

# News & Views

BUDGET 2015-2016

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## Proposed Budget is Under Tax Limit

### Positions are Restored and Added Due to Careful Fiscal Management

The proposed budget for the 2015-16 school year of \$22,125,395 reflects a 1.64% increase over the 2014-2015 adopted budget. The additional \$357,198 is necessary to meet contractual obligations and carry out the educational goals of the District. The proposed tax levy is \$18.6 million, which is a 1.95% increase, less than the district's 2.02 percent limit.

The proposed 2015-16 budget allows for the restoration of a math teacher and a custodian. These positions had been eliminated due to the economic downturn. Two new positions will also be added: a technology/STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) instructor to be shared by the jr.-sr. high school and elementary buildings and a technology support position to assist with the weLearn initiative, which will provide every student with either an iPad or MacBook. Next school year will be the third year of the four-year technology rollout timeline.

Superintendent of Schools Patrick Dee said, "It's great news that the budget supports restoring positions and adding new ones. We continue to get our programs to where they need to be and can now expand our offerings to provide our students with the skills they'll need for the 21st century."

State aid has returned to nearly the same amount as received in the 2008-09 school year and represents a narrowing of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

Mr. Dee added, "It's narrowing, however we are still seeing downstate and higher needs districts having more aid restored."

Business Manager Kate DuBois explained, "Due to savings from three planned staff retirements, savings in utilities and savings from a special education student leaving the district, we were able to reduce the initial budget by \$121,000. To balance the budget, \$900,000 worth of fund balance and \$500,000 from reserve accounts were used."

Plus, in last year's teacher contract negotiations, teachers agreed to increase their contribution to health insurance premiums and retirees agreed to switch to a lower-cost provider producing more savings to the district.

The chart to the right shows the 2013 True Value Tax Rate of area school districts, according to information from Office of the State Controller's website. Lake George Central School District has the second lowest rate at \$6.48 per \$1,000.

"We're fortunate to have one of the lowest tax rates in the area," said Mr. Dee.

The budget vote is set for 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 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.

### True Value Tax Rate

School District Name	Full Value Tax Rate
Bolton Central School District	\$5.10
Lake George School District	\$6.48
North Warren School District	\$6.72
Hadley-Luzerne School District	\$10.14
Whitehall School District	\$10.30
Johnsburg School District	\$11.07
Corinth Central School District	\$11.38
Stillwater School District	\$12.74
Fort Ann School District	\$12.90
Hudson Falls School District	\$13.23
Glens Falls Common School District	\$13.55
Galway School District	\$14.26
Salem School District	\$14.94
Warrensburg School District	\$14.99
Queensbury School District	\$15.22
Granville School District	\$15.62
South Glens Falls School District	\$15.75
Cambridge Central School District	\$15.81
Argyle Central School District	\$16.24
Greenwich School District	\$16.85
Fort Edward School District	\$17.06
Mechanicville School District	\$17.26
Hartford School District	\$17.34
Ballston Spa Central School District	\$17.86
Glens Falls City School District	\$17.90
Schuylerville School District	\$20.13
Saratoga Springs City School District	\$21.81
Waterford-Halfmoon School District	\$25.08

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/orptbook/index.htm>



## Budget, Bus and Candidate Vote

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-2016 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 19, 2015, 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.

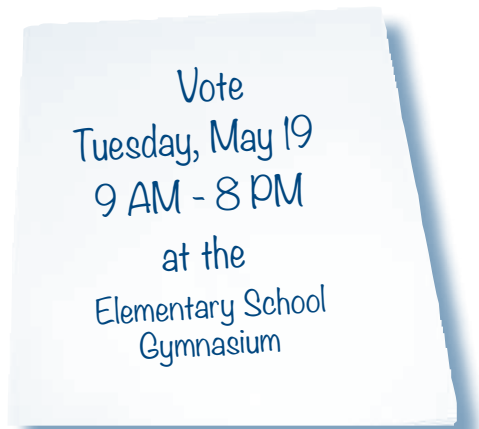
## School Board Election and Candidates

The election of two school board members for three-year terms will take place on Tuesday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the elementary gymnasium.

A total of two candidates returned petitions for two seats, one replacing John Murphy; the other for the seat of James Powell. Names of the candidates will appear on the ballot as follows:

Kim Heunemann  
James McCabe

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 \$108,990.

The approval of this proposition will allow the district to replace bus #96, a 2004 freightliner bus with more than 120,000 miles. Extensive body work would be necessary to keep it on the road next year.

This proposal maintains the 12-year replacement plan.



