

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Budget Summary
- ▶ Bus Purchase Proposition
- ▶ Facility Updates

VOTE

May 16, 2023

12:00pm - 9:00pm

at Walter B. Howard
Elementary School
Gymnasium

2023-2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget:

\$13,808,114

Tax Levy Increase 2.8%

School Board Election

Voters will be asked to select three candidates to the Board of Education. Sharon Powers, Thom Rigg, and Kyle Kuffel have each declared their candidacy. Two seats are a three-year term and one seat is a two-year term. They are non-paid terms.

Follow us on
Facebook and Twitter:



[https://www.facebook.com/
NewLebanonCentralSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/NewLebanonCentralSchoolDistrict)



<https://twitter.com/NewLebanonCSD>

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

2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET:

Get Out and Vote - New Lebanon Central School District Budget Vote - May 16, 2023

On Tuesday, May 16th, the New Lebanon community will vote on a \$13,808,114 proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year. This proposed budget addresses some of the district's facilities and transportation needs. These one-time expenses include the purchasing of one handicap-accessible bus based on student needs, purchasing a used bus that the district has been renting, and purchasing a maintenance vehicle that will be used for snow plowing and facility work. The proposed budget utilizes an increase in state aid and will meet our student's needs as we continue to enhance programs and provide a well-rounded education. It also addresses the many increases in costs due to inflation.

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 is known for but is also fiscally responsible. This budget would raise the tax levy by 2.8%, below the allowable tax levy of 4%.

On May 16th, voters will find a bus proposition to allow the district to borrow money to purchase two new school buses. The district has buses that need to be replaced due to age and high mileage. Student safety is always the district's top priority. Adding these 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 2023-2024 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 16th, at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School from 12 p.m. until 9 p.m.



Capital Project Phase Three Update

Capital Project Phase Three is awaiting state approval in order for the district to move forward with the construction bidding process. Phase Three is the continuation of the \$11,855,000 capital project approved by voters in May 2017. After bids from the original capital project work were lower than expected, extra funds were available for additional projects with no extra cost to taxpayers. These funds are being used for other necessary repairs and maintenance to both the Jr./Sr. High School, elementary school, and bus garage. The Phase Three bidding process is expected to begin in early Fall of 2023.

At the Jr./Sr. High School the following projects will take place:

- Masonry reconstruction as needed on the outside of the building
- Reconstruct a portion of the gym roof that's susceptible of leaking
- Adding new interior doors, and security camera to vestibule
- Updating the building control panels
- Reconstruction of the weight room (Room 141)
- Reconstruction of the cornice/fascia

At Walter B. Howard Elementary School the following projects will take place:

- Updating the building control panels
- Adding a water softener
- Mitigating ground water in WBH basement
- Replace maintenance closet flooring

At the bus garage the following projects will take place:

- Upgrade the fire alarm system
- Reconstruction of the fuel island

Tiger Jam Teaches Students Character Education

Once a month students at WBH attend Tiger Jam, a school wide assembly that focuses on character education. Teachers choose a character trait (friendship, kindness, perseverance) that students will focus on in the classroom and learn how they can incorporate it into their everyday lives. Each month a different grade will put on a showcase of what they've learned throughout the month by performing songs and skits for the rest of the school. The students who have demonstrated that trait the best throughout the month are recognized by their teachers. "It teaches kids to appreciate and recognize some of the strengths in their classmates and to celebrate their peers who are motivated and work hard to earn the recognition," said School Psychologist Tylea Gebbie. The goal of these monthly assemblies are to create a positive school community for students to see the growth in themselves and each other. "Tiger Jam is a community event in which families are invited to join in on the celebration of student success and their child's education," said Superintendent Andrew Kourt.

Travel Club Takes on Europe

During Spring Break the New Lebanon Travel Club visited Italy (Cinque Terre region), France (Nice), Monte Carlo (Monaco) and Spain (Barcelona and Madrid). Travel Club gives students the opportunity to learn and experience different cultures around the



world. Next year's trip will be to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest. If your child is interested in joining the Travel Club please contact the high school main office 518-794-7600, Option 2.

Just Foods Club Brings Community Together

Students in Just Foods Club at the Jr./Sr. High School are sharing their love of food with their community. Since the beginning of the year the club has held multiple community events including a Thanksgiving Community Dinner where over 100 meals were served, a Back to the Future Movie Night, and the inaugural community wide Big Cheese cook off. Over 70 members of the community came out to support the mac-and-cheese competition. In May they will be creating a menu for the Memorial Day Luncheon held at the Jr./Sr. High School. It has become a tradition at the school to bring members of the community together to honor and remember those who have served. The luncheon will be held on Friday, May 26th and is open to the public.



Jr./Sr. High School Water Filtration Update

A new water filtration system has been installed at the Jr./Sr. High School. The system is not currently in use due to additional water testing that needs to take place through the Columbia County Department of Health.



Since January 2022 the district has been providing drinking water for students and staff at the Jr./Sr. High School after a state-mandated water test for PFOAs came back slightly above the state threshold. Test results from January 2022 found that the chemical perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in the drinking water at New Lebanon Jr./Sr. High School was at 11 ppt (points per trillion). This is above New York State's MCL (maximum contaminant level) of 10 ppt for PFOS in public drinking water systems. No reportable conditions of PFOS have been detected at the Walter B. Howard Elementary Schools.

The district has been participating in on-going water testing and the results have fluctuated between 8-11 ppt.

The cost of the water filtration system project will be close to \$180,000 and has been purchased using funds from the 22-23 school budget. This project was approved as a New York State Emergency Project, which allows the district to receive state aid back the following school year.

