When we began developing the budget, it was important to us to use the newly developed Strategic Plan to ensure that we were effectively allocating funds to priority areas identified by district stakeholders,” Superintendent Jean M. Sharlow said.

Marcellus takes pride in its strong sense of community and commitment to providing students with a well-rounded educational experience. The district remains dedicated to offering a variety of electives designed to nurture students’ interests and passions, ultimately guiding them toward meaningful and successful careers after graduation. At the same time, the district continues to navigate financial challenges related to Foundation Aid and the Held Harmless designation. In response,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School
Large Group Instruction Room
1 Mustang Hill
Marcellus, New York

DATE OF VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School
Auditorium
1 Mustang Hill
Marcellus, New York

BUDGET KEY FACTS

Proposed Budget:

\$42,338,563

Spending Increase:

1.5%

Estimated Tax Impact:
(on \$100,000 home)

\$40.65/year

IN THIS ISSUE

2 Revenue & Spending

3 Three-Part Budget

4 School News

6 BOE Candidates

7 Propositions

7 FAQs

8 Absentee/Early Voting Info

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

strategic decisions were made to reduce some positions through attrition. While calculated adjustments were necessary, the administration is confident they will not diminish the quality of educational opportunities available to students.

Sharlow reiterated the district’s dedication to maintaining diverse programming despite financial constraints. “Although we face challenges, we remain committed to providing students with engaging electives that spark their interests and help them build pathways toward future success,” Sharlow said.

Other measures on the ballot include election of Board of Education members, a proposition on buses, and the library vote.

Residents will elect three members of the Board of Education. Their candidate profiles can be seen later in this document. Voters will also decide on a proposition to purchase four school buses for a combined maximum estimated expenditure of \$755,000, and consider the Marcellus Free Library’s proposition to increase its annual appropriation from \$579,445 to \$593,931.

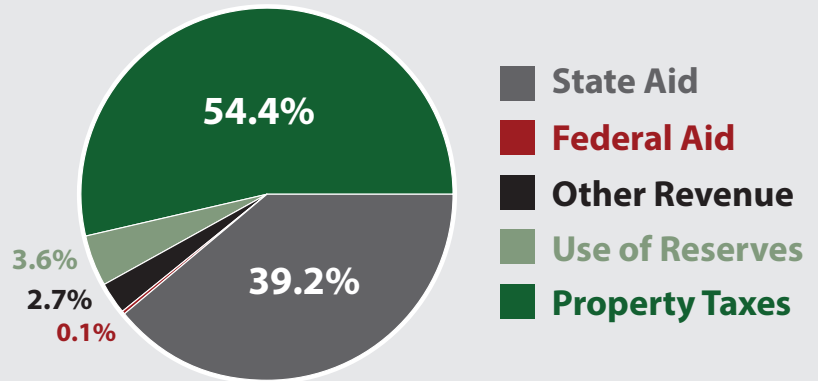
Voting will take place at the Senior High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 20 from noon to 9 p.m. Applications for absentee and early voting ballots are available on the district’s website, via email at coleary@marcellusschools.org, or by contacting the district office at 315-673-6009.



BUDGET FACTS

Revenue Summary (where the money comes from)

	2024-25 Budget	% of 2024-25	2025-26 Budget	% of 2025-26
State Aid	16,338,408	39.2%	16,576,225	39.2%
Federal Aid	58,000	0.1%	60,000	0.1%
Other Revenue	1,149,283	2.8%	1,149,283	2.7%
Use of Reserves	1,887,862	4.5%	1,506,282	3.6%
Property Taxes	22,275,677	53.4%	23,046,773	54.4%
Total	41,709,230	100%	42,338,563	100%



Spending Summary (where the money goes)

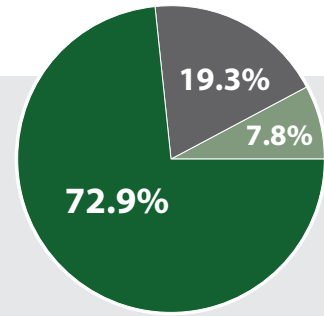
	Three-Part 2024-25 Budget	% of 2024-25	Three-Part 2025-26 Budget	% of 2025-26
Admin.	3,286,367	7.9%	3,299,619	7.8%
Program	30,625,582	73.4%	30,873,816	72.9%
Capital	7,797,281	18.7%	8,165,128	19.3%
Total	41,709,230	100%	42,338,563	100%

Three-Part Budget

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in three categories:

Administrative, program and capital.

