



### **24-25 School Budget Update:**

March 25, 2024

Dear Community Members,

Our school district and several others around our state are facing a challenging budget year. New Lebanon's Board of Education held a meeting on Wednesday, March 6th to discuss how they are going to balance an approximate two million dollar budget gap for the 24-25 school year. The board decided that they are going to use a combination of means to balance the school budget. Possible options include a combination of: using district fund balance, utilizing funds from restricted reserves, increasing taxes either at the allowable tax cap or maybe over the tax cap, making reductions in programs, and/or utilizing the debt service fund. The New Lebanon Board of Education discussed all of their options at this March meeting, but have not finalized any decisions.

For more specifics on the board's budget options see. "Budget presentation #3" on our budget page web-site:

<https://www.newlebanoncsd.org/district/budget/>

The BOE will continue their discussion and plan to make decisions with the goal of balancing the 24-25 school budget. We will host a special budget workshop on April 10th at 6pm that will take place at the WBH library. All are welcome to attend. The Board of Education will work hard to put together a budget that supports our students' needs, provides our students the opportunities they need to receive a well rounded and successful education, while also creating a budget that is fiscally responsible for our tax payers.

As shared in past correspondences, this budget is a challenging one for numerous reasons. The NY Governor proposed a reduction of our district's state aid from previous years. Typically, school districts can depend on at least receiving the same amount of state aid as the previous school year and on most occasions receive an increase due to the year's inflation. This year we received a proposed reduction in state aid from previous school years. Like all businesses and households, our expenses are increasing due to employee salary increases, health insurance increases, inflation of supplies, etc. Over the past year the district has also had extra expenses for specific programming for our students. This includes an increase in special education services based on student need, mental health supports, and English language support

services. These are all mandated services that our students need and their costs must be added to the budget.

As superintendent, I have been advocating hard for our district. On numerous occasions, I met with our local politicians, pleading with them to vote no to the Governor's proposed state aid reduction to our school district and to restore and possibly even increase our state aid. I am very pleased to say our assembly members and senators have been incredibly supportive and are promising their support for not only New Lebanon but all school districts. Below is a link from an educational rally I attended this past Friday hosted by Senator Hinchey on properly funding our children's education. The assembly and senate plan to negotiate and vote on a state budget in April.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/michelle-hinchey/hinchey-leads-rally-call-full-funding-rural-and>

**Future Budget Related Meetings:**

- Wednesday, April 10th - NL Board of Education Budget Worksop - 6pm at the WBH library
- Tuesday, April 23rd - 7pm - NL Board Meeting - Board will approve the final 24-25 budget - (This is a date change - we moved the meeting originally scheduled on April 17th to Tuesday, April 23rd in hopes that NY state will have an approved/official budget by this date.)
- Wednesday, May 8th - 7pm - NL Board Meeting - School Budget Public Hearing
- Tuesday, May 21st - School budget vote - 12pm to 8pm at the WBH gym

As always, thank you for your support of the New Lebanon Central School District. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Fondly,  
Andrew Kourt  
Superintendent of Schools