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VOTE

May 17, 2022

12:00pm - 9:00pm

at Walter B. Howard
Elementary School
Gymnasium

2022-2023 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

\$12,924,465

Estimated Average Tax Rate
Increase 2.3%

School Board Election

This year three seats are available. John Kalisz, and Robert Long are running unopposed, and Charleen Kane has petitioned for her first term. The district would like to thank retiring member and prior board president Timothy Lambert for his 14 years of service.

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2022-2023 SCHOOL BUDGET:

Get Out and Vote - New Lebanon Central School District Budget Vote - May 17, 2022

On Tuesday, May 17th the New Lebanon community will vote on a \$12,924,465 proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Last year the district had to make some difficult budget decisions and was forced to reduce spending by \$641,463. The current proposed budget addresses some of last year's reductions without over burdening our tax payers. The proposed budget utilizes an increase in state aid and will meet our student's needs as we continue to move past the pandemic. It also addresses the many increases in costs due to inflation. The budget would also support a water filtration system that is needed at our Jr./Sr. High School.

The board of education and the New Lebanon Central School District worked diligently to present a budget to our community that maintains the high quality academic and extracurricular activities that New Lebanon Central is known for, but is also fiscally responsible. To balance the budget and to meet our students' needs, this budget would raise the tax levy by 2.3% for a total of \$8,794,685. This amount is within the allowable tax increase limit of 2.8%.

On May 17th, voters will find a bus proposition to allow the district to borrow money to purchase two new school buses. The district has a couple buses that need to be replaced due to age and high mileage. Student safety is always the district's top priority. Adding two new buses to our fleet would allow the district to continue providing safe transportation for our students.

The district's goal is to maintain a high-quality experience for our students while assuming full responsibility for balancing the budget and planning for New Lebanon Central's future. For more information and specifics on the 2022-2023 New Lebanon School budget proposal, please see our district website at www.newlebanoncsd.org/district/budget. Be sure to get out and vote on Tuesday, May 17th at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School.



District Creates Learning Programs for Students Who Need Extra Support

New this year the district created after school learning programs at the Jr./Sr. High School, and Walter B. Howard Elementary school. The programs provide extra help for students who have unfinished learning or need extra support with their schoolwork.

At the Jr./Sr. High School there are two parts to the program. The credit recovery portion gives a student who didn't receive credit for a class in the previous year the opportunity to earn those credits, and the credit rescue portion which is for current students who are failing a course that is in progress. The recovery program helps students stay on the right path with the goal of moving on to the next grade level or graduating with their peers.

"It's about prioritizing. It's about making sure that they get as much as they possibly can while still not overwhelming them. You don't want to make a kid feel like it's not going to happen, you need to encourage them." says high school math teacher Christine Neumann.

Neumann, and middle school ELA teacher Amanda Starks run the program that meets with students after school two days a week.

"A lot of our kids are with us for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they just didn't understand the material in that time frame, and this gives them the chance to hopefully understand it better. But we also know that last year was a wild year." says Starks

Throughout the pandemic in the 2020-2021 school year, high school students were placed on hybrid schedules which resulted in students learning in-person two days a week. High School students participated in virtual learning the other three days. (Elementary and middle school aged students learned in person four days a week and one day virtually.) This style of learning proved to be very difficult for some students. The district anticipated that some students were going to be behind due to learning loss associated with the pandemic. Due to the pandemic's impact in student learning the district designed the credit recovery program.

"It is not always about when you learn, it is about making sure that the learning occurs. This is our responsibility as educators. We want our students to be able to move forward as opposed to digging a hole for themselves



that they can't climb out of." says high school principal Matt Klafehn

At the elementary level the programs focus on skill-based work in math and reading for grades 2-6. Fourth grade math teacher Alex Chandler and reading specialist Michelle Bruns run the after-school program. Based on teacher recommendation Bruns and Chandler target the areas the students are struggling with the most.

"The program is important because it gives us the opportunity to target skills with students that they might not always be able to get within the whole classroom setting" says Chandler.

District Distributes Chromebooks to Students

This year the district has distributed over 400 Chromebooks to students in grades K-12 as a part of Smart Schools state funding and ECF Grant. Giving each student their own Chromebook has been beneficial for both students and teachers.

