



North Rose-Wolcott CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

May 19, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
NRW High School
11631 Salter-Colvin Road
Wolcott, NY 14590



Message from the Superintendent

Dear School Community,
Thank you for your continued support of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District. With your partnership, we are able to continue offering high-quality educational programs to our students in a fiscally responsible manner.

Our May 19 budget vote is the culmination of months of diligent work between the Board of Education and district administration to develop a sound fiscal plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

The proposed budget addresses the changing financial landscape and the rising costs of day-to-day operations, as well as the loss of critical grant funding, which required us to make difficult decisions in order to present a balanced budget with future sustainability in mind. After careful deliberation, the district will reduce up to 10 staff positions across administrative, instructional and support staff, some of which will occur through retirements and attrition. We are grateful for the contributions of every staff member affected, and this was among the hardest decisions of this budget process.

Our commitment remains the same as it does with each year's budget proposal: to protect student programs to the greatest extent possible while fulfilling our responsibility to NRW taxpayers. Every decision we make is in service of providing our students with a high-quality academic experience that our families and community can be proud of.

We hope to see you at the budget vote on Tuesday, May 19. Thank you again for your partnership.

Respectfully,
Michael Pullen
Superintendent of Schools



Message From the Board of Education

Dear Fellow Community Members,

This newsletter contains information pertaining to the vote on May 19 when NRWCS voters will be asked to approve the 2026-2027 school budget proposal and the school bus purchase expenditure, elect two members to the Board of Education, and support the collection requests of the Rose and Wolcott public libraries.

As always, the budget amount presented in Proposition #1 is the culmination of months of careful and prudent preparation. It supports the District's adopted Strategic Plan by providing for the educational, physical, emotional, health and safety needs of students, appropriate staffing needs and training essentials, New York State and Federal requirement and mandate compliance, and the diligent maintenance of the District's buildings and grounds. However, this year, there has been a change in revenue sources. We can still depend on Wayne County Sales Tax income, BOCES reimbursements, some grants, and a few other small sources, but there have been substantial cuts in Federal grant funding and only a minimal increase in NYS Foundation Aid, on which we are heavily dependent. The result is a significant anticipated income shortfall. In this time of rising costs, your School Board is cognizant of that increased burden shifting onto local taxpayers. Thus, this proposed budget reflects cuts that have been made in administration, staffing and community services while maintaining areas that affect student programming and needs.

It should be noted that the school's Operating Budget is entirely separate from capital project funding. The NYS Department of Education mandates schools to maintain current building condition standards and provides special state funding to encourage regular facility upgrades. Because districts not using these funds on an ongoing, systematic basis receive lesser percentage rates, our district strives to obtain maximum state assistance in order to reduce local taxpayer responsibility, but only on a needed or mandated basis.

School Bus Proposition #2 follows an ongoing District plan to replace our buses on a regular basis. This saves money on repairs through warranty coverage, meets the most current safety standards, and gives us a substantially better trade-in value and additional transportation aid resulting from cash payments.

Proposition #3 is for financial support of the Rose and Wolcott libraries. If approved, the school district collects this money, then transfers it to the libraries. The school district has no input into the amounts requested and receives no financial benefits.

You will also be electing two members to sit on the School Board - one for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2026 and one to complete an unfinished term beginning on May 20, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2027.

The School Board thanks you for your continued support of our children's education, that they may become successful adults and productive community members.

Yours truly,
Lucinda Collier
Board of Education President



What's On The Ballot?

Proposition No. 1: 2026-2027 Budget

Shall the budget for the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, as presented by the Board of Education, in the amount of Thirty-Nine Million, Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$39,080,000) be approved and adopted, the required funds be appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law?