Administrative ■
 Program ■
 Capital ■



ADMINISTRATIVE:

3,299,619 | 7.8%

Includes expenses for Board of Education, central administration, finance and legal services, personnel, public information, some facilities operations, central services, special items, supervision of regular school and some employee benefits.

PROGRAM:

30,873,816 | 72.9%

Includes expenses for curriculum development, instructional programs, supplies, district information, athletic programs, community service, most employee benefits and transfers of funds.

CAPITAL:

8,165,128 | 19.3%

Includes most expenses for facilities operations, all maintenance, debt service principal and interest on all building projects.

Expenditure Summary

	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	\$ Change
Board of Education & Annual Meeting	28,975	26,235	(2,740)
Central Administration	189,277	195,710	6,433
Business & Financial Operations	489,900	449,179	(40,721)
Central Services:			
Communications, Personnel & Legal Services	211,323	210,850	(473)
Central Services:			
BOCES Services, Data Processing & Insurance	453,862	452,511	(1,351)
Operations & Maintenance	2,472,068	2,493,709	21,641
5 Year Mandated Building Condition Survey	0	66,150	66,150
Curriculum, Instruction & Supervision	1,075,738	1,100,441	24,703
Instruction: Regular & Special Education	15,505,372	15,521,593	16,221
Instruction: Library & Technology	1,582,011	1,665,013	83,002
Pupil Services: Guidance, Nursing, Psychologists	1,319,124	1,387,314	68,190
Extracurricular & Athletics	1,139,176	1,110,104	(29,072)
Transportation	1,907,296	1,995,648	88,352
Employee Benefits	10,684,191	10,755,537	71,346
Debt Service: Capital Construction	4,117,268	4,248,971	131,703
Debt Service: School Buses	303,649	429,598	125,949
Interfund Transfers	230,000	230,000	0
Total	41,709,230	42,338,563	629,333

SCHOOL NEWS



KCH CHALLENGE ISLAND

Excitement filled the cafeteria as tiny engineers got to work on their Penguin Poppers, a part of the Challenge Island program this winter.

Using paper plates, rubber bands, and some help from volunteers, students carefully built their mini launchers, giggling as they tested different designs. Teachers encouraged kids to make tweaks to their designs, sparking curiosity and teamwork.

By the end, the room was filled with happy chaos—wide-eyed kindergarteners discovering the fun of physics, one pop at a time.



HS ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Two Marcellus varsity athletic programs finished at the top of the state this school year.

In the fall, the Mustangs girls soccer team won the NYSPHSAA Class B Championship by blanking Section VIII champion Cold Spring Harbor in the state finals. Alexis Fragnito was named the Class B Player of the Year and East All-Region All-American, while Coach Laurie Updike earned the award as the United Soccer Coaches' 2024 National Coach of the Year for high school girls programs at small public schools.

The Mustangs boys basketball team also won the NYSPHSAA Class B Championship. Marcellus topped Section I champion Woodlands, 63-58, in the finals. It was the first state championship in program history. Tucker Burnett was named the tournament MVP.



DMS' NEW INTERMEDIATE PRINCIPAL

Kathleen Mahoney is making the most of a mid-year move to Marcellus.

Mahoney, previously an assistant principal in the Hannibal Central School District, took over as the Intermediate Principal at C.S. Driver Middle School in mid-January.

"This is an amazing community that wants their kids to succeed academically, and there's lots of activities and events for students," Mahoney said. "Students get a full, wraparound education here."

Mahoney previously worked in Special Education in the Syracuse City School District, as well as the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District. She has four children, the oldest of which teaches in Geneva City Schools.

