



Remember to Vote on May 15
2018-19 School Budget Vote & Board of Education Election, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Special Persons Night
WES hosts annual Grandparents & Special Persons Night on May 14, 6 p.m.



Public Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 8 at 6 p.m., WJSHS conference room

Watervliet

CITY SCHOOLS

News and information from our schools

Proposed budget maintains educational opportunities, tax levy increase below 'cap' Community to vote on \$27.4 million school budget proposal May 15

On Tuesday, May 15, Watervliet City School District residents will vote on a proposed \$27,411,000 budget for the 2018-19 school year. Voting will take place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at two polling locations: Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks Lodge (see page 4).

The proposed budget increases spending 2.69 percent, or \$719,000 more than the current-year budget. The fiscal plan maintains all academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, and instructional supports for students.

The proposal carries a tax levy increase of 2.03 percent, which is below the district's limit as determined by the state's tax "cap" formula.

Under the proposed budget, district officials estimate school taxes would increase \$16 more per \$100,000 of assessed property value in the City of Watervliet, and \$24 more per \$100,000 of assessed property value in Mannsville. These tax estimates are based on current information. School tax rates are set after the district receives the final

tax assessment roll in August.

Watervliet will receive a net increase of \$412,000 in state aid next year, a 2.21 percent increase. This includes approximately \$254,000 in foundation aid, which covers the daily costs of district operations. The remaining \$158,000 of the increase represents expense-driven aid categories, such as transportation and BOCES aid, that the district receives as reimbursement for expenses incurred the previous year.

Superintendent Dr. Lori Caplan said the district has taken a conservative approach with its budget proposal.

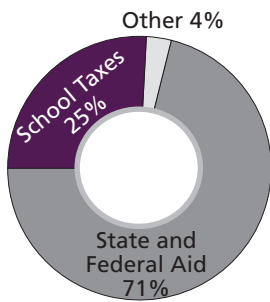
"Essentially we have a status quo budget that will allow us to continue to offer the same level of programming to students," said Dr. Caplan. "Where we can, we look to create new academic opportunities that are cost-neutral; for example, a new coding course at the high school next year."



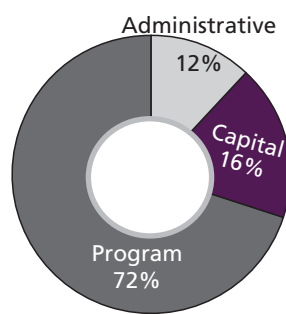
Congratulations Class of 2018 valedictorian Bethany Livsey and salutatorian Meghan Murray! More about the Class of 2018 top 10 scholars on page 4.

—continued on page 3

2018-19 Revenue Sources



2018-19 Projected Expenses



Where Watervliet's education dollars come from

Source of Revenue	2017-18 Budget	Proposed 2018-19 Budget	\$ Change
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$182,000	\$186,000	\$4,000
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	31,000	33,000	2,000
Consumer Utility Tax	325,000	325,000	—
Charges for Services	48,000	49,000	1,000
Interest and Earnings	33,000	25,000	(8,000)
Miscellaneous	210,000	210,000	—
Total State Aid	18,622,000	19,034,000	412,000
Total Federal Sources	301,000	319,000	18,000
Interfund Transfers	—	—	—
School Taxes	6,790,000	6,930,000	140,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	150,000	300,000	150,000
Total	\$26,692,000	\$27,411,000	\$719,000

Visit watervlietcityschools.org for a glossary of budget terms, as well as more information about the proposed 2018-19 school budget.

How Watervliet's education dollars are spent

Budget Expense Category	Proposed Administrative 18-19 Budget	Proposed Program 18-19 Budget	Proposed Capital 18-19 Budget	Proposed Total 18-19 Budget	Total 2017-18 Budget	\$ Change
Board of Education	\$8,000	—	—	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$—
Central Administration	222,000	—	—	222,000	212,000	10,000
Finance	253,000	—	—	253,000	273,000	(20,000)
Staff	153,000	—	—	153,000	162,000	(9,000)
Central Services	467,000	—	723,000	1,190,000	1,313,000	(123,000)
Special Items	274,000	—	—	274,000	269,000	5,000
Administration & Improvement	1,019,000	—	—	1,019,000	951,000	68,000
Teaching-Regular School	—	6,673,000	—	6,673,000	6,626,000	47,000
Special/Occ. Ed Programs	—	4,467,000	—	4,467,000	3,942,000	525,000
Teaching-Summer School	—	54,000	—	54,000	53,000	1,000
Instructional Media	—	292,000	—	292,000	301,000	(9,000)
Pupil Services	—	1,278,000	—	1,278,000	1,303,000	(25,000)
Pupil Transportation	—	1,111,000	—	1,111,000	1,087,000	24,000
Employee Benefits	829,000	5,754,000	210,000	6,793,000	6,540,000	253,000
Debt Service	—	—	3,579,000	3,579,000	3,601,000	(22,000)
Interfund Transfers	—	—	45,000	45,000	51,000	(6,000)
Total	\$3,225,000	\$19,629,000	\$4,557,000	\$27,411,000	\$26,692,000	\$719,000

