No tax levy increase in proposed budget
True-value tax rate expected to reach 10-year low; programs continue to grow

On May 18, qualified residents of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District will vote on a proposed $38,760,750 budget for the 2021-22 school year. The proposed budget calls for no tax levy increase.

The proposed budget represents a 7.98% spending increase from the 2020-21 school year. Two-thirds of that spending increase is a direct result of the 2016 capital project; Broadalbin-Perth will begin the 15-year payback period on the last $28.7 million of the project during the 2021-22 school year. The district will see a proportionate increase in state building aid, which is paying for 80% of the project costs.

Although the local share of the 2016 capital project is expected to increase approximately $250,000 during the 2021-22 school year, members of the Board of Education voted to use appropriated fund balance and debt service reserves to cover that increase, eliminating the need to raise taxes for the coming year.

A simple majority of voters (more than 50%) is required for budget approval.

All in-person voting will take place at the Robert C. Munn Gymnasium at B-P Senior High School, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18. Absentee ballots are available. See page 8 for more information on voting.

KEY BUDGET NUMBERS

Proposed 2021-22 budget: $38,760,750
Year-to-year budget change: $2,865,860 / 7.98%
Year-to-year tax levy change: $0 / 0.00%
Projected true-value tax rate: $16.26 per $1,000 equalized value (–$0.99)

School may have looked a bit different this year, but the new B-P Elementary School welcomed nearly 82% of all students in pre-K through grade 6 to school five days per week. B-P was one of the only school districts in the HFM BOCES region to offer daily in-person learning for elementary students since September.
**Where the money comes from**

State and federal aid: 49.7%

Nearly half of B-P’s revenue comes from state aid. State aid includes foundation aid, which is distributed to school districts based on a formula; cost-based aids; and building aid, which is used to pay debt on capital expenditures. B-P is seeing an increase in state building aid because the district will begin paying for a large part of the 2016 capital project during the 2021-22 school year. Federal aid provides some money for special education, academic intervention services, and prekindergarten.

Local property taxes: 41.9%

The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district collects in taxes each year from all property owners in the district.

Fund balance: 5.9%

Fund balance is unspent money from the proposed 2021-22 budget applied to the 2021-22 budget.

Other local revenue: 2.5%

Other local revenue includes tuition and facility use fees, as well as revenue from agreements B-P has in place with some local municipalities and neighboring districts.

**Where the money is spent**

**Instruction: 61.1%**

This category includes salaries and benefits for all teaching faculty and staff, as well as classroom supplies and equipment.

**Operations: 21.9%**

This category includes maintenance of school buildings and grounds, utilities, debt service, and business office functions.

**Extracurriculars & Athletics: 1.9%**

**Administrative: 2.5%**

**Transportation: 6.2%**

**Instructional Support: 5.9%**

**Projected revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual 2019-20</th>
<th>Actual 2020-21</th>
<th>Projected 2021-22</th>
<th>Dollar Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Federal Aid</td>
<td>$19,486,692</td>
<td>$16,955,947</td>
<td>$19,254,928</td>
<td>$2,489,081</td>
<td>14.57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Property Taxes</td>
<td>$15,645,295</td>
<td>$16,230,000</td>
<td>$16,230,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>1,852,034</td>
<td>1,981,043</td>
<td>2,281,319</td>
<td>420,276</td>
<td>22.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Local Revenue</td>
<td>1,089,149</td>
<td>998,000</td>
<td>994,503</td>
<td>− 3,497</td>
<td>− 0.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$38,074,070</td>
<td>$35,894,890</td>
<td>$38,760,750</td>
<td>$2,865,860</td>
<td>7.98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proposed expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual 2019-20</th>
<th>Actual 2020-21</th>
<th>Proposed 2021-22</th>
<th>Dollar Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$22,789,664</td>
<td>$23,027,532</td>
<td>$23,712,532</td>
<td>$684,998</td>
<td>3.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>9,180,914</td>
<td>6,554,907</td>
<td>8,483,688</td>
<td>1,928,781</td>
<td>29.42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
<td>2,188,063</td>
<td>2,186,163</td>
<td>2,277,501</td>
<td>89,338</td>
<td>4.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>2,331,586</td>
<td>2,507,810</td>
<td>2,585,848</td>
<td>78,038</td>
<td>3.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>947,923</td>
<td>935,863</td>
<td>974,661</td>
<td>38,798</td>
<td>4.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurriculars &amp; Athletics</td>
<td>652,900</td>
<td>702,575</td>
<td>726,500</td>
<td>23,925</td>
<td>3.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$38,074,070</td>
<td>$35,894,890</td>
<td>$38,760,750</td>
<td>$2,865,860</td>
<td>7.98%</td>
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**Since September, Broadalbin-Perth has…**

- delivered more than 26,555 free meals to students learning remotely.
- loaned 1,215 laptops and tablets to students learning remotely.
- distributed more than 100 WiFi hotspots to families without home internet access.

