CAIRO-DURHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATION matters

VOTE
Tuesday, May 18
1-9 p.m.
Middle School Cafeteria

ON THE BALLOT
➢ Budget Proposal
➢ Bus Purchase (p. 2)
➢ Board of Education Election (p. 2)

BUDGET SUMMARY
➢ Proposed budget of $33,212,222
➢ Tax levy increase 4.45% (at tax cap)
➢ Tax rate decrease due to change in GSK PILOT (p. 5)

The proposal maintains programming and services for students. There would be no cuts to programs or staffing.

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Budget Preserves Programs & Supports

The Cairo-Durham Central School District proposes a $33,212,222 spending plan for the 2021-22 school year. The proposed budget maintains current educational opportunities, student supports and services, and school health and safety initiatives.

The budget proposal has a 4.45% increase in the tax levy, which is equal to the District’s maximum allowable increase as calculated under New York State’s property tax cap law. Individual tax rates will actually decrease due to GSK being added to the tax rolls for the first time in 10 years. See page 5 for information about tax levy and tax rates.

The proposed budget would preserve current programs, faculty and staff. Examples of non-mandated academic programs that would be maintained include:

- Half-day pre-kindergarten
- Full-day kindergarten
- 12 Advanced Placement courses
- 20+ college courses
- 40+ high school electives in Art, Business, Technology and more
- 1:1 Chromebook program (K-12)
- Distance learning opportunities

The budget would maintain positions to support student wellbeing and other needs. Examples include two social workers, four school psychologists and three part-time county mental health and substance abuse counselors.

"With state aid being supplemented by the federal stimulus, we can continue providing our students with the necessary academic and social-emotional supports to begin recovering from the global pandemic we are living through, and maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for all." - Michael Wetherbee, Superintendent of Schools.

A grant-funded IT position added this year to address increased needs such as help requests and equipment repair would also be continued.

The budget-to-budget increase is 2.15% (or $699,683). The increase is largely due to: Special Education tuition, health insurance and other contractual obligations such as pension contributions. The District continually seeks cost-saving opportunities such as partnerships with BOCES to reduce fuel, heating and equipment costs.

The date of the vote is Tuesday, May 18th from 1-9 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. In addition to the budget proposal, voters will be asked to elect four candidates to the Board of Education and consider a proposition for the purchase of six buses.

Hands-on STEM

Eighth grade Technology students utilized empathy-based design to plan, draw and build an orthotic prototype that would provide artificial support for a lower limb. The orthotic project is part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum at the middle school.

Students worked in groups to research a problem and work through the design process. They had to formulate orthotic designs that met specific criteria for the intended population. Students designed prototypes that were removable, comfortable, secure at the ankle and able to lift up only in the toe area. There was an added challenge of team members collaborating in person and virtually.

PLTW programs introduce students to computer science, engineering, biomedical science and more. They are designed to serve middle and high school students who may be more inspired by the application of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) than they are by traditional math or science courses.
CAIRO-DURHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ON THE BALLOT

Budget Proposal
Voters will decide on a 2021-22 school budget in the amount of $33,212,222 and for the Board of Education to be authorized to raise such portion thereof as may be necessary by taxes levied on taxable property of said school district.

Bus Purchase
A separate proposition seeks voter approval to purchase six school buses at a cost not to exceed $665,000 (before state aid reimbursement, bond interest and estimated trade-in value). The bus purchase proposition breaks down as follows:

- $609,025 for the purchase of five 65-passenger buses
- $55,975 for the purchase of one Chevy Suburban

The bus purchase is part of the District’s board-approved replacement plan designed to keep the fleet in safe, working order. The actual cost to the District will be significantly less than the amount requiring voter approval. Cairo-Durham would receive approximately 70% in state aid reimbursement on the purchase of these buses. If approved, the bus proposition would also allow the District to trade in five buses that have become too costly to maintain.

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Board of Education Election
Four (4) seats on the Board of Education are up for election on May 18. The terms of Brian Coletti, Elizabeth Daly, David Infantino and Chris O’Connell will expire on June 30, 2021. Three seats are three-year, non-paid terms ending in June 2024. One seat is a one-year, non-paid term ending in June 2022. The candidate with the fourth highest number of votes will fill the one-year term.

There are five candidates running for four open seats. They will be listed on the ballot as follows: Brian Coletti, Elizabeth Daly, Tonya Frickey, Christopher O’Connell, Carolyn Miller.

To learn more about the board candidates, visit wwwcairo-durham.org/boe/news

BUS PURCHASE Q & A
Why does the District purchase buses on a regular basis?
The primary reasons are student safety and long-term cost savings. In addition to maintaining a fleet of vehicles that are built with the latest safety features and efficiency standards, the bus replacement plan is designed to control repair and maintenance costs on older buses. By law, buses must undergo rigorous safety inspections twice a year and it costs more to maintain an older bus to the state’s standards than it costs to maintain a newer bus. Also, trade-in values decrease dramatically when buses reach 8-10 years of age. In 2016, the District adopted a seven-year bus purchasing plan to maximize the trade-in value of each bus.