For Mahoney, the roots that she has laid down in the area are strong.

"I love Syracuse and its suburbs," she said. "This is what makes living in upstate New York so attractive to me and my family."



DMS MARS PROJECT

In March, our seventh grade science students shared their projects on how to survive — and thrive — on Mars.

The Mars Project at DMS gives students the opportunity to step into the role of scientists and problem-solvers as they tackle real world challenges of living on the red planet. Projects can focus on a variety of topics, which allows each team to explore what sparks their curiosity and passion.

Final projects are judged in a science fair-style setting, giving students valuable experience with communication and presentation skills that will benefit them in high school and beyond!

THE ALL SCHOOL SHOW WAS ALL SHOOK UP IN MARCH!

Our high school students presented the Elvis-inspired musical for three shows in March. The show is about a rebellious roustabout who shakes up a small town, challenging the rules and sparking romance through the power of rock 'n' roll.



Community Invited!

GRAND OPENING OF THE CAREER EXPLORATION AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BUILDING

Ribbon Cutting and Pancake Breakfast



- Saturday, May 31
- 9 a.m.
- At the new CEAS Building on campus



KCH CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY

Candy, cards, and countless smiles—our elementary students made Valentine's Day the sweetest day of the year!

Each classroom celebrated with fun-filled parties where students exchanged small gifts, played bingo, and enjoyed exciting activities. Laughter filled the air as some even got creative with a festive slime-making activity, making the day extra special.

ON THE BALLOT

Board of Education Candidates

On May 20 Marcellus residents will elect three members of the Board of Education. The following candidates filed petitions with the district office by the April 21 deadline. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will each serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.



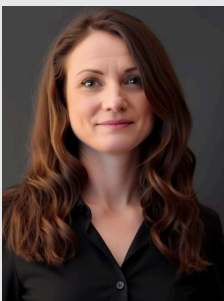
ERICA POQUADECK, of Marcellus, is seeking her second term on the Board of Education. A district resident for all but three years of her life, she has worked at Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield for 17 years as a high dollar claims auditor, where she reviews claims to ensure payment and benefits are correct. A 1996 graduate of Marcellus High School, Mrs. Poquadeck holds an associate’s degree in humanities from Onondaga Community College. She, along with husband Jason, volunteered with the boy scouts for several years. Erica enjoys helping at school functions and, along with her daughter, supporting the Marcellus food pantry. Their son graduated from Skaneateles in 2020 and their daughter is currently a 7th grader at DMS.

“I am currently on the Board of Education and look forward to another term. I would love to continue assisting the district in making the best decisions for our students, staff, educators and community stakeholders. As a parent in the district, I will continue to represent the Marcellus community to the best of my ability. Thank you!”



JOSHUA MATOUSEK, of Marcellus, is seeking his second term on the Board of Education. A district resident for four years, Mr. Matousek has worked at Anheuser Busch for twelve years in operations handling machinery and managing safety within his team. He is a graduate of Jordan-Elbridge High School and earned an associate’s degree in exercise science from Onondaga Community College. Josh enjoys supporting his daughter’s softball team as an assistant coach. He and spouse Kelli have one child attending KCH and another attending DMS.

“I am currently finishing my first term on the Marcellus Central School District Board and have come to fully enjoy working alongside the administration to ensure the best future possible for our children. I feel we have already accomplished so many great things in these last three years. I would be honored to be a part of the great things I know are coming in the next three years.”



JENNIFER TEDESCO, of Marcellus, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. Jen has been a district resident for the past 8 years, settling here in 2017 from the Onondaga School District. After attending Cazenovia High School, she pursued a degree in Human Services from Columbia College. She found her passion in providing direct client services to families seeking reunification following foster care and other family separations. Mrs. Tedesco has owned Love Dove Trading Vintage & Antiques for the past 18 years. Jen has previously served as President of the KCH PTO and Vice President of the DMS PTA. Currently she serves as the Coordinator for the Marcellus Food Pantry and is involved with Marcellus Youth Soccer & the Senior High School Educator Appreciation Luncheon.

