



News & Views

BUDGET 2014-2015

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Careful Fiscal Management Provides Stability Proposed Budget Seeks Only Modest Increase in Spending

The proposed budget of \$21,768,197 reflects a 2.85% increase over the 2013-2014 adopted budget. The additional \$602,922 is necessary to meet contractual obligations and carry out the educational goals of the District. The proposed tax levy increase is a modest 1.65%.

“I’m very pleased with our fiscal health and the budget proposal,” said Superintendent of Schools Patrick Dee. “We are able to preserve all programs and staff as well as expand our 21st century learning initiatives. The district continues to move in the right direction, helping our students advance and achieve more in our ever-growing complex world.”

The 2014-15 budget provides for the district to roll out weLearn, which, within three years, will provide every student with either an iPad or MacBook. The purchase of MacBooks and iPads will allow our students in grades 1,4,5,7 and 10 to have devices available to them throughout the day. Jr. & Sr. High School students will bring their technology home with them, further expanding their learning opportunities. This initiative will enable us to embed technology within the curriculum, helping to effectively meet the Common Core Standards. Extensive professional development has begun and will continue over the summer to ensure our staff is ready for implementation in September. Families of students who will receive 1:1 devices will be receiving additional information directly.

The budget also calls for hiring one additional special education teacher. Currently the District has a special education teacher who splits her time equally between the elementary and high schools. Next year the current teacher will be at the high school and a new full time teacher will cover the elementary school. This will provide the necessary support for our higher need children’s education. Total instructional staff levels will remain the same, as a 1-year elementary position established to cover a large 6th grade class is ending in June.

The district was able to make these plans despite state aid levels that are still less than the aid received in the 2008-2009 school year. Over the years, in addition to the “above the line” budgeted cuts in state aid, the District has lost \$1.8 million in state funding through the Gap Elimination Adjustment. Despite these challenges, the District has maintained crucial programs for our students.

Conservative fiscal management has allowed the district’s reserve fund to remain a viable lifeline in difficult times. The district will make up the GEA loss by strategically utilizing \$902,291 in appropriated fund balance and \$400,000 from reserve funds for the 2014-15 budget. “By strategically utilizing our fund balance and reserves,” said Mr. Dee. “the district has been placed in a solid financial position for the foreseeable future.”

The budget vote is set for 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, in the Elementary School gymnasium. In addition to the budget, residents will also be asked to vote on the purchase of a 65-passenger bus and two open seats on the Board of Education.

‘The district continues to move in the right direction, helping our students advance and achieve more in our ever-growing complex world.’

— **Patrick Dee**
Superintendent of Schools



Budget, Bus and Candidate Vote

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2014-2015 by the qualified voters of the Lake George Central School District, Warren County, New York, will be held at the Lake George Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. prevailing time in the elementary gymnasium, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

School Board Election and Candidates

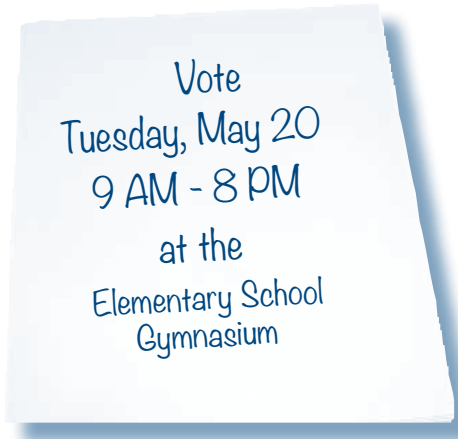
The election of two school board members for three-year terms will take place on Tuesday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the elementary gymnasium.

A total of three candidates returned petitions for two seats, one replacing Naomi O'Reilly; the other for the seat of David J. King.

Names of the candidates will appear on the ballot as follows:

Linda Thornton-Smith
Timothy J. Collins
David J. King

Eligible voters may cast two votes. The two candidates receiving the highest votes will be declared elected to the three-year terms.



Bus Proposition

The bus proposition is to request voter approval to purchase one vehicle, a 65c passenger bus.

The purchase of the transportation vehicle will be at a cost not to exceed \$106,400.

The approval of this proposition will allow the district to replace bus #95, a Thomas 65c bus with more than 100,000 miles. Extensive body work would be necessary to keep it on the road next year.

This proposal maintains the 12-year replacement plan, this bus was purchased and maintained under, and exceeds, the 10-year plan.

Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements.

