



# EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

## BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021  
7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

### POLLING SITES:

1. Bell Top Elementary School – Residents of the Town of North Greenbush
2. Howard L. Goff Middle School – Residents of the Town of East Greenbush
3. Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School – Residents of the Towns of Sand Lake or Chatham, or residents with a Nassau mailing address
4. Green Meadow Elementary School – Residents of the Town of Schodack who do not have a Nassau mailing address

TAX LEVY  
INCREASE  
OF **0.0%**



## 2021-22 School Budget Maintains All Programs with No Tax Levy Increase

On May 18, District residents will vote on the \$103.5 million proposed school budget. The proposed budget will maintain all current programs and include funding for a new Summer School Program, additional academic intervention support services and a new system for online student registration.

### The proposed tax levy increase is 0.0%.

The district was able to avoid any tax levy increase in the proposed budget due to an increase in State and Federal Aid and through deductions in some district expenses.

“Due to sufficient state aid, during this difficult period, the district is pleased to offer a budget to our community that preserves all programs for students, ensures we have the resources to fully reopen in the Fall and offers no increase to the tax levy for the 2021-22 school year,” said Superintendent Jeff Simons.

In addition to the school budget, voters will decide on the purchase of eight new school buses out of the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund and elect four Board of Education members.

### WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- Proposition 1: School Budget of \$103,535,117 with 0.0% Tax Levy Increase
- Proposition 2: Authorize \$757,670 from Bus Purchase Reserve Fund to Replace Eight Buses
- Election of Four members to the Board of Education

## 2020-21 Highlights

- 90% of the Class of 2020 went on to college or a vocational school
- Columbia High School has a 97% graduation rate (state average is 85%)
- All elementary schools have returned to full time in-person learning
- Ranked 9th among 84 Capital Region school districts (1st in Rensselaer County) by the Albany Business Review
- All district schools are in “Good Standing” according to the NYS Education Department
- Columbia and Red Mill were named Recognition Schools in 2020 for their high performance
- District offers a 1:1 Chromebook Program for all K-12 students
- The District is partnering with the UAlbany Literacy Department to enhance early literacy instruction in all five elementary schools
- Columbia English teacher Chelsea Dyer was named a NYS Teacher of the Year Finalist
- Four Columbia students - Sophia Culver, Simon O'Connor, Joseph Vitali and Clara Xin - were named National Merit Finalists
- Columbia won the State Sportsmanship Award for the 8th straight year from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association
- Columbia boys' and girls' bowling teams both had undefeated seasons and won Suburban Council Championships
- Columbia has operated a Food for Families program since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 to provide free food to families in need
- Food Services Department took advantage of a USDA-funded program to provide all K-12 students with free breakfast and lunch this school year
- For the 8th 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
- Avoided costs of more than \$550,000 last year as part of energy savings program and more than \$5.4 million since its inception in September 2007

# 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:

- Contract settlements with major unions including CSEA, SRP, EGTA and EGAA increased co-pays on prescriptions and employee contributions toward health insurance, helping the district to realize savings in healthcare costs.
- Participation in an energy conservation program for the last 13 years saved an estimated \$5.4 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 \$757,670, avoiding interest payments.

## If the tax levy increases by 0.0%, does that mean my tax bill will increase by 0.0%?

Not 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 May 18 Ballot

### Proposition No. 1 (Budget)

RESOLVED; That the operating budget, in the amount of \$103,535,117 as proposed by the Board of Education, be adopted for the school fiscal year 2021 – 2022 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 \$757,670; (b) that the Board of Education is hereby authorized to expend \$757,670 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 2020-2021	Proposed Budget 2021-2022
Local Property Tax Levy	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 58,374,546
Other Receipts	7,592,124	8,487,700
Fund Balance	6,829,322	6,829,322
State and Federal Aid	26,982,020	29,843,549
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 99,778,012</b>	<b>\$ 103,535,117</b>

## BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Category	Current Budget 2020-2021	Proposed Budget 2021-2022
Board of Education, Central Administration Operations, Legal Services, Personnel & Public Information	\$ 1,960,653	\$ 1,855,997
Central Services	6,300,210	6,530,813
Insurance & Contractual Items	1,560,421	1,540,571
Instructional Programs	50,494,951	51,777,763
Pupil Transportation	5,483,289	5,630,534
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	27,330,674	28,064,988
Debt Service	6,647,814	8,134,451
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 99,778,012</b>	<b>\$ 103,535,117</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	\$469,262
35-Passenger	2	\$141,723
32-Passenger (4WD)	1	\$83,473
22-Passenger	1	\$63,212
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$757,670</b>

*With voter approval, New York State will reimburse the District for 66.6% of the total bus purchase.*

# East Greenbush CSD Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021- 22 School Year *				
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 99,778,012	\$ 103,535,117	\$ 102,671,638				
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 3,757,105	\$ 863,479				
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.77 %	2.90%				
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23 %					
<b>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>							
	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 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>							
	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 57,511,067				
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>							
	\$ 3,409,999	\$ 4,402,577					
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>							
	\$ 55,031,167	\$ 54,723,998					
<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>							
	\$ 54,964,547	\$ 53,971,969					
<b>I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>							
	\$ 66,620	\$ 752,029					
<b>Administrative Component</b>							
	\$ 11,700,148	\$ 12,131,571	\$ 12,017,246				
<b>Program Component</b>							
	\$ 74,096,896	\$ 76,217,390	\$ 75,721,014				
<b>Capital Component</b>							
	\$ 13,980,968	\$ 15,186,156	\$ 14,933,378				
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 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 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 530

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the East Greenbush Central School District, Rensselaer & Columbia Counties, New York, will be held at D.P. Sutherland, Green Meadow, Bell Top and Howard L. Goff Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the above mentioned schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

- 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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**2020-2021 Board of Education**

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

**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, MAY 18, 2021**

**Board of Education Candidates**

There are four open seats for the Board of Education – three vacancies are for three-year terms (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024) and one vacancy for a one-year term (May 19, 2021 -June 30, 2022). Qualified district residents may vote for up to four persons to fill these positions. The following candidates filed nominations:



John J. Dunn, Jr.



Frank Yeboah



JoAnn Taylor



Cheryl Kennedy

To learn more about each of the candidates, visit [egcsd.org/2021boardcandidates](http://egcsd.org/2021boardcandidates).

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**Voting Information**

**DATE OF THE ELECTION: May 18, 2021**

**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).

**To register:**

- Go to the Office of the District Clerk, 29 Englewood Avenue, East Greenbush, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on regular days of business
- Bring photo ID with a current address
- If you have moved, also bring other means of residential identification, such as a utility bill, phone bill or other official document

**VOTER QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Age 18 or older
- U.S. Citizen
- Resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Registered to vote

**VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT:** Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls may cast their votes by absentee ballot. An application is required first and may be obtained by calling the District Office at 518-207-2535. Applications are also available on the District's website at [www.egcsd.org](http://www.egcsd.org). The due date for applications is Tuesday, May 11, 2021 if received by mail or Monday, May 17, 2021 if received in person at the District Office. Once a completed application is approved, an absentee ballot is issued to the voter; it must be returned to the District Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Note that individuals designated as permanently disabled by the Rensselaer County Board of Elections will automatically receive an absentee ballot.

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