



Grandparents Night

WES hosts annual Grandparents/Special Persons Night on May 9



Remember to Vote on May 17

The 2016-17 School Budget Vote & Board of Education Election is Tuesday, May 17, noon to 9 p.m.



Public Budget Hearing

Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m., WJSHS conference room

Watervliet

CITY SCHOOLS

News and information from our schools

Community to vote on \$26 million school budget on May 17

Proposed budget invests in educational opportunities, tax levy increase meets “cap”

On Tuesday, May 17, residents of the Watervliet City School District will vote on a proposed \$26,162,000 budget for the 2016-17 school year. The vote will take place from noon to 9 p.m. at two polling locations in the city: Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks Lodge (see page 4 for more information).

The proposed budget increases overall spending 1.04 percent, or \$269,000 more than the current-year budget. The plan maintains all academic programs and provides

additional instructional support in some areas.

The proposal carries a tax levy increase of 0.24 percent—the district’s limit as determined by the state’s 8-step tax “cap” formula. Because the district meets its tax levy limit, school budget approval will require a simple majority vote (50 percent plus one vote).

With the proposed plan, district officials estimate school taxes would increase \$3 more per \$100,000 of assessed property value in the City of Watervliet, and \$5 more per \$100,000 of assessed property value in Mannsville. School tax

rates are finalized after the district receives the final tax assessment roll from the city in August. District tax estimates are based on current information.

Watervliet expects to receive \$283,000 more in state aid revenue, a 1.57 percent increase, next year. The increase is comprised of foundation aid, which helps fund the day-to-day costs of operating the school district — and other aid that provides reimbursement for expense-driven costs, such as BOCES services and student transportation, from the year prior.

Investing in education

Increased state aid and anticipated savings in transportation and pension costs, for example, will allow the district to maintain all academic programming next year.

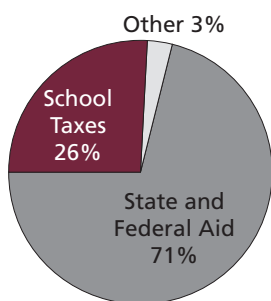
“This is the second year that we are able to present a budget that makes no cuts to programs or staffing,” said Superintendent of

—continued on page 3

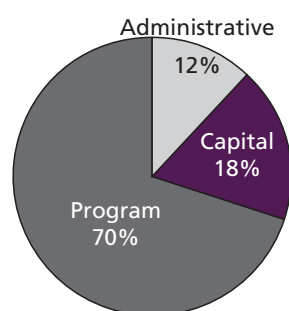


Congratulations Class of 2016 valedictorian, Lauren Zakrzewski, left, and salutatorian, Lydia Anderson, right. Read more about the top scholars on page 4, or visit www.watervlietcityschools.org to learn more about Watervliet High School’s top 10 graduating seniors.

2016-17 Revenue Sources



2016-17 Projected Expenses



Where Watervliet's education dollars come from

Source of Revenue	2015-16 Budget	Proposed 2016-17 Budget	\$ Change
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	28,000	30,000	2,000
Consumer Utility Tax	375,000	355,000	(20,000)
Charges for Services	45,000	38,000	(7,000)
Interest and Earnings	21,000	30,000	9,000
Miscellaneous	190,000	180,000	(10,000)
Total State Aid	18,063,000	18,346,000	283,000
Total Federal Sources	312,000	308,000	(4,000)
Interfund Transfers	—	—	—
School Taxes	6,769,000	6,785,000	16,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	—	—	—
Total	\$25,893,000	\$26,162,000	\$269,000

Visit watervlietcityschools.org for a glossary of budget terms, as well as more information about the proposed 2016-17 school budget.

How Watervliet's education dollars are spent

Budget Expense Category	Proposed Administrative 16-17 Budget	Proposed Program 16-17 Budget	Proposed Capital 16-17 Budget	Proposed Total 16-17 Budget	Total 2015-16 Budget	\$ Change
Board of Education	\$8,000	—	—	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
Central Administration	201,000	—	—	201,000	195,000	6,000
Finance	256,000	—	—	256,000	235,000	21,000
Staff	162,000	—	—	162,000	162,000	0
Central Services	604,000	—	\$730,000	1,334,000	1,234,000	100,000
Special Items	265,000	—	—	265,000	264,000	1,000
Administration & Improvement	931,000	—	—	931,000	960,000	(29,000)
Teaching-Regular School	—	\$6,352,000	—	6,352,000	6,247,000	105,000
Special/Occ. Ed Programs	—	3,758,000	—	3,758,000	3,866,000	(108,000)
Teaching-Summer School	—	53,000	—	53,000	48,000	5,000
Instructional Media	—	347,000	—	347,000	364,000	(17,000)
Pupil Services	—	1,203,000	—	1,203,000	1,164,000	39,000
Pupil Transportation	—	1,106,000	—	1,106,000	1,177,000	(71,000)
Employee Benefits	784,000	5,480,000	200,000	6,464,000	6,255,000	209,000
Debt Service	—	—	3,665,000	3,665,000	3,662,000	3,000
Interfund Transfers	—	—	57,000	57,000	52,000	5,000
Total	3,211,000	18,299,000	4,652,000	\$26,162,000	\$25,893,000	\$269,000

