

The Reader

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

May 2017

Continuing Our Commitment to Excellence and Opportunity: An overview of the proposed budget for 2017-2018

The Board of Education recently approved a proposed budget of \$90,340,742 for the 2017-2018 school year after many discussions throughout the budget development process during the past several months. The adopted budget reflects a 2.1% budget increase, and a 2.9% tax levy increase, with an average 0.6% tax rate increase. The approximate tax impact is \$22 for the average single family home assessed at \$225,000 across the district (tax rates are set in August).

The fiscal plan sustains our investment in teaching and learning, supporting our budget and district goals as we constantly strive to provide value for our community's investment. The proposed budget includes filling staffing positions that have been left vacant over the past several years as we work to meet program demands. Specifically, the budget supports:

- reinstating a full time Orchestra Teacher to address Middle School/High School program demands in the performing arts,
- reinstating a full time Technology Teacher to address district program goals in Computer and Technology coursework including offering national certifications in the building trades and AP Computer Science Principles,
- reinstating full time Teacher Leaders to strengthen our teacher leadership within departments,
- adding a part time English Language Arts instructor at the Middle School to support literacy at the 5th to 6th grade transition,
- maintaining all current district wide athletic, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs at all levels.

The Board is also proposing several propositions on the ballot with the budget proposal which include:

- purchasing vehicles at a maximum cost of \$907,000,
- collecting \$55,650 for Public Library funding, and
- collecting \$30,000 for the Ballston Area Recreation Commission.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about the proposed budget and the school board election before the statewide budget vote on May 16, 2017. Several budget information sessions are scheduled before the vote, including a budget hearing and informational sessions in the community. Additional information and further budget details are located in this newsletter and on the district website in the 2017-2018 Budget Planning section of the Board of Education webpage, or by calling the District Office at 884-7195.

Dear Community Members:

The Board of Education approved a proposed budget of \$90,340,742 for the 2017-2018 school year which:

- represents a 2.1% increase in expenditures from the current year's budget,
- includes a 2.9% increase to the tax levy, and
- projects a 0.6% 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 2017-18:

1. Maintain academic programs to support district goals, diverse learning opportunities and student achievement.
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 as 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 16, 2017.**

Sincerely,
Kevin Schaefer
President, Board of Education



The BSHS Varsity Wrestling team finished the season as Suburban Council, Class A, and Section 2 Champions earning many accolades for their accomplishments, including our first NYS State Champion, Tyler Barnes.



The Wood Road Elementary School Chess Club hosted a regional Scholastic Chess Tournament in Ballston Spa. Over 120 students and adults competed in the four round tournament with more than twenty-five schools from all over New York State participating.



The Ballston Spa High School's FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 3044 earned the Chairman's Award at the New York Tech Valley FIRST Robotics Tournament at RPI. The team was also awarded the Industrial Safety Award at the competitive event. Based on their success and awards, they qualified to compete at the FIRST Robotics World Championship competition in St. Louis.

The Ballston Spa Central School District

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

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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: School Vehicle Replacement

The district will spend up to \$907,000 to purchase and replace school buses and vehicles.

Proposition III: Ballston Spa Public Library

The district will be authorized to collect and contribute \$55,650 towards the expense of operating the public library.

Proposition IV: Ballston Area Recreation Commission

A contribution of \$30,000 will be collected and provided to the area recreation commission to support the operations, including Saturday school and summer programs.

Board of Education Elections

There are two full term (three year) and one unexpired term (one year) Board seats up for election this year, commencing in July 2017. The two candidates receiving the most votes will fill the two full three year term vacancies; the unexpired term will be filled by the candidate receiving the third highest number of votes. Interested voters will select from the following candidates at the polls: Jeanne Obermayer, Mike O'Donnell, Lillian McCarthy and Katie Thimineur.

