



# THE BEEcon

May 2016 - Issue 144

ACHIEVING OUR FULL POTENTIAL - **TOGETHER!**

**2016-17 BUDGET VOTE**

[www.bville.org](http://www.bville.org)



**MAY 17 - 6 A.M. to 9 P.M., BAKER H.S. SMALL GYM**

On Tuesday, May 17, Baldwinsville voters will decide on a proposed \$103,648,420 spending plan for the 2016-17 school year that allows the district to continue to provide high quality opportunities for our students. The budget was developed with the participation of community members through budget input meetings. The proposed budget's tax levy is at the district's tax cap of 1.1%.

The district is committed to managing its finances with a focus on instruction while remaining fiscally responsible to Baldwinsville taxpayers. This includes staying within the state's property tax cap requirements, operating with efficiency, and working to have a financially prudent balance sheet. For three consecutive years the state Comptroller has recognized the district's excellent financial stability by giving the district a score of 0% for fiscal stress. This is the best score a school district can receive.

The New York State Comptroller will be issuing an audit report shortly that states the district has over taxed our community and is maintaining reserves in excess of what they deem appropriate. We are hav-

ing a difference in budgeting and financial philosophy with the Comptroller. We believe in conservative budgeting and management of reserves. The district's seven year average tax increase has been 1.75%. An important component for financial stability is maintaining reserves. Reserves enable the district to maintain a high bond rating which lowers the cost of borrowing. As part of the district's fiscal planning, we have been maintaining a certain amount of reserves to be prepared for emergencies, unanticipated issues, and decreases in revenue in order to avoid fiscal stress. While we disagree with the Comptroller, the district has included the use of specific reserves to pay specific expenses in the 2016-17 year. This totals \$2,437,836.

We also respectfully disagree with the Comptroller's report regarding our use of designated fund balance. In 2010-11 New York State held back \$6.4 million of our state aid as part of the state's budget Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). Since 2010-11 the state has withheld \$29 million in state aid using the GEA. To account for this loss of revenue, the district

developed budgets that used designated fund balance. We did not always spend it; we used it to preserve our balance sheet. We consider this to be prudent budgeting in the face of the tax cap requirements, state aid being withheld and expenses, like pensions, that we do not control. An attachment to the Comptroller's audit report contains a more complete response to the audit from the district.

For 2016-17, we will use roughly \$3.7 million dollars of appropriated fund balance along with \$2.4 million in reserves to balance the proposed budget and stay at the tax cap limit for 2016-17. The proposed tax levy increase of 1.1% is an increase of approximately \$26.18 for a home assessed at \$100,000.

**The district will hold a public budget hearing on May 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Durgee Junior High School cafeteria.** Please attend this meeting for more details on the proposed budget. You can also e-mail questions to [jrodems@bville.org](mailto:jrodems@bville.org). **The budget vote will be held on May 17, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the small gym at Baker High School.**

# 2016-17 Budget

## Budget Expenditures

**S**tate law requires the 2016-2017 budget to be presented in 3 parts: program, administrative, and capital.

**Program** - This 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.

**Administrative** - This 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.

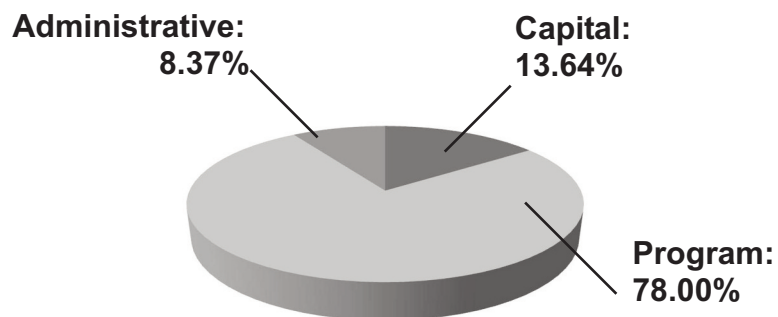
**Capital** - This component is intended to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and the community. This budget category includes all personnel, equipment, supplies and materials for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments of principal and interest on short- and long-term obligations are included in this category. In the 2016-17 budget is a small (\$100,000) capital project to replace the dust collection system in the tech rooms at Baker High School.

