

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

**BUDGET
VOTE
TUESDAY
MAY 16**

POLLING SITES

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

Tax levy increase of 0.5% which is below the NYS Property Tax Cap



