



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

Issue 138

May 2015

2015-2016 BUDGET VOTE

May 19, 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. at Baker H.S. Auditorium



On Tuesday, May 19, Baldwinsville voters will decide on a \$98,973,915 spending plan for the 2015-2016 school year. The district developed the proposed budget to balance students' needs with the ability of the community to support those needs.

This newsletter details the district's budget proposal. The proposed tax levy increase is 1.82%, or \$941,545, which is an increase of approximately \$42.71 for a \$100,000 assessed property value. The tax levy

increase of 1.82% is the district's tax levy cap for 2015-2016.

The budget is presented in three parts – program, capital and administrative. The program component provides students with the educational experiences and opportunities they need for academic success. The capital component includes operational and maintenance costs, and the administrative component provides for supervisory functions. More details on these three parts of the budget are on page 2.

Voters will also be asked to vote on the annual bus purchase, an energy performance project, and the annual school board elections. You can find more information on these propositions on page 4.

The district will hold a public budget hearing on May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Durgee Junior High School. The budget vote will be held in the auditorium of Baker High School on May 19 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

May 12, 2015 - 7 p.m.

**Durgee Jr. High
Cafeteria**

Excellence Continues in District

District, student and staff achievements are good indicators of how well the district has spent the tax dollars the community has entrusted to it. The following accomplishments are just a sample of the successes in our district:

▶ The district marching band performed in the 2014 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

▶ District ranked 1st in Onondaga County for administrative efficiency by Business First

Continued on Page 8

Proposition 1: 2015-16 Budget Expenditures

This proposition is not contingent on the passage of Propositions 2 or 3.

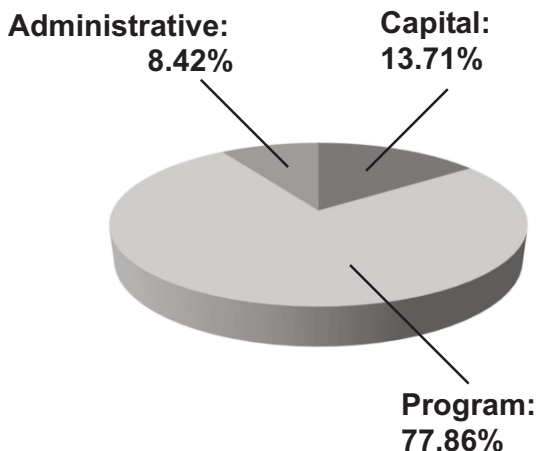
State law requires the 2015-2016 budget to be presented in three parts: program, capital and administrative. Please see page 5 for information on the projected tax impact, and page 6 for budget highlights.

	2015-16 proposed budget	2014-15 final appropriation	Dollar difference	Percent difference
Program	\$77,197,714	\$75,440,713	\$1,757,001	+2.32%
The program component is intended to provide every student with educational experiences and opportunities to foster the full development of his or her potential. This budget category includes all instructional personnel and programs: regular school, special education, library, media, instructional technology, guidance, student health services, school psychologists, attendance and census costs, music, co-curricular activities, athletics, in-district and out-of-district pupil transportation, and staff development.				
Capital	\$13,496,545	\$13,286,430	\$210,115	+1.58%
The capital component is intended to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and the community. This budget category includes all personnel, equipment, supplies and materials for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments of principal and interest on short- and long-term obligations are included in this category. In the 2015-2016 budget is a small (\$100,000) capital project to replace carpeting and do some paving at Ray Middle School. The district will receive building aid for this project in 2016-2017.				
Administrative	\$8,279,656	\$8,160,076	\$119,580	+1.46%
The administrative component is intended to provide the necessary support for district functions. This category includes all expenses for the Board of Education, superintendent, business office, auditor, tax collection, fiscal agent, legal services, personnel office, records management, public information, central printing and mailing, property and casualty insurance, school association dues, BOCES administrative share, and supervision of instruction.				
Total Budget	\$98,973,915	\$96,887,219	\$2,086,696	+2.15%