Proposition No. 2: Transportation Purchases and Expenditures

Shall the Board of Education of the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District be authorized to purchase the following motor vehicles for use in student transportation: three (3) 35-passenger school buses and two (2) 64-passenger school buses at an aggregate cost not to exceed \$925,000, less any trade-in value, with such sum to be paid from an expenditure from the District's existing Capital Reserve Fund (known as the "Bus Purchase Capital Reserve Fund"), established by the voters of the District in May 2023; and that the District shall be authorized to enter into one or more purchase contracts on terms satisfactory to the Board of Education, with respect to the vehicles hereby authorized to be acquired?

Proposition No. 3: Annual Library Appropriations

Shall the annual sum collected by the North Rose-Wolcott Central School District as required by New York State Education and Municipal laws for the 2026-27 operating budgets of the Wolcott Public Library and the Rose Free Library, as determined by both Library Boards of Trustees, be increased by \$27,000 to the total sum of \$286,100 annually to be allocated in the amounts of \$150,000 to the Wolcott Public Library and \$136,100 to the Rose Free Library, be approved?

Voter Qualifications

Education Law, Section 2012

A person shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election of school district officers, and upon all other matters which may be brought before such meeting or election who is a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, and a legal resident within the district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the date of the election. Your legal address is where you are registered to vote and what is listed on your driver's license, federal income tax form or car registration. To vote, you do not have to own property. You also do not have to be a parent or have children in school.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballot applications are available at the District Office, 11631 Salter-Colvin Road, Wolcott, NY 14590 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; at the district website at www.nrwcs.org; or by calling the District Clerk at (315) 594-2020. The District Clerk must receive absentee ballot applications at least seven days before the vote (**May 12, 2026**) if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the election (**May 18, 2026**) if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person. Ballots must be returned to the District Office **by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2026**.

Early Voting

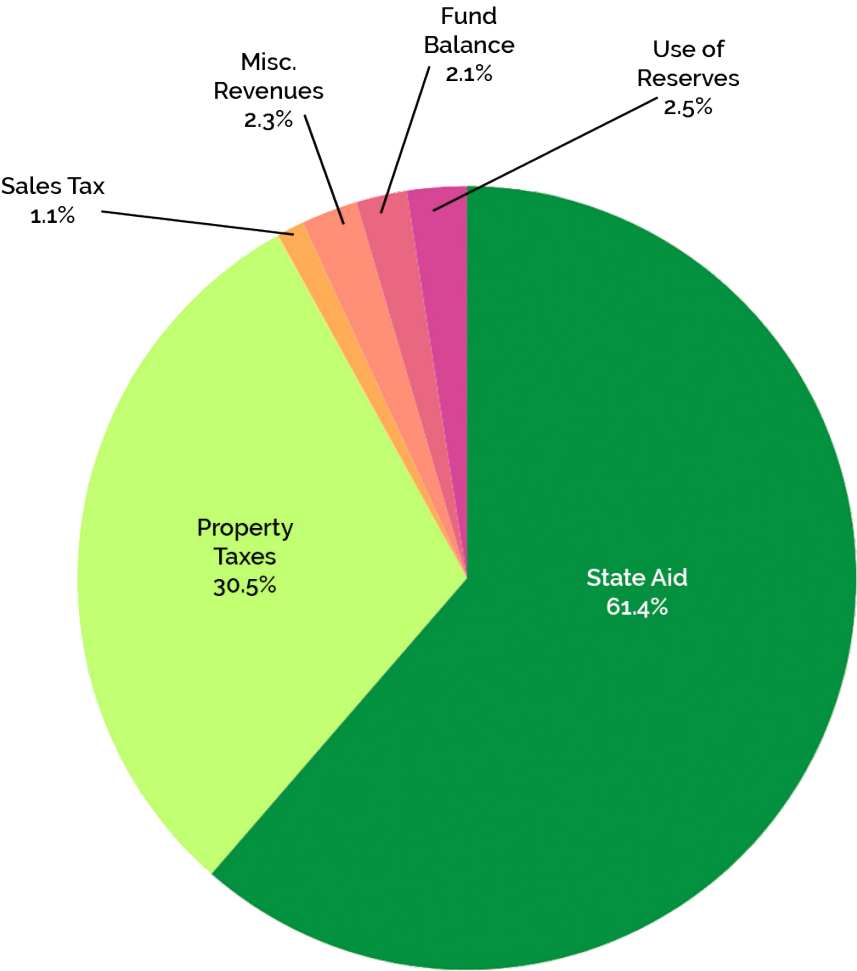
Applications for early mail ballots may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk during all days in which the School District is in session. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than **April 22, 2026** and at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The District Clerk must receive early ballots no later than **5 p.m. on May 19, 2026**.