2018-19 Budget, from page 1

Recognizing that some students are better served in a non-traditional classroom setting, the district has budgeted for additional students to attend the Capital Region BOCES Career and Technical School, and the BOCES Pathways Academy, an alternative education program introduced by BOCES earlier this year.

“We are committed to providing educational experiences that meet the diverse needs of all our learners,” Dr. Caplan said. “We have 15 students enrolled

in the BOCES Pathways program who were struggling to get by in the regular classroom and are now thriving. The feedback from the students and their parents has been overwhelmingly positive.”

To offset the spending increase in the 2018-19 budget, the district identified savings of \$333,000 due to retirements, a decrease in charter school enrollment and a reduction in some BOCES services. In addition, the district will apply \$300,000 from its fund balance.

Watervliet School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-19 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$26,692,000	\$27,411,000	\$27,273,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$719,000	\$581,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.69%	2.17%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$6,792,226	\$6,930,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	–	–	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	–	–	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	–	–	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$6,792,226	\$6,930,000	\$6,792,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	–	–	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,793,897	\$6,933,557	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$6,792,226	\$6,930,000	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,671	\$3,557	
Administrative Component	\$3,237,000	\$3,225,000	\$3,225,000
Program Component	\$18,845,000	\$19,629,000	\$19,491,000
Capital Component	\$4,610,000	\$4,557,000	\$4,557,000
<p>*If the proposed budget is defeated on May 15, the Board of Education will have three options: present the same budget to voters a second time; present a revised budget to voters; or adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is again defeated, the board must adopt a contingent budget. Under the tax levy limit law, school districts can levy a tax no greater than that of the prior year, or a 0 percent increase, in a contingent budget. The Watervliet City School District would be required to eliminate an additional \$138,000 in proposed spending for the 2018-2019 school year.</p> <p>** The district does not have any separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount.</p>			
		Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$464 City of Watervliet \$441 Town of Colonie		

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Watervliet school district, Albany County, New York, will be held at two polling locations: Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks, in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by digital voting machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Board of Education

Sheri Senecal, *President*
Heather Soroka, *Vice President*
Stephen Hoffman
Jeffrey Shellenberger
Mary Beth Whited

Administration

Dr. Lori S. Caplan
Superintendent of Schools
Keith Heid
Business Manager
Janelle O. Yanni
Director of Programs
& Pupil Services
Kirsten DeMento
Director of Curriculum &
Instruction

Postal Customer

Editor: Judy Frost, jfrost@vliet.nerac.org
Produced by the Watervliet City School District
in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES
Communications Service.

Voting Information

➤ **You are eligible to vote** if you are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.

➤ **You must be pre-registered to vote.** Bring proof of identity to the polls, such as a driver's license or non-driver's ID card. For information on pre-registering, call the business office: 518-629-3203.

➤ **Absentee ballots.** Residents interested in voting by absentee ballot may pick up an application at the district office. Details about absentee ballots can be found on the district website: www.watervlietcityschools.org

Polling sites for Tuesday, May 15 vote

For the school budget vote and Board of Education election on May 15, eligible voters will cast their ballots at one of two sites:

- District 1 – the Watervliet Elks Lodge, 501 4th Avenue
All locations in the district south of the northernmost wall of the Arsenal and the entire area of Mannsville.
- District 2 – Watervliet Elementary School, 2557 Tenth Avenue
All locations in the district north of the northernmost wall of the Arsenal.

Also on the ballot:

■ **Board of Education election:** Voters will elect two candidates to serve three-year terms on the Board of Education.

Visit www.watervlietcityschools.org for more information

Watervliet High School top scholars



Congratulations to the Top 10 scholars in the Class of 2018, (l-r): Meghan Murray (2), Alexis Wilson (9), Angela Keefer (6), Maria Baughn (3), Sheila Caminiti (5), Haadia Faheem (7), Bethany Livsey (1), Hosnieh Nazari (8), and Patrick Ethier (4). Missing from photo: Parisa Nori (10)
For more on the Class of 2018 Top 10 students and their post-graduation plans, visit: www.watervlietcityschools.org.