How does the District determine when to replace a bus?
The main consideration for replacement is the age of the bus. The State Education Department recommends that districts replace small buses every five to seven years and large buses every 10 years. The average lifespan of a school bus in the Northeast is about 10-12 years, mostly due to weather conditions and corrosive salt mixtures used on local roads.

Benefits of Bus Replacement Cycle
✓ Newest safety features
✓ Factory warranties
✓ Increased fuel efficiency
✓ Increased trade-in value
✓ Predictable debt service
✓ Reduced maintenance costs

Breakdown of Cost & Financing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Total</td>
<td>$665,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Trade-ins</td>
<td>-$92,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Borrowing Cost After Trades</td>
<td>$572,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Principal to be financed (5 years)</td>
<td>$572,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add Finance Cost</td>
<td>$63,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Purchase Cost</td>
<td>$636,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less State Aid</td>
<td>-$399,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Taxpayer Cost</td>
<td>$237,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Local Taxpayer Cost (over 5 years)</td>
<td>$47,464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where the money comes from...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>2020-2021 Budget</th>
<th>2021-2022 Proposed</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State/Federal Aid</td>
<td>$15,476,143</td>
<td>$16,151,730</td>
<td>$675,587</td>
<td>4.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>$14,582,948</td>
<td>$15,232,554</td>
<td>$649,606</td>
<td>4.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Sources*</td>
<td>$753,448</td>
<td>$277,938</td>
<td>$(475,510)</td>
<td>-63.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>$1,550,000</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$(150,000)</td>
<td>-9.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Reserves</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$32,512,539</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,212,222</strong></td>
<td><strong>$699,683</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.15%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes the loss of GSK's PILOT (see pg. 5)

...and where it is spent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>2020-2021 Budget</th>
<th>2021-2022 Proposed</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATION:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education</td>
<td>$31,685</td>
<td>$29,985</td>
<td>$(1,700)</td>
<td>-5.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>$241,146</td>
<td>$237,447</td>
<td>$(3,699)</td>
<td>-1.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Services</td>
<td>$437,942</td>
<td>$456,015</td>
<td>$18,073</td>
<td>4.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal/Public Information</td>
<td>$86,937</td>
<td>$93,374</td>
<td>$6,437</td>
<td>7.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Services</td>
<td>$844,137</td>
<td>$872,606</td>
<td>$28,469</td>
<td>3.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisory/Improvement</td>
<td>$1,101,003</td>
<td>$1,094,913</td>
<td>$(6,090)</td>
<td>-0.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$586,295</td>
<td>$594,653</td>
<td>$8,358</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,329,145</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,378,993</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49,848</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Instruction</td>
<td>$8,467,400</td>
<td>$8,654,878</td>
<td>$187,478</td>
<td>2.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>$4,219,956</td>
<td>$4,743,964</td>
<td>$524,008</td>
<td>12.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Education</td>
<td>$825,552</td>
<td>$866,232</td>
<td>$40,680</td>
<td>4.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library/Technology</td>
<td>$1,154,676</td>
<td>$1,007,103</td>
<td>$(147,573)</td>
<td>-12.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>$1,313,424</td>
<td>$1,413,756</td>
<td>$100,332</td>
<td>7.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,022,927</td>
<td>$1,833,933</td>
<td>$(188,994)</td>
<td>-9.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund Transfers</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$(120,000)</td>
<td>-57.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$6,354,394</td>
<td>$6,444,979</td>
<td>$90,585</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,638,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,129,845</strong></td>
<td><strong>$491,516</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.99%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>$2,010,388</td>
<td>$1,934,122</td>
<td>$(66,266)</td>
<td>-3.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certiorari/Judgments</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$2,023,891</td>
<td>$2,252,734</td>
<td>$228,843</td>
<td>11.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Capital Fund</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$402,786</td>
<td>$408,528</td>
<td>$5,742</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITAL TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,545,065</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,703,384</strong></td>
<td><strong>$158,319</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.48%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$33,212,222</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three-Part Budget

By law, school districts must divide their budget into three components—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to amounts from the previous year. Cairo-Durham CSD’s three-part budget breaks down as follows:

- Program Expenses 75.67%
- Administrative Expenses 10.17%
- Capital Expenses 14.16%

Administrative Expenses

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing, legal and auditing expenses, insurance costs and Board of Education expenses.

Program Expenses

Program costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (e.g., library, guidance, health, social work, speech therapy and athletics), textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs, and transportation costs.

Capital Expenses

Capital costs include items that are essential for the maintenance and operations of district-owned facilities, salaries and benefits of maintenance/custodial staff, judgements and claims and debt service obligations.
This table compares the estimated tax rates and amounts with the GlaxoSmithKline PILOT that expires in June (pg. 5). For the purposes of this table, 2020-21 equalization rates and assessments were used to calculate 2021-22 tax estimates. Actual figures will vary depending on actual assessed values, which are calculated by each Town Assessor, and equalization rates provided by the State Office of Real Property Services that will be provided to districts this summer.
Pandemic Response

The District is proud of how the school community stepped up to the challenge of educating our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unexpectedly thrown into a new reality, faculty and staff created online resources for students so they could work on assignments at home. Staff throughout the district collected and distributed school supplies such as pencils, sharpeners, glue, and graph paper to help students complete assignments. Administrators and faculty held virtual workshops to help parents navigate new learning tools such as Google Classroom.