Revenue Sources

Revenue Category	Current Budget 2025-26	Proposed Spending Plan 2026-27	Dollar Change	Percent Change
State Aid	\$23,141,244	\$23,992,744	\$851,500	3.68%
Property Taxes	\$11,534,500	\$11,923,000	\$388,500	3.37%
In Lieu of Taxes	\$16,006	\$16,006	\$0	0.00%
Sales Tax	\$440,000	\$440,000	\$0	0.00%
Other Misc Revenues	\$798,250	\$918,250	\$120,000	15.03%
Fund Balance	\$250,000	\$820,000	\$570,000	228.00%
Use of Reserves	\$970,000	\$970,000	\$0	0.00%
Total Budget	\$37,150,000	\$39,080,000	\$1,930,000	5.20%

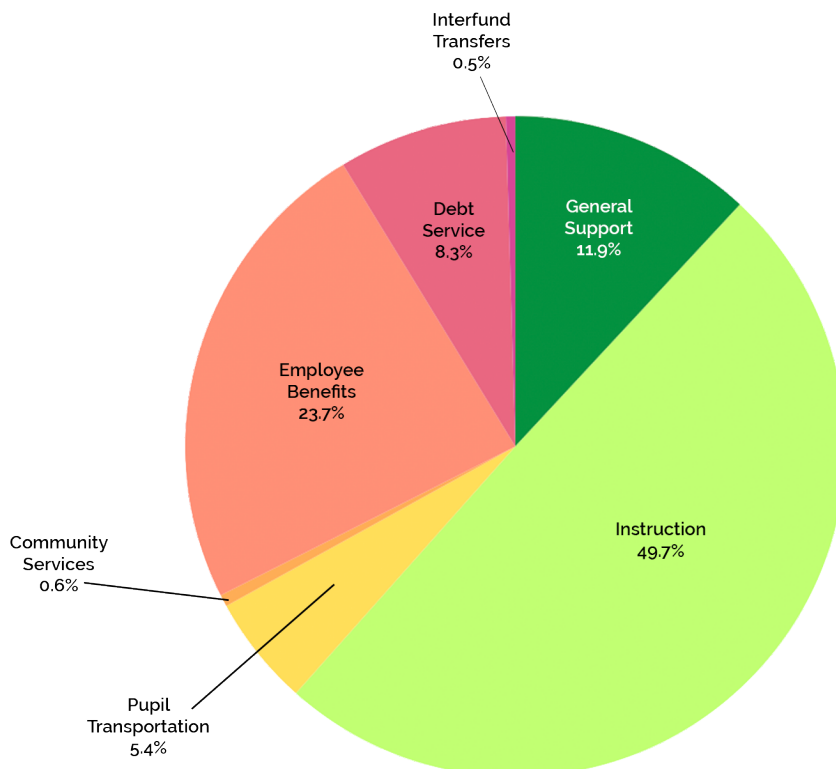
Revenues
by Category



Planned Expenditures

Expenditure Category	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	Dollar Change	Percent Change
General Support				
Board of Education	\$59,825	\$61,550	\$1,725	2.88%
Central Administration	\$353,725	\$369,550	\$15,825	4.47%
Finance	\$718,000	\$724,850	\$6,850	0.95%
Staff - <i>Legal, Personnel, Public Information</i>	\$345,275	\$263,650	(\$81,625)	-23.64%
Central Services - <i>Operations, Maintenance, Data Processing</i>	\$2,707,975	\$2,767,600	\$59,625	2.20%
Special Items - <i>Insurance, Dues, BOCES Administration, etc.</i>	\$460,300	\$469,575	\$9,275	2.01%
TOTAL General Support	\$4,645,100	\$4,656,775	\$11,675	0.25%
Instruction				
Admin & Improvement - <i>Curriculum, Supervision, In-Service Training</i>	\$1,303,475	\$1,606,100	\$302,625	23.22%
Teaching - <i>Regular Ed, Special Ed, Occ. Ed, Special Schools</i>	\$14,374,325	\$14,803,425	\$429,100	2.99%
Instructional Media - <i>Library, Computer Assisted Instruction</i>	\$1,343,875	\$1,347,350	\$3,475	0.26%
Pupil Services - <i>Guidance, Health Svcs, Psychologists, Co-curricular, Athletics</i>	\$1,749,975	\$1,647,625	(\$102,350)	-5.85%
TOTAL Instruction	\$18,771,650	\$19,404,500	\$632,850	3.37%
TOTAL Pupil Transportation	\$1,987,700	\$2,111,450	\$123,750	6.23%
TOTAL Community Services	\$226,425	\$227,850	\$1,425	0.63%
Undistributed				
Employee Benefits	\$8,606,425	\$9,265,425	\$659,000	7.66%
Debt Service	\$2,732,700	\$3,234,000	\$501,300	18.34%
Interfund Transfers	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL Undistributed	\$11,519,125	\$12,679,425	\$1,160,300	10.07%
Total Budget	\$ 37,150,000	\$39,080,000	\$1,930,000	5.20%

Expenditures by Category



What does this proposal mean for the average NRW homeowner?

