



Orchard Park Central School District Community Report 2018 Budget/Vote Edition

Eggert Students Hold Book Drive to Benefit Patients at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital

Students at Eggert Elementary held a book drive in January to collect books for patients at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital in Buffalo.

Fifth grade Eggert Elementary student Ella Sheehan wanted to organize a book drive for the children, so she began by collecting 72 books on her own. Hoping to expand her collection efforts to provide enough books for all the children in the hospital, Ella worked with Student Council President Lilliana Croft, and Student Council Vice President Reese Politowski. With their help, Ella was able to expand her efforts to include fellow Eggert students.

In January, student council members helped promote the collection drive by creating posters and flyers for distribution. They also helped collect both monetary and book donations. Representatives from Student Council spoke with all of the classes to explain the purpose and scope of the book drive. Their goal was to collect 450 books in a range of reading ability levels so they could accommodate all of the children visiting the hospital at one time.

The book drive was held January 12th through January 22nd and the students surpassed their goal by collecting a total of 472 books. Eggert students enjoyed a pajama day at the end of January to celebrate.

Ella, Lilliana, Reese, and Student Council Advisor Mr. Tim Reukauf delivered the books to Children's Hospital on Wednesday, March 14th. The students at Eggert hope that the books bring joy to the children staying in the hospital this spring.



Pictured above are Reese Politowski, Ella Sheehan and Lilliana Croft with Student Council Advisor Mr. Tim Reukauf delivering books to Children's Hospital in March.

Another Exceptional Winter Athletic Season



The Frontier, Lakeshore, Orchard Park Girls Hockey team won the Section VI Championship, the Federation title and NYSPHSAA State Championship.



The Varsity Girls Basketball team won the Section VI Class AA Championship.



The Varsity Girls Bowling team won the Section VI Class A Championship.

Summer Community Education Brochure Enclosed. Pull Out and Save Center Insert!



Superintendent's Column

Matthew P. McGarrity

Over the last few months, the administrative team has been working on the 2018-19 operating budget. Again this year the budget will focus on improving safety and security and will include a shared School Resource Officer with the Town of Orchard Park. The budget will also keep our class sizes within the current Board guidelines and stay within the Tax Cap requirements set by the state.

We began our budget planning with a projected large deficit and projected lower state aid support. We made many difficult decisions in order to close the deficit including the reduction of 17.2 staffing positions. We are also using additional fund balance and reserve funds to close the gap and present a budget that is within the Tax Cap requirements which will result in a "property tax relief credit" for homeowners with a star exemption.

Throughout the last several years, the Orchard Park Central School District has implemented several cost-saving initiatives in order to offset rising costs and stay within the parameters of the tax cap including: Reducing our energy costs; Moving to a self-funded healthcare plan; Reducing our workers' compensation & liability insurance premiums; and refinancing the 2006 & 2008 serial bonds, just to name a few. Because of these cost-saving initiatives and sound financial practices, the Orchard Park Central School District is ranked #8 in administrative efficiency and #6 in cost effectiveness locally according to *Business First*.

The District is also fortunate to have several organizations that donate to help support our programs. The Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence has donated tens of thousands of dollars since its inception in 2001, including a 3-D printer, a laser engraver, fitness equipment, author visits, sound systems, biotechnology equipment and anti-bullying support, just to name a few. We also receive donations from our PTOs, Music Boosters, Athletic Boosters, the Orchard Park Lions Club, along with individual donors.

In addition to the 2018-19 Operating Budget, the May 15, 2018 ballot also includes: Proposition II-the purchase of school buses and related equipment. The total estimated cost of all the buses and related equipment is \$792,000. Again this year there will be no budget impact on the purchase of the buses, the payment is offset by state aid and negotiated contract concessions.

We are thankful that Orchard Park has extraordinary teachers, support staff and administrators, and that we are supported by a community that values exceptional public education. We will continue to advocate for adequate state aid, high standards for our students and support for the local control of public education by our community. We are proud of our long standing commitment to student success in academics, athletics and the arts. The 2018-19 Operating Budget will help to ensure this continued commitment. I thank you for your continued support.

