

The Reader

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

May 2016

Continuing Our Commitment to Academic Excellence: An overview of the proposed budget for 2016-2017

The Board of Education recently approved a proposed budget of \$88,459,730 for the 2016-2017 school year after many discussions throughout the budget development process during the past several months. The fiscal plan sustains our investment in teaching and learning and supports our budget and district goals while containing costs through attrition and efficiency. Advanced and support opportunities continue to grow, including 18 additional courses available for college credit at the High School and math support classes and labs at the Middle and High Schools. Expanded partnerships with Proctors and SPAC will provide new pilot courses in Digital Media and Dance, with our teachers working side by side with industry professionals. The adopted budget also includes support for all current district wide co-curricular and extra-curricular programs at all levels, and maintains the facilities planning and improvement process to complete capital improvement projects.

As the second proposition on the ballot (the budget is first), we are asking for voter approval to continue facilities renovation projects at the Middle and High Schools, reinvesting cost savings from the current projects. The district is proposing to restore the north parking lot at the Middle School (adjacent to the tennis courts), add public restrooms to the old bus garage next to the stadium field, along with other athletic improvements including installing dugouts at the Varsity Softball Field, renovating the Middle School Weight Room to create a cardio space and equipment for the High School Weight Room. Additional information and further budget details are located in this newsletter and on the district website in the 2016-2017 Budget Planning section of the Board of Education webpage.

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Dear Community Members:

The Board of Education approved a proposed budget of \$88,459,730 for the 2016-2017 school year, which represents a 2.4% increase in expenditures from the current year's budget. It includes a 1.9% increase to the tax levy, and it is projected that there will be a 0.9% increase to the average tax rate across the district (tax rates are set in August). Throughout the budget process, the Board of Education remained focused on achieving balance between program needs and the fiscal constraints of our community.

We focused on the following Budget Goals as we prepared the budget proposal for 2016-17:

1. Maintain academic programs to support student achievement of the Common Core and New York State Learning Standards.
2. Maintain our investment in human capital to build capacity in the workforce and to support the sustained, professional growth of all staff.
3. Maintain our commitment to supporting the social and emotional development of our students.
4. Maintain our commitment to supporting access to and implementation of digital resources for students, staff and parents.
5. Maintain the facilities improvement process to support current and future Capital Projects.

We sincerely appreciate the involvement of everyone throughout our school community as we work together to educate our children. All district voters are encouraged to review the budget information on the website. It outlines historical budget data and provides details on how we, as a community, plan to meet our financial commitments while furthering the district's mission and goals of academic excellence, commitment, value and involvement.

Please review the information throughout this newsletter, come to a community presentation and let us know your thoughts or concerns. And please, remember to vote on May 17, 2016.

Sincerely,
Kevin Schaefer
President, Board of Education



Above: Over 600 students participated in an Electrify B-Spa Music concert for a sold out crowd after two days of intense workshops and rehearsals.



Left: The 2nd Annual Elementary Science & Engineering Fair included over 150 elementary students presenting their authentic research to family, staff and friends.

Mission Driven: Return on Investment for our Community

- In collaboration with Schenectady County Community College, 18 additional High School courses that receive college credit were added for 2016-2017
- Ballston Spa High School was recognized on The Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools again in 2015
- Ballston Spa Middle School has earned the designation as a 2015 *School to Watch*, one of only 27 schools in New York State to be recognized with this prestigious honor since 2004
- Malta Avenue Elementary School and Ballston Spa High School are recognized as National Gold Star No Place for Hate Schools by the Anti-Defamation League
- Milton Terrace Elementary School and Malta Avenue Elementary School are recognized as National PTA Schools of Excellence
- Ballston Spa High School was ranked #5 on list of *Best Public High Schools* in the Albany Metro Area by Niche
- The *Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School* was recognized as an Exemplar Program by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21)
- The district was named a 2015 *District of Distinction* by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association
- Championship academic and athletic teams at all levels
- District Wide Health and Wellness Expo attracted over 40 community partners and served over 400 students and families
- Unparalleled support from over 45 district partners in Business, Industry and Higher Education