Your own tax increase depends upon three main factors:

- 1) Where you live;
- 2) Changes in property assessments and final equalization rates;

3) Your participation in STAR. Senior citizens may be eligible for a STAR reduction of approximately \$70,000 in taxable assessment, while non-senior homeowners may receive a reduction of approximately \$30,000 in taxable assessment. Businesses and rental properties are not eligible for STAR.

For a House Assessed at
\$50,000

Assessed Value	50,000.00
STAR Deduction	(30,000.00)
Net Assessment	20,000.00
Est. 2026-27 TV Tax Rate/\$1,000	10.03
2025-26 TV Tax Rate/\$1,000	9.70
Difference	0.33
Estimated tax change	\$6.60

For a House Assessed at
\$100,000

Assessed Value	100,000.00
STAR Deduction	(30,000.00)
Net Assessment	70,000.00
Est. 2026-27 TV Tax Rate/\$1,000	10.03
2025-26 TV Tax Rate/\$1,000	9.70
Difference	0.33
Estimated tax change	\$23.10

**Estimates based on district's true value tax rate.*



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Proposed Spending Plan as Components

The State Education Department requires school districts to categorize the budget into three parts:

Educational Program

Includes expenses for teaching regular and special schools, i.e. employee salaries, benefits and insurance, programs for students with disabilities, occupational education, in-service training, school library/audiovisual, attendance, guidance, health services, psychological/social work services, pupil personnel services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic athletics, student transportation services, recreation/youth programs, civic activities, transfers to school lunch, school store and special aid funds.

Capital

Includes expenses for the operation and maintenance of school buildings, school bus purchases, principal and interest payments for debt service, transfers to capital and debt service funds, property tax refunds, and employee benefits attributed to salaries included in these functions.

Administrative

Includes expenses for the Board of Education, central administration, instructional supervision, curriculum development, legal services, central data processing, printing, mailing and storage, and employee benefits attributed to salaries included in these functions.

