

Our Vision
Every Learner, Together, World Ready

MISSION



GOALS



VALUES

Classroom Chronicles

BUDGET EDITION

MAY 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Proposed 2021-22
Budget:
\$23,125,725

What else is on the Ballot?

BOARD OF EDUCATION

One seat on the Board of Education. The seat holds a five-year term set to commence on July 1, 2021. The candidates are Patricia Prime and David Nightingale Sr.

BUS PROPOSITION

To allow the district to lease three (3) 70-passenger buses for a five (5) year term at an annual cost not to exceed \$19,775 each.

**EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND
PROPOSITION****CAPITAL BUS RESERVE FUND
PROPOSITION**

2021-22 Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

TUESDAY, MAY 18

- Noon to 9 p.m. at the East Hill Elementary Library
- Masks WILL BE REQUIRED
- Absentee ballots are due by 5 p.m. on May 18
- MORE INFO AT WWW.CANAJOHARIESCHOOLS.ORG

Budget for 2021-22 adds programs; includes NO tax increase

On Tuesday, May 18, Canajoharie Central School District residents will head to the polls to vote on a proposed \$23,125,725 budget for 2021-22. This budget represents a spending increase of 2.28 percent, and carries 0 percent property tax levy increase. Since the 0 percent tax levy increase falls below the district's legal limit of 8.33 percent as defined by the state's tax cap legislation, a simple majority (50 percent plus one) is needed to approve the budget.

While developing the budget, district leaders focused on maintaining and enhancing programs while being mindful of the impact to the taxpayers. The district received an increase in state aid along with Federal stimulus funds, which district leaders plan to use to create

opportunities for students and to position the district financially.

"Due to the requirements with the American Rescue Plan Act stimulus package, we will be offering remediation programs over the next few years that will help our students who may have struggled during the pandemic both academically and socially," said Superintendent Dr. Nick Fitzgerald.

"We will be offering academic intervention services at each level, helping increase the usage and efficiency with our I-Ready program, after-school tutoring, and creating additional course sections in certain areas to lower class sizes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THANK YOU TO THE CLASS OF 2021

**The Top 10 of the
Class of 2021**

1. Jeffrey Xiao
2. Matthew Ehle
3. Carolyn Philips
4. Kelly Davidson
5. Sage Stinson
6. Hailey Becker
7. Michael Barlow
8. Jacob Nasse
9. Ella Robinson
10. Jack Krug

"The class of 2021 is an amazing group of young men and women. They all have been through so much and I am truly inspired by their ability to find success given so many difficult obstacles."

So said Canajoharie High School Principal Nicholas Bottino who has plenty of inspiring words for the Class of 2021 because of the obstacles they've faced during the pandemic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Budget for 2021-22

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We also want to create a more robust summer school enrichment program and increase counseling services at each level.”

The district must submit a full plan by July 1 on how it will use the federal funding.

Dr. Fitzgerald said the remaining funds would be used to help offset the costs the district incurred while ensuring students could attend school daily, and to financially secure the district for the future so hopefully tax increases can be kept to a minimum.

“One of the main responsibilities of the board and the superintendent is to keep the district financially solvent,” he said. “In order to keep our schools open during the pandemic, we had increased costs associated with hiring teacher aides, substitute teachers and staff, maintenance staff, supplies and equipment, and transportation.”

The increase to the budget can be mainly attributed to annual contractual obligations, health insurance, and special education costs.

Other Propositions

Voters will also elect one BOE member, and decide on a bus proposition to lease three 70-passenger school buses at an annual cost not to exceed \$19,775 each. There will also be propositions to establish a capital bus reserve fund, and an equipment reserve fund.

“We want to establish an equipment reserve for items such as trucks, lawnmowers, larger equipment purchases, and furniture, which will be used instead of infusing expenses into our yearly budgets. By establishing this account, we can pull funds when needed instead of worrying about including it in our budget line items,” Dr. Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald said the district will also allocate funds to the employee retirement system reserve to offset annual charges, and

build upon the capital project reserve so it can offer a larger building project without impacting taxpayers.

“Finally, we updated our capital bus reserve fund since the required 10 years will expire this June. This reserve is used to fund the bus lease payments each year, and has no impact on the budget. The funds are deposited from the reimbursement we receive from the state each year, and the

total of the reserve must reflect the sum of all deposits over 10 years,” he said.

“Part of being fiscally responsible is to ensure that our buildings, equipment, budget, and programs will be maintained and updated before emergencies occur.”

Polls will be open from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, in the East Hill library. Parking will be limited during dismissal from 2:15-3 p.m.

Message from the Superintendent

I would like to thank everyone for their input, collaboration, effort and patience the past year. To say that this has been a trying time is a true understatement for sure. This community of parents, students, business owners, town and village personnel, faculty, staff, and administration have all worked feverishly the past year to try and give our students and families the best opportunities possible during this pandemic. While we know some things were not perfect, we listened to the concerns and tried to put our best foot forward for the sake and well-being of our students. I wanted to say again: *Thank You!* I know there is still some work to do, but we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel for sure. Because of that light, we will be having the graduations, award ceremonies, concerts, and orientations over the next month or so. For the most part, the athletic seasons were a success.