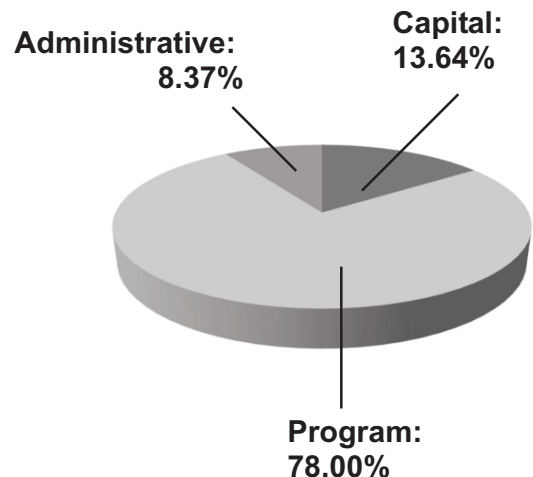
Copies of the budget can be reviewed in the district business office at 29 East Oneida Street, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appropriations Comparisons

2014-2015



2015-2016



Budget Revenues



Scan the QR code with your smart phone for the 2015-2016 budget documents and information.

Non-Property Tax Revenues

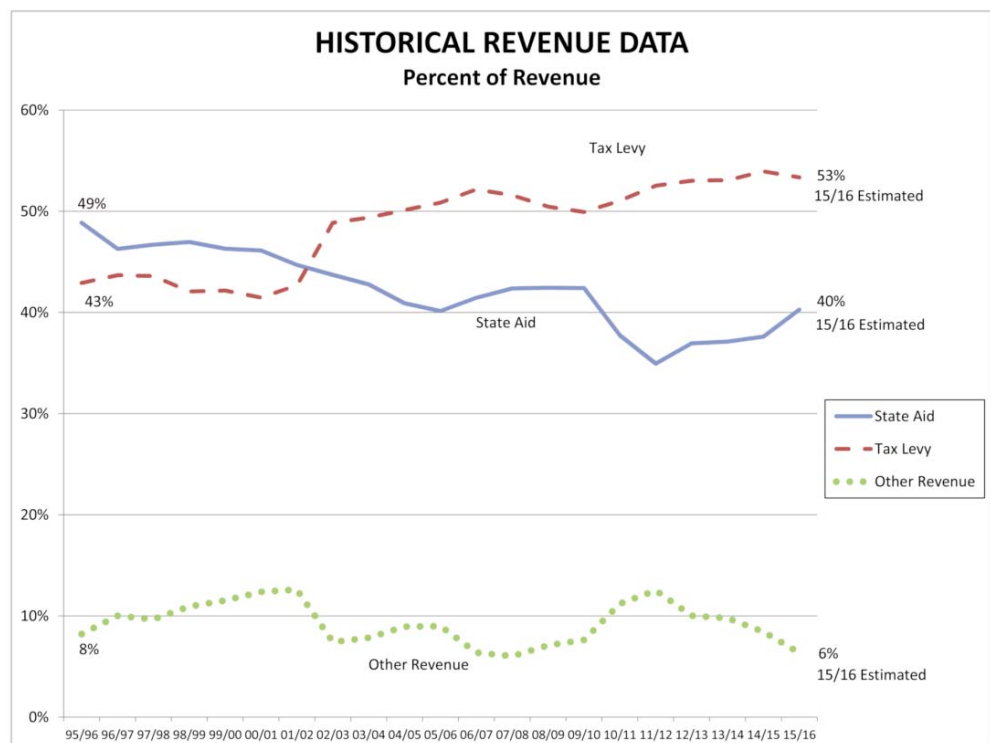
Account	2014-2015	Estimated 2015-2016
In lieu of tax	\$1,522,668	\$1,563,649
County sales tax	\$106,250	\$106,250
Tuition -- other districts	\$50,000	\$50,000
Interest income	\$60,000	\$20,000
State aid (including BOCES aid)	\$31,893,215	\$34,213,262
State aid -- building aid	\$4,123,401	\$4,895,483
Full Day Kindergarten Aid	\$1,400,000	\$755,872
Appropriation from fund balance	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Appropriation from reserves	\$3,736,088	\$2,342,257
All other income	\$625,500	\$715,501
Subtotal	\$45,017,123	\$46,162,274