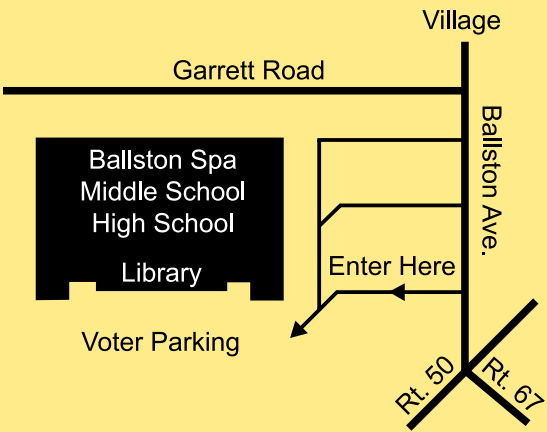
A Meet the Candidates Night will be held in the Ballston Spa High School Library on May 1, 2017 at 6:30 pm so voters may hear from the candidates directly in a program coordinated by students from our Participation in Government classes.

Remember to Vote on May 16

Voting Hours and Sites

The annual statewide School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections will be held May 16, 2017 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).



2017-2018 Expenditures and Revenues

	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Budget	Change Dollars	Percent
Expenditures				
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$66,960,252	\$68,864,537	\$1,904,285	2.8%
Supplies, Materials, Equipment	\$3,057,525	\$3,047,840	-\$9,685	-0.3%
Contracted Services	\$4,327,790	\$4,408,320	\$80,530	1.9%
BOCES	\$4,373,085	\$4,423,370	\$50,285	1.1%
Utilities	\$1,663,700	\$1,568,900	-\$94,800	-5.7%
Debt Service & Transfers	\$8,077,378	\$8,027,775	-\$49,603	-0.6%
Total	\$88,459,730	\$90,340,742	\$1,881,012	2.1%
Revenues				
State Aid	\$29,262,463	\$29,549,463	\$287,000	1.0%
Other Sources	\$10,605,610	\$10,800,383	\$194,773	1.8%
Fund Balance	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	0.0%
Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Real Property Tax	\$47,591,657	\$48,990,896	\$1,399,239	2.9%
Total	\$88,459,730	\$90,340,742	\$1,881,012	2.1%



The BSCSD Music Department celebrates Music In Our Schools Month with an annual Pops Concert, acknowledging our students who have performed in Honors Groups at a Board of Education meeting and the annual Middle School/ High School Jazz Band concert. The district has recently been honored with a Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education, one of 4% of districts across the nation receiving the prestigious award in 2017.



Principles of Construction students construct a utility shed at the High School during their course work this year, including the design, material and cost estimates, and the building outside the technology rooms. The district will add Carpentry & Masonry and Electrical Principles & House Wiring courses next year as we continue to provide opportunities for all students to earn certifications in the construction trades.

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 April 26 at the Milton Community Center, May 4 at the Ballston Town Hall, or May 10 at the Malta Community Center. Or attend a Drop-in Session, at the District Office, 70 Malta Avenue, on May 8 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.



The Board of Education recognized staff members earlier this spring, including Kaitlin Ahl, Anne Decker and Caren Borgolini at Gordon Creek, Heather Coffey at Wood Road, Lisa Morrill and Garry Preece (not shown) at the High School and Kathy Simkins who recently retired after many years with the district's Special Education Department.



Average Home in District: \$225,000
Average Tax Impact: \$22 Per Year

Facilities Improvement Projects Nearing Completion

The district has been undergoing facilities renovations and upgrades over the past 6 years.

The final improvements approved by the voters last year will be completed this coming summer, including the addition of public restrooms in the old bus garage next to the stadium field for use during events as well as 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 over the summer of 2017. The Middle School Weight Room will be completely renovated to create a new cardiovascular Physical Education station, including new equipment, floor, electrical upgrades, lighting and painting. New equipment has also been secured for the High School Weight Room and dugouts are being planned for the Varsity Softball Field.

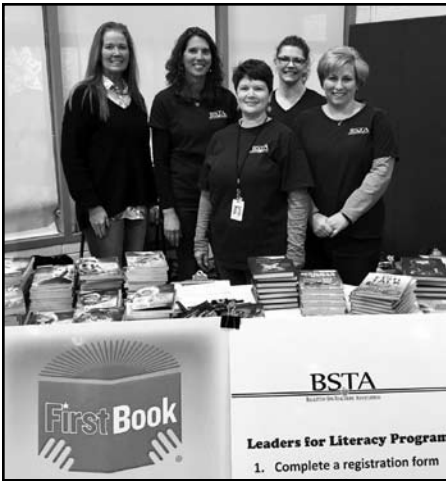


Health and Wellness Expo a Success in Ballston Spa

The annual districtwide event attracted over 300 students, families and community members to learn more about health and wellness. Over thirty health and wellness professionals from area organizations and vendors 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 BSAC, BSTA and BSATA. Over 165 bicycle helmets were also given away to students by the Ballston Spa Community Emergency Corps and Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department.

