

# EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

**BUDGET  
VOTE  
TUESDAY  
JUNE 9**

- All voting conducted by mail
- No in-person voting at polling places
- Registered voters will be mailed a ballot with postage paid envelope
- Ballots must be received at district office by 5 p.m. on June 9

**Tax levy increase  
of 1.5% which is  
below the NYS  
Property Tax Cap**



*Columbia senior Owen Ball has been making face shields on a 3D printer at his home and donating them to frontline health care workers.*

## 2020-21 School Budget Maintains All Programs and Stays Below Tax Cap

District residents will vote on the \$99.8 million proposed school budget through absentee ballots due to New York State suspending all in-person voting. The proposed budget has a tax levy increase of 1.5%, which is below the state tax cap of 1.62% that applies to East Greenbush for 2020-21. In addition to the school budget, residents will vote on the replacement of eight school buses, which if approved by voters, will be fully paid for by the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund.

### WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- 2020-21 proposed budget is \$99,778,012
- Replacement of 8 school buses from Bus Purchase Reserve Fund
- Three Candidates for the Board of Education

## 2019-20 Highlights

- East Greenbush Central School District's four-year graduation rate is 96%, the 3rd highest of any school district in the Capital Region (state average is 83.4%)
- Ranked 9th among 84 Capital Region school districts and 1st in Rensselaer County last year (Albany Business Review)
- Columbia won the Capital District Regional Science Olympiad Championship in February, its 27th regional title in the last 28 years
- All seven district schools are in "Good Standing" in accordance with the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan
- Columbia and Red Mill were named Recognition Schools this spring for their high performance
- A new agreement with The Sage Colleges will allow Columbia students to apply for admission to an Early Assurance Program as early as the 10th grade.
- Columbia High School has added more college-level courses in recent years, now totaling 29 college level courses
- New Red Mill Principal and former Director of Pupil Personnel Services Helen Squillace was named Special Educator of the Year by the East Greenbush Special Needs Parent Support Group
- Columbia Science Teacher Tom Ross was named a NYS Master Teacher in 2019, the fourth at the school (Diana Prout, Jessica Hladik, Heidi Gleason)
- Columbia won the State Sportsmanship Award for the 7th straight year from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association
- Columbia boys' indoor track won its third consecutive Sectional Championship in February
- For the 17th consecutive year, the District received the School Safety Excellence Award from Utica National Insurance Group last year
- The district has hosted a series of free workshops for parents this school year on a variety of topics including moderating technology use at home, recognizing anxiety in children and social media safety
- For the 7th straight year, East Greenbush CSD received a "no designation" fiscal stress score from the New York State Comptroller's Office, indicating a low level of fiscal stress
- Participation in an energy conservation program for the last 12 years has saved the district an estimated \$4.8 million
- East Greenbush CSD has continued to provide mandated services during school closing such as remote instruction, free meals to students, food for families in need and child care

# Budget Q & A

## Who creates the school budget?

School administrators develop a budget in coordination with the Budget Review and Advisory Committee, the Board of Education and members of the community. The Board adopts the proposed budget and submits it for voter approval.

## What ongoing strategies does the district use to contain costs?

East Greenbush has instituted a number of changes to reduce costs district-wide. Some examples include:

- Participation in an energy conservation program for the last 12 years saved an estimated \$4.8 million.
- Self-insurance for workers compensation and dental insurance.
- Reduced printed newsletters and correspondence in favor of low-cost digital communication.
- Use of Bus Purchase Reserve Fund approved by voters in 2018 to acquire new buses totaling \$688,478, avoiding interest payments.

## If the tax levy increases by 1.5%, does that mean my tax bill will increase by 1.5%?

No necessarily. Your tax bill is based on a number of factors outside the control of the school district – such as your home’s assessment, equalization rates, the total assessment base, property exemptions and STAR savings.

## Voter Propositions on the June 9 Ballot

### Proposition No. 1 (Budget)

RESOLVED; That the operating budget, in the amount of \$99,778,012 as proposed by the Board of Education, be adopted for the school fiscal year 2020 – 2021 and the levy of taxes be assessed therefore in accordance with law.

### Proposition No. 2 (School Buses)

RESOLVED; (a) That the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District, in the Counties of Rensselaer and Columbia, New York (the “District”), is hereby authorized to purchase various school buses and to expend therefore, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$736,070; (b) that the Board of Education is hereby authorized to expend \$736,070 for the vehicles referred to herein from the District’s “Bus Purchase Reserve Fund” which was established pursuant to voter approval on May 15, 2018; and (c) that the Board of Education is hereby further authorized to deposit in the District’s “Bus Purchase Reserve Fund” an amount up to 100% of any State Aid received in any year with respect to the purchase of vehicles.

