



Ballston Spa

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

**VOTE
MAY 20**



Budget at-a-Glance

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$110,305,520

SPENDING INCREASE

2.9%

TAX LEVY INCREASE

4.4%

2025-26 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program in Ballston Spa

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programming is a state grant funded program offered to families FREE of charge, regardless of income status. The only eligibility requirement is a child's age and residency within the Ballston Spa Central School District.

For the 2025-26 school year, the Ballston Spa Central School District is excited to offer expanded UPK programming now available at seven local sites to better serve families. All programs are full-day and most locations also provide options for before/after care and daycare during school breaks.

Families with a child that will turn 4 on or before December 1st, 2025 are encouraged to visit the district website to learn more about the UPK program, site locations and other pertinent details. Though open enrollment has ended, families may still register and select from the placement options available. If all spots are filled, families will be placed on a waitlist for programming.

Educational research indicates that participation in pre-kindergarten can have lasting positive effects on children. Ballston Spa CSD



collaborates with the community UPK sites to ensure students are provided with high quality educational experiences to build the skills

needed for successful transition to Kindergarten. We encourage parents to take advantage of this opportunity!

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BUDGET VOTE DATES

- May 7** Mandated School District Annual Budget Hearing
- May 13** Voter Registration Day
- May 20** Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

Proposition I: School Budget

The district will be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its estimate of expenditures for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$110,305,520 and to levy the necessary taxes therefore.

Proposition II: School Vehicle Replacement

The district will spend up to \$1,327,000 to purchase and replace school buses and vehicles.

Proposition III: Electric Bus Purchase

The district will spend up to \$273,000 to purchase one electric bus.

Proposition IV: Ballston Spa Public Library

The district will be authorized to collect and contribute \$64,610 towards the expense of operating the public library.

District Presents 2025-2026 Budget and Vote Information

PROPOSED BUDGET FOCUSES ON REALLOCATING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT DISTRICT GOALS

Each year the Board of Education focuses on the development of various policies to guide our daily work in providing safe, healthy, and welcoming schools that are steeped in excellent learning opportunities and extracurricular enrichment for each of our students at all grade levels. Although often not thought of as a policy, the most important policy statement that the Board makes is the creation and approval of a thoughtful and conscientious annual budget. This provides the clearest public statement of the district's commitment to priorities relative to supporting the teaching and learning of our children that takes place within our schools each day. The development of the budget intentionally supports long range planning and multi-year goals to ensure a consistent year to year approach. Each year this seven-month process begins in October and ends with the budget vote which is held statewide on the third Tuesday of May.

In the intervening months, a great deal of planning takes place to ensure that we are finding an appropriate balance between providing our students with the best possible programming while keeping tax increases as low as possible and delivering high value to the taxpaying public. Our current environment is one of increased costs and we have carefully examined how best to allocate our resources for our students and



community members in order to provide the same breadth of programming, while being mindful of these costs. We believe that the budget that was presented to, and adopted by, the Board for the 2025-2026 school year accomplishes

this balance while keeping a clear focus on budget goals to maintain and enhance our current programming by:

- Bridging learning gaps and continuing to provide sustainable support through responsible and consistent resource allocation practices;
- Maintaining and enhancing support for additional student learning opportunities that provide diverse academic pathways;
- Maintaining support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students;
- Continuing to maintain and create new learning opportunities for our special education students;
- Providing dynamic and innovative learning environments that focus on engagement and belonging to help students thrive academically;
- Maintaining and enhancing existing levels of academic, behavioral, health and wellness supports;
- Continuing to improve our district facilities to ensure a safe and secure campus for staff, students, and visitors.

After you read the information within this newsletter, we encourage you to review the additional financial information available on our website at: www.bscsd.org/about/financial-information.

We greatly appreciate the community's ongoing support of our students and staff and hope to see all eligible voters at one of our voting sites on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Gianleo Duca, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Jason Fernau
President, Board of Education

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is a creative problem-solving program involving students from kindergarten through college. Teams of up to 7 students work together to solve a predefined problem and present their solution in an 8-minute skit at a competition to teams in the same division/age group. OM places a big emphasis on creativity and on the kids doing all of the work. There is also a big focus on creative use of recycling in regards to what you can do with cardboard, duct tape, and more for scenery, props and costumes. Students get to choose from 4 different problems involving things like making cars/vehicles that do certain tasks, building balsa wood structures to hold certain amounts of weight, doing skits about literature classics and more.