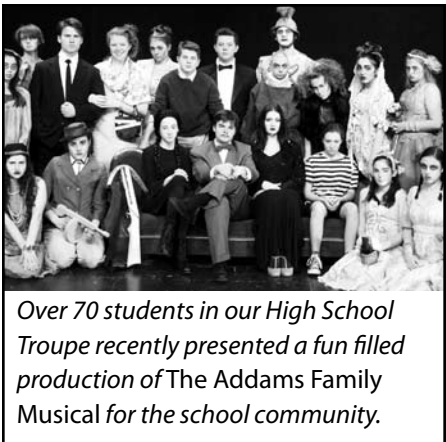
SEFCU Penny Harvest Completed by Students

Students throughout the district collected over \$7,200 during the annual Penny Harvest this past fall, bringing their ten year total to over \$80,300 that students have raised and given back to their community. This year’s grant awards will be presented to local charities by the student roundtable groups from each school on May 16, 2017 during the School Pride Day activities in the Ballston Spa High School. The district remains committed to teaching students the importance of service learning and community service throughout the entire school year. Come join in the celebration and see who the students choose to support this year.



Teachers’ Association Provides Books for Students

The Ballston Spa Teachers’ Association (BSTA) is participating in a statewide NYSUT/AFT’s Leaders for Literacy program which provides brand new, high quality books to at-risk students in our community. As part of this program, community members complete registration forms which generate brand-new books for the students in our community. The BSTA has now qualified for and distributed over 2,300 brand new books FREE to students in our community. The books have been provided directly to Head Start students; Gordon Creek, Malta Avenue, Wood Road and Milton Terrace elementary students as part of BSTA’s Gift of Reading program; to students who attended the District Health Expo and Scotties’ Locker; and to students at the Ballston Spa Middle School for the Greek Mythology Unit, Strive for 25 book baskets, and as part of BSTA’s Gift of Reading program.



Over 70 students in our High School Troupe recently presented a fun filled production of The Addams Family Musical for the school community.

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

Everyone in the Ballston Spa school community is invited to join together for the district’s annual 5k for Education Walk/Run, the Scotties Stampede. It will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 9:00 am, starting at the district’s tennis courts on Garrett Road. The event is open to all, including 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. 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 20, 2017.



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 246 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: Debra Bondi, Sandra Catricala, Christine Fort, James Gula, Don Halliday, Janine Lasker, Patrick McGann, Andrew Rendo, Kathleen Simkins, and Daniel Vickery. They will be recognized formally at a ceremony during the June 21, 2017 Board of Education meeting in the High School Library at 6:30 pm.



High School Principal Announces Top Students

The High School class of 2017 is currently completing their senior year and preparing for graduation on June 22, 2017. Principal Kristi Jensen recently announced Emma Benson as the Valedictorian and Ryan Madcharo as the Salutatorian for the class of 2017. They will both receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and Honors with Mastery in Mathematics and Science.

Emma is an active member of National Honor Society, 4-H, Orchestra, Environmental Club, and serves as an officer for Tri-M Honor Society. Emma is a talented musician and has been a dedicated member of High School Orchestra since her 8th grade year. Her musical aptitude and interest have earned her county and state recognition. Most recently, she was selected to play the violin for All-County and NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association).

Ryan participates in the Science Bowl and is an instrumental member of the Science Olympiad club. He has attended Brown and RPI academic summer programs. During the season he both works and volunteers at Saratoga Performing Arts Center and enjoys the time he spends there.



The 3rd Annual Elementary Science & Engineering Fair provided the opportunity for elementary students to present their authentic research to family, staff and friends.

Student Interscholastic Athletic Accomplishments Winter 2017

Six of our Ballston Spa athletic teams qualified for recognition as a NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team based on the academic accomplishments of 75 student athletes (combined GPA of 92.46), including the Girls and Boys Indoor Track Teams, Girls Bowling Team, Girls Basketball Team, Cheer Team and the Boys Swimming and Diving Team.