The Canajoharie CSD is grounded in its mission, vision and values (that focus on accountability, engagement, respect and community involvement to name a few). We also have goals that focus on Curriculum and Instruction, Engagement, Budget and Resources, Technology, Relationships, and Cultural/Social/Emotional programs and services. We have details on each goal on our website under the Board of Education tab. In order to drill down further, each school has come up with a set of goals that help drive our mission, vision and values. The goals revolve around attendance, discipline and positive referrals, course failures, and assessment results. The idea is

to have our students be attending at least 90 percent of the school year, reducing our discipline referrals for behavior, and increasing our positive referrals to showcase all of the great things our students do! Finally, looking at reducing course failures and increasing assessment results in reading and math.

When you enter our buildings you will see the goals displayed on TV's that will take you through each slide. Please take a minute and look at each slide, it only takes a few minutes. The educational experience is a full partnership between home and school, and the goals we have set helps us ensure that our students are not only successful but will become solid contributors to society in the future. If we work together and achieve these goals, nothing will stand in our way. As with everything that involves the educational experience of your child(ren), we need your help to achieve these objectives. It is a simple equation: if attendance is great, there are no course failures, behavior is solid, and there is consistent improvement with assessments, the answer will equal success. We will be adding a participation goal next year to track how many students are involved in a club, activity, or sport. Being socially connected enhances the overall experience. I wanted to mention the objectives now as they will help us drive success in the future for all students. Canjo strong!

Dr. Nick Fitzgerald
Superintendent

Budget At-A-Glance

AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed 2021-22 Budget:
\$23,125,725

Adopted 2020-21 budget:
\$22,610,925

“Part of being fiscally responsible is to ensure that our buildings, equipment, budget, and programs will be maintained and updated before emergencies happen.”

Dr. Nick Fitzgerald, Superintendent

EXPENDITURES

	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
General Support	\$3,793,450	\$3,842,386	1.2900%
Instruction	\$14,514,278	\$14,969,645	3.1374%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,817,497	\$1,856,794	2.1621%
Debt Service	\$2,265,700	\$2,236,900	-1.2711%
Interfund Transfers	\$35,000	\$35,000	0.0000%
Capital Project Transfers/Outlay	\$185,000	\$185,000	0.0000%
TOTAL	\$22,610,925	\$23,125,725	2.28%

REVENUES

	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
State Aid	\$11,671,843	\$11,918,017	2.11%
State Aid – Building Aid	\$2,273,566	\$2,829,916	24.47%
Property Taxes	\$7,554,520	\$7,554,520	0.00%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$550,996	\$263,272	-52.22%
Other	\$475,000	\$475,000	0.00%
Capital Project Transfers	\$85,000	\$85,000	0.00%
TOTAL	\$22,610,925	\$23,125,725	2.28%

Thank You to the Class of 2021

Bottino said the school also continues to plan for end-of-year events including graduation (see page 4 for dates).

Class president and BOE student representative Hailey Becker says the Class of 2021 did not let obstacles stand in the way of its success. She said district leaders fought for the well-being of the entire student body, and with the help of the entire community, students made it through the difficult times and learned they are strong and resilient.

“We didn’t back down. No matter what may be thrown at us, we are the class that had to sacrifice so much and work twice as hard to get where we are. Throughout this past year, I have seen so much help between the community and our school district,” she said.

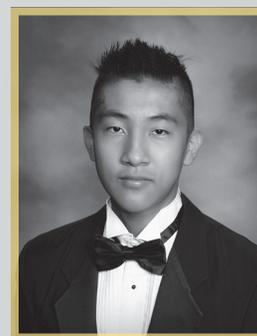
Valedictorian and salutatorian of the Class of 2021

Jeffery Xiao is the Class of 2021 valedictorian. He plans to pursue a degree in computer science after graduation. He praised the entire community for the strength it has shown during the pandemic, and the district for the great opportunities it provides students.

“I’m a prospective computer science major, and the computer science internship program provided me with many opportunities to pursue my interests,” he said.

Salutatorian Matthew Ehle, who plans to study music education and music performance after graduation, agreed.

“Canajoharie has prepared me for the future by encouraging a positive work ethic through rich course offerings and rigorous expectations,” he said.



Jeffery Xiao
Valedictorian



Matthew Ehle
Salutatorian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CANJO Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$22,610,925	\$23,125,725	\$23,073,315
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$514,800	\$462,390
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.28%	2.04%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$7,554,520	\$7,554,520	
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)	\$7,554,520	\$7,554,520	\$7,554,520
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$7,561,438	\$8,183,531	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$7,554,520	\$7,554,520	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$6,918	\$629,011	
Administrative Component	\$1,928,791	\$1,963,326	\$1,963,326
Program Component	\$16,514,434	\$17,005,249	\$16,967,639
Capital Component	\$4,167,700	\$4,157,150	\$4,142,350

* In compliance with the state's tax levy limit law, the school district's contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year is based on subtracting \$52,410 from the budget, and would place restrictions on certain maintenance and transportation equipment expenses.

** 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
Capital Bus Reserve Fund	\$2,300,000
Equipment Reserve Fund	\$500,000
Bus Proposition	\$59,325

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$592

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Canajoharie Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held at East Hill Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, between the hours of noon and 9 p.m., prevailing time, in the elementary 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

VOTE INFORMATION

WHO CAN VOTE

To vote, an individual must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

For an absentee ballot, residents must fill out an application. Call 518-673-6302 to obtain an application. To have a ballot mailed, the application must be received by May 11. To pick up a ballot in person, the application must be received by May 18. All ballots are due by 5 p.m. on May 18.

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.

