



# Budget Newsletter

2023-2024

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**Budget Hearing**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2023**  
**6:00pm**

**Budget Vote & School Board Election**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
**12:00pm to 8:00pm**

### DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

On April 18, 2023, the Willsboro Central School District Board of Education adopted the proposed budget of \$10,901,493 for the 2023-2024 school year, which will be voted on by the community on May 16, 2023. This budget results in a tax levy increase of 2.07% which falls within the district's allowable state-calculated tax cap limit.

The proposed budget honors the district's responsibility to the community to use its resources as effectively and efficiently as possible while also focusing on academic excellence. The proposed budget continues all existing programs and services while also introducing new opportunities to support the overall well-being of our students.

*"The proposed budget continues all existing programs and services while also introducing new opportunities to support the overall well-being of our students."*

Throughout our budget development process, decision-making is aligned to our district mission to provide a safe and supportive community that instills students with PRIDE: PREPARED for the future that they choose, RESPECTED and valued for who they are, INSPIRED to make their community and world a better place, DETERMINED to overcome challenges, and EMPOWERED to engage with a changing world.

After you read the information within this newsletter, we encourage you to review the additional financial information available on our website. The detailed budget will also be available to the public on May 2, 2023 in the District Office.

We greatly appreciate the community's ongoing support of our students and staff and hope to see all eligible voters on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Together in education,

Justin Gardner  
 Superintendent of Schools

Key Facts & Figures	
Tax Levy Increase	2.07%
Tax Rate	\$10.80
Budget Increase	4.02%



# CELEBRATING OUR SENIOR CLASS



**Top Row: Kyla Crowningshield • Gabrielle Marble • Maya Williams • Emma Becker  
Kayden Reynolds • Nathan Collazo • Logan Jaquish • Cleo Lobdell**

**Bottom Row: Erica Klein • Lexi Nolette • Isabella Harrison • Abbigail Bruno • Koert Newton  
Marcus Carson Jr. • Finnley Walker • Mallory Arnold • (Not pictured) Abigail Strong**

Willsboro Central School is proud of its senior class and all their accomplishments. Our soon-to-be graduates have worked hard to achieve their academic and personal goals, and we are excited to see what their futures hold. Their dedication and commitment to excellence are a testament to their character, and they have made a lasting impact on our school community and our entire student body.

# VALEDICTORIAN

## MALLORY ARNOLD



***What's memorable about the senior class?***

A lot of us are involved in extra-curricular activities. That's the nice thing about Willsboro. We have a lot of opportunities put in front of us, and it's nice to know that many people in our class took advantage.

***How has Willsboro CSD shaped your future?***

This is where we grew up. This is our town. I have been in this school since Pre-K, and 14 years is a long time to be with the same people in our class. We love each other. I could not imagine going anywhere else. It's tradition and family.

***College Plans:*** Yale

# CO-SALUTATORIANS

## BELLA HARRISON



***What's memorable about the senior class?***

We have that bond and connection. It's about those funny moments shared together. We also really enjoy seeing each other have success. I think that's special. We feed off each other in that sense.

***How has Willsboro CSD shaped your future?***

Because it's a small school, you can get close to a lot of people. You get to know more people and form a lot more relationships. Sports help with that, too. The school spirit and community spirit we have here has created a great foundation for us.

***College Plans:*** Undecided (Attending a 4-Year College)

## LEXI NOLETTE



***What's memorable about the senior class?***

We know each other very well. We have been with each other for over 13 or 14 years. I am not even here half the day because I am at CV-TEC, but when I am here, I know I am with my family.

***How has Willsboro CSD shaped your future?***

Willsboro was a great school for me to grow up in. Because it was small, I got more one-on-one time with teachers if I needed help in anything. It was a very comfortable environment where I always felt that I could go ask a teacher a question and get some help if I needed it.

***College Plans:*** University of Buffalo

# WILLSBORO TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM SPARKS CREATIVE FREEDOM

There's a world of new opportunities being offered at Willsboro Central School.

Career and Technical Education is now on that list of opportunities, and the Technology room is turning into the place to be.

Both the Conservation and Carpentry classes have become a hit among students, and it looks like there will be even more interest in years to come.