At competition, every team also solves a Spontaneous problem. Teams are presented with a problem that is verbal, hands-on, or a combination of both. On average, they have 10 minutes to read the problem and solve it. Both the skit (long term problem) and spontaneous problem factor into scores which lead to teams moving forward to states and then world competition.

We are proud to say that BSCSD had a strong presence with students from all our elementary schools and the middle school participating. Eleven teams participated in the tournament and 5 moved on to the New York State tournament held at the state fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY. There

was an incredibly strong showing by our school district as we had first place finishes for every problem. Even more incredible, the Middle School came away from Syracuse as the NYS Champions, qualifying them for the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University in May 2025.



The BSCSD Music Department had 85 students selected for 19 different honor ensembles at music festivals for the 2024-25 school year. They include the SWCMEA All-County Band, Choir, and Orchestra/Jazz Festivals, Suburban Council Music Festival, Hartwick College Honor Band, Zone 7 Area All-State, NYSSBA HS Concert Band, and Conference All-State Mixed Choir. To be selected for any of these groups, students must participate in the NYSSMA solo festival, then they have to apply for each festival using their NYSSMA score and a teacher recommendation. Jazz students must also submit a video audition performing an improvisation solo and playing various jazz styles. To make the Conference All-State Festival, not only do you have to perform a NYSSMA solo, you must also be recommended by your evaluator to earn one of the few spots in the highest festival in New York State.

BSCSD and our community has earned the NAMM Foundation Best Communities for Music Education

(BCME) Award 8 years in row. The BCME designation is a direct result of the community and district support of our music program and to provide quality music education for our students.

New for the 2025-26 school year, students can now earn regents credit through their participation in a High School music ensemble through the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP). Students must complete a 3 sequence in band, choir, or orchestra starting in 10th grade. Students create a portfolio that is a culmination of their community service participation, solo performance evaluation and reflection, original composition and more.

For more information about our music programs or the IAAP Graduation Pathway, please contact our K-12



Music Coordinator, Brian Retersdorf, at bretersdorf@bscsd.org.

Ballston Spa High School's Troupe

welcomes all students to join and provides a space for connection, creativity, and expression. Troupe performs two shows each year including a fall play and a spring musical. Shows can range from comedies to serious dramatic presentations. The fall production involves approximately 20 students working together both on stage and as backstage crew. Each student plays an integral part of making each production a success.

In the spring, they perform a musical which brings together over 80 students in multiple groups. These participants are divided into three groups: the cast, the backstage and technical crew, and the musical pit composed of student musicians. In recent years, Troupe, along with 20 other local schools has participated in the Proctors' High School Musical Theater Awards (HSMTA) program. Their productions of "Mean Girls" and "Beauty and the Beast" have

earned multiple nominations, including Best Student Pit, Best Actor, Best Set Construction, and Best Ensemble. Troupe has achieved significant success, winning Best Supporting

Actor and Best Musical Tier C two times. The 2025 musical, *Catch Me If You Can*, was also submitted for the HSMTA. Troupe was honored to receive the following nominations: Outstanding Orchestra, Outstanding Ensemble, (2) Outstanding Lead Performer, and Outstanding Musical Tier B.

The program's success comes from the dedicated effort of both students and production staff. With strong support from the school and local community,



Ballston Spa High School's Troupe continues to provide valuable and educational experiences for everyone involved.



Student Spotlight 2025 - The Top 10

High School Principal Matthew Robinson has announced **Audrey Bedell, Valedictorian** and **Christine Jiang, Salutatorian** for the Ballston Spa High School **Class of 2025**.



Audrey has excelled in a rigorous course load and will receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science. By starting high school level courses in middle school, Audrey was able to enroll in sixteen college and honors level courses. Audrey's cumulative GPA is a remarkable 99.508.

Audrey is a member of National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, and Science Olympiad. She has participated in dance since the second grade and assists in teaching younger students. She has played the viola in the Symphonic Orchestra, Pit Orchestra, at All-County, and NYSSMA.

Christine has excelled in a rigorous and challenging course load and will receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science. Christine began taking college level courses in middle school, which helped her enroll in twenty college level, AP, honors and International Baccalaureate classes. Christine is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Candidate. Christine's cumulative GPA is an outstanding 99.23.



Christine participates in Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field teams,

National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Students Helping Students, and True Crime Club. Additionally, Christine has worked at a restaurant as a server for the past three years. Christine will be attending college in the fall, majoring in Political Science.