**Annual Budget Vote and Board Member Election May 15, 2018
7 a.m. - 9 p.m. at the Orchard Park High School**

Proposition # 1 - Proposed Operating Budget

RESOLVED that the 2018-19 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District, in the total amount of \$102,070,976, be adopted. The budget to budget increase is 3.82%. The tax levy increase is 4.27%. This keeps the budget within the 4.27% allowable tax levy cap which will allow homeowners to receive the property tax credit relief checks in the fall.

Proposition # 2 - Purchase and Financing of Vehicles

Voters will decide on the purchase of two (2) seventy-seven (77) passenger school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$153,000 each; two (2) sixty-five (65) passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$113,000; two (2) thirty-four (34) passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$65,000 each; and two (2) thirty (30) passenger buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$65,000 each. The purchase, part of the District's long-range bus replacement schedule, will not add to the tax burden. These eight buses, at a total cost not to exceed \$792,000, will be funded through state education department reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions over the last thirteen years; and, if approved, will have no new tax impact to local taxpayers.

Election of Two Candidates to the Board of Education

See pages 8 and 9 for Candidate Profiles.

Storytelling Team Visits Ellicott Elementary



Beauty and the Beast Storytellers present stories to students using hand gestures and facial expressions.

Ellicott Elementary School hosted renowned storytellers Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss who presented to Ellicott students March 19th through March 23rd.

Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss are the husband-and-wife team behind "Beauty and the Beast Storytellers," a critically-acclaimed storytelling duo from Ithaca, NY. These award-winning authors and recording artists presented fun learning activities, writer's workshops, and group presentations to Ellicott students. Their visit encouraged children to tell their own tales in an engaging manner and to write their own vivid stories. Storytelling Technique Workshops allow students to become aware of their own innate storytelling skills using nothing more than their voice, facial expression, and hand gestures to bring stories to life.

Hamilton and Weiss have authored more than 20 books for young readers, many of which are retellings of folk tales from around the world, as well as modern day authored stories from their own experiences. Most recently they have collaborated with Tedd Arnold, best-selling author of the *Fly Guy* series. Together they created a series of early graphic readers about "noodleheads" or fools.

Parents and teachers can find a wealth of information on how to get children excited about reading, telling stories and making up their own tales at beautyandthebeaststorytellers.com.

Windom Partners with the New Hope School in Haiti

Windom Elementary is culminating its second year of a long-term partnership with the New Hope School in Belot, Haiti. Windom students and staff have come together to raise funds and essential supplies for the New Hope School and plan to continue to support them in the future. This cooperative effort allows the staff and students at Windom to experience philanthropy on a global scale by helping others in need, while also encouraging students to understand empathy and gratitude.

The partnership began when Mr. Tom Schaner, former Orchard Park Middle School Science teacher and spouse of Windom fourth grade teacher Mrs. Judy Schaner, visited Haiti on a mission trip several years ago. He was made aware of the need for a school building in the mountain area of Belot. He helped support a grassroots effort to create what has now become the New Hope School. In five years, the school has gone from modest beginnings as a tented structure with just 60 students to a building with a cistern that accommodates 120 students. The school has become a true community center.

A committee of Windom staff collaborates with the Headmaster, Mr. Reginald Constant, of the New Hope School to learn about the school's greatest needs and how they might be able to help those students further their education. Since the school has no library or shelving, Windom fundraisers for this school year are focused on raising enough money to help build a new school library to encourage literacy and learning. In addition, Windom would like to help the school acquire books in Creole and/or French. Last year Windom raised over \$1,700, which was used to build new student seating at the New Hope School.

Throughout this coordinated partnership between Windom Elementary and the New Hope School, important lessons are being taught at Windom. One of which is the importance of sustainability of the project and how this long term commitment results in positive change and progress. Windom students were first introduced to the New Hope School and its students through informational videos about Haiti on WE TV, Windom Elementary's morning announcements. Since then Windom has continued to make a curricular connection between Belot, Haiti and Orchard Park by incorporating lessons in geography, water, language, and culture. Fourth grade students, for example, have learned in their Land and Water unit that clean water is a valuable resource and not simply a given. The addition of a cistern and water filtration system at the New Hope School creates clean, filtered water for the Belot community.