Walter B. Howard Elementary School Principal Josh Noble notes the value and importance of having Chromebooks in the classroom. "Access to Chromebooks has provided opportunities for our students and teachers to access our library of online programs within the classroom. Teachers and students can also collaborate with each other in real time to provide valuable feedback and insight," says Noble.

Previously teachers would have to work within a tight schedule to access the computer labs for any task that required student computer use. Students' access to the online library, databases, and printing from Chromebooks eliminate the need to

leave the classroom which allows more time for academic work.

Fourth grade teacher Alex Chandler says Chromebooks have been a great addition to



her classroom. Her students use them for independent work during the day such as reading, writing, and book club work. "It's really well organized and the kids seem to really like it."

Chandler also uses the technology at home

to grade students' work, leave comments, and to give editing notes. "It's really nice for me to be able to go home, get on my Chromebook and provide student feedback."

With technology being a part of everyday life for our students, the district saw an opportunity to teach them how to properly use their Chromebooks. Jr./Sr. High School Librarian Britt Buckenroth teaches a digital literacy class for students to learn how to use technology in their everyday lives.

"I teach them how to be regular checkers of email, we talk about cyberbullying, we talk about predators, and we talk about how to research and evaluate their resources," says Buckenroth.

Superintendent Andrew Kourt states, "The New Lebanon Central School District is thrilled to provide a Chromebook to every student in grades K-12. This technology has brought new access, tools, and opportunities to our students and their teachers."

Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 17, 2022, New Lebanon residents will see a separate proposition on the 2022-2023 school budget seeking voter approval to bond two buses at \$125,487 each for a total of \$250,974. Bonding buses allows the district to pay for the buses over several years, instead of spending all of the money upfront.

The bus purchase is part of a long term replacement plan designed to keep the fleet in working order. By bonding buses, the district will receive 30% in state aid reimbursement. This plan allows the district to maximize the efficiency and safety of the bus fleet while saving on parts, labor and fuel that would be required to keep older buses on the road.

New bus purchases replace old buses based on the vehicle's mileage, age, repair history, and condition. The average lifespan of a bus is 10-12 years, and between 120,000-130,000 miles. Corrosive salt mixture used during winter weather also affects the conditions of buses in the northeast and our region.



Bus Purchase Financing Breakdown

Total Principal to be financed over 5 years	\$ 250,974
Add Finance costs	11,224
<hr/>	
Total Purchase cost	262,198
Less State Aid	- 76,423
<hr/>	
Total Tax Payer Cost	\$ 185,775

Why is the district purchasing new buses?

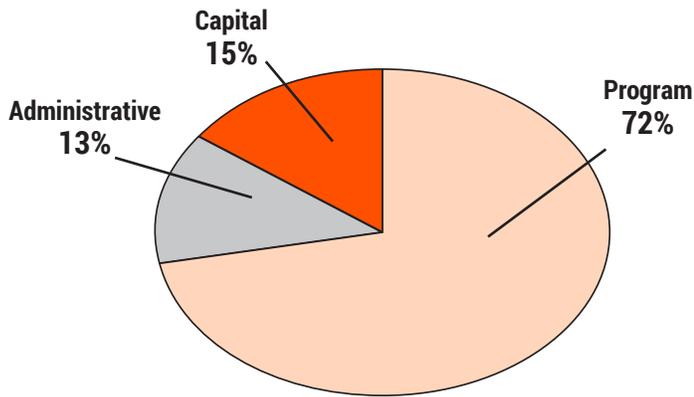
New buses have the latest safety features, increased fuel efficiency, reduced maintenance costs, and higher trade in values. Maintenance costs for older buses, are much higher and the trade in value much lower. It's a cost-efficient way to keep our fleet up to date, and our students safe during transport.