The Wrestling Team had three athletes place in Section 2 Championships, four Class A champions and for the first time in Ballston Spa history, had one athlete earn 1st place at the NYSPHSAA Championships. The team finished as the Suburban Council North Division Champions, the Overall Suburban Council Champions and the Class A Section 2 Champions. The team had four athletes voted All Suburban Council 1st team and one athlete voted All Suburban Council 3rd team. The Varsity and JV coaches both received recognition as Class A Coach of the Year. Congratulations to all!

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

The Boys Swimming & Diving Team finished the season with an 8-1 record in the Grey Division, with five swimmers qualifying for the NYS Championships. One swimmer broke a school record and two finished as runners-up in their events at Sectionals.

Our Girls and Boys Indoor Track Teams had 18 wins during their competition season this winter.

The Boys and Girls Bowling Teams had 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.

Our Cheer Team won 1st place at the Winter Cheer Challenge and the Big Red Rah Rah Competition. They placed 2nd at the Section 2 Championships.

The newly reorganized Alpine Ski Team wrapped up their season with several individual wins and an overall good startup season in varsity competition this winter.

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

Ballston Spa Central School District

70 Malta Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020



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Boxholder
Ballston Spa Central
School District

The READER – School District News & Budget Vote Information – May 2017

Upcoming Community
Events **May/June 2017**

MAY

- 1 Meet the Candidates Night, High School Library, 6:30 pm
- 2 NHS Induction/Junior Awards Ceremony, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 4 NJHS Induction, High School Auditorium, 5:00 pm
Budget Presentation, Ballston Town Hall, 6:30 pm
- 5 Student Art Exhibits, First Friday, Village of Ballston Spa, 6:00-9:00 pm
- 6 Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, High School Auditorium, 2:00-5:00 pm
- 9 High School Spring Concert, Part I, HS Aud., 7:30 pm
- 10 Budget Presentation, Malta Community Center, 6:30 pm
- 11 Senior Awards Night, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Gordon Creek Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 15 Middle School Spring Concert, 7th Grade, HS Aud., 7:00 pm
- 16 Budget Vote/School Pride Day
Middle School/High School Art Show, High School Art Wing, 5:00 pm
Middle School/High School Concert, Grades 8-9, HS Aud., 7:30 pm
- 18 High School Spring Concert, Part II, HS Aud., 7:30 pm
- 20 Ballston Spa 5k for Education, Scotties Stampede, Middle School, 9:00 am
- 23 Malta Ave. Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 24-25 NYS Capital Region Youth Climate Summit, TEC-SMART
- 25 Milton Terrace Spring Concert, 7:00 pm

JUNE

- 1 Wood Road Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 6 Middle School Spring Concert, 6th Grade, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 7 ECHS Graduation and Spring Expo, TEC-SMART, 8:30 am
- 10 BSHS Senior Prom, Saratoga City Center, 8:00 pm
- 22 Ballston Spa 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 Pride Day

The annual SCHOOL PRIDE DAY will be held on May 16, 2017 concurrently with the school district vote. Student artwork and projects will be on display at the High School and at the Malta Town Hall throughout the day. The Middle School and High School Student Art Show will be held at the High School along with student musical performances in the cafeteria and old fashioned Ice Cream Social. The annual Penny Harvest grant presentations will be held at 6:15 pm, followed by a Middle School/

High School 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.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$88,459,730	\$90,340,742	\$88,939,547
Increase/Decrease for 2017-18 School Year		\$1,881,012	\$479,817
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.1%	0.5%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$47,591,657	\$48,990,852	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$28,000	\$30,000	
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)	\$47,619,657	\$49,020,852	\$47,619,657
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,505,226	\$1,794,478	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$46,997,827	\$48,701,702	
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)	\$46,114,431	\$47,226,374	
I. Difference: (G - H): Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval	\$883,396	\$1,475,328	
Administrative Component	\$9,054,990	\$9,254,159	\$9,136,684
Program Component	\$64,700,355	\$66,304,435	\$65,664,771
Capital Component	\$14,704,385	\$14,782,148	\$14,138,092
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 \$1,401,195 in reductions.			
List of separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:	Description	Amount	
	School District Buses & Vehicles	\$907,000	
	Ballston Spa Public Library	\$55,650	
	Ballston Area Recreation Commission	\$30,000	

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$724

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 16, 2017 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.