By continuing to support the New Hope School, Windom students create their own authentic learning experience that they all can be proud of. Anyone interested in learning more about the Windom-Haiti Partnership can contact Windom Principal, Mr. Philip Johnson at: pjohnson@opschools.org.



Students in Mrs. Schaner's class are pictured with pencils collected during a pencil drive held earlier in the year to benefit the New Hope School in Belot, Haiti.

Expenditures

Components	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Program	\$74,804,707	\$76,676,161	\$1,871,454
Capital	\$14,959,157	\$15,996,963	\$1,037,806
Administration	\$8,549,871	\$9,397,852	\$847,981
TOTAL	\$98,313,735	\$102,070,976	\$3,757,241

Program Expenditures

Proposed Operating Budget - Program Component

The program or instructional component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for over 5,000 students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies, textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for employees assigned to this category are reported here.

Program	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Regular Education	\$37,204,166	\$38,584,586	\$1,380,420
Special Education	\$15,573,900	\$15,069,751	-\$504,149
Transportation	\$4,487,281	\$4,791,824	\$304,543
Benefits	\$17,539,360	\$18,230,000	\$690,640
TOTAL	\$74,804,707	\$76,676,161	\$1,871,454

Capital Expenses

Proposed Operating Budget - Capital Component

The capital component of the budget includes maintenance and upkeep of the district's facilities and property including electricity, gas, water, sewer, and telephone services. It also includes principal and interest payments on capital projects and salaries and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

Program	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Operations & Maintenance	\$6,037,196	\$6,131,200	\$94,004
Debt Service	\$6,505,301	\$7,475,463	\$970,162
Benefits	\$2,416,660	\$2,390,300	-\$26,360
TOTAL	\$14,959,157	\$15,996,963	\$1,037,806

Administrative Expenses

Proposed Operating Budget - Administrative Component

The administrative component of the budget provides for overall general support and management activities including the Board of Education, the superintendent's office, business and personnel departments, curriculum and staff development, supervision and support in each of the six schools. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance, BOCES administrative costs and salaries and benefits for all staff in the administrative offices.

Program	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Board & District Office	\$4,230,993	\$4,633,807	\$402,814
Building Supervision	\$2,052,698	\$2,258,045	\$205,347
Benefits	\$2,266,180	\$2,506,000	\$239,820
TOTAL	\$8,549,871	\$9,397,852	\$847,981

Estimated Revenue

Source	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$61,554,907	\$64,181,775	\$2,626,868
PILOTS	\$695,220	\$695,000	-\$220
State & Federal Aid	\$27,212,768	\$27,355,361	\$142,593
Erie County Sales Tax	\$5,025,000	\$5,025,000	\$0
Other Revenues	\$830,000	\$818,000	-\$12,000
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$2,995,840	\$3,995,840	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$98,313,735	\$102,070,976	\$3,757,241

Revenue Facts

School Districts are funded through State Aid, property tax, and other revenue sources including sales tax and fund balance.

Orchard Park Pride

The Orchard Park Central School District, the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce and the business community would like to recognize 37 Orchard Park High School seniors as Orchard Park Pride. These students were recognized for their outstanding character, leadership and achievement at an awards dinner held on April 26th. The Orchard Park Pride honorees are pictured to the right. In the front row from left to right is: Alyssa Lutz, Aviya DiStefano, Emily Cappello, Anna Major, Jessica Buffamonti, Regan Shanahan, Karlin Klass, Fiona Rath, Emilia Kamis. In the second row is: Erich Dickey, Emma Salmon, Callie Reid, Marissa Torcello, Sara Greenan, Joseph Swetz, Mary Evelyn Quinlan, Emily Piscitelli and Alexandria Biondo. In the third row is: Amanda Aldrow, Erin Gawel, Elizabeth Chow, Lillian Wozniak, Jenna Probst, Emily Henrich, Margaret Ziccardi, Philip Choroser, Haley Arthur. In the back row is: Patrick Higgins, Corey Keane, Timothy Allaire, Jon Watson, Benjamin Black, Ryan Storto, Shannon Callaghan, Matthew Donohue and Joseph Zizzi.