Expenditure Summary	Actual 2014-15 Budget	Proposed 2015-16 Budget	Change
<b>Instructional Program Component</b>			
Staff (Legal)	\$50,000	\$25,000	(\$25,000)
Teaching – Regular School	\$5,395,493	\$5,641,208	\$245,715
Special Education Programs	\$2,287,036	\$2,252,286	(\$34,750)
Occupational Education	\$527,001	\$608,152	\$81,151
Teaching – Special Schools	\$70,100	\$96,000	\$25,900
School Library and Audio Visual	\$237,322	\$251,002	\$13,680
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$614,510	\$763,977	\$149,467
Attendance Services	\$12,278	\$12,695	\$417
Guidance Services	\$281,958	\$296,386	\$14,428
Health Services	\$116,492	\$109,648	(\$6,844)
Psychological Services	\$162,699	\$167,975	\$5,276
Social Work Services	\$146,293	\$154,955	\$8,662
Co-curricular Activities	\$98,937	\$102,045	\$3,108
Interscholastic Athletics	\$247,095	\$276,233	\$29,138
Pupil Transportation	\$784,021	\$781,432	(\$2,589)
Census	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$5,801,347	\$5,454,444	(\$346,903)
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	\$35,000	\$25,000	(\$10,000)
Transfer to School Lunch Fund		\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Total Program Component</b>	<b>\$16,868,782</b>	<b>\$17,039,638</b>	<b>\$170,856</b>
<b>Administrative Program Component</b>			
Board of Education	\$25,800	\$43,074	\$17,274
Central Administration	\$184,529	\$189,378	\$4,849
Finance	\$313,500	\$318,164	\$4,664
Staff	\$72,712	\$70,653	(\$2,059)
Printing, Mailing, Data Processing	\$97,400	\$99,700	\$2,300
Special Items	\$254,620	\$254,840	\$220
Supervision – Regular School	\$455,263	\$468,282	\$13,019
In-Service Training	\$136,490	\$145,530	\$9,040
Employee Benefits	\$714,667	\$684,911	(\$29,756)
<b>Total Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$2,254,981</b>	<b>\$2,274,532</b>	<b>\$19,551</b>
<b>Capital Component</b>			
Central Services	\$1,192,497	\$1,244,805	\$52,308
Special Items	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$683,419	\$788,395	\$104,976
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$706,005	\$696,512	(\$9,493)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$58,013	\$77,013	\$19,000
<b>Total Capital Component</b>	<b>\$2,644,434</b>	<b>\$2,811,225</b>	<b>\$166,791</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$21,768,197</b>	<b>\$22,125,395</b>	<b>\$357,198</b>

Revenue Summary	Actual 2014-15 Budget	Proposed 2015-16 Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Real Property Taxes	\$18,254,805	\$18,610,774	\$355,969
Interest and Penalty on Real Prop. Tax	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Day School Tuition	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Textbook, Admission & Charges	\$11,500	\$36,500	\$25,000
Interest and Earnings	\$16,500	\$13,000	(\$3,500)
Insurance Recoveries	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Medicare Reimbursements	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Refund of BOCES Services	\$50,000	\$25,000	(\$25,000)
Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Basic State Aid	\$809,787	\$974,795	\$165,008
BOCES State Aid	\$387,245	\$337,714	(\$49,531)
Excess Cost Aid	\$744,888	\$650,000	(\$94,888)
Software, Library and Textbook Aid	\$69,681	\$71,112	\$1,431
Medicaid Assistance	\$25,000	\$0	(\$25,000)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$902,291	\$905,000	\$2,709
Appropriated Reserves	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,768,197</b>	<b>\$22,125,395</b>	<b>\$357,198</b>

### School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2014-15 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2015-16 School Year	Contingency Budget 2015-16 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$21,768,197	\$22,125,395	\$21,769,426
Increase for the 2015-16 School Year		\$357,198	\$1,229
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		1.64%	0.005%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		1.62%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$18,254,805	\$18,610,774	
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)	\$18,254,805	\$18,610,774	\$18,254,805
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$671,084	\$690,916	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$17,583,721	\$17,933,504	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$17,583,721	\$17,919,858	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$13,646	
Administrative component	\$2,254,981	\$2,274,532	\$2,260,332
Program component	\$16,868,782	\$17,039,638	\$16,820,438
Capital component	\$2,644,434	\$2,811,226	\$2,688,657

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2015-16 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

\*\*List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Purchase of 1 65c passenger school bus	\$108,990

### Basic STAR Exemption Impact

### Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup> \$203.89

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-2016 by the qualified voters of the Lake George Central School District, Warren County, New York, will be held at LGCS D elementary school in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 between the hours of 9:00 am and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the LGCS D elementary school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

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## LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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 LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845

[www.lkgeorge.org](http://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

	Budgeted 2014-15 (A)	Proposed Budget 2015-16 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$21,768,197	\$22,125,395	1.64%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>1</sup>	\$18,254,805	\$18,610,774	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable <sup>2</sup>			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$18,254,805	\$18,610,774	1.95%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$671,084	\$690,916	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>3</sup>	\$17,583,721	\$17,933,504	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$17,583,721	\$17,919,858	
I. Difference (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	-	\$13,646	
Public School Enrollment	871	860	-1.26%
Consumer Price Index			1.62%

<sup>1</sup> Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

<sup>2</sup> Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

<sup>3</sup> For 2015-16, includes any carryover from 2014-15 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2014-15 (D)	Estimated 2015-16 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$2,936,775	\$3,016,456
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$902,291	\$905,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$870,728	\$885,016
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	4.00%

\*Please note that this Property Tax Report Card presentation is in accordance with NYS Education Law sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3).

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the budget vote, election of two school board members, and the bus proposition are available to district residents who will be unable to vote in person on Tuesday, May 19.

Applications for absentee ballots are available online at [www.lkgeorge.org](http://www.lkgeorge.org) (click on Board of Education), or can be picked up in the Superintendent's Office until Monday, May 18. 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 12. Absentee ballots delivered by hand must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19.

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 email [bartons@lkgeorge.org](mailto:bartons@lkgeorge.org).

### LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION

**Tuesday, May 19, 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.**