In addition, we would also like to congratulate the rest of the top ten graduating seniors in the Class of 2025, including: **Noland Schmitt, Tucker Cornell, Collin Flynn, Kayleigh Cassels, Jacqueline Horsch, Mia Collins, Jessica Bowens, and Ethan Norris.**

The Class of 2025 will graduate from Ballston Spa High School on June 26, 2025 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.



New from our Special Education Department, **BEST**

Strategies The BEST (Behavior-Emotional-Social-Transition) Strategies Program is designed for students who require social-emotional and/or behavioral support to access curriculum in the general education classroom. Students that participate in the BEST Strategies Program receive resource room support as well as additional programs/services approved by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) to meet their individual learning needs. The program provides supplemental social-emotional and behavioral

support through the implementation of UCLA's Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®) for Adolescents, which is an evidence-based social skills program focused on building/maintaining relationships, handling conflict, and self-regulation. The goal of the BEST Strategies Program is to build students' social-emotional skills and independence for success in high school and as they transition to post-secondary activities. Fall 2025 will be the first year of implantation of this program. We are excited to be able to offer this support to all our students in need.

Intro to Video Production is a new course that will be offered in fall 2025 to students in grades 9-12. It is designed to introduce basic production skills and equip students with the foundational knowledge and practical skills needed for creating and broadcasting content. Students will study the basics of video production like camera operation, shot framing & composition, video editing techniques, and broadcasting.

This new course will offer students an exciting opportunity to learn more about the art and science of video broadcasting. By combining theory with hands-on practice, Introduction to Video Broadcasting prepares students to meet the challenges of an ever-changing digital media landscape. This new course will act as a prerequisite to Video and Production Broadcasting, producing the BSBS

Scotties Rundown which is broadcasted for all high school students on a weekly basis.

Video broadcasting has become one of the most powerful tools for communication, education, and entertainment in today's digital world. The introduction of this course will empower students to develop the necessary skills to navigate and excel in the world of video content creation. We are very excited to offer this program to our high school students and to see what they accomplish over the coming years.





Q: Who is eligible to vote for a school district budget?

A: A qualified voter is a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age on election day, residing in the Ballston Spa Central School District for 30 days immediately

prior to election day and registered to vote. If you are registered with the county Board of Elections to vote in a general election, you are already registered to vote on May 20th.

Absentee and early mail voting ballots are available for voters who are unable to make it to the polls on May 20, 2025. An application to obtain these is available for pickup at the District Office or by calling 518-884-7195 X1320. Completed applications must be returned to the district by May 13, 2025. Completed ballots must be received no later than 5:00 pm on May 20, 2025.

Q: What will happen if the proposed budget is not approved by voters?

A: Under New York State law, the Board of Education typically has two options when a proposed budget is not approved. The first is to put the same or modified budget up for another vote on the 3rd Tuesday in June. The other option is to immediately adopt a contingent budget. If residents fail to approve a proposed budget during a second vote, the board must adopt a contingent budget. Adoption of a contingent budget means the district cannot

increase the tax levy by any amount, according to New York State law. Reducing the tax levy to zero for Ballston Spa Central School District would force the board to reduce the budget by \$2,682,658. This would make it difficult to preserve some student programs and services and may necessitate staff reductions.

Q: Will Ballston Spa CSD be purchasing electric buses?

A: As it currently stands, all school districts in NYS are mandated to begin purchasing electric buses by 2027 and to have a fully electric school bus fleet by 2035. BSCSD has waited to make any electric bus purchases in the event those deadlines were extended. Since no modification to the mandated timelines have been made, the district is opting to purchase one electric bus for the 2025-26 school year to trial the use, charging, maintenance and repair. The funds for this purchase are included as a separate proposition on the ballot which voters will have the opportunity to decide upon.

As a general rule, the district replaces buses after 10 years of use and with a fleet of 80 buses, that means purchasing 8 new buses each year. To continue with that replacement schedule, two separate propositions are included on this year's ballot pertaining to bus purchases. One includes purchasing seven new diesel buses* (plus a bus repair vehicle) and a separate proposition includes the funds for purchasing one electric bus.

*Cost estimates are based on pre-tariff contract rates. If bus costs rise significantly, the district will buy only as many buses as the proposition amount allows.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT will be held on **May 5, 2025 at 6:00pm** in the high school library for voters to learn more about the candidates for the Board of Education. Additional information can be found on our website, www.bsccd.org.