**How can B-P grow programs without raising taxes?**

The journey to a more sustainably efficient school district began more than 10 years ago, when district leaders first considered reorganizing the schools to create one elementary school and one secondary school.

Now that Broadalbin-Perth consists of the pre-K through grade 6 elementary school and the grades 7-12 junior/senior high school, B-P can more effectively utilize teachers at both schools to expand program offerings for students without necessarily hiring more people.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Tomlinson expects to realize more than $500,000 in savings over the coming years as a direct result of the reorganization.

District leaders are also continually looking for ways to save money. For example, the district’s health insurance premiums have decreased in each of the past two years. B-P moved to the CASHIC consortium for employee health insurance in 2018.

Since September, Broadalbin-Perth has…

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- distributed more than 100 WiFi hotspots to families without home internet access.
When students return to school in September, 95% of Broadalbin-Perth’s 2016 capital project is expected to be completed. One of the primary objectives of the $39.7 million project — to reorganize the schools into one pre-K through grade 6 elementary school and one grades 7-12 junior/senior high school — was achieved this year. However, work on spaces at both campuses has been ongoing this school year and will continue into the summer.

At B-P Elementary School, located at the Perth campus, interior work is complete on the new entrance addition. Construction crews are putting the finishing touches on the outside of the building, pouring sidewalks, and installing landscaping. Students, families, employees, and visitors will begin using the main entrance in September.

Work also continues in the former intermediate school media center, which will become the elementary school media center, as well as the former middle school media center, which will become classrooms and offices for student support service staff. Over the summer, work will also be completed in the former middle school gymnasium, including the stage, and several classrooms in older parts of the building.

At the junior/senior high school, located at the Broadalbin campus, construction continues on the corridor that will link the junior high (former TLC) with the far end of the senior high school, where art and music classrooms are located. Work is also ongoing to transform the former high school cafeteria into a state-of-the-art lecture hall that will seat more than 70 people, as well as to add a conference room to the second floor above the senior high school office.

Over the summer, the senior high school office will be reconfigured to enhance security, including adding a window into a secure vestibule to allow office staff to screen visitors before they enter the building. Summer work also includes the construction of a new press box and restrooms at Patriot Field, which will eliminate the need for the district to rent portable toilets for future events.

How would the proposed budget affect my property taxes?

It’s impossible to say with certainty what each town’s tax rate will be in September. Factors outside the school district’s control — assessments (provided by towns) and equalization rates (provided by the state Office of Real Property Tax Services) — affect tax rates in each of the district’s nine towns, and changes in one town’s tax rate affect the tax rates in each of the other eight towns. Actual tax rates are set in August.

That being said, preliminary data indicates that some B-P residents will see their tax rate decrease in 2021. Assistant Superintendent Marco Zumbolo has used preliminary data from towns to project the true-value tax rate for the 2021-22 school year to be $16.26 per $1,000 of equalized value — down from $17.25 in 2020-21 and the lowest true-value tax rate in 10 years (see graphic above). Note, the true-value tax rate is the rate that could be applied to all properties in the district if every equalization rate was 100%.

Zumbolo says that while equalization rates in the towns in the district are decreasing, the total assessed value of properties in the district is rising as new homes and businesses are built and improvements are made to existing structures. As more properties come on the tax rolls, the total tax levy is divided among a greater number of properties, resulting in a lower tax bill for many property owners.

B-P to host free summer enrichment program for elementary students

Broadalbin-Perth Elementary School will host Camp Invention, a nationally acclaimed STEM enrichment program, for all district students entering kindergarten through grade 6. The program will be offered free of charge Aug. 9-12.

Camp Invention provides opportunities for open-ended exploration of science, technology, engineering, and more. Each day of the program, participating children will rotate through a variety of hands-on activities while collaborating with friends to think creatively and invent their own solutions to real-world challenges.

Parents interested in registering for Camp Invention should look for the sign-up form on ParentSquare. Learn more about Camp Invention at www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention.

Capital project work on track to be 95% complete by September

The inside of the new elementary school entrance is finished, but work will continue into the spring to complete the outside of the addition, including walkways and landscaping.
**B-P launches work-based learning program**

Earlier this year, Broadalbin-Perth launched a work-based learning (WBL) initiative. Through the program, district staff are connecting B-P students with alumni, local businesses, and members of the community to give students opportunities to explore different careers hands-on before they graduate from high school.

Local businesses and individuals are invited to participate by offering internships, engaging with students during career fairs or classroom talks, serving as mentors, or offering job shadowing experiences for students. Students have registered for credit-bearing internships for the 2021-22 school year, and the district is offering career talks for current students to help them learn more about career opportunities.

Charla Simonson, a counselor at BPHS, is overseeing the program with the support of an advisory committee made up of local business leaders and representatives from FMCC, the Chamber of Commerce, and the HFM BOCES Career and Technical Education Center.