The Ballston Spa Central School District

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**Gordon Creek
Elementary School**
884-7270

**Milton Terrace
Elementary School**
884-7210

**Wood Road
Elementary School**
884-7290

**Malta Avenue
Elementary School**
884-7250

Ballston Spa Middle School
884-7200

Ballston Spa High School
884-7150

Ballston Spa District Office
884-7195

Transportation Facility
884-7140

www.bscsd.org

Proposed Budget
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The Bottom Line:
The adopted budget reflects a 2.4% budget increase, and a 1.9% tax levy increase, with a 0.9% average tax rate increase across the district (tax rates are set in August).

Residents are encouraged to learn more about the proposed budget and the school board election before the statewide budget vote on May 17. Several budget information sessions are scheduled before the vote, including a budget hearing and informational sessions in the community. Additional details are located throughout this newsletter, at school offices, on the district website, or by calling the District Office at 884-7195.

Board of Education Elections

Two seats are available on the Board, each for a three-year term, commencing in July 2016. Interested voters will select from the following candidates at the polls: Sue Filburn, Dottie Sellers and Katie Thimineur. A Meet the Candidates Night will be held in the Ballston Spa High School Library on May 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Voters will have the opportunity to hear from the candidates directly in a program coordinated by students from our Participation in Government classes.

Propositions on the Ballot:
In addition to the school budget (which is Proposition I on the ballot) voters will consider the following separate propositions:

- Proposition II: Capital Improvement Plan Proposition
The district will renovate and reconstruct various buildings, including site work at the Middle and High Schools at a maximum cost of \$1,100,000.
- Proposition III: School Vehicle Replacement
The district will spend up to \$788,000 to purchase and replace school buses and vehicles.
- Proposition IV: Ballston Spa Public Library
The district will be authorized to collect and contribute \$54,610 towards the expense of operating the public library.
- Proposition V: Ballston Area Recreation Commission
A contribution of \$28,000 will be collected and provided to the area recreation commission to support the operations, including Saturday school and summer programs.

Facilities Improvement Projects Nearing Completion
The district has been undergoing facilities renovations and upgrades over the past 6 years and has completed the projects on time and approximately \$1 million under budget. The final stage of Phase 2 of the project was the removal of the former Milton Terrace South building at the Wood Road school complex. Work has begun on the final construction of a bus loop, parking lot and new roadways which are scheduled to be completed this coming summer. The district has developed a proposal to be considered by voters at the polls in May to invest project savings in needed site work at the Middle School and make needed improvements to our athletic facilities.

The proposal includes installing public restrooms in the old bus garage next to the stadium field for use during events and related site work to the adjacent area including drainage, fencing, blacktop, lighting and minor demolition to accommodate maintenance vehicles. The Middle School north parking area will be completely rebuilt with a new subsurface, base, top coat and striping. The Middle School Weight Room will be renovated to create a new cardiovascular Physical Education station, including new equipment, floor, electrical upgrades, lighting and painting. New equipment will also be secured for the High School Weight Room and dugouts will be installed at the Varsity Softball Field.

2016-2017 Expenditures and Revenues

	2015-16 Budget	2016-17 Budget	Change Dollars	Percent
Expenditures				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$65,814,669	\$66,960,252	\$1,145,583	1.7%
Supplies, Materials, Equipment	\$2,991,312	\$3,057,525	\$66,213	2.2%
Contracted Services	\$3,883,295	\$4,327,790	\$444,495	11.4%
BOCES	\$4,184,455	\$4,373,085	\$188,630	4.5%
Utilities	\$1,659,100	\$1,663,700	\$4,600	0.3%
Debt Service & Transfers	\$7,819,786	\$8,077,378	\$257,592	3.3%
Total	\$86,352,617	\$88,459,730	\$2,107,113	2.4%
Revenues				
State Aid	\$26,710,117	\$29,262,463	\$2,552,346	9.6%
Other Sources	\$11,031,550	\$10,605,610	-\$425,940	-3.9%
Fund Balance	\$1,175,000	\$1,000,000	-\$175,000	-14.9%
Reserves	\$750,000	\$0	-\$750,000	-100.0%
Real Property Tax	\$46,685,950	\$47,591,657	\$905,707	1.9%
Total	\$86,352,617	\$88,459,730	\$2,107,113	2.4%