Orchard Park By The Numbers

Business First Rankings

Metric	Western NY (Out of 96 Districts)	Upstate NY (Out of 431 Districts)
College Readiness	#1	#2
Academic Ranking	#4	#15
Cost Effectiveness	#6	#11
Administrative Efficiency	#8	#15
Per Pupil Spending	#5	#37

Grab Dinner To Go at the Vote

The Orchard Park High School Post Prom Committee will host a BW's Barbecue Chicken and Ribs Dinner on Tuesday, May 15th from 3-7 p.m. or until they run out on the Freeman Road side of the High School. Chicken dinners are \$11 and Rib dinners are \$14. Meals include meat, potato salad, coleslaw, roll and butter. Proceeds benefit the Post Prom Party, a school supported, drug & alcohol-free event for seniors and their dates after the Prom.



The Hard Facts about Soft Skills

By: Lisa Krueger, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Services

With contributions by:

Lee Backus, OP Foundation for Academic Excellence
 Kristen Casto, OPHS Business Teacher
 Patrick Loftus, OPHS Business Teacher

The Orchard Park Central School District is committed to preparing our students for the next step of their journey after high school, whether that is college, military service or the workforce. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (2016), the Top 5 Valued Attributes sought by employers are:

1. Leadership Skills
2. Ability to work on a team
3. Communication skills - written
4. Problem-solving skills
5. Communication skills - verbal

These interpersonal skills are often referred to as “soft skills.” Such skills are more essential than job knowledge or content expertise when it comes to working well with others. In the Orchard Park Central School District, our students benefit from experiences and programs intended to support the development of soft skills. Beginning in elementary school, interpersonal communication skills are fostered in our English Language Arts instruction and collaborative projects facilitated through the use of technology.

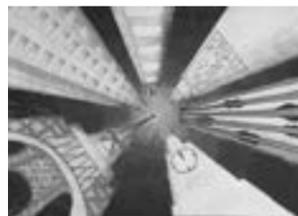
Through the generous support of the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence, the Greater Erie Federal Credit Union, and Bryant & Stratton College, all Freshman and Sophomores participate in the “Heads Up” program. In 9th grade, students learn foundational interpersonal skills like how to introduce oneself and the art of conversations. During 10th grade, students learn about multiculturalism and diversity, and its influence on interpersonal communications. The program will expand to Juniors in the 2018-19 school year, and Seniors the following year. Orchard Park High School is unique in offering such curricula to all students.

Our high school also offers a variety of courses where both content knowledge and interpersonal skills can further be developed. Our Business Department provides opportunities for internships, project-based learning experiences, and mock interviews. Students can also participate in DECA, an international program whose mission is to prepare emerging student leaders in the business fields of marketing, finance, hospitality and management. DECA and the courses of our Business Department are anchored in skills known as the 4 C’s: Critical thinking and problem solving, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. These skills are directly aligned to the skills most valued by employers. Through courses such as Career & Financial Management, Leadership, and our Academy of Finance program, students experience authentic learning with real-world application of both content knowledge and interpersonal skills.

Leadership opportunities, where students can enhance their soft skills, are present throughout our Athletic programs, clubs, after school activities, and visual & performing arts programs. Our commitment to educating the “whole child” encompasses more than academics and content knowledge. The interpersonal skills, or soft skills, of our students are vital to their future employability and success. Our courses and extra-curricular programs support students in the development of these skills.

ArtSplash 2018

The Orchard Park Central School District is pleased to announce the 30th year of ArtSplash, the two week, district-wide art show held each spring. Opening night will be held on Friday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m. This year the District is pleased to announce that the Orchard Park Public Library will be hosting ArtSplash. The Orchard Park Library, located at 4570 South Buffalo Street in Orchard Park, will provide an ideal venue for the amazing pieces of student artwork to be displayed and enjoyed. The student artwork will remain on display in the library until June 10th.