### Three Part Budget Summary of Expenses

Component	2016-17 Proposed Budget	2015-16 Final Appropriations	Dollar Difference	Percent Difference
<b>Program</b>	\$80,630,130	\$77,197,714	\$3,432,416	+4.45%
<b>Administrative</b>	\$8,272,349	\$8,279,656	\$7,307	-.1%
<b>Capital</b>	\$14,745,942	\$13,496,545	\$1,249,397	+9.26%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$103,648,420</b>	<b>\$98,973,915</b>	<b>\$4,674,505</b>	<b>+4.72%</b>

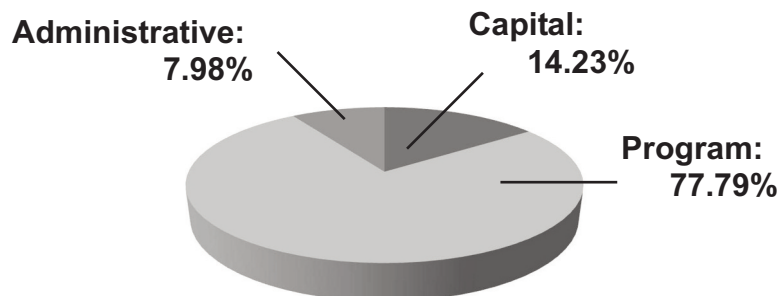
### Appropriations Comparisons

#### 2015-2016



► In the 2015-16 budget, **78% of EVERY DOLLAR** was used to support student learning.

#### 2016-2017



► In the 2016-17 budget, **77.79% of EVERY DOLLAR** will be used to support student learning.

# Where the Money Comes From

## Estimated Budget Revenues

### Non-Property Tax Revenues

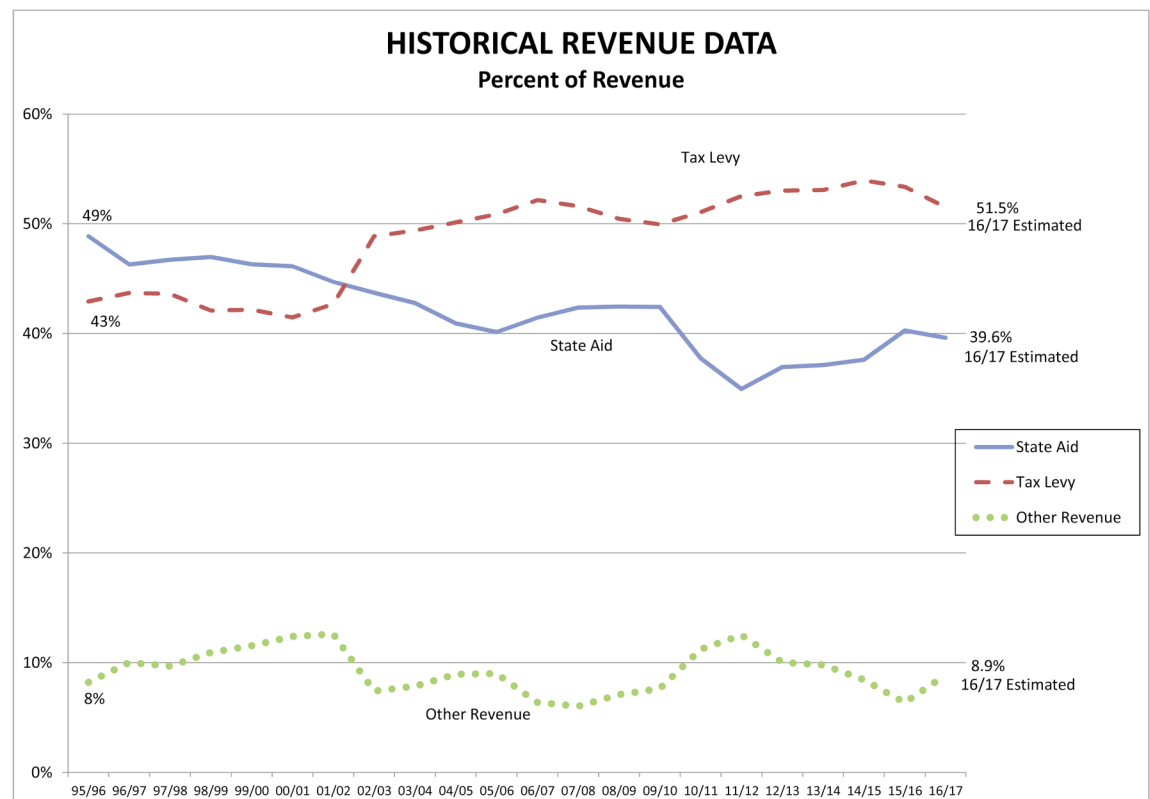
Account	2015-2016	Estimated 2016-2017
In Lieu of Tax	\$1,563,649	\$1,754,058
County Sales Tax	\$106,250	\$106,250
Tuition - Other Districts	\$50,000	\$50,000
Interest Income	\$20,000	\$20,000
State Aid - Including BOCES Aid	\$34,213,262	\$34,722,727
State Aid - Building Aid	\$4,895,483	\$5,403,973
Full Day Kindergarten Aid	\$755,872	\$0
Appropriation from Fund Balance	\$1,500,000	\$3,676,347
Appropriation from Reserves	\$2,342,257	\$2,862,836
Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) Restoration	\$0	\$843,965
All Other Income	\$715,501	\$815,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$46,162,274</b>	<b>\$50,255,656</b>

### Real Estate Property Tax

<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$98,973,915</b>	<b>\$103,648,420</b>
<b>Less: Estimated revenues</b>	<b>\$46,162,274</b>	<b>\$50,255,656</b>
<b>Amount to be raised by tax levy:</b>	<b>\$52,811,641</b>	<b>\$53,392,764</b>

## 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 2016-2017. As you will note, the local portion of education costs, represented by the dashed line, has increased over the last 21 years as state aid has decreased.