Components	Current Budget 2025-2026	Proposed Spending Plan 2026-2027	% of Spending	Dollar +/-	Percent +/-
Educational Program	\$26,689,492	\$27,590,327	70.6%	\$900,835	3.38%
Capital	\$5,800,889	\$6,401,791	16.4%	\$600,902	10.36%
Administrative	\$4,659,619	\$5,087,882	13.0%	\$428,263	9.19%
Total Budget	\$37,150,000	\$39,080,000	100.0%	\$1,930,000	5.20%



Board of Education Candidates

Residents will be asked to elect two members to the Board of Education. One term begins July 1, 2026 and ends June 30, 2031 to succeed incumbent Linda Eygnor. One term begins May 20, 2026 and ends June 30, 2027 to succeed Casie DeWispelaere, who was appointed to act until May 19, 2026 following the passing of Shelly Cahoon. The candidate who receives the most votes will receive the five-year term, and the candidate who receives the second most votes will receive the shorter term. If you wish to write in candidates who are not on the ballot, you may do so at voting time following the instructions on the ballot. Candidates are listed below in the order they appear on the ballot.

Nikole Smith

Length of Residency in NRW: 7 years

Family:

Husband Brian, children Carson (6th grade) and Sadie (3rd grade)

Education: Graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School; registered nurse with MBA in Healthcare Administration

Professional Background:

Clinical director at a care management organization supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Additional Background: Active volunteer at NRW Middle School and NRW Elementary School, youth sports coach with Jets Soccer, active church volunteer and youth group leader



Linda Eygnor

Length of Residency in NRW: 70 years

Family:

Husband Philip, children Jessica, Will and Andrea

Education: Graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School, attended SUNY Geneseo, completed graduate coursework in reading education at SUNY Oswego and a master's degree in Speech Pathology from Nazareth University

Professional Background:

Worked at North Rose-Wolcott for over 30 years, then worked an additional eight years with pre-schoolers in northern Wayne and Cayuga counties

Additional Background: Charter member of Wolcott Lioness Club, ruling elder at Huron Presbyterian Church, served on Wayne County Bicentennial Committee and currently serving on Town of Huron Bicentennial Committee, member of Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Board of Education



Wade Kniffin

Length of Residency in NRW: 11 years

Family:

Partner Denise and her son, Kyllan

Education: Graduate of Marcus Whitman High School and Flint Vocational Center

Professional Background: Rental manager and mechanic at Secor Lumber in Savannah

Additional Background: Past president of Pioneer Gas Engine Association, member of Town of Rose Zoning Board of Appeals



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Mikenzie Shear Receives W-FL Superintendent Award

North Rose-Wolcott High School senior Mikenzie Shear has been named NRW's 2026 recipient of the Wayne-Finger Lakes Superintendent Award! Mikenzie was recognized at an awards program held March 5 at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES in Newark.

One senior from each of W-FL BOCES' component districts is selected to receive the Superintendent Award. Recipients must have a GPA of 80 or higher at the end of their junior year; demonstrate leadership qualities including honesty, compassion, perseverance, responsibility, kindness, resiliency and industriousness; and have a history of service to their schools, families and communities. Nominees must also fill out an application and write an essay.

Congratulations, Mikenzie!

NRW Partners with The Social Institute to Help Students Navigate Digital World

NRW staff are partnering with The Social Institute to help students navigate the digital world with integrity and intention.

The Social Institute (TSI) teaches students practical, relevant life skills around topics such as social media, device use, screen time, and artificial intelligence (AI).

Middle and high school teachers are currently familiarizing themselves with the platform and planning the rollout of TSI lessons in their classrooms. During a professional development day on March 13, they explored the platform and learned more about The Social Institute with TSI representative Alli Lipsher.

Lipsher explained the aim isn't to abstain from technology altogether, but to use it smartly. Students are encouraged to think critically about how to use technology, to consider its impact, and to make choices that reflect their values. During the lessons, students are encouraged to share their experiences with one another, and teachers can tailor lessons to address areas where they sense their students need the most support.

We look forward to working with TSI on helping our students become well-informed, responsible digital citizens!