Artwork by: Skyler Crane



Artwork by: Ruby Brown



Artwork by: Sydney Dobmeier

Lions Club Partners with Elementary Schools to Offer Free Vision Screenings



Top row from left to right: Pete Orendorf, David Shareno, and Matthew McGarrity. Bottom row from left to right: Xavier N'Dombe, Kailey Piskorowski, Cole Sengbush, Makayla Avino, and Melissa Reed

The Orchard Park Lions Club has partnered with the Orchard Park Central School District to offer free vision screenings from March 19th to March 26th to children in kindergarten and first grade. A total of 433 students were screened and 18 of them have been referred for further evaluation.

The Spot Vision Screener that was utilized during the testing provides a quick and noninvasive method to reliably detect refractive errors such as nearsightedness or farsightedness, eye misalignment and amblyopia, more commonly known as “lazy eye.” Amblyopia can cause permanent loss of vision if untreated.

The vision screener is up to 95% effective in detecting problems that could lead to amblyopia, which may be prevented if the conditions that cause it are detected and treated early.

Based on the success of this initial year implementing the program, Wendy Gloss, Director of Special Programs said, “We are pleased to continue offering these screenings next year and would like to expand it to include students in second grade as well.”

High School Band Director Receives Award



Matthew Cool, High School Band Director at Williamsville South, presented Mr. Don Carducci with the Distinguished Service Award at the NYSBDA Conference in Syracuse.

Orchard Park High School Band Director Don Carducci received the Distinguished Service Award at the New York State Band Director’s Association (NYSBDA) Conference in Syracuse, N.Y. from March 2-4, 2018.

Mr. Carducci’s honor is well-deserved having been a long-standing advocate for music education. He served as an NYSBDA Region 1 Representative and has been credited with reviving the true meaning of hosting a regional workshop. In addition, Mr. Carducci has spearheaded efforts for Western New York High School Band Departments to host local and nationally-known clinicians for the growth and professional development of local band directors. Orchard Park High School has hosted two of these workshops in the last three years.

Mr. Carducci has been with Orchard Park High School for almost 27 years.

Orchard Park Central School District Estimated Tax/STAR Impact of Typical Home 2018-19

	Actual 2017	Estimated 2018
Home Value (Orchard Park)	\$100,000	\$100,000
Rate per \$1,000	34.3451	35.4287
Tax Bill w/o STAR:	\$3,435	\$3,543
Increase		\$108
Percentage Increase		3.16%
Tax Bill w/Basic STAR Exemption:		
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (50.5% equalization rate)	-\$557	-\$562
Tax Bill	\$2,878	\$2,981
Increase		\$103
Percentage Increase		3.59%
Tax Bill w/Enhanced STAR Reduction:		
(For persons over 65, under \$86,000 income)		
STAR Reduction (2% Cap on Increase) (50.5% equalization rate)	-\$1,175	-\$1,180
Tax Bill	\$2,260	\$2,363
Increase		\$103
Percentage Increase		4.57%

*** This keeps the budget within the allowable tax levy cap which will allow homeowners with the STAR Exemption to receive the property tax credit relief checks in the fall.***

Orchard Park Seniors Sign Letters of Intent



Orchard Park High School seniors Danielle Hore, Danielle Milo and Samantha Fischer sign their letters of intent to play their sports at the collegiate level.

Three Orchard Park High School seniors signed their national letters of intent to play their sports at the college level. The seniors signed their letters at a signing ceremony at the District Office on Tuesday, April 10th.

Samantha Fischer plans to attend St. John Fisher College to play basketball next year. After trying out a variety of sports as a kid, Samantha fell in love with basketball and has continued playing for the past 13 years. She got her start in the Orchard Park Youth Basketball Association (OPYBA) before moving on to travel basketball.

In addition to playing for Orchard Park, she has played for the Buffalo Breakers, X Gen Elite, and the Buffalo Titans her senior year. Samantha enjoys basketball not only for the sport itself, but also for the friends she's made and the lessons she's learned along the way. Samantha chose St. John Fisher because she was impressed with the coach and the campus and knew that she wanted to continue both her academic and athletic career there. She would like to pursue a profession in the science field.