"Sometimes it's hard to get a student engaged at first with these classes," Technology teacher Erik Manning said. "All of a sudden you see something spark them and you see that passion come through. It's different for each student, but there's always that triggering event that gets them really interested!"

## PRIDE IN THEIR WORK

The materials students craft in carpentry have extra meaning. Most projects they work on are not just for a grade in the class. They end up being used in the community.

Lucas Drinkwine, a 10th-grader, has been busy in the shop making hammers and baseball bats as well as podiums for teachers and benches.



One of the benches he made stayed right at Willsboro and is stationed outside the music room, while another bench is in the works and will be sent over soon to Willsboro Golf Course.

"It's really nice knowing we can leave our mark on everything that we do and it ends up in our school or community. That bench that's outside the music room is great. Every time I walk by it, it's cool to know I made it and there's people sitting on it. One of the main reasons I took this class was I really wanted to just learn and see what I could make with my own two hands. It's been a great experience."

## SAFETY FIRST AND CREATIVITY

At the core of what is taught, safety is paramount.

"I want to align my curriculum with the industry standards for these kids," Manning said. "It's about safety, and then comes the work ethic. If I can instill those two things within the kids, that's the foundation they need in these classes."

There's a lot of creative freedom Manning wants his students to enjoy in both classes as well. He said once they are keeping safety in mind, that's when they can let the creativity fly.

**TECHNOLOGY STORY CONTINUES: PAGE 5**



## CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

The 2023-2024 capital outlay project will consist of work required to replace the district’s existing phone and public address system. The current system is now over 20 years old and is no longer serviceable. Not only will a replacement system provide necessary upgrades for communication, but it will also allow for additional safety features to be implemented within the district.

The state allows school districts to transfer general funds to the capital fund for building and/or reconstruction projects not to exceed \$100,000. Projects funded in this manner receive reimbursement from the state the following budget year, unlike traditional capital projects, which are reimbursed over time. The state will reimburse Willsboro Central School District for 52% of this project.



### ...TECHNOLOGY STORY CONTINUED

“We have the freedom to do what we want each day, and that’s something we appreciate,” said 11th-grader Jameson Russell. “It’s nice to learn skills like welding. It’s great to look at those trade jobs whether it be for a full-time or part-time job in the future.

“I want to build essential skills and learn everything possible, especially with carpentry because there are a lot of jobs in this area if you have the knowledge and know what you are doing.”



### HAVING FUN AS A GROUP

A favorite for the conservation class is maple syrup. If you are thinking they all like maple syrup, that’s probably true, but in this sense, it’s the actual maple sugaring lesson Manning teaches.

“I mean who doesn’t like maple syrup? That is my favorite lesson because the kids don’t even realize all the other aspects they are learning — tree identification, forest management, forest health, maple sugaring industry, tree size, scaling,” Manning said.

Even though the students don’t always like when Manning drags them out into the cold and snow to head for the trees, he said he knows they are still having fun.

“They only hate me a bit when I have to bring them out in the cold,” he said with a laugh.

But there’s plenty of projects students are working on

inside as well.

One that summarizes how students are learning and supporting the community is the fresh company sign being crafted for Imerys.

“I stood over the sign the other day and just went, ‘Wow, this is really coming together,’ said Willsboro senior Abby Bruno. “I was really proud.”

Bruno plans to go to college for art, so a project like this is perfect.

“This is different than just working with paint and paper,” Bruno said. “You can explore some other things. It’s been fun building up the sign instead of painting it flat. There are tons of resources in our shop for it, too.

“This really is a room of opportunity when we come in here. It feels like a second home.”



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS TOGETHER

Willsboro Central School District is celebrating its 50th Anniversary as a centralized district. Half a century of memories have been made and cherished by so many within our community. This milestone allows us to reflect on all the success WCS has enjoyed since its origination 1973 and motivates us to look toward the future together and know it is bright.

“Willsboro Central School District has proudly served our community, and I am honored to be a member of our school as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary,” Superintendent of Schools Justin Gardner said. “Our legacy as a district continues to be shaped each and every day by our hardworking staff and students as well as our outstanding community members.”