Faculty and staff members from throughout the district were honored by the Board of Education for their commitment and service to the students in the district. Staff recognition is a district initiative to recognize those staff members who go above and beyond to make a difference in our school community. Please visit the Human Resources webpage and the Staff Spotlight section monthly to learn more about our staff. Also, please let us know about any of our staff who deserves praise by sending them a Scottie Shout-Out or a formal recognition by filling out a Cause for Applause form.

Budget Information in the Community
Learn more about the proposed school budget by attending community budget presentations in each of the local towns. School district representatives will present information and answer questions from interested residents at 6:30 pm on May 2 at the Ballston Town Hall, May 9 at the Milton Community Center or May 11 at the Malta Community Center. Or attend a Drop-in Session, at the District Office, 70 Malta Avenue, on May 9 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm for an informal discussion with the Superintendent. In addition, please call the district’s budget hotline with specific questions for the Assistant Superintendent for Business at 884-7195 ext. 1320. Questions and comments may also be sent via the district website at www.bscsd.org.

Congratulations to our Odyssey of the Mind Aesop Gone Viral team for advancing to the World Finals in Iowa on May 24-29. The team is comprised of both Middle and High School students who competed at the Odyssey of the Mind Region 6 Tournament and moved on to place second out of fourteen teams at the NYS Tournament.

Remember to Vote on May 17
Illustration of a ballot box with a ballot being inserted.



The Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) Classical Kids program is a free program offered to cultivate, promote, and develop student interest in the appreciation and understanding of the performing arts. The Middle School recently hosted an assembly for 7th graders that included performances with Philadelphia Orchestra cellist Bob Cafaro and members of the Middle School orchestra. During this coming summer season at SPAC any 7th grade student who wants to be involved with the program will be invited to attend a performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra at SPAC. Please contact the Ballston Spa Middle School Office for additional information at 884-7200.



Electrify B-Spa Music!

Mark Wood and his Electrify Your Strings program returned to Ballston Spa recently and engaged over 650 students in the musical performing groups from grades 6-12 including students from Stillwater Central School District. The culmination of two days of intensive workshops and rehearsals was an amazing Electrify B-Spa Concert on Feb. 24. All the musical groups came together for a 650-plus student finale in front of a sold out gymnasium of parents, friends and community supporters. Additional information on the program, photos and links to video coverage, as well as additional upcoming concerts, are on the district website.



High School Principal Announces Top Students

The High School class of 2016 is currently completing their senior year and preparing for graduation on June 22. Principal Kristi Jensen recently announced Lindsey DeNooyer as the Valedictorian and Abigail Frederick as the Salutatorian for the class of 2016. They will both receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science.

District Staff Retirements

The district would like to recognize the retirement of the following staff members that are leaving during this school year. The dedication and service that they brought to the district during their collective 496 years of service will definitely be missed. Please join us in thanking them all for their commitment to the students of Ballston Spa during their many years of service, including: Martina Belanger, Joan Campbell, Patricia Card, John DeGuardi, Suzanne Goetz, Debra Hodgson, Cynthia Hoetzer, Melissa Jones, Laurie Kennedy, Carl Knuth, Laura Kohler, Bonnie Marshall, Calvin S. McCloud, S. Joyce Moreau, Shawn Reed, George Schacher, Kristin Shaw, Gina Sicluna, Michelle Strenk, Jeannine Toney, and Janet Verdon. They will be recognized formally at a ceremony during the June 15, 2016 Board of Education meeting in the High School Library at 6:30 pm.