Danielle Hore plans to attend D'Youville College in the fall to play basketball next year. Danielle attributes her initial interest in basketball to her dad and brothers, with whom she has always played when she was little. She played for the OPYBA, as well as traveled with AAU basketball for I-90 Elite. Danielle is very passionate about playing the sport and loves working with her teammates in order to succeed. She wanted to continue playing in college to elevate her skills further. Danielle chose D'Youville based on the close proximity to home and because she feels that the college is a perfect match for her. Danielle plans to major in Exercise Sports Studies.

Danielle Milo plans to bowl at Mount St. Mary's University next year. Danielle has been bowling for the past 12 years and got started with her dad's encouragement. She loves the team, the friends she has made, and the competitiveness of the sport. Danielle is happy to have fulfilled her dream of bowling at the collegiate level. She feels that what makes her successful at this sport is working hard to improve her game while having fun at the same time. Danielle chose Mount St. Mary's because she likes that it's a small, competitive school with a good health sciences program. She plans to major in Health Sciences and eventually become a Physical Therapist.

Upcoming Budget Hearing Tuesday, May 8th

There will be a Public Hearing regarding the Budget on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7 p.m. The Public Hearing will be held at the District Offices located at 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY. Community members will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the Budget at this time and meet two candidates running for the two Board seats.

Board of Education Candidates - Elect Two

On the following page are the candidates running for the Orchard Park Board of Education. They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot. District residents will elect two candidates to the Board.

The information was provided by the candidates. The District does not provide further candidate information. The Board of Education is elected by District voters to govern schools and determine education policy. Board members are state officials operating within guidelines set forth by New York State Education Law, the State Board of Regents, judicial decisions and other regulatory agencies.

Tournament of Books at South Davis



The South Davis Tournament of Books bracket is pictured above.

South Davis Elementary held a Tournament of Books recently that tied in with the excitement of March Madness. The school began with the Sweet 16, the top 16 books that are most widely circulated through the South Davis Library determined by circulation statistics. Each week they moved on to determine the Elite 8, the Final 4, and then the final game.

Students had an opportunity to make predictions about which book they thought would win the tournament by making Flipgrid videos. Every student at South Davis participated in the voting using Google Forms. Winning books were announced over the loud speaker at the end of each week to the sound of roars heard in the hallway when their favorite book(s) succeeded. At the culmination of the tournament *The Legend of Rock, Paper Scissors* by Drew Daywalt won. As the South Davis PTO shares book fair earnings with the library, the school was able to buy one book from the tournament for each classroom.

Ryan C. Cimo (1A on the Ballot)

Address: 23 Braunview Way, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Family Information: Wife - Brenda (St. Lawrence University, BA / Virginia Tech University, MBA)
Son - Alex (6th Grade - OP Middle School)
Daughter - Audrey (4th Grade - Eggert Elementary)



Education:

- George Washington University, Masters of Business Administration (MBA)
Strategic Management & Public Policy
Washington, DC
- Lafayette College, Bachelor of Arts
Government & Law
Easton, PA

Career: Group Vice President with 20 years of experience at the largest financial institution headquartered in Buffalo leading a large department responsible for ensuring compliance with State and Federal regulatory mandates as outlined in the Bank Secrecy Act and USA Patriot Act
Describe your reasons for running, any experiences you have that support your candidacy and why you are asking community members to support you: As a father of two children in Orchard Park schools, and as a taxpayer just like you, I care deeply about school safety and the soundness of our school budgets. I want to utilize my two-decades of experience in solving complex issues and managing multi-million dollar budgets to ensure our District is "Safe & Sound."

I believe strongly in the following and encourage you to visit www.ryancimo.com

Safe Schools - Our government buildings, politicians, airports and sporting events are protected with personnel capable of eliminating a threat, but not our schools. This must change. As part of a comprehensive security plan, we must secure each District building with armed School Resource Officers, protecting our children and teachers. They are counting on us.