Real Estate Property Tax

Budget	\$96,887,219	\$98,973,915
Less: Estimated revenues	\$44,570,779	\$46,162,274
Amount to be raised by tax levy:	\$51,870,096	\$52,811,641

Historical Revenue Data

The chart at right illustrates the percentages of district revenue from New York State aid, the local tax levy, and other revenue over the past 20 years and the estimated revenue for 2015-2016. As you will note, the local portion of education costs, represented by the dashed line, has increased over the last 20 years as state aid has decreased.



Propositions 2 & 3

Proposition Two: Annual Bus Purchase



Annual bus purchase and replacement program

The bus fleet consists of 76 large (54-70 passenger) buses, 27 medium (15-48 passenger and wheelchair capable) buses, and eight 8-passenger buses. Large buses are used for about 12 years, the medium buses for about 12 years, and the 8-passenger buses for about 8 years. In order to maintain a consistent replacement schedule, approximately 11 to 14 buses should be replaced per year. However, given the economic pressure facing the district, we are proposing the purchase of fewer buses.

The district would like to purchase:

- ▶ One Suburban - \$42,000
- ▶ Eight 65-passenger buses - \$893,664
- ▶ One 30-passenger bus - \$125,804

Total maximum cost of Proposition 2 = \$1,061,468

Less state aid = \$808,838

Local cost = \$252,630

This proposition is not contingent upon the passage of the budget or the passage of Proposition 3.

**Public Budget Hearing
May 12, 2015 - 7 p.m.
Durgee Jr. High Cafeteria**

Proposition Three: Energy Performance Project (EPC)

Estimated cost not to exceed = \$3,500,000

Cost to taxpayers = \$0

Scope of Project: The district would like to make energy efficient improvements to buildings, including retrofitting light fixtures across the district, preventing air infiltration, replacing pumps, controls and other older HCVAC equipment.

With voter approval our building aid ratio for the Energy Performance Project will rise from 72.5% to 82.5%. The balance of the cost for the project will be paid through the energy savings created by the installation of new equipment and systems.

This proposition is not contingent upon the passage of the budget or the passage of Proposition 2.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

If the budget is defeated, the Board of Education has three options:

- 1.) Put the same budget back before voters;
- 2.) Reduce the budget and ask voters to approve that budget; or
- 3.) Go directly to a contingent budget with no re-vote.

If the budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingent budget. The contingent budget may not increase the current tax levy by any

amount, which would be a zero percent tax cap.

How will a contingent budget affect the school district?

Under a contingent budget, there will be no instructional or non-instructional equipment purchases and no community use of facilities unless groups or organizations pay all associated costs. Further cuts from programs and administration would be required to conform to spending caps.

Tax Impact

Estimated Tax Rate

In Lysander and VanBuren, the tax rate is projected to increase by 1.82 % as assessments are not expected to rise. The estimated tax rate will be as shown below. Please note that the district will not receive assessments and equalization rates for the towns of Van Buren, Lysander and Clay until August. At that time, the actual tax levy and tax rates will be calculated.

	Change in tax bill on a \$100,000 house, without STAR (no change in assessed value)	Change in tax bill on a \$100,000 house, with STAR (no change in assessed value)	Estimated tax rate increase
Lysander and VanBuren (assuming equalization rate remains at 100%)	\$42.71	\$42.71	1.82%
Clay (assuming equalization rate remains the same)	\$42.71	\$42.71	1.82%

About Equalization Rates

An equalization rate represents the average level of assessment in each community. For example, an equalization rate of 50% means that, on average, the property is being assessed at 50% of its market value. The equalization rates are determined by the New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment. One of the most important uses of the equalization rate is to divide the tax levy fairly among municipalities in the same school district. In the Baldwinsville Central School District, the municipalities are the towns of Lysander, Van Buren and Clay.