Lindsey is a member of National Honor Society, the Loisaba Community Conservation Foundation, the Rotary, and serves as President of Interact Club and David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Member. Lindsey was selected to attend Empire Girls State, display her art work at the National Racing Museum, and was nominated for the YMCA Outstanding Student of the Year Award. Additionally, she is a competitive boat racer that participated as the first father/daughter team at the Lake George Performance Weekend. Lindsey is a well-rounded individual who will be pursuing a degree in Animal Science at the University of Vermont.

Abigail, in addition to earning an advanced diploma, is also a Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate. She is a member

of National Honor Society, a cofounder of the Ornithology Club, and has competed at the state level for Science Olympiad. She is a classically trained piano student, and has also played in the Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, and multiple school musicals. Additionally, she has run varsity Cross Country and Track for twelve consecutive seasons. Abigail is a talented individual who will be majoring in Visual Arts at Hobart and William Smith College.



Health and Wellness Expo a Success in Ballston Spa

Over 300 students, families and community members attended the 4th Annual District Wide Health and Wellness Expo. Over forty area health and wellness professionals from throughout our community and around the region exhibited and provided educational information on fitness, healthy eating, and related health and wellness topics. There were fitness and exercise demonstrations, and also exhibits from each of the district's school buildings. Raffles were held throughout the day, including bicycles donated by our BSTA and BSATA, and many giveaways were provided by vendors and local businesses.



Gordon Creek Elementary School fourth graders recently hosted a Colonial Museum. The students showcased tri-fold presentations, technology-based quizzes, and artifacts about Colonial Times. More specifically, students shared what they had learned in their fourth grade coursework about Colonial food, medicine, shelter, clothing, games, outdoor activities, holidays, laws, jobs, travel, and school. Families, friends and the school community were able to view the displays and interact with the students as they explained their projects.

Student Interscholastic Athletic Accomplishments Winter 2016

Nine Ballston Spa athletic teams qualified for recognition as a NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team based on the academic accomplishments of 73 student athletes (combined GPA of 93.475), including the Girls and Boys Indoor Track teams, Girls and Boys Bowling teams, Girls and Boys Basketball teams, Ice Hockey team, Cheer team and the Boys Swimming and Diving team.

The Boys **Swimming & Diving** team finished the season with an 8-0 record in the Grey Division and in 3rd place at Sectionals, with six swimmers qualifying for the NYS Championships. Two swimmers broke school records and won their events at Sectionals.

The **Basketball** teams had two male and two female athletes selected as Exceptional Senior game participants and one female athlete voted All Suburban Council 3rd team, Scholar Athlete of the Week, and one Time Warner Cable Student Athlete of the Week.

Our Girls and Boys **Indoor Track** teams placed 5th in the Section 2 Championship Meet and had one runner qualify for NYS Championships.

The Boys and Girls **Bowling** team each had seven scholar athletes and one athlete qualify for the All Suburban Council 3rd team.

Our **Ice Hockey** team placed 2nd in the Section 2 Semi-Finals and had three athletes qualify for All Section 2 teams.

The **Wrestling** team had two athletes place in Section 2 Championships, two Class A champions and one athlete earn 5th place at NYSPHSAA Championships.

Our **Cheer** team won 1st place at the Winter Cheer Challenge, the UAlbany Cheer Show Down and the Saratoga Blue Streak Competition. They placed 4th at the Section 2 Championships.

Additional information on student athlete achievements as well as all team information is in the athletic department section of the district website.

Get Ready for the Scotties Stampede! Our Own Ballston Spa 5k for Education

Everyone in the Ballston Spa school community is invited to join together for the first annual 5k for Education Walk/Run, the Scotties Stampede. It will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 9:00 am, starting at the district's tennis courts on Garrett Road. The event is open to students, families and the entire school community. The primary goal of the 5k is to bring our community together for a fun, fitness event and encourage students and families to participate in healthy and active lifestyles. Financially, the event will support the district's Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region. Register now via the website and plan to join us on May 21, 2016.



The newly formed Milton Terrace Drama Club presented its first production, Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, in March. Over 70 students, parents and staff worked on all aspects of the production during the school year.