Currently the new tanks are being drained and flushed out so that fresh treated water can be added. Once the tanks have been filled with the new water additional PFOS testing will take place. This process will take several weeks before the district is cleared to start using the new tanks. The district will communicate with the public once we have been cleared and the filtration system is up and running.

To see water testing results visit our district website at <https://www.newlebanoncsd.org/district/pfos/>

Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 16, 2023, New Lebanon residents will see a separate proposition on the 2023-2024 school budget seeking voter approval to bond 2 new 66 passenger school buses at the cost of \$155,186 each. 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 the district's board-approved replacement plan designed to keep the fleet in working order. By bonding buses, the district will receive 29.5% 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.

Due to student needs the district will also be purchasing one handicap accessible bus at the cost of \$107,009 and one used bus at the cost of \$80,000. These purchases will be made with excess fund balance/cash included in the budget.



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.

Bus Purchase Financing Breakdown

Borrowing Costs	\$310,372
Total Principal to be financed over 5 years	\$ 310,372
Add Finance costs	\$41,237
Total Purchase cost	\$351,609
Less State Aid	\$127,153
Total Tax Payer Cost	\$ 224,456

Annual Tax payer cost over 5 years

Year 1 2025	\$125,417.00
Year 2 2026	\$29,168.00
Year 3 2027	\$22,348.00
Year 4 2028	\$19,954.00
Year 5 2029	\$27,569.00

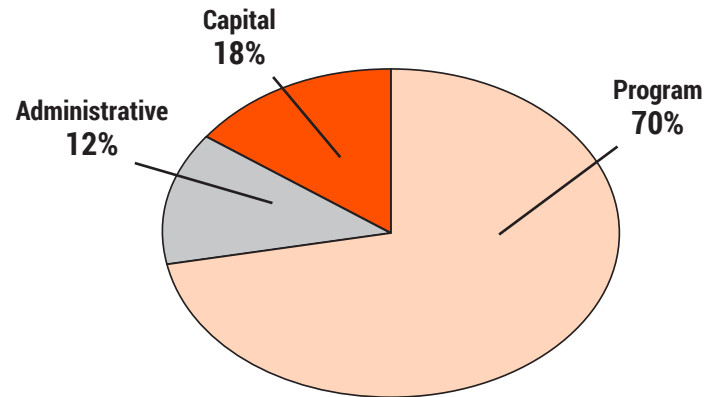
Potential Reductions to School Budget if Budget Vote is Not Passed

If the 23-24 school year budget does not pass on May 16th, the district will be forced to consider possible reductions, some examples include: electives, intervention supports, arts and humanities, student extracurricular activities, and possible athletic reductions.

2023–24 New Lebanon CSD Budget

3 PART BUDGET

Component	Amount	Percentage
Program	\$9,655,096	70%
Administrative	\$1,678,407	12%
Capital	\$2,474,611	18%
Total	\$13,808,114	100%



BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-2024	Change from 2022-23
Instruction	\$4,047,431	\$4,291,604	\$244,173
Special Education	\$1,214,347	\$1,249,529	\$35,182
Employee Benefits	\$3,710,027	\$3,966,832	\$256,805
Information Technology	\$162,011	\$180,085	\$18,074
General Support	\$855,901	\$862,970	\$7,069
Operations and Maintenance	\$1,050,104	\$1,013,344	-\$36,760
Co-Curricular and Athletics	\$181,300	\$180,800	-\$500
Transportation	\$707,182	\$895,568	\$188,386
Debt Service	\$841,162	\$1,012,382	\$171,220
Interfund Transfers	\$155,000	\$155,000	\$0.00
Total Expenditures	\$12,924,465	\$13,808,114	\$883,649

REVENUE SUMMARY

Category	2022-23	Proposed Budget 2023-2024	Change from 2022-23
Non Tax Revenue	\$281,500	\$250,394	-\$31,106
State Aid	\$3,729,107	\$3,905,690	\$176,583
Tax Levy	\$8,794,685	\$9,040,936	\$246,251
Fund Balance	\$119,173	\$611,094	\$491,921
Total Revenues	\$12,924,465	\$13,808,114	\$883,649

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 12,924,465	\$13,808,114	\$13,544,273
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$883,649	\$619,808
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.84 %	4.71%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,794,685	\$9,040,936	
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)	\$8,794,685	\$9,040,936	\$8,794,685
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$410,776	\$523,153	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,426,583	\$8,626,043	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,383,909	\$8,517,783	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$42,674	\$108,260	
Administrative Component	\$1,704,662	\$1,678,407	-\$26,255
Program Component	\$9,241,037	\$9,655,096	\$414,059
Capital Component	\$1,978,766	\$2,474,611	\$495,845

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 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.

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	\$356.00

** 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)

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 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 16, 2023 at _____:00pm prevailing time OR between the hours of _____:00pm and _____: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
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Lebanon, NY 12125
Permit #1

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sharon Putnam, *President*
Michael Brutsch, *Vice President*
William Buckenroth
John Kalisz
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 16, 2023
12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Walter B. Howard Elementary
School Gymnasium

OUR PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 97% graduation rate Class of 2022
- 61% Class of 2022 w/Regents with Advanced Designation
- 56% Class of 2023 graduates going to a 2-4 year college after graduation
- 43% Class of 2023 graduates have a job secured after graduation
- 40 College credits available for the 2022-2023 school year
- 78% participation in music and the arts
- 54% participation in athletics
- 27,875 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 2023 election and budget vote is occurring in-person at Walter B. Howard Elementary School. Absentee ballots are 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. Absentee ballot applications must be received from the district clerk's office by May 9, 2023 if the ballot is to be mailed to voters. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 16, 2023.

Copies of the itemized budget are available online, in the school's main office, and in the town libraries. For information email kmcgivern@newlebanoncsd.org