About STAR

The state's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR, provides a basic exemption that allows property owners with income under \$500,000 to receive a \$30,000 full-value exemption on their home's assessed value. Homeowners receiving the basic exemption were required in 2013 to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to continue receiving STAR. For information on the registration program, visit www.tax.ny.gov or call 518-457-2036.

Senior citizens with incomes of less than \$37,400 gross are eligible for larger exemptions on a sliding scale; senior citizens with incomes of less than \$83,300 (not including IRA distributions) are eligible for the state's "enhanced" exemption of \$63,300 on their home's assessed value. Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR benefit are not affected by the new registration requirement; however, they must continue to apply annually or participate in the Income Verification Program to continue to receive the Enhanced Star.

District Conducting Budget Exit Survey

District residents will have the opportunity to participate in an anonymous budget exit survey after voting on May 19. The survey will provide the district with useful feedback from residents about the budget and the school district. Before you leave the polls please look for the short survey to share your opinions with the district.

Budget Vote
May 19
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Baker H.S. Auditorium

Property Tax Cap Explained

New York's property tax cap law allows school districts to increase their property tax levy from one year to the next by 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula.

School districts are allowed to take exemptions for certain costs, such as pension contributions. These exemptions can increase a school district's tax levy limit to more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation.

The district's tax levy limit for 2015-2016 is 1.82%. The proposed budget has a 1.82% increase in the

tax levy. Since the district's proposed tax levy increase is at its limit, the district needs a simple majority (more than 50 percent) to pass the 2015-2016 budget.

A 1.82 % increase in the tax levy does not necessarily mean that all tax payers will have an increase by 1.82%. Property tax bills are determined by using a property's assessed value, the school tax levy and the equalization rate in each town. The school district only controls one-third of the tax rate equation.

Budget Highlights

Budget Highlights

The 2015-2016 budget seeks to support the district's long-range plan, which strives to provide quality academic programs and maintain facilities while remaining fiscally responsible to taxpayers. The following highlights illustrate how the budget will support the long-range plan.

Equipment & Maintenance

The budget supports the district's cleaning and preventative maintenance program and the community use of buildings. It also supports necessary repairs, including building infrastructure, mechanical and electrical repairs, HVAC upgrades, athletic field maintenance, and energy conservation upgrades. Examples of new equipment include lawn maintenance and maintenance vehicles, and building maintenance and floor care equipment.

Technology

In the area of technology, the budget continues to support ongoing needs in the district to include general network hardware and software upgrades, the programmed replacement of older equipment and installation of various peripheral instructional equipment to include video projectors, SMART Boards, Sympodiums, other presentation devices, and mobile computing devices, such as iPads.

Program

- ▶ Offer a large number of college-credit courses at the high school. The district has significantly increased the number of students receiving credit for college level courses:
 - * 2010-2011 = 269 students
 - * 2011-2012 = 492 students
 - * 2012-2013 = 1,068 students
 - * 2013-2014 = 1,191 students
- ▶ Maintain existing student program opportunities (instructional and extra-curricular)
- ▶ Maintain effective class sizes
- ▶ Support efforts to increase college and career readiness for all students
- ▶ Maintain and enhance support services for students
- ▶ Ensure continued improvement in teaching and learning through professional development and the district's mentoring program



Budget Exit Survey

District residents will have the opportunity to participate in an anonymous budget exit survey after voting on May 19. The survey will provide the district with useful feedback from residents about the budget and the school district. Before you leave the polls please look for the short survey to share your opinions with the district.

School Board Elections

Board of Education Candidates

The order of the candidates is *the order in which they will appear on the ballot*. Three seats on the Board of Education are up for election. They are for three-year terms. The three candidates who receive the three highest vote totals will be elected to the three-year terms. Below are the photos and biographies that each candidate submitted for this newsletter.



