

Our Vision  
Every Learner, Together, World Ready

# Classroom Chronicles

BUDGET EDITION

MAY 2023

## BUDGET INFORMATION

Proposed 2023-24  
Budget:  
**\$25,284,083**

What else is on the ballot?

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

One person to fill an open seat for a five-year term running July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028

- LAURI BROADY
- CHRISTOPHER FATTA

### BUS PROPOSITION

To allow the district to lease three 70-passenger buses for a five-year term for a total cost of \$24,000 each.

### EQUIPMENT RESERVE

To allow the district to purchase a lawn mower, technology lab equipment and classroom furniture through the previously established Equipment Reserve fund for a cost not to exceed \$160,000.

### REESTABLISH OUR CONTINUED CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To allow the district to reestablish our continued Capital Reserve Fund of \$2,500,000 for the purpose of financing general improvements, construction, reconstruction, renovations or additions to various district buildings and grounds.

### 2023-24 Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

#### TUESDAY, MAY 16

- Noon to 8 p.m. at the East Hill Elementary Library
- Absentee ballots are due by 5 p.m. on May 16
- More info at [www.canajoharieschools.org](http://www.canajoharieschools.org)

## Proposed budget for 2023-24 adds staff while not exceeding the tax levy cap

**On Tuesday, May 16, Canajoharie Central School District residents will head to the polls to vote on a proposed \$25,284,083 budget for the 2023-24 school year.**

This budget represents a spending increase of 8.32 % and carries a 1.64% percent property tax levy increase. Since the increase does not exceed the district's tax levy limit 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, maintaining jobs, and ensuring the district will be fiscally solvent in the future, while ensuring the budget does not exceed the allowable tax cap. The average property tax increase in the last three years has been 1.52%.

*"It is important that we continue to enhance programs for our students, give them academic and emotional supports, while at the same time keep our property tax increase to a minimum," Superintendent Dr. Nick Fitzgerald said. "With this budget, we were able to do all of that. We have built-in academic intervention services at each level, counseling services, and new courses to enable our students to get the most out of their experience."*

The district will continue to receive federal funds from the stimulus packages that will continue remediation initiatives for our students during the summer and school year and offer after-school opportunities. The federal funds are grants and will not be put into our regular fund balance.



Our prekindergarten students have been busy this year.

The proposed budget includes increases to annual contractual obligations, health benefits, and special education costs, with minimal increases in other areas. We preserved, and in some areas enhanced, programs for our students.

The proposed budget would allow the district to retain three academic intervention services teachers for each level to help students who still may be struggling with coming back from the pandemic, secure additional counseling services for our students, add a part-time music teacher to enhance music and technology electives, and continue a full-time English as a New Language teacher to help students who speak another language other than English.

For the 2023-24 school year, the Canajoharie Central School District will be running a teacher residency program to allow two teachers to participate in internships, write curriculum, mirror students, and bring

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## Canajoharie Energy Report

The Canajoharie Central School District has recently been awarded a grant to fill a position for a District Energy Management Coordinator. This position has been filled and is fully grant funded for 14 months. The goal for this opportunity is to develop an Energy Master Plan for the District that will direct the district's movement towards energy savings, decarbonization, independence and education.

The plan will include an Energy Management Plan that promotes energy conservation, efficiency, improvements and alternatives. Sub parts of the Energy Management Plan will address the state mandate to electrify the bus fleet, which is intended to reduce the emissions of GHGs and increase the quality of the air environment around transportation activities. Converting the bus fleet to Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) involves acquiring the new electric buses and upgrading the transportation facility to accommodate the charging of BEVs.

Also included in the plan will be the development of an energy curriculum that will be infused into the middle and high school technology classes. Middle school students will learn about energy related concepts such as alternative and renewable energy sources, uses, efficiency and conservation. At the high school, the focus will be on energy related careers in areas that involve development and implementation of alternative and renewable energy fields or trades.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is providing an influx of funding that may allow the district to reapply for the geothermal project that did not receive funding. This past submission is being enhanced to increase the chances of success for the next round of funding. This project would add much needed cooling to the oldest parts of the East Hill Elementary School as well as significantly reduce the consumption of fossil fuels (natural gas) for heating.

In order to take full advantage of decarbonization through the electrification of building systems, the solar project that was intended to be placed on the Cunningham Road hillside of the Canajoharie High School property is being reevaluated. This project was halted due to the limited availability of electrical grid capacity. With recent movement towards alternative energy, the district may have another opportunity to proceed with this type of project, which would ultimately advance the District towards savings, decarbonization and independence.

**Francis D'Ambrosio**  
Energy Management Coordinator

## Lockdown drill slated in the district for the middle of May

New York state mandates that school districts conduct 12 emergency drills each year, of which four must be lockdown drills.

The district has invested much time and resources putting in place the best processes to ensure the safety and security of our faculty, staff and students. We have held committee meetings, worked with outside organizations and local law enforcement. This year, the district also sent out two videos that focused on our A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training for our faculty, staff and students and our updated safety systems.

During a typical emergency drill, the emergency response team and administration team are the only people who usually know when it is scheduled.

On May 18 or 19, we will be conducting one of our remaining lockdown drills; in this case no one except myself will have the precise date and time so we can truly assess if all of our systems are in place. This will be a full test of our procedure, including law enforcement response, and is intended to allow us to evaluate how the entire process works. In addition, it will allow us to see how much time it takes to get emergency personnel to our district, dispatch to access our cameras and buses at our exits and entrances to secure the building in which the lockdown is occurring.