Our IT Department worked countless hours to ensure students had the resources they needed to stay connected. During the first weeks of the shutdown, in addition to the nearly 600 devices already in the hands of Grades 6-12 students, they deployed approximately 350 additional computers to elementary students. Since September, more than 175 mobile hotspots were provided to help students gain internet access at home. Chromebook distribution has continued this year, providing more than 1,100 devices to K-12 students and bringing us to a 1:1 device-to-student ratio.

The Food Services Department assembled grab-and-go meals for students while schools were closed. In total, they distributed 300 student meals a day – more than 2,000 meals each week – throughout the closure and they continue to provide meals for remote students this school year.

During a summer of uncertainty, our reopening committee developed a plan that would allow students and staff to safely return to school. Multiple learning models were created to allow for in-person instruction as well as the option to learn remotely. The District purchased hand sanitizer for every classroom, masks for every student and staff member, directional signage, infrared thermometers and more to ensure a safe school environment.

The District’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing as the public health climate continues to change.

Budget Questions & Answers

How will taxes be affected?
Most property owners will see a decrease in their tax bills next year (see pg. 4). This is due to the expiration of GlaxoSmithKline’s PILOT (payments in lieu of taxes). Now that GSK will be on the tax rolls instead of a PILOT, they will cover more than the tax levy increase, leading to lower tax rates for most property owners.

What is the difference between tax levy and tax rate?
The tax levy is the total amount of taxes that a school district raises from property owners in order to balance its budget. The District uses a state formula to determine what the levy will be after accounting for all other sources of revenue, including state aid. The tax rate is used to calculate what each property owner will pay in school taxes. It is the amount of tax paid for each increment (usually $1,000) of assessed value of property.

Is a 4.45% tax levy increase within the tax cap?
Yes. The tax cap (or maximum tax levy increase) calculated for Cairo-Durham is 4.45%, meaning the proposed budget is tax cap compliant.

Why is the tax cap higher than recent years?
This year’s tax cap is largely influenced by the loss of GlaxoSmithKline’s 10-year PILOT (payments in lieu of taxes) that was not renewed. A PILOT is a payment made to compensate a government for some or all of the property tax revenue lost due to tax exempt ownership or use of real property. The loss of this PILOT was factored into the District’s tax cap calculation, resulting in a higher tax cap to make up the difference. GSK’s properties will be added to the tax rolls and taxed appropriately, much like most other properties in the District.

What happens if the budget is defeated?
If the budget is not approved, the District may resubmit the original budget or submit a revised budget to voters on June 15. If the resubmitted/revised proposal is not approved by the required margin, the Board must adopt a contingency budget with a 0% tax levy increase. A contingency budget would result in a reduction of $649,606 from the current budget proposal. Under a contingency budget, the District would not be allowed to provide free public use of school facilities or purchase new equipment. Each program and department would be reviewed to eliminate non-mandated expenses. Examples of non-mandated expenditures that could be reduced or eliminated under a contingency budget include extracurricular activities, field trips, athletics, and non-mandated academic programs or electives.
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ms. Elizabeth Daly, President
Mr. Brian Coletti, Vice President
Mr. Stephen Brandow
Mrs. Bernadette Gavin-Palmieri
Mr. Dale Handel
Mr. Todd Hilgendorff
Mr. David Infantino
Mr. Chris O’Connell
Ms. Claudia Zucker

Mrs. Bridget Agostinoni, District Clerk
Mr. Michael Wetherbee, Superintendent

www.cairodurham.org

VOTING INFORMATION
How can I vote?
In-person voting will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between 1-9 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria. Visit www.cairodurham.org/budget for information about absentee ballots.

Who is eligible to vote?
To be a qualified voter you must be a US Citizen, at least 18 years old by May 18, 2021, a School District resident for 30 days immediately preceding the vote, and not otherwise unable to register for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of Section 5-106 of the election law.

What if I have questions?
If you have questions about the budget proposal or voting, please visit www.cairodurham.org/budget or call the District Office at 518-622-8534 ext. 25010.

Get more voting information at www.cairodurham.org

CLASS OF 2020 SNAPSHOT
везерде % graduation rate
At least 83% went on to college, university, trade or technical school
Colleges attended include Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Bard, Cazenovia, CGCC, HVCC, RPI, Russell Sage, Saint Rose, Siena, SUNY Albany, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, SUNY Plattsburgh
605 potential college credits earned before graduation
$30,000+ awarded from community-based scholarships
Nearly 800 hours of community service in one semester

In-person and remote students often collaborate during classes using Google Meet on Chromebooks. Due to the unique circumstances of this school year, many students have a synchronous learning model in which they follow regular class schedules at home and log into virtual classes at designated times during the school day.