“A lot of research has gone into developing the WBL program to make sure it meets our students’ specific needs,” Simonson said. “We want our students to be more aware of the available career paths so they can make informed decisions about their futures. We hope that their experiences can be the catalyst to help our students realize their passion or find their dream career.”

Local business owners, B-P alumni, or community members who would like to participate in Broadalbin-Perth’s work-based learning program should contact Simonson at simonsonc@bpcsd.org or 518-954-2623.

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**Pair of Odyssey of the Mind teams headed to World Finals**

Two of Broadalbin-Perth’s Odyssey of the Mind teams will be competing at the World Finals this spring — one virtually, and one in person in Orlando, Fla. Although the COVID-19 pandemic meant preparing for and competing in the creative problem-solving program was different than it has been in years past, the team members and their coaches said they are grateful for the opportunity to return to Odyssey of the Mind after last year’s shortened season.

The team competing in person June 11-12 includes (pictured above, from left) ninth- graders Jacob Hughes, Ryelle VanAntistine, and Blaize Herrick, eighth-grader Ryan Michalski, and ninth-graders Logan Avery and Lauryn Donahue. The team, coached by Carl and Alison Avery, will compete in long-term problem 2, “Virtual Odyssey.”

B-P’s elementary team, coached by Caitlin Walter, will compete in the virtual World Finals, which begin April 30 and continue through May 29. The team includes (pictured, from left) sixth-graders Jackson Sargis, Camden Korona, Austin Steele, Samantha Sniezky, Kelsey Walter, and Taylor Gifford.

The team is competing in long-term problem 4, “It’s a Trap.”

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**B-P nursing team shines throughout COVID-19 pandemic**

In a school year like none other, the work of B-P’s team of school nurses has been essential to keeping school open and safe for the students and staff at Broadalbin-Perth. Led by Lori Nellis (right) at the senior high school, the team also consists of Jordan Lindquist (not pictured) at the junior high school and Chrissie Yatower (below, left) and Amy Soler (below, right) at B-P Elementary School.

Nellis also serves as the district’s COVID-19 health coordinator, but she says everyone on the nursing team chips in to monitor COVID-19 cases and quarantine requirements for students and employees; interpret and implement health and safety protocols from the local health department, New York state and the CDC; and report all necessary COVID-19 stats to county and state officials — in addition to their typical, non-pandemic responsibilities.

When asked to describe a typical day, Nellis replied, “There is no such thing as a ‘typical day’ when you’re a school nurse during a pandemic! Every single day is different, and it’s impossible to predict how your day is going to go.”

She was very quick to give praise to her nursing teammates at B-P. “I couldn’t do this without the support of the other nurses in the district. We work really well together as a team, and we always have each other’s backs. And that’s how we’ll get through this — together, as a team.”

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Tomlinson applauded the nursing team for going above and beyond to keep the school community safe this year.

“Every member of the B-P team has had to work harder and smarter this year, but the nursing staff absolutely deserves a moment in the spotlight and to be publicly recognized for their hard work,” he said. “Their efforts have kept our buildings safe and our community healthy. Most importantly, their work has allowed our teachers to continue teaching and our students to continue learning.”

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**Also on the ballot: Bus purchase proposition**

This year, residents are also voting on a proposition to purchase two 66-passenger buses, one 30-passenger wheelchair-enabled bus, and one 41-passenger bus at a cost not to exceed $532,349. The state will pay for approximately 80% of that cost, and the district will trade in old vehicles being replaced to reduce the purchase price of the new vehicles.

The New York State Department of Transportation regulates school buses much more strictly than it does passenger vehicles. For instance, while a family’s car must pass a New York state inspection once a year, school buses must pass more rigorous inspections twice a year. If a school bus fails one of these inspections, it must be taken off the road immediately and cannot be put back into service until it meets the state’s standards.

It costs much more to maintain an older bus to the state’s standards than it costs to maintain a new bus. By the time an old bus is retired from Broadalbin-Perth’s fleet, it will have accumulated more than 150,000 miles. District officials estimate these high-mileage buses cost B-P at least twice as much to maintain as new buses.

Between the trade-in value of the old buses and the projected savings on maintenance costs, the new purchases would result in no tax increases.
**Who can vote?**

In order to vote, a person must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, registered to vote, and a resident of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 18 vote.

Throughout the pandemic, B-P has remained committed to providing students with quality, innovative educational experiences. A new high school elective this year invited seniors to learn about science and technology through the “Star Wars” movies.

Learn more: bit.ly/3glfZHF

**How do I register to vote?**

Residents who have registered to vote in general elections are automatically registered to vote on the budget proposal.

District residents who have not registered to vote in general elections may register to vote on the proposed budget 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays in the district office, or by calling the district clerk at 518-954-2501 to make other arrangements.

**Can I vote by absentee ballot?**

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Contact the district office at 518-954-2501 to obtain an application.

If you want your ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by May 11. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by May 17.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the district office by 5 p.m. on May 18.