Expenditure Summary	Actual 2013-14 Budget	Proposed 2014-15 Budget	Change
Instructional Program Component			
Staff (Legal)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Teaching – Regular School	\$5,274,232	\$5,395,493	\$121,261
Special Education Programs	\$2,139,756	\$2,287,036	\$147,280
Occupational Education	\$506,984	\$527,001	\$20,017
Teaching – Special Schools	\$70,000	\$70,100	\$100
School Library and Audio Visual	\$242,974	\$237,322	(\$5,652)
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$553,890	\$614,510	\$60,620
Attendance Services	\$11,855	\$12,278	\$423
Guidance Services	\$266,905	\$281,958	\$15,053
Health Services	\$108,781	\$116,492	\$7,711
Psychological Services	\$153,700	\$162,699	\$8,999
Social Work Services	\$141,539	\$146,293	\$4,754
Co-curricular Activities	\$95,659	\$98,937	\$3,278
Interscholastic Athletics	\$247,853	\$247,095	(\$758)
Pupil Transportation	\$797,446	\$784,021	(\$13,425)
Census	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$5,557,836	\$5,801,347	\$243,511
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	\$50,000	\$35,000	(\$15,000)
Total Program Component	\$16,270,610	\$16,868,782	\$598,172
Administrative Program Component			
Board of Education	\$18,977	\$25,800	\$6,823
Central Administration	\$186,166	\$184,529	(\$1,637)
Finance	\$304,687	\$313,500	\$8,813
Staff	\$70,676	\$72,712	\$2,036
Printing, Mailing, Data Processing	\$93,225	\$97,400	\$4,175
Special Items	\$238,476	\$254,620	\$16,144
Supervision – Regular School	\$491,291	\$455,263	(\$36,028)
In-Service Training	\$101,270	\$136,490	\$35,220
Employee Benefits	\$667,124	\$714,667	\$47,543
Total Administrative Component	\$2,171,892	\$2,254,981	\$83,089
Capital Component			
Central Services	\$1,116,440	\$1,192,497	\$76,057
Special Items	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$831,650	\$683,419	(\$148,231)
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$743,605	\$706,005	(\$37,600)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$26,578	\$58,013	\$31,435
Total Capital Component	\$2,722,773	\$2,644,434	(\$78,339)
Total Expenses	\$21,165,275	\$21,768,197	\$602,922

Revenue Summary	Actual 2013-14 Budget	Proposed 2014-15 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Real Property Taxes	\$17,959,047	\$18,254,805	\$295,758
Interest and Penalty on Real Prop. Tax	\$4,500	\$2,500	(\$2,000)
Day School Tuition	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Textbook, Admission, & Charges	\$14,000	\$11,500	(\$2,500)
Interest and Earnings	\$150,000	\$16,500	(\$133,500)
Insurance Recoveries	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1,000
Medicare Reimbursements	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Refund of BOCES Services	\$60,000	\$50,000	(\$10,000)
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
Basic State Aid	\$1,342,324	\$809,787	(\$532,537)
BOCES State Aid	\$284,406	\$387,245	\$102,839
Excess Cost Aid	\$205,888	\$744,888	\$539,000
Software, Library and Textbook Aid	\$75,637	\$69,681	(\$5,956)
Medicaid Assistance	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$811,473	\$902,291	\$90,818
Appropriated Reserves	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$250,000
Total Estimated Revenue	\$21,165,275	\$21,768,197	\$602,922

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Actual 2013-14 Budget	Proposed 2014-15 Budget	Contingency 2014-15 Budget *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Propositions	\$21,165,275	\$21,768,197	\$21,516,432
Increase for the 2012-13 school year		\$602,922	\$351,157
Percentage increase in each proposed budget		2.85%	1.66%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.46%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy	\$17,959,047	\$18,254,805	\$17,959,047
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$854,167	\$671,084	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$17,104,880	\$17,583,721	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,360,716	\$17,583,721	
Difference A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$-255,836	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,171,892	\$2,254,981	\$2,200,825
Program Component	\$16,270,610	\$16,868,782	\$16,765,673
Capital Component	\$2,722,733	\$2,644,434	\$2,549,934

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Purchase of 1 65c passenger school bus	\$106,400 (not to exceed)

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Budget Proposed for the 2014-15 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR** Tax Savings	\$197.65
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The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. See Bus Proposition on Page 2.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

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 John Murphy, Vice President
 David King
 Michele McKnight-Lambert
 Naomi O'Reilly
 Clark Perrett
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LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.lkgeorge.org

News & Views is published four times during the school year by the Lake George Central School District to encourage interest in education and to keep residents informed of the school's activities and programs.

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Property Tax Report Card

	2013-14 Budget	2014-15 Budget	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$21,165,275	\$21,768,197	2.85%
Proposed School Tax Levy	\$17,959,047	\$18,254,805	1.65%
Permissible Exclusions to School Tax Levy Limit ¹	\$854,167	\$671,084	
Proposed School Tax Levy (not including permissible exclusions) ¹	\$17,104,880	\$17,583,721	
School Tax Levy Limit (not including permissible exclusions) ²	\$17,360,716	\$17,583,721	
Difference (Positive Value Requires 60% Voter Approval)	(\$255,836)	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	859	850	-1.05%
Consumer Price Index		1.46%	
	Actual 2013-14	Estimated 2014-15	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$3,506,900	\$3,050,000	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$811,473	\$902,291	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$846,611	\$870,728	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%	

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the budget vote, election of four school board members, and the bus proposition are available to district residents who will be unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 20.

Applications for absentee ballots are available online at www.lkgeorge.org (click on Board of Education), or can be picked up in the Superintendent's Office until Monday, May 19. A signed request for an absentee ballot can be made by mail, but it must be received in the district clerk's office by Tuesday, May 13. Absentee ballots delivered by hand must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20.

For more information, contact the school district clerk located in the Superintendent's Office in the Jr.-Sr. High School at 668-5456, ext. 1207 or dougallp@lkgeorge.org.

LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 20, from 9 AM-8 PM
Elementary School Gym
69 Sun Valley Drive

Voters must be: United States citizens, 18 years of age or older and district residents for 30 days prior to the vote. A resident can only have one legal residence, which is his or her place of permanent residence.

1 - All proposed levies should exclude any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

2 - For 2014-15, includes any carryover from 2013-14 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.