CARRIE CHAPMAN

- **I would like to be a school board member because:** I want to support our exceptional school district by championing every student's success and promoting an inclusive community that builds a deep sense of belonging.
- **I think I am a good candidate because:** As a longtime resident, PTA president, and parent with children in the district, I am happy to roll up my sleeves to support continued improvements in our schools while also tackling any obstacles that arise.
- **I would like voters to know:** I am a native of Ballston Spa. After graduation, I moved away and traveled around the world, but when it came time to raise my children, I chose to move back to Ballston Spa. I believe in our community and I love to help make it better.



TIMOTHY TURBIAK

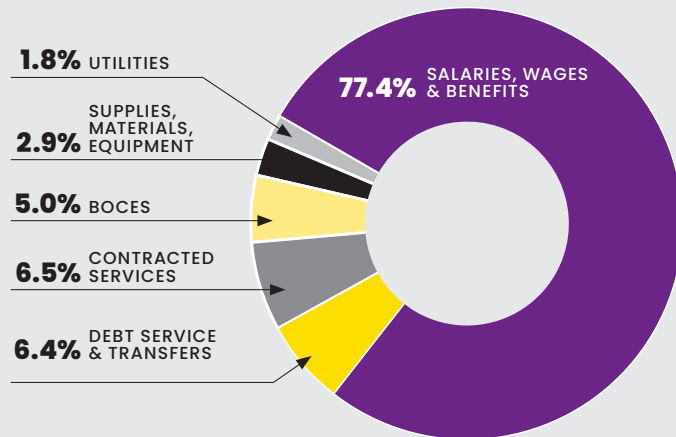
- **I would like to be a school board member because:** I want to help our students reach their fullest potential on their path to a diploma while experiencing the minimum number of obstacles along the way.
- **I think I am a good candidate because:** Besides my past experience, I will not hesitate to speak up to ensure our students are able to succeed and thrive in the world today.
- **I would like voters to know:** I will make it my utmost priority to ensure the district upholds its mission statement, that every student will receive the tools and resources required to achieve a meaningful diploma.



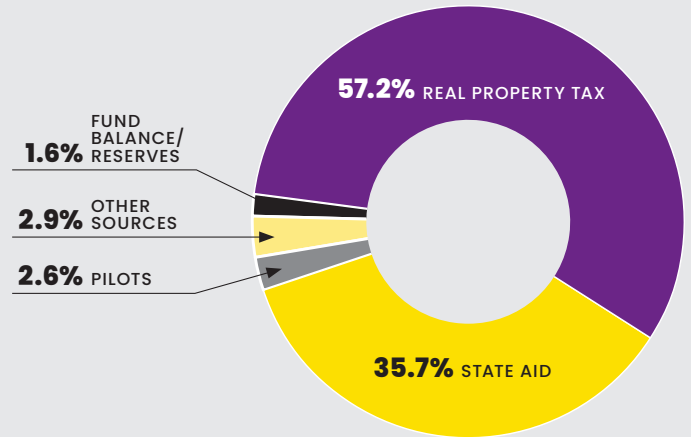


2025-2026 EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

EXPENDITURES



REVENUES



EXPENDITURES	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	Change Dollars (\$)	Change Percent (%)
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$82,662,884	\$85,338,916	\$2,676,032	3.2%
Supplies, Materials, Equipment	\$3,174,067	\$3,150,254	-\$23,813	-0.8%
Contracted Services	\$6,572,555	\$7,206,969	\$634,414	9.7%
BOCES	\$5,641,092	\$5,555,764	-\$85,328	-1.5%
Utilities	\$1,912,250	\$1,996,375	\$84,125	4.4%
Debt Service & Transfers	\$7,217,148	\$7,057,242	-\$159,906	-2.2%
Total Expenditures	\$107,179,996	\$110,305,520	\$3,125,524	2.9%

REVENUES	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	Change Dollars (\$)	Change Percent (%)
State Aid	\$38,315,996	\$39,350,381	\$1,034,385	2.7%
PILOTS	\$3,580,380	\$2,856,061	-\$724,319	-20.2%
Other Sources*	\$3,312,700	\$3,195,500	-\$117,200	-3.5%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$1,550,000	\$1,800,000	\$250,000	16.1%
Real Property Tax	\$60,420,920	\$63,103,578	\$2,682,658	4.4%
Total Revenues	\$107,179,996	\$110,305,520	\$3,125,524	2.9%

* Other Sources of Revenue include federal aid, charges to other districts, interest earnings, and other miscellaneous sources.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) For BSHS students who would like to stay on campus for their classes but have an interest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings, several options exist. Students are able to pursue programs in Business Management & Marketing, Pre-Engineering and Building Science with courses offered right at the high school. Each program includes a sequence of courses taught by CTE certified teachers and include work-based learning opportunities like service based projects, industry based competitions, and job shadowing. Each of these career pathways includes a post secondary component such as college in the high school credits or articulation agreements with colleges. All students who complete the requirements of a CTE program will receive a Technical Endorsement on their diploma indicating they are career and college ready.



