

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## VOTE

Tuesday  
May 16, 2017

12 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Walter B. Howard  
Elementary School Gymnasium

### 2017-18 BUDGET SUMMARY

#### Proposed Budget:

\$12,409,824

#### Budget-to-Budget Decrease:

-1.15%

#### Estimated Tax Levy Decrease:

-1.18%

### Voters to Decide on Three Separate Propositions

**Proposition 1:** \$12,409,824 Proposed Budget 2017-18

**Proposition 2:** \$8,755,000 District-Wide Renovations

**Proposition 3:** \$3,100,000 Gym Addition Renovation at Walter B. Howard Elementary School

### School Board Election

Voters will also be asked to elect two candidates to the Board of Election.

Richard Sime has declared his candidacy. Each seat is a three-year non-paid term.



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### 2017-2018 SCHOOL BUDGET:

## Budget Preserves Programs, Decreases Spending, and Cuts Tax Levy by 1.18%

### Residents to vote on proposed budget & renovation project May 16

The New Lebanon community will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 16 to vote on a \$12,409,824 proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year. The community will also consider an \$11,855,000 renovation project to address security, efficiency and outdated or obsolete facilities.

The plan represents a decrease in spending over the current year's budget and a decrease in the tax levy, which means a tax cut of 1.18%. An increase in state aid, efficient and flexible staffing and close monitoring of benefits has allowed the district to contain spending.

**"The district remains committed to putting forth a budget that provides a strong educational program for our students and maintains fiscal stability."** – Superintendent Leslie Whitcomb

The proposed budget maintains all the current student services and programs that have been at the heart of a New Lebanon education: a half-day Pre-K program, small class sizes, clubs, sports, recreational opportunities, and individual planning for higher education and careers. The budget supports our comprehensive program including extensive electives: computer, art, music and health courses beginning at the elementary level and available through grade 12. It also provides for college-credit courses in math, science, social studies, art, business, English and technology.



# Continuing Opportunities for Students

Here are examples of what the district will continue to provide students with the proposed 2017-18 school budget:

## Walter B. Howard Elementary

- Small class sizes (average 15) to allow individualized instruction
- Reading and support staff focused on primary grades, to ensure a strong academic start
- Columbia Teachers College reading and writing curricula provides research-based instruction
- More than one hour reading time at all grades keeps focus on literacy development
- Special area classes enrich learning in health, computer science, physical education, art, music and library
- Students in grades K-3 participate in Physical Education daily and four times a week for grades 4-6
- Distance learning lab in which every classroom goes on virtual fieldtrips throughout the year
- All students participate in music performance beginning in grade 4; the district supports instrumental participation for students who cannot afford an instrument
- Swim instruction in grades 4-6 promotes water safety.
- Afterschool activities are supported to encourage participation of all students in areas of interest: athletics, games, programming, drama and music
- Science instruction in a dedicated lab allows all elementary students to use standard lab equipment to conduct experiments and engage in observational science
- Fieldtrips for students during the year include Nature's Classroom for grades 5 & 6, Medieval Times, science museum in New Jersey and more

## Jr/Sr High School

- Small class sizes (average 15) allow for individualized instruction
- A full range of elective offerings minimizes study halls and increases instructional opportunities
- Counseling support allows each student to develop and annually revise their high school plan – individualizing their course selections to meet their post-graduate goals
- Dedicated faculty continually develops electives to ensure that our students have engaging opportunities to explore nano-science, humanities, engineering and programming throughout their high school careers
- Students have access to three fixed computer labs, two mobile labs and we will be piloting a full class set of chromebooks during the 2017-18 school year
- Participation in our high-quality music program exceeds 60%, with many students performing in regional festivals and competitions
- The New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School currently offers 13 college-level courses with dual credits available from Columbia-Greene Community College, Hudson Valley Community College, SUNY Oswego and SUNY Albany
- Electives are available in all content areas
- Jr/Sr High School students receive daily structured recreational opportunities during their lunch period
- Extracurricular offerings are designed to include all interests: Appetites Anonymous, Drama Club, Environmental Club, Future Cities Club, Literary Arts Club, SADD, Spanish Club, Spirit Club, Student Council, Travel Club and Yearbook

## What You Will Be Voting On

District residents will be asked to vote on the proposed budget, renovation project and to elect two members to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 16.

### PROPOSITION 1: BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the New Lebanon Central School District for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$12,409,824 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law.

### PROPOSITION #2

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to: (1) reconstruct various School District buildings, reconstruct athletic fields and tracks, perform site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings and athletic fields are to be used, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$8,755,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) expend \$2,150,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund and \$850,000 of unappropriated fund balance; (4) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid and the amount

expended from the Capital Reserve Fund and unappropriated fund balance; and (5) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$5,755,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

### PROPOSITION #3

If Proposition #2 is approved by the voters, shall the Board of Education be authorized to: (1) construct an addition to and reconstruct the gymnasium at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School, perform site work and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such building is to be used, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$3,100,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$3,100,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

### BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education to a three-year term starting July 1, 2017 and expiring on June 30, 2020.