For the faculty, staff and students the only difference from a usual drill will be extended time in the classrooms, and they

will hear sirens and emergency personnel entering our school grounds. They will also hear emergency personnel in the hallways.

When we make the announcement that the lockdown is occurring, they will be reminded that it is a drill, which occurs during every drill that is held. We will also remind everyone in the community, especially the immediate surrounding areas of the district buildings, so when they hear the emergency vehicles entering the district they are aware that it is only a drill.

Prior to the drill, we will also review our lockdown procedures with the students so they know what is expected. The drill will be conducted throughout the district with the emergency personnel only arriving at the high school. In the other buildings it will be the same as any other drill previously conducted.

Once the drill is complete the administration and emergency team, along with the emergency personnel, will meet to review how it went and look to see if there are things to improve upon. This is a great opportunity to ensure we have everything in place for the safety of our school community.

If you have any questions, please let me know. You can call the office at 518-673-6302 or email me at [nick.fitzgerald@canjo.org](mailto:nick.fitzgerald@canjo.org).

Go Cougars! #WeAreCanjo!  
**Dr. Nick Fitzgerald**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Congratulations to the Fort Plain - Canajoharie Drama Club on another great production!** This spring, the club presented "Mamma Mia!" to a packed house over two nights.

The staff, students and community gives their thanks to our amazing cast and crew for their hard work in putting on this impressive show.

# Budget At-A-Glance

## AT-A-Glance

Proposed 2023-24 Budget:  
**\$25,284,083**

Adopted 2022-23 budget:  
**\$23,341,005**

### THE TOP 10 OF THE CLASS OF 2023

1. Giana Marie Murphy
2. Chiarra Morris
3. Alexis Deon
4. Samantha Barlow
5. Olivia Schaffer
6. Gabrielle Murphy
7. Riley Scofield
8. Ava Fatta
9. Alistar Fruehstorfer
10. Kylie Hickey

## EXPENDITURES

	2022-23 BUDGET	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
General Support	\$3,966,179	\$4,139,749	4.38%
Instruction	\$15,118,731	\$16,536,953	9.38%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,871,095	\$1,883,398	0.66%
Debt Service	\$2,165,000	\$2,518,983	16.35%
Interfund Transfers	\$35,000	\$20,000	-42.86%
Capital Project Transfers/Outlay	\$185,000	\$185,000	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,341,005</b>	<b>\$25,284,083</b>	<b>8.32%</b>

## REVENUES

	2022-23 BUDGET	2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
State Aid	\$12,712,042	\$14,068,615	10.67%
State Aid – Building Aid	\$2,292,340	\$2,394,460	4.45%
Property Taxes	\$7,776,623	\$7,904,008	1.64%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$-	\$75,000	-
Other	\$475,000	\$757,000	59.37%
Capital Project Transfers	\$85,000	\$85,000	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,341,005</b>	<b>\$25,284,083</b>	<b>8.32%</b>

## Budget for 2023-24

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new and innovative ideas to help transform instruction. The residency program will also help set up our student internships that will be connected to our High School Academies when we roll those out in 2024-25.

### Other Propositions

Voters will also elect one Board of Education member to a five-year term running from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2028.

Additionally, on the ballot is a bus proposition to lease three school buses at an annual cost not to exceed \$24,000 each.

Residents will vote on using \$16,000 from an Equipment Reserve for the purchase of a lawn mower, lab equipment, and new classroom furniture. Voters previously approved creating the Equipment Reserve, and this is the next step to use the funds.

Voters will also be asked to allow the district to reestablish our continued Capital Reserve Fund of \$2,500,000 for financing general improvements, construction, reconstruction, renovations, or additions to various district buildings and grounds.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, in the East Hill library. Please note that parking will be limited during dismissal from 2:15-3 p.m.

## ART SHOW AND CONCERT 2023



Thank you to everyone who came out to see the incredible talents of our students during our Art Show and Music in Our Schools event.

# CANJO Budget Notice

## Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$23,341,005	\$25,284,083	\$25,156,698
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$1,943,078	1,815,693
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.32%	7.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
<b>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>\$7,776,623</b>	<b>\$7,904,008</b>	
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$7,776,623</b>	<b>\$7,904,008</b>	<b>\$7,776,623</b>
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>	<b>\$7,777,060</b>	<b>\$7,904,008</b>	
<b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>	<b>\$7,776,623</b>	<b>\$7,904,008</b>	
<b>I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>	<b>\$437</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$1,992,412</b>	<b>\$2,073,134</b>	<b>\$2,068,134</b>
<b>Program Component</b>	<b>\$17,247,493</b>	<b>\$18,623,568</b>	<b>\$18,533,083</b>
<b>Capital Component</b>	<b>\$4,101,100</b>	<b>\$4,587,381</b>	<b>\$4,555,481</b>

Should the proposed budget be defeated, staffing reductions to the educational program would be required, including teaching, administration and social work staff; summer school programming, field trips, student supplies and equipment purchases will be deleted; community usage of buildings and grounds will be eliminated.

\*\* 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
Bus Proposition	\$72,000
Equipment Reserve	\$160,000
Capital Reserve Fund Reestablishment	\$2,500,000
<b>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year</b>	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$592

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 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 16, 2023, between the hours of noon and 8 p.m., prevailing time, in the elementary school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

<sup>1</sup> 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 5 p.m. on May 9. To pick up a ballot in person, the application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 16. All absentee ballots are due by 5 p.m. on May 16.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 RETIREES

- Linda Fahy
- Debbie Hillier
- Mike Kane
- Greg Pitonza
- Heather Rockwell
- Dr. Kelly Swart

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.