Voting Hours and Sites

The annual statewide School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections will be held May 17, 2016 from 7:00 am - 9:00 pm.

District residents vote at the Malta Town Hall (residents of Malta) and the Ballston Spa High School Library (residents of Milton, Ballston and Charlton).

Ballston Spa Central School District

70 Malta Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020



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Written by Stuart J. Williams, *Coordinator of Community Relations*

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Ballston Spa Central
School District

The READER – School District News & Budget Vote Information – May 2016

Upcoming Community
Events **May/June 2016**

MAY

- 2 Budget Presentation, Ballston Town Hall, 6:30 pm
- 5 Senior Awards Night, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 6 Student Art Exhibits, First Friday, Village of Ballston Spa, 6:00-9:00 pm
- 7 Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, High School Auditorium/Cafeteria, 2:00-5:00 pm
- 9 Budget Presentation, Milton Community Center, 6:30 pm
- 10 Meet the Candidates Night, High School Library, 7:00 pm
High School Spring Concert, Part I, HS Aud., 7:30 pm
- 11 Budget Presentation, Malta Community Center, 6:30 pm
- 12 NJHS Induction, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Gordon Creek Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 16 Middle School Spring Concert, 7th Grade, HS Aud., 7:00 pm
- 17 **Budget Vote/School Pride Day**
Middle School/High School Art Show, High School Art Wing, 5:00 pm
High School Spring Concert, Part II, HS Aud., 7:30 pm
- 19 High School Spring Concert, Part III, HS Aud., 7:30 pm
- 20 High School Cabaret Night, HS Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 21 Ballston Spa 5k for Education, Scotties Stampede, High School, 9:00 am
- 24 Malta Ave. Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 26 Milton Terrace Spring Concert, 7:00 pm

JUNE

- 2 Gordon Creek 5th Grade Artist in Residency Performance, 6:30 pm
- 7 Middle School Spring Concert, 6th Grade, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 8 ECHS Graduation and Spring Expo, 11th & 12th Grades, TEC-SMART, 8:30 am
- 9 Wood Road Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 18 Senior Prom, Gideon Putnam, 8:00 pm
- 22 High School Graduation, SPAC, 4:00 pm

Complete event information is located on the district website's events calendar. All school specific events are listed on school sites and updated frequently. Please check often for the latest information, or call the appropriate school office.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$86,352,617	\$88,459,730	\$87,554,023
Increase/Decrease for 2016-17 School Year		\$2,107,113	\$1,201,406
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.4%	1.4%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$46,685,950	\$47,591,657	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$28,000	\$28,000	
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)	\$46,713,950	\$47,619,657	\$46,713,950
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$1,271,943	\$1,505,226	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$45,444,075	\$46,997,827	
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)	\$45,442,007	\$46,114,431	
I. Difference: (G - H): Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval	\$2,068	\$883,396	
Administrative Component	\$9,034,929	\$9,054,990	\$8,942,789
Program Component	\$63,000,375	\$64,700,355	\$64,318,572
Capital Component	\$14,317,313	\$14,704,385	\$14,292,662
Contingency Budget Assumptions: A contingent budget would result in the reduction and/or elimination of certain expenses such as equipment, supplies, and salaries as determined by the Board of Education. In all, a contingent budget would require \$905,707 in reductions.			
List of separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:	Description		Amount
	Capital Improvement Project		\$1,100,000
	School District Buses & Vehicles		\$788,000
	Ballston Spa Public Library		\$54,610
	Ballston Area Recreation Commission		\$28,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$748

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Ballston Spa Central School District, Saratoga County, New York, will be held at the Ballston Spa High School for voters in District 1 and the Malta Town Hall for voters in District 2 on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Spring Concert at 7:30 pm in the auditorium. All performances are free and open to the public.
A community wide barbeque is also being sponsored by the Ballston Spa Association of Teaching Assistants from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the High School for dine-in or take-out. Additional information and tickets are available in school and district offices. Come join the festivities and enjoy dinner while hearing the student performances.