# Proposition Two

## Proposition Two: Annual Bus Purchase



### Annual bus purchase and replacement program

The bus fleet consists of 76 large (54-70 passenger) buses, 23 medium (15-48 passenger and wheelchair capable) buses, and nine 8-passenger Suburbans. 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:

▶ Two Suburbans -	\$100,000
▶ Seven 65-passenger buses -	\$828,702
▶ Two 28-passenger buses Type w/wheelchair lift -	\$133,300

**Total maximum cost of  
Proposition 2 =** \$1,062,002

**Less state aid =** \$828,362

**Local cost =** \$233,640

**This proposition is not contingent upon the passage of the budget.**

## 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.**

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

## District Conducting Budget Exit Survey

**District residents will have the opportunity to participate in an anonymous budget exit survey after voting on May 17. 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.**



# Tax Impact

## Estimated Tax Rate

In Lysander and VanBuren, the tax rate is projected to increase by 1.1 % 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
<b>Lysander &amp; VanBuren</b>	<b>\$26.18</b>	<b>\$26.18</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>(assuming equalization rate* remains at 100%)</b>			
<b>Clay</b>	<b>\$26.18</b>	<b>\$26.18</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>(assuming equalization rate* remains the same)</b>			

\* **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 current property owners with income under \$500,000 to receive a \$30,000 full-value exemption on their home's assessed value. 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 \$84,550 (not including IRA distributions) are eligible for the state's "enhanced" exemption of \$65,300 on their home's assessed value. STAR rules for new homeowners (2016) are changing. For information on this, speak with your town assessor.

## 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% 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 2016-2017 is 1.1%. The proposed budget has a 1.1% 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 2016-2017 budget.

A 1.1% increase in the tax levy does not necessarily mean that all tax payers will have an increase by 1.1%. 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.

### Public Budget Hearing

May 10, 2016 - 7 p.m.

Durgee Jr. High Cafeteria

### BUDGET VOTE

May 17, 2016

6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Baker H.S. Small Gym

# Budget Highlights

## What Does the Budget Support?

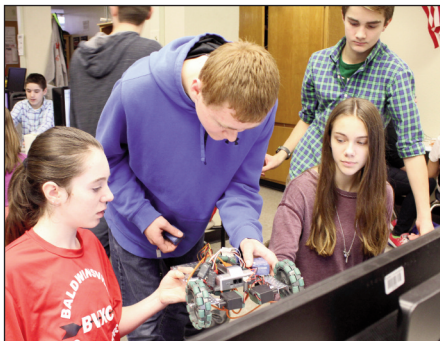
The 2016-2017 budget seeks to support the district's long-range plan, which strives to provide quality academic programs and maintain facilities while remaining fiscally responsible to taxpayers. The following highlights illustrate how the budget will support the long-range plan.

### Program

- ▶ Offer a large number of college-credit courses at the high school. Currently, Baker High School offers **15 AP courses and 21 courses through OCC, RIT and SUNY Oswego.**

The district has significantly increased the number of students receiving **credit for college** level courses. In the the 2010-2011 school year, 269 students received credit, as compared to **1,082** students receiving credit in the 2014-2015 school year.

- ▶ 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



### 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, Symposiums, other presentation devices, and mobile computing devices, such as iPads.

### Did You Know...

#### The Class of 2015 Profile

- ▶ 437 Graduates
- ▶ Regents Diplomas = 150
- ▶ Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation = 276

#### Average SAT Scores

- ▶ Reading = 522
- ▶ Writing = 492
- ▶ Math = 549

#### Average ACT Score = 24.2

#### 88% Post Graduate Education:

- ▶ 53% Four-year Colleges
- ▶ 35% Two-year Colleges



### 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 snow removal and maintenance vehicles, and building maintenance and floor care equipment.