2016-17 Budget, from page 1

Schools Dr. Lori Caplan. “In fact, the 2016-17 budget will allow us to address needs and will help optimize the learning environment.”

To that end, the proposed 2016-17 budget will:

- Restore a full-time director of literacy and universal prekindergarten, a position that was eliminated in the 2013-14 budget cycle to help close a budget gap resulting from state aid reductions. The director will oversee the UPK program, provide professional development and support for teachers and reading interventionists, and will track student progress.

- Add 3.5 (FTE) teaching and classroom support positions next year to better manage class sizes, and address the needs of the district’s growing English as a New Language (ENL) population, as mandated by New York state.
- Introduce a summer enrichment academy for students in grades 5-8 to prevent “summer slide,” a loss of skills that often occurs among struggling learners during the summer months.
- Maintain current extracurricular opportunities for students, with the possibility of expanded offerings

Watervliet School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$25,893,000	\$26,162,000	\$26,146,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$269,000	\$253,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.04 %	1.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$6,769,000	\$6,785,000	
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)	\$6,769,000	\$6,785,000	\$6,769,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$6,772,100	\$6,788,400	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$6,769,000	\$6,785,000	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$3,100	\$3,400	
Administrative Component	\$3,108,000	\$3,211,000	\$3,211,000
Program Component	\$18,139,000	\$18,299,000	\$18,293,000
Capital Component	\$4,646,000	\$4,652,000	\$4,642,000
* If the proposed budget is defeated on May 17, 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 defeated a second time, 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 \$16,000 in proposed spending for the 2016-2017 school year. This would include a reduction of extracurricular clubs and activities, restrictions on the use of school facilities and grounds by the public, and additional reductions in student supplies, field trips and athletic programs.			
**The district does not have any separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount.			

contingent on other revenues (e.g., funding from outside sources, such as the Arsenal Partnership and Mohawk Honda).

Fiscal resolve

Although Watervliet is no longer at the top of the list of fiscally-stressed school districts, as it was in 2014, the district still faces moderate fiscal stress, according to a report released by the state comptroller’s office in January 2016.

To restore fiscal health, district leaders are budgeting conservatively for the 2016-17 school year. Dr. Caplan also credits teachers, administrators and staff for playing a key role in helping the district be fiscally resilient after consecutive years of state aid losses and rising costs.

“Ours is not a spending problem, it’s a revenue problem,” Dr. Caplan said. “I thank our teachers and administrators for their efforts to best concentrate the limited resources we have toward preparing students for college and careers. Growing and changing state mandates have required us to do more with less, a trend that has become the norm in our schools; even so, we continue to rise to the challenge for every student, every day.”

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$446 City of Watervliet \$424 Town of Colonie

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Watervliet City School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at two polling locations: Watervliet Elementary School and the Watervliet Elks Club, in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of noon and 9:00pm, 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.

1245 Hillside Drive
Watervliet, New York 12189

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Produced by the Watervliet City School District
in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES
Communications Service.

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Voting Information

⇒ **You are eligible to vote** if you are a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and have not been convicted of a felony.

⇒ **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 at 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 17 vote

For the school budget vote and Board of Education election on May 17, 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 one candidate to a three-year term on the Board of Education.

Visit www.watervlietcityschools.org for more information

Watervliet's top scholars



Valedictorian Lauren Zakrzewski, center, is graduating with a 97 grade point average and is planning to study chemistry at either Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute or the University of Michigan in the fall.

Salutatorian Lydia Anderson, center right, earned a grade point average of 94 and plans to major in political science/pre-law at Hartwick College in Central New York.

Congratulations to all the students who comprise the Top 10 scholars in the Class of 2016, including: Abdul Samad, James Creaser, Sarah Skinner, Brendan Austin, Arianna Greene, Seamus Manning, Samael O'Brien and Ian Brown. *For more on the Top 10 students, visit: www.watervlietcityschools.org.*