## BUDGET REVENUES

Category	Current Budget 2019-2020	Proposed Budget 2020-2021
Local Property Tax Levy	\$ 57,511,067	\$58,374,546
Other Receipts	5,491,664	7,592,124
Fund Balance	6,829,322	6,829,322
State and Federal Aid	26,093,631	26,982,020
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 95,925,684</b>	<b>\$99,778,012</b>

## BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Category	Current Budget 2019-2020	Proposed Budget 2020-2021
Board of Education, Central Administration Operations, Legal Services, Personnel & Public Information	\$ 1,910,382	\$1,960,653
Central Services	6,245,691	6,300,210
Insurance & Contractual Items	1,347,874	1,560,421
Instructional Programs	48,319,034	50,494,951
Pupil Transportation	5,369,810	5,483,289
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	26,734,220	27,330,674
Debt Service	5,998,673	6,647,814
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 95,925,684</b>	<b>\$99,778,012</b>



## Bus Purchases from Reserve Fund

In addition to the school budget, voters will decide on the replacement of eight school buses, which if approved by voters, will be fully paid for by the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund with no impact to taxpayers. The Bus Purchase Reserve Fund acts like a savings account, allowing the district to store money for the sole purpose of purchasing buses. It also helps the district avoid the costs that come with borrowing.

Bus Type	Quantity	Reserve (Prop #2)
66-Passenger	4	\$459,012
35-Passenger	2	\$136,304
30-Passenger	1	\$80,323
22-Passenger	1	\$60,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$736,070</b>

# East Greenbush CSD Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *				
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 95,925,684	\$ 99,778,012	\$ 98,914,533				
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$ 3,852,328	\$ 2,988,849				
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.02 %	3.12%				
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81 %					
<b>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>							
	\$ 57,511,067	\$ 58,374,546					
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>							
	\$ 0	\$ 0					
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>							
	\$ 0	\$ 0					
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>							
	\$ 0	\$ 0					
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>							
	\$ 57,511,067	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 57,511,067				
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>							
	\$ 3,493,036	\$ 3,409,999					
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>							
	\$ 54,770,831	\$ 55,031,167					
<b>H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>							
	\$ 54,018,031	\$ 54,964,547					
<b>I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>							
	\$ 752,800	\$ 66,620					
<b>Administrative Component</b>							
	\$ 11,355,776	\$ 11,700,148	\$ 11,625,768				
<b>Program Component</b>							
	\$ 71,363,015	\$ 74,096,896	\$ 73,628,305				
<b>Capital Component</b>							
	\$ 13,206,893	\$ 13,980,968	\$ 13,660,460				
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. A school district is limited to two votes annually; the second vote is optional and scheduled at the Board of Education's discretion. If a school budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget, may not increase the tax levy from the prior year and must eliminate non-contingent expenses such as non-reimbursed community use of buildings and grounds and certain equipment. Certain contingent, but non-mandated expenses may also be affected, including interscholastic athletics, co-curricular activities, certain art/music/physical education at grades K-6 and school library.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount		
Description	Amount						
<p>** 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)</p>							

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 536

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the East Greenbush Central School District, Rensselaer & Columbia Counties, New York, will be conducted entirely by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received by the District by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020 to be counted. The process of canvassing and tallying ballots will occur at the Administration Center after the 5:00 p.m. deadline for receipt of ballots.

- The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



East Greenbush Central School District  
 ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
 29 Englewood Avenue  
 East Greenbush, NY 12061

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**2019-2020 Board of Education**

- Michael Buono, *President*
- Mark Mann, *Vice-President*
- Karen Curran, *Assistant Clerk*
- Kathleen Curtin
- John J. Dunn, Jr.
- Jennifer Massey
- Deanna Muth
- Michele Skumurski
- JoAnn Taylor, *Deputy Treasurer*

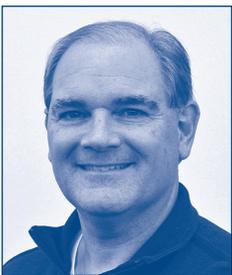
**DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE MAIL IMMEDIATELY**

*The East Greenbush Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by State or Federal law in any of its employment decisions; and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and NYS Human Rights Laws.*

**BUDGET VOTE**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020**

## Board of Education Candidates

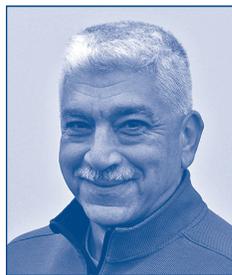
There are three open seats for the Board of Education. Qualified district residents may vote for up to three persons to fill these positions. The following candidates filed nominations:



Michael Buono



Kathleen Curtin



Mark Mann

To learn more about each of the candidates, visit [egcsd.org/2020boardcandidates](http://egcsd.org/2020boardcandidates).

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## Voting Information

**DATE OF THE ELECTION:**  
**June 9, 2020 (via absentee ballot only)**

**VOTING PROCESS:**  
 All voting will be conducted by mail and all qualified voters will be sent an absentee ballot with a return postage paid envelope. This means there will be no in-person voting at district schools.

Please mail ballots to East Greenbush Central School District, 29 Englewood Ave., East Greenbush, NY 12061. Ballots must be received at the district office by **5 p.m. on June 9.**

**VOTER REGISTRATION:**  
 You are already registered to vote if you have voted in a school election within the last 4 years (or are registered with the County Board of Elections). If you are not registered to vote, register online at the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles website.

If you believe you should have received an absentee ballot but did not, please contact the District Clerk at 518-207-2524 or [pangburnje@egcsd.org](mailto:pangburnje@egcsd.org). Completed ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.