Founder's Day Assembly Celebrates Bicentennial of "Old Wolcott" Towns

On April 9, North Rose-Wolcott High School students and staff joined forces with local officials, historians, and other community guests to celebrate a significant milestone in local history.

April marked the 200th anniversary of the towns of Butler, Huron and Rose and the re-establishment of the borders of their parent municipality, the Town of Wolcott. A special Founder's Day assembly marked the occasion with musical performances, reflections, and historical overviews. Students and staff worked alongside town historians to organize Thursday's program.

Student speakers shared facts and favorites about their home towns, and the NRWHS choir and band performed songs of celebration. The NRWHS AV Club showed a preview of a short film they are working on, featuring historical images and interviews with senior members of the community about growing up in the "Old Wolcott" towns.

Proclamations were presented to each town by State Assemblyman Brian Manktelow and staff members of U.S. Representative Claudia Tenney and State Senator Pamela Helming.

While the "Old Wolcott" towns split in 1826, they would come together again 143 years later with the merging of the North Rose and Wolcott school districts in 1969. The Founder's Day assembly was a unique opportunity to help students learn more about the past and their role in carrying history forward.

Old Wolcott celebrations are planned at the middle and elementary schools and in the four towns throughout 2026.



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NRW High School Celebrates Class of 2026 Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Top 10

North Rose-Wolcott High School is pleased to celebrate the valedictorian, salutatorian and students with the top 10 academic averages in the Class of 2026. The students and their families were honored with a breakfast at the high school on March 27, 2026.

The valedictorian of the North Rose-Wolcott Class of 2026 is **Marcus Haffner**. After graduation, Marcus will participate in a two-year mission in Auckland, New Zealand. He will then enroll at Brigham Young University to study accounting.

The salutatorian of the NRW Class of 2026 is **Margaret Wanek**. Maggie will attend Clemson University to study nutrition on a pre-med track.

The other members of the Top 10 of the Class of 2026 are as follows:

3. **Madelyn Evans** plans to attend Roberts Wesleyan University for nursing and will be enrolled in their global honors program.

4. **Liliana Mastrangelo** will attend Syracuse University to study political science and public policy on a pre-law track.

5. **Avery Boogaard** plans to attend the University of South Carolina and will major in biology on a pre-dental track, then plans to attend dental school.

6. **Grey Masten** will attend Marist University and study film and television.

7. **Julia Shipley** will attend SUNY New Paltz for art education.

8. **Grace Cahoon** will attend SUNY Geneseo for accounting, then plans to pursue a master's degree and become a Certified Public Accountant.

9. **Emily Nevlezer** will attend Keuka College and major in nursing.

10. **Raegan Jackson** will attend Empire Beauty School to study cosmetology.



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North Rose-Wolcott Central School District

11631 Salter-Colvin Road
Wolcott, NY 14590
(315) 594-3141

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TRAVIS KERR
Board Member

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MICHAEL PULLEN

ECRWSS

RURAL ROUTE OR P.O. BOX HOLDER

Celebrate an NRW Staff Member with Cougar Kudos!

This school year, NRW introduced the Cougar Kudos recognition program to honor staff members who go above and beyond for students, families, colleagues and the community.

So far, over 300 submissions have been sent in to honor our amazing staff members, and we are always looking for more! Whether it's a teacher who motivates their students, a bus driver who shows kindness, or a staff member who lends a helping hand, we want our entire community to know how our amazing staff members are making a positive impact at NRW every day!

Anyone in the community can nominate an NRW staff member for Cougar Kudos by filling out a form at www.nrwcs.org/kudos or scanning the QR code to the right.

Recipients are honored at the end of every month on our website and social media channels.



COUGAR KUDOS



***Nominate a Staff
Member Today!***

Scan the QR code or
access our nomination form
at www.nrwcs.org/kudos.



For district information including a calendar of events, NRW Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the district website: nrwcs.org