# 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.



**Joan Reeves** - has been a member of the Board of Education since 1981. She served as vice president for 12 years and as president for 6 years. In 2015, Joan was awarded the Everett R. Dyer Award for Distinguished Board Service from the NYS School Boards Association. She serves on the OCM BOCES Board of Education, is a member of the Board of Directors of the CNY School Boards Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Onondaga Madison School Boards Association, and is a member of the St. Mary's Parish Council. She is a past president of the Baldwinsville Basketball Boosters and has been a volunteer for Baldwinsville Little League. While on the board she has served on numerous committees including Long Range Planning, Facilities, Policy, Contract, Insurance, Transportation, Audit, Sustainability, Legislative, Negotiations, BCEPT, and Intermunicipal. She is a graduate of Baldwinsville schools as are her eight siblings and parents, Cecil and Dorothy Reeves. She attended SUNY Oneonta and Oswego majoring in political science and was formerly employed as an assistant manager for Reeves Farms and by Plainville Farms in charge of purchasing, regulatory compliance and product development. Her three children are products of Baldwinsville schools; Lieutenant Commander Eric and Laura Reeves, naval aviators in Anacortes, WA, Jamie and Erica Banuski, project manager for Springfield Massachusetts Schools and special education teacher for the Gill-Montague Regional School District and son Ryan, who passed away February 2012. She has six grandchildren.



**Steven Schweitzer** - has been a resident of Baldwinsville since 1993 and a member of the Board of Education since 2010. He currently serves on the Facilities Committee and Insurance Committee. Steve earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the SUNY Maritime College and a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a licensed professional engineer and a senior project management engineer working in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy technology. Steve and his wife, Kim, have two children, a daughter, Krystina, who graduated from Baker High School in 2007 and a son, Paul, who graduated from Baker High School in 2010. Steve also serves the community as a captain with the Moyers Corners Fire Department.



**Victor Jenkins** - is completing his ninth year on the Baldwinsville Board of Education. He has been a resident of the community since 1980 and has two daughters who attended the Baldwinsville schools. Victor currently works in the investment and trust area of Wilmington Trust, a wholly-owned subsidiary of M&T Bank. His previous experience is with Cigna Financial Advisors and as a controller for Xerox Corporation. Victor has extensive management and financial experience and holds several professional designations. He currently serves as the president of the Board of Education and has previously served as president and vice president. His committee experience includes audit, insurance, facilities, and policy committees. Victor is active in the community and serves as the co-moderator of the deacons for his church. Previous community activities include the YMCA Fundraising Committee, Baldwinsville Community Scholarship Foundation, and president of the Estate Planning Council of CNY. Victor's philosophy is to always put the kids first and to see that the Baldwinsville schools are providing every possible opportunity for the children to be successful.



**James Stewart** - is a career professional with 25 years in healthcare technology leading various nationally-scoped systems development projects that include information technology, project management, production operations and customer service and support. James also serves as an adjunct professor in Syracuse University's iSchool preparing students for careers in the diverse field of information science. His teaching experience in higher education gives him a first-hand understanding of what students need to enter college well prepared for success. Additionally, he would bring his extensive knowledge in information management and education to develop the use of technology to foster student learning objectives and support the goals of the district as a whole. James has been a resident of the district for 16 years and has two children in Baldwinsville schools. He is a solutions delivery manager at Telligen, Inc., holds a MS in information management from Syracuse University and a BS in computer science from Utica College of Syracuse University. James is committed to his own learning and recently added to his credentials by obtaining certifications in ITIL Foundation and Agile Certified Scrum Master. He values excellence in education and believes serving on the Board of Education enables him to take action supporting the Baldwinsville students and community.



# POINTS OF PRIDE 2015-16: Return on Tax Payer Investment

- ▶ **College Credits Offered in High School**
  - ✓ 15 AP courses
  - ✓ 21 courses through OCC, RIT, and SUNY Oswego
- ▶ **AP Scholar Awards:**
  - ✓ National AP Scholar Award - 3
  - ✓ Scholars with Distinction - 18
  - ✓ Scholars with Honor - 11
  - ✓ Scholar Awards - 45
- ▶ **Students in grades 5-12 selected for All-County music festivals: 125**
- ▶ **District named a 2016 Best Communities for Music Education designee by the NAMM Foundation**
- ▶ **Students receiving awards in the 2016 CNY Scholastic Art Competition: 23**
- ▶ **Section III Champions:**
  - ✓ Boys Varsity Wrestling
  - ✓ Girls Varsity Soccer
  - ✓ Girls Varsity Volleyball
- ▶ **Regional Champion:**
  - ✓ Girls Varsity Soccer



Photo by Hal Henty

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

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(315)638-6043  
www.bville.org

**Matthew McDonald**  
Acting Superintendent

**Joseph DeBarbieri**  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**James Rodems**  
Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

**School Board Members:**

- Victor Jenkins, President
- Jeff Marier, Vice President
- Christina Bond
- Sally Dayger
- James Goulet
- Kimberly McIlroy
- Joan Reeves
- Steven Schweitzer
- Matthew Yager
- Tyler Jean
- Ex-officio Student Member

**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.

**Budget Vote**  
**May 17, 2016**  
**6 a.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Baker H.S.**  
**Small Gym**

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

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