Jen and husband James have three children. They have a daughter and son who attend DMS, and another child who is a sophomore at Boston University.

“I would love to serve the Marcellus community as a member of the school board to help ensure every student in our district receives a high quality education in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. I am passionate about strengthening the connection between educators, families and the community, and I believe my perspective and commitment to transparency and accountability can contribute positively to important decisions affecting our schools. I am eager to listen, collaborate and educate for policies that empower both students and educators to thrive.”

Community members have an opportunity to meet candidates for the Board of Education prior to the public hearing, from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Monday, May 12th in the SHS Large Group Instruction Room.

BUDGET FAQs

Proposition 1:

BUDGET ADOPTION

"Shall the Board of Education of the Marcellus Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the total amount of \$42,338,563 for the 2025-2026 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

Proposition 2:

PURCHASE OF TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

"Shall the Board of Education ("Board") of the Marcellus Central School District ("District") be authorized to purchase school buses for a combined maximum estimated expenditure of \$755,000, and to obtain the necessary funds by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District, to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, to issue up to \$755,000 of obligations of the District?"

Proposition 3:

LIBRARY LEVY

"Shall the annual appropriation for the Marcellus Free Library be increased from its current level of \$579,445 per year to \$593,931 per year (an increase of \$14,486), to be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property within the Marcellus Central School District, in accordance with Section 259 of the Education Law?"



WHERE DO MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES COME FROM?

Marcellus Central School District receives revenue to support its programming from several sources. The principal sources are New York state aid and local property taxes. State funding accounts for 39.2% of the district's projected revenue for 2025 -2026. The district proposes to appropriate \$1,506,282 in fund balance to offset any additional increase in the property tax levy.



54.4%

Property Taxes paid by local homeowners and businesses represent one of the two main sources of revenue for Marcellus schools.



39.2%

Together, **School & Building Aid** from New York state comprise the second largest source of financial support for the district.



6.4%

Other Local Income sources include charges for services, BOCES refunds, interfund transfers and District Reserve Funds.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

A defeated budget could mean \$116,009 in reductions. Under NYS Law, if the proposed 2025-26 budget is defeated by voters on May 20, the Marcellus Board of Education will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If voters reject the proposed budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

Adopting a contingent budget would prohibit Marcellus from spending money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-union employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.

More significantly, under the law, if Marcellus adopts a contingent budget, the district would be required to keep its 2025-26 tax levy the same as or less than its 2024-25 tax levy—in effect a 0% increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as the current year (or less) and as a result would—absent the use of additional reserve funds—need to reduce costs by \$771,096, without any adjustments for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, whether or not they are mandated.

WHAT WILL MY ACTUAL TAX RATE BE?

Tax rates are calculated in August once property values are finalized by town, county or state assessors in addition to receiving final equalization rates from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services. The school tax levy is only one portion of the tax rate formula. The estimated tax per \$100,000 of assessed home value with basic STAR exemption is \$1,215.03, which would be a monthly increase of \$3.38 or \$40.65 annually.



MARCELLUS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 2 Reed Parkway
 Marcellus, NY 13108

Non-Profit Org.
 PAID
 Marcellus, NY
 13108
 Permit #18

POSTAL PATRON

MARCELLUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTE



Community members have an opportunity to meet candidates for the Board of Education prior to the public hearing, from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Monday, May 12th in the SHS Large Group Instruction Room.

BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School

Large Group Instruction Room

1 Mustang Hill

Marcellus, New York

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- District resident for at least 30 days prior to vote
- No voter registration required

ABSENTEE/EARLY VOTERS

Obtain an application on the district website, via email at coleary@marcellusschools.org, or at the district office by calling 315-673-6009. Applications must be returned by May 12 if the absentee or early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter or by May 19 if the ballot will be picked up by the voter. Ballots must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20.

DATE OF VOTE AND ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Marcellus High School

Auditorium

1 Mustang Hill

Marcellus, New York



Our School District is on Facebook and Instagram!



Be sure to follow us at @MarcellusCSD