# 2017–18 New Lebanon CSD Budget

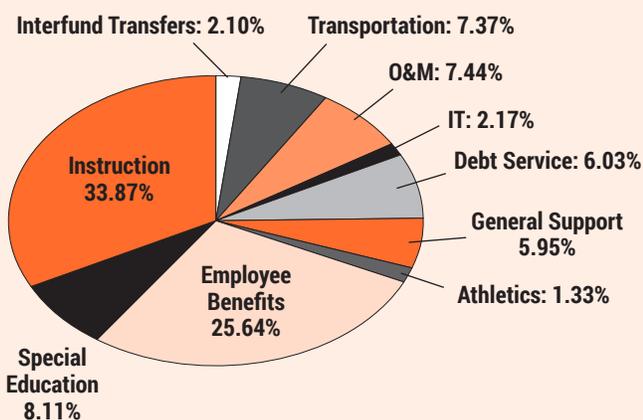
## EXPENDITURES

Category	2016-17	Proposed 2017-18 Budget	Change from 2016-17
Instruction	\$4,167,992	\$4,202,633	\$34,641
Special Education	\$1,033,971	\$1,005,878	(\$28,092)
Employee Benefits	\$3,454,898	\$3,181,692	(\$273,206)
Information Technology	\$190,711	\$268,917	\$78,206
General Support	\$725,436	\$738,775	\$13,339
Operations and Maintenance	\$916,585	\$922,947	\$6,362
Co-Curricular and Athletics	\$164,950	\$165,050	\$100
Transportation	\$827,199	\$915,218	\$88,019
Debt Service	\$864,463	\$748,025	(\$116,438)
Interfund Transfers	\$208,000	\$260,689	\$52,689
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12,554,205</b>	<b>\$12,409,824</b>	<b>(\$144,381)</b>

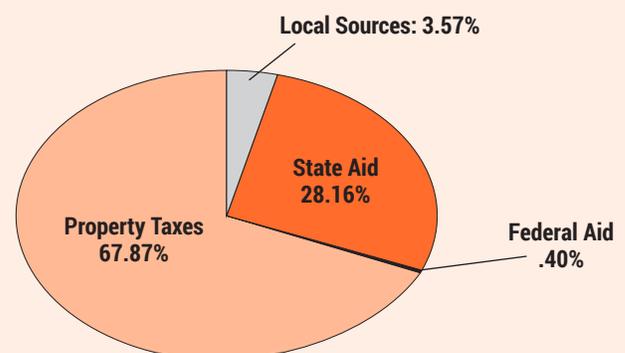
## REVENUES

Category	2016-17	Proposed 2017-18 Budget	Change from 2016-17
Local Sources	\$444,000	\$443,000	(\$1,000)
State Aid	\$3,541,861	\$3,494,235	(\$47,626)
Federal Aid	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$5,000
Property Taxes	\$8,523,344	\$8,422,589	(\$100,755)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,554,205</b>	<b>\$12,409,824</b>	<b>(\$144,381)</b>

### EXPENDITURES



### REVENUES



# Renovation Project Vote May 16

On May 16 the New Lebanon community will vote on an \$11,855,000 renovation project to address security, efficiency and outdated or obsolete facilities. Just as we have done with our annual budget process, the plan for this Capital Project looks to balance the needs of our students while having zero impact on taxpayers.

Some of the renovations at the Jr/Sr High School include bathrooms, repairing flooring, replacing doors, renovating the locker rooms and replacing kitchen equipment. Renovations at WBH include renovating the kitchen and replacing outdated equipment, constructing a secure entrance and expanding the gymnasium to a full size gym. Updates to meet current code issues include adding lockdown hardware at corridor doors, replacing 1930's door frames with fire rated frames and replacing fire alarm system panels. A newsletter with details about the Renovation Project was mailed to residents on April 10. For more information about the project and to view the scope of work go to <http://www.newlebanoncsd.org/renovation-project/>.

## NO LOCAL TAX IMPACT EXPECTED FOR RENOVATION PROJECT

Long term facilities and financial planning will allow this project to be done with ZERO increase to the local tax levy. New York State would provide the reimbursement of approximately 45% over 15 years for principal and interest payments. To minimize borrowing, the district plans to utilize \$3 million from the Capital Reserve and budgeted funds. Portions of the project are eligible for \$288,073 of Smart Schools Funding from New York State to additionally reduce costs. Lastly, debt from a previous project is slated to retire, which will offset year-to-year impacts on local taxpayers.



## Q & A

### What are the Financial Details?

The maximum cost of the project, if both propositions are approved, is \$11,855,000. This cost includes conservative contingencies for different things, such as asbestos abatement, that may not come to fruition. That being said, we believe that the final cost may in fact be less, and it is our goal to complete the needed work at the lowest possible cost to our taxpayers. This cost will be offset by \$3,000,000 that the district has saved through a combination of Capital Reserve and budgeted funds. The district would bond for the remainder of the cost at a maximum of \$8,755,000. Any money that is borrowed will be bonded over a 15 year term to coincide with New York State Building Aid that will reimburse the district for approximately 45% of the cost including principal and interest. New Lebanon will also utilize \$288,073 of Smart Schools Funding from New York State to additionally reduce costs. Because any new debt would replace existing debt that we will be paying off, there will be no additional cost to taxpayers. This approach aligns with our long term financial goal to maintain or reduce costs to our taxpayers.