While plenty of time has passed, our mission remains the same: The Willsboro Central School District provides a safe and supportive community to instill students with pride.

Our vision — One Community, One Commitment, Ready for the Future — holds true. And our values center around our students. We are respectful, we act with integrity, we set high expectations for ourselves,



and we work together to achieve our best.

Knowing the legacy Willsboro Central School District possesses, we are left with a great feeling of pride. We want our upcoming chapters to add to our respected and revered history, and we know we have an outstanding group of professionals leading the way within our classrooms and a wonderful group of students ready to establish and follow their pathways to prosperity.

## PROPOSED BUDGET TAX IMPACT

Assessment	22-23 Taxes	23-24 Taxes	Tax Change
\$100,000	\$1,058	\$1,080	\$22
\$150,000	\$1,587	\$1,620	\$33
\$200,000	\$2,115	\$2,160	\$45

## BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

**Proposition 1:**  
Adopt the 2023-2024 Budget  
\$10,901,493

**Proposition 2:**  
Elect 2 School Board Members  
Candidate: Krissy Leerkes  
Candidate: Emily Phillips

**Proposition 3:**  
Purchase and financing of one  
65-passenger school bus  
at a cost not to exceed \$152,871

2023-24 BUDGET COMPARISON			
EXPENDITURES	2023-24 PROPOSED	2022-23 BUDGET	DIFF
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>			
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Board of Education	\$ 11,600	\$ 7,100	\$ 4,500
Central Administration	213,166	201,907	11,259
Finance	213,717	199,154	14,563
Staff	35,724	36,803	(1,079)
Central Services	31,500	14,500	17,000
Special Items	191,810	180,301	11,509
<u>INSTRUCTION</u>			
Administration & Improvement	86,500	88,100	(1,600)
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED</u>			
Employee Benefits	197,423	209,758	(12,335)
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$ 981,440</b>	<b>\$ 937,623</b>	<b>\$ 43,817</b>
<b>PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>			
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Staff	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
<u>INSTRUCTION</u>			
Instructional Improvement	18,240	18,240	-
Teaching Regular School	1,836,265	1,888,955	(52,690)
Special Apportionment Programs	2,164,272	2,040,046	124,226
Instructional Media	276,200	269,302	6,898
Pupil Services	452,349	412,836	39,513
<u>PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</u>			
District Transportation Services	368,328	376,605	(8,277)
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED</u>			
Employee Benefits	2,655,917	2,597,382	58,534
Interfund Transfer	92,000	92,000	-
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$ 7,873,572</b>	<b>\$ 7,705,367</b>	<b>\$ 168,205</b>
<b>CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>			
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Central Services	\$ 587,189	\$ 498,657	\$ 88,532
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED</u>			
Employee Benefits	312,098	294,064	18,034
Debt Service	1,047,194	944,173	103,021
Interfund Transfer	100,000	100,000	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$ 2,046,481</b>	<b>\$ 1,836,894</b>	<b>\$ 209,587</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 10,901,493</b>	<b>\$ 10,479,884</b>	<b>\$ 421,609</b>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Budget documents, with detailed line-by-line delineation, will be available May 2nd in the school's main office, on our website at [www.willsborocsd.org](http://www.willsborocsd.org) or call 518-963-4456, ext.201 to have a copy mailed to you. The budget will be reviewed at the Public Hearing on May 9th.



# PROPOSED 2023-24 BUDGET & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

## Budget Vote & School Board Election

Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
12:00pm to 8:00pm

**Budget Hearing**  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
6:00pm

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT	WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE	WHAT AM I VOTING ON
Community members may request an absentee ballot by contacting the District Office.	<p><b>Tuesday, May 16, 2023</b> <b>12:00pm to 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>School Gym</b></p>	<p>2023-24 Budget</p> <p>2 Members of the BOE</p> <p>School Bus Purchase</p>

For more information on the 2023-24 Budget



Visit our district website

<https://www.willsborocsd.org/>



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## Board of Education

President: Phyllis Klein  
Vice-President: Kasey Young  
Heather Sheehan  
Emily Phillips  
Krissy Leerkes

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