2022–23 New Lebanon CSD Budget

3 PART BUDGET

Component	Amount	Percentage
Program	\$9,241,037	72%
Administrative	\$1,704,662	13%
Capital	\$1,978,766	15%
Total	\$12,924,465	100%



Potential Reductions to School Budget if Budget Vote is Not Passed

If the 22-23 school year budget does not pass on May 17th, the district will be forced to consider possible reductions, some examples include:

Unmandated classes: electives, RTI supports, arts and humanities

Athletic opportunities

After school activities: clubs and field trips

BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	2021-22	Proposed Budget 2022-2023	Change from 2021-22
Instruction	\$4,053,290	\$4,047,431	-\$5,859
Special Education	\$1,097,591	\$1,214,347	\$116,756
Employee Benefits	\$3,649,500	\$3,710,027	\$60,527
Information Technology	\$154,500	\$162,011	\$7,511
General Support	\$762,634	\$855,901	\$93,267
Operations and Maintenance	\$917,091	\$1,050,104	\$133,013
Co-Curricular and Athletics	\$156,900	\$181,300	\$24,400
Transportation	\$716,200	\$707,182	-\$9,018
Debt Service	\$559,882	\$841,162	\$281,280
Interfund Transfers	\$55,000	\$155,000	\$100,000
Total Expenditures	\$12,122,588	\$12,924,465	\$801,877

REVENUE SUMMARY

Category	2021-22	Proposed Budget 2022-2023	Change from 2021-22
Non Tax Revenue	\$287,000	\$281,500	-\$5,500
State Aid	\$3,238,633	\$3,729,107	\$490,474
Tax Levy	\$8,596,955	\$8,794,685	\$197,730
Fund Balance	\$0	\$119,173	\$119,173
Total Revenues	\$12,122,588	\$12,924,465	\$801,877

New Lebanon Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 12,122,588	\$12,924,465	\$12,726,735
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$801,877	\$604,147
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.61 %	4.98%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,596,955	\$8,794,685	
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)	\$8,596,955	\$8,794,685	\$8,596,955
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$387,190	\$410,776	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,753,820	\$8,426,583	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,209,765	\$8,383,909	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-\$455,945	\$42,674	
Administrative Component	\$1,541,903	\$1,704,662	\$1,564,771
Program Component	\$9,073,543	\$9,241,037	\$9,217,698
Capital Component	\$1,507,142	\$1,978,766	\$1,944,266

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The contingency budget administrative percentage will not exceed the prior year's percentage, the budget will require a reduction to all equipment and any decrease in the tax levy would be offset by using the NYS retirement reserve retirement fund to pay the annual system bill.

** 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)

Description	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	
Town of Canaan	\$373.00
Town of Chatham	\$377.00
Town of Nassau	\$356.00
Town of New Lebanon	\$373.00
Town Stephentown	\$372.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the New Lebanon Central __ school district, __ Columbia__ County, New York, will be held at __Walter B Howard Elementary school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 12:00 pm prevailing time OR between the hours of __12__:00pm and __9__:00pm, prevailing time in the __Walter B Howard Elementary__ school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. ***Districts should include information according to Executive Orders and as advised by legal counsel.***

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

District Office
14665 State Route 22
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Sharon Putnam, *President*
Michael Brutsch, *Vice President*
William Buckenroth
John Kalisz
Timothy Lambert
Robert Long
Richard Sime

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

www.newlebanoncsd.org/district/boe

SUPERINTENDENT

Andrew Kourt

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

POSTAL PATRON

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION

May 17, 2022
12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Walter B. Howard Elementary
School Gymnasium

OUR PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 100% graduation rate Class of 2021
- 54% Class of 2020 w/Regents with Advanced Designation (State Average is 39%)
- 46% Class of 2021 w/Regents with Advanced Designation
- 68% Class of 2022 graduates plan to attend at 2-4 year college after graduation
- 28% Class of 2022 graduates have a job secured after graduation
- 4% Class of 2022 graduates are joining the Military after graduation
- 48 College credits available for the 2021-2022 school year
- 84% participation in music and the arts
- 30,000 meals distributed through our breakfast/lunch programs.
- According to in house data students at WBH are ahead of annual growth in reading and math.

Voting Information

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

Absentee Ballots: The 2022 election and budget vote is occurring in-person, while also allowing voters to request an absentee ballot based upon fear of contracting COVID-19. Executive Order 202.81 modifies the Education Law to the extent necessary to include the potential for contraction of the virus that causes COVID-19 as an illness for purposes of requesting an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are also available to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person because of illness or disability. You may request an absentee ballot from the District Clerk. For information email kmcgivern@newlebanoncsd.org. Return deadline –**Tuesday, May 17, 5 p.m.**

Copies of the itemized budget are available online, in the school's main office, and in the town libraries.