Sound Budgets - Budgets reflect priorities, and so we must prioritize our dollars in a manner consistent with our mission of safety and world-class achievement. New initiatives don't always have to mean asking taxpayers for more. Reprioritizing existing dollars must be our first option.

Second to None - Let's strive to be #1 in all facets of the student experience, from advanced learning classes, special education services, food allergy safety, guidance resources, and school safety. This is why we all chose to call Orchard Park home!

Respecting Taxpayers - Recent tax law changes likely mean higher taxes for residents of Orchard Park. Now more than ever, we must treat taxpayers with respect and cherish every dollar they provide as if it's the last one they will ever give.

Community Service: Orchard Park Soccer Club, Orchard Park Little League, Neighborhood Leader

Karen Kane (2A on the Ballot)

Address: 29 Green Lake Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Family Information: My husband Mike and I have three sons - Jack-16, Michael-16, and Sean-15 all attending OPHS.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Nazareth College; Masters in Teaching English as a Second Language from SUNY Buffalo; School Administration, St. Bonaventure University; NYS permanent certification in Secondary Mathematics, ESL, School District Administration.

Career: I have been a teacher in Buffalo Public Schools since 1988. I've taught secondary math and ENL. I've also worked as an instructional coach. Currently I am a 6th grade ENL teacher at International School #45.

Describe your reasons for running, any experiences you have that support your candidacy and why you are asking

community members to support you: I am seeking another term on the Orchard Park Board of Education to continue serving my community by advocating for and supporting its schools. I believe firmly in public education and know the value a strong school system has as a central force in its community. It has been an honor to serve over the last three years and grow in my understanding of district operations. I've seen the positive impact our comprehensive educational program has across the district - in classrooms, activities, events, and initiatives. However, I also recognize there is still work to be done. I am committed to efforts to enhance educational programming, strengthen school safety, and expand student support services. To accomplish these in a fiscally responsible manner, I believe informed advocacy is essential. Unfortunately, addressing our needs as a district is often hampered by mandates and limited resources. I've been concerned with state policies that have imposed unproven, unfunded mandates on districts. I remain particularly dismayed that New York State fails to fully fund Foundation Aid and I am deeply troubled about educational leadership at the federal level. Yet, I feel certain that we can and must protect the fundamental fact that public schools belong to the community and local control keeps decision making power closer to citizens. I would be grateful to again represent citizens of Orchard Park and continue collaborating with fellow board members and the dedicated staff of the district to advocate for the community, its schools, and most importantly its students.

Community Service: Orchard Park School Board member 2015 - present; Orchard Park Schools - Facilities Committee member, catechist St. Bernadette Catholic Church 2012-2015; Buffalo Teachers Federation delegate chairperson.





A Word From Board of Education President David Nielsen

On April 10th, the Board of Education unanimously adopted the 2018-2019 budget proposed by Superintendent McGarrity. The budget adheres to the criteria established by the Board at a budget work session in late January. The budget includes partial funding for a School Resource Officer shared with the town. The budget also stays within the tax levy cap while ensuring staffing to comply with current class-size guidelines, and maintaining the comprehensive nature of the District's educational program.

The adopted budget represents months of building-level and district-level meetings and a tremendous effort by Superintendent McGarrity and the entire administrative team. We are fortunate to have a group of administrators so committed to both the stability and excellence of the District. The Board is hopeful that the community will vote on May 15th.

In addition to voting on the budget, the community will also be asked to consider a proposition for the purchase of buses, identical to the bus-buying proposition that has been on the ballot for the past 13 years. The yearly purchasing of several buses permits the District to keep its fleet in top condition, to keep bus maintenance costs low, and to maximize state aid for the purchase. The bus purchase plan is a long-term fiscally responsible plan for our transportation department.