### Why do we have to vote on these propositions if the Board has already approved this work?

The District is required by law to have voter approval for any project that requires the borrowing of funds.

### What happens if bids for the renovation project come to more than \$11,855,000?

As with any project proposal that voters approve, the Board of Education can only spend up to the specific amount approved by voters. If renovation bids are higher than estimated, the district would scale back the scope of work in the project to stay within the authorized amount.

### What happens if the 2nd proposition doesn't pass, can the 3rd proposition pass?

No. Proposition 3 is contingent on Proposition 2 passing.

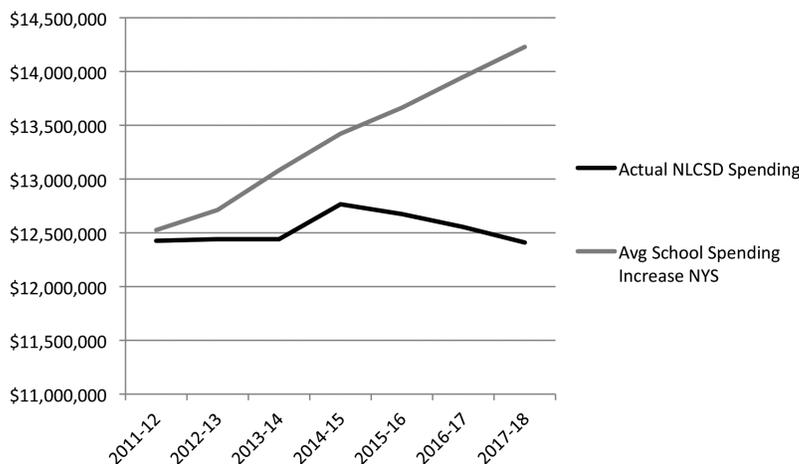
### What happens if the 3rd proposition doesn't pass, can the 2nd proposition pass?

Yes, If Proposition 3 doesn't pass and Proposition 2 passes, the work for Proposition 2 can be completed.

### How does the Renovation Project affect the school budget for the 2017-18 school year?

Simply put, it doesn't. If the project is passed, the work will be done and it will have no impact on the school budget.

## NLCSD Spending vs. Average NYS School Spending



## STATE REQUIRED BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 12,554,205	\$12,409,824	\$12,510,579										
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		-\$144,381	-\$43,626										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-1.15 %	-.35%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,523,344	\$8,422,589											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	N/A	N/A											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	N/A	N/A											
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)	\$8,523,344	\$8,422,589	\$8,523,344										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$339,368	\$466,817											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,185,020	\$8,427,811											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,183,976	\$7,955,772											
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,044	\$472,039											
Administrative Component	\$1,178,296	\$1,202,962	\$1,303,717										
Program Component	\$9,416,860	\$9,192,201	\$9,192,201										
Capital Component	\$1,959,049	\$2,014,661	\$2,014,661										
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.													
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)													
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Renovation Project NL JR/SR HS &amp; WBH Elementary School</td> <td>\$8,755,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Renovation Project- WBH Gym Addition</td> <td>\$3,100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	Amount	Renovation Project NL JR/SR HS & WBH Elementary School	\$8,755,000	Renovation Project- WBH Gym Addition	\$3,100,000				
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Renovation Project- WBH Gym Addition	\$3,100,000												

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$423.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the New Lebanon Central School District, Columbia County, New York, will be held at the Walter B. Howard School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Timothy Lambert, *President*  
Michael Bienes, *Vice President*  
Michael Brutsch  
Raymona Griffin  
Sharon Putnam  
Christine Sotek  
Janet Stone

*Board meetings are held at 7 p.m.  
Please visit our website for specific dates.*

[www.newlebanoncsd.org](http://www.newlebanoncsd.org)

## SUPERINTENDENT

Leslie Whitcomb

*Produced by Questar III Communications Service*

## POSTAL PATRON

## BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**  
**12–9 p.m.**  
Walter B. Howard Elementary  
School Gymnasium

## OUR PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 93% of third graders read on grade level
- 45: The number of college credits available to students through dual credit courses
- 70% of students participate in a sports team
- 94% of students participate in the arts
- 97% of seniors will graduate with credits in engineering and computer science courses
- 100% of students Pre-K to grade 12 have daily recess
- 34% of students enroll in classes that can lead to college credits earned in high school
- 100% of students grades 4-6 participate in performance music program
- 60% of Jr/Sr High School students participate in performance music
- 100% of students grades 9-12 have a 4-year high school to graduation plan
- 45% of seniors took an art or music course every year in high school

## Voting Information

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

**Absentee Ballots:** Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 16 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the district office at 794-7600. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 16.

*Copies of the itemized budget are available online, in your Town Library or in the school main offices.*