Recently, the Building Science CTE program received approval by the NYS Department of Labor as a direct entry pre-apprenticeship provider (DEPA). This means students who participate in the program not only receive training and exposure to various trades but upon completion are able to directly interview with the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Apprenticeship Training program. This is a fabulous opportunity and one that very few districts are able to offer to students.



School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$107,179,996	\$110,305,520	\$107,622,862
Increase/Decrease for 2025-26 School Year		\$3,125,524	\$442,866
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.92%	0.41%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$60,420,920	\$63,103,578	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$60,420,920	\$63,103,578	\$60,420,920
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$2,332,433	\$2,006,877	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$58,859,673	\$61,536,966	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$58,088,487	\$61,096,701	
I. Difference: (G - H): Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval	\$771,186	\$440,265	
Administrative Component	\$11,000,225	\$11,422,754	\$11,100,385
Program Component	\$80,335,864	\$82,956,456	\$81,387,175
Capital Component	\$15,843,907	\$15,926,310	\$15,135,302

Contingency Budget Assumptions: A contingent budget would result in the reduction and/or elimination of certain expenses such as equipment, supplies, and personnel as determined by the Board of Education. In all, a contingent budget would require \$2,682,658 in reductions.

List of separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-2026 by the qualified voters of the Ballston Spa Central School District, Saratoga County, New York, will be held at the Ballston Spa High School for voters in District 1 and the Malta Town Hall for voters in District 2 on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Description	Amount
School District Buses & Vehicles	\$1,327,000
School District EV Bus	\$273,000
Ballston Spa Public Library	\$64,610

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

\$504

VOTE MAY 20, 2025

The annual statewide School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections will be held on May 20, 2025 from 7am-9pm. District residents vote at Ballston Spa High School (residents of the Towns of Ballston, Milton and Charlton) and the Malta Town Hall (residents of Malta).

The Bottom Line:

The adopted 2025-2026 budget for the Ballston Spa Central School District is \$110,305,520 which represents a 2.9% increase in expenditures over the 2024-2025 budget.

The projected tax levy to support the 2025-2026 budget is \$63,103,578 which represents a 4.4% increase over the 2024-2025 tax levy.

The adopted budget reallocates some of the District's current resources to help maintain equitable opportunities for all students; while increasing special education programming and support.



Ballston Spa CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

70 MALTA AVENUE
BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

518-884-7195

**VOTE
MAY 20**



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BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

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Ballston Spa
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-26 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

www.bscsd.org

Upcoming Events:

May

- 17** Family Color Fun Run
- 19** JV Spring Concert
- 20** **Budget Vote & BOE Elections**
- 20** HS Varsity Spring Concert & Senior Recognition Night
- 21** ECHS 9th/10th Grade Student Project Expo
- 26** No School - Memorial Day

June

- 5** Senior Awards Night
- 12** Clean Tech ECHS Graduation & Capstone Presentations
- 14** Senior Prom
- 19** No School - Juneteenth
- 26** BSHS Graduation
- 27** Last Day of School

Complete event information is located on the District Website's Events Calendar. Please check often for the latest info, or call the appropriate school office. Also, follow the district on X @BSCSD or Facebook/Instagram @BallstonSpaCSD for frequent updates and information.

District Budget and Vote Information

The Board of Education recently approved the proposed 2025-2026 school district budget of \$110,305,520 which represents a 2.9% increase in expenditures over the 2024-2025 budget. It now goes before the community to



vote during the annual statewide School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections that will be held on May 20, 2025 from 7:00am - 9:00pm. District residents vote at Ballston Spa High School (residents of the Towns of Ballston, Milton and Charlton) and the Malta Town Hall (residents of Malta).

The mandated School District Annual Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 7, 2025 at 6:15pm prior to the regular meeting in the Ballston Spa High School Library. It will also be broadcast on the district's YouTube channel. Questions may be submitted via email at boe@bscsd.org.