Jim Goulet - Jim Goulet is a lifetime resident of the Village of Baldwinsville and a 1968 graduate of Baker High School. He holds a BS in Resources Management from SUNY-ESF and teaching certification through SUNY Oswego. Jim was a science teacher in Baldwinsville for 32 years. He also coached the girls' varsity cross country, indoor track and spring track teams for 97 seasons and now serves as a volunteer coach for the modified girls' track team. Jim served as league chair for cross country, indoor track and spring track and was the Section III chair for indoor track. He served as the head coach for SUNY-ESF's cross country program for three years and was the head women's coach for the Central Region of the Empire State Games for 27 years.

Jim was very involved in aquatics, having taught swimming lessons and lifesaving courses in Baldwinsville for many years for both the village and the community council. He worked as a lifeguard for the village and for Onondaga County Parks. He served on the SUNY-ESF Alumni Board of Directors, the Village Zoning Board of Appeals, the OCC Arena and Athletic Center Task Force and is an 11-year member of the Friends of Beaver Lake Board of Directors, now serving as vice president. He has served two terms on the Board of Education and is the current vice-president. Jim has been married to his wife, Jean, for 42 years. Their two sons, Eric and Dan, are Baker graduates.



Christy Pavetto Bond - Christy Pavetto Bond has worked in the fields of education and business for the past 27 years and is currently a director in Population Health at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. A fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, Christy has authored numerous publications including a text designed to educate healthcare professionals in transitional care. Christy's baccalaureate degree in business administration and master's degree in education allow her to understand both the core work and business of a school district.

In addition, she has led or participated on several non-profit boards. Christy was a member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation board of directors for seven years and served as board chair, board secretary, and chair of the human resources committee. She is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse and served on that board as well, co-chairing the youth leadership program. Christy's older son graduated from Ithaca College's Park School of Communications and her younger son attends Durgee Junior High School. To learn more about why Christy would like to continue to serve on the Baldwinsville Board of Education, view her video bio at www.facebook.com/cpbondBOE.



Sally Dayger - A resident of Baldwinsville since 1965, Sally holds a BS in elementary education from SUNY Oswego and has certification in mathematics as well as administration and supervision. She taught at Van Buren Elementary School, then math at Durgee Junior High School and Ray Middle School for 33 years for a total of 35 years of teaching. She has served the district in administration capacities as assistant principal at Ray Middle School and Baker High School and summer school principal for 13 years. Upon retirement from Baldwinsville, she continued teaching and taught math at SUNY Oswego where she also supervised student teachers.

Sally has served the Baldwinsville community in diverse ways. She is currently coordinator of the Baldwinsville Community Food Pantry, a member of the PAC-B Board of Directors, and a trustee for her church. She has served as chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the village, as treasurer and board member of McHarrie's Legacy, and as past president of the Women's Garden Club. She has also acted as a costume designer for Baker High School productions and for local theatre companies.

POINTS OF PRIDE: 2014-2015 Achievements

- ▶ District named a 2015 Best Communities for Music Education designee by the NAMM Foundation
- ▶ AP Scholar Awards:
 - * AP International Diploma Award - 1
 - * National AP Scholar Award - 1
 - * Scholars with Distinction - 21
 - * Scholars with Honor - 11
 - * Scholar Awards - 48
- ▶ Students in grades 5-12 selected for All-County music festivals: 111
- ▶ Students receiving awards in the 2015 CNY Scholastic Art Competition: 17
- ▶ Regional Champion: Boys Ice Hockey
- ▶ Section III Champions:
 - * Boys Ice Hockey
 - * Boys Volleyball
 - * Girls Volleyball
 - * Girls Tennis, Section III singles champion - Kahlei Reisinger
 - * Boys Indoor Track, 55m Hurdles - Evan Donhauser
 - * Boys Indoor Track, 4x400 Relay - Andrew Carter, Brennan LaQue, Kieran Sheridan, and Arden Kellner



Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more 2014-2015 achievements.

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- 1.) Eighteen years of age or older;
- 2.) A citizen of the United States; and
- 3.) A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots can be obtained by calling the district office at 638-6055, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BALDWINVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 29 E. Oneida St.
 Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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School News For
POSTAL PATRON
 (dated material)

The Beacon is an official publication of the Baldwinsville Central School District.

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