Finally, the community will also elect two school board trustees. Our District is fortunate that each year community members of diverse backgrounds, experiences and interests come forward to run for the school board. Effective school boards are critical to the success of school districts. There are widespread misconceptions about school board service, most of them based upon the notion that school board members are involved in the day-to-day operations of the district. We are not. Instead, the role of the school board is to oversee district operations and to focus on the "big picture." Some of the more important responsibilities within this oversight function are hiring and evaluating the Superintendent; adopting policies pertaining to all areas of District operations; and establishing priorities and goals for the short- and long-term success and stability of the district. Yes, much of what school boards do may seem to the public like "rubber-stamping." However, recommendations to the Board should be approved if they align with the Board's policies, priorities and goals, and a good Superintendent will ensure that all recommendations are so aligned.

Before you cast your vote for school board trustees, consider these questions suggested by the New York State School Boards Association:

1. Does the candidate understand the role of the school board?
2. Is the candidate focused on a single issue or on a broad range of school district concerns?
3. Does the candidate's approach make it likely that he or she will be able to work effectively with the rest of the board?
4. Will the candidate enhance the mix of skills and backgrounds on the board and help represent the diversity of the community?
5. Does the candidate have the commitment to do what's right even in the face of strong opposition?

On behalf of the Board, I encourage everyone to become as informed as possible about the budget, the bus proposition and the school board candidates, and to vote on May 15th.

In Case You Missed It

The Community Report is published six times per year and mailed home three times per year. Here are some highlights from the Spring 2018 edition available online now.



Orchard Park Middle School teacher, Mrs. Cindy Timmel, invited Jody Cormier from Erie 2 BOCES to speak to her eighth grade Life and Career Skills class about the benefits of learning skilled trades at the Ormsby Educational Center in East Aurora. Orchard Park students have the opportunity to participate in the half-day program during their Junior and Senior years at the Orchard Park High School.



South Davis student, Kaylee Szalay practices making maple syrup. It was part of a field trip with Earth Spirit. Students learned about the history of maple syrup making, some tales associated with it, and how it's made. The trip was sponsored by the South Davis PTO.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 98,313,735	\$ 102,070,976	\$ 99,444,108
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$ 3,757,241	\$ 1,130,373
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.82 %	1.15 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13 %	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 61,554,907	\$ 64,181,775	
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)	\$ 61,554,907	\$ 64,181,775	\$ 61,554,907
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 1,980,352	\$ 2,632,682	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 59,574,555	\$ 61,549,093	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 59,574,555	\$ 61,549,093	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 8,549,871	\$ 9,397,852	\$ 8,651,637
Program Component	\$ 74,804,707	\$ 76,676,161	\$ 75,676,966
Capital Component	\$ 14,959,157	\$ 15,996,963	\$ 15,115,505
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-19 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
The exact change to the 2018-19 budget would still need to be determined, however, there would be employee positions eliminated and all equipment purchases would be eliminated, with the exception of state aided computer hardware and equipment to assist children with special needs.			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			
	Description	Amount	
	Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2018-19 Tax Levy Impact)	\$ 792,000	

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 562

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Orchard Park Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Orchard Park High School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Orchard Park High 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.

Resident

Date, Time and Location of Public Vote

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Orchard Park High School Gymnasium
4040 Baker Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127
(Use Freeman Road Entrance)

On The Ballot

Proposition I: Operating Budget (\$102,070,976)

- Expenditure Increase is 3.82% & Tax Levy increase is 4.27% (Within Allowable Tax Levy Cap)
- The 2018-2019 Budget keeps the Tax Levy Increase within the tax cap requirements which will result in a property tax credit relief check issue to homeowners with the STAR exemption.

Proposition II: Bus Purchase

- Continues the 13 Year Bus Replacement Program (no new tax impact)

Election of Two Board Members (They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot).

- 1A Ryan Cimo
- 2A Karen Kane

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots for the 2018-19 Annual School Vote may be obtained at the District Clerk's Office, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or no later than the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered by the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on May 15, 2018. Absentee Ballot applications are also available on our District website: www.opschools.org. For more information on absentee ballots, please contact the District Clerk at 209-6280.

Voter Eligibility

- At least 18 years of age.
- A United States citizen.
- A District resident for at least 30 days before the date of the vote.
- You do not have to be a registered voter to vote in school district elections, but you will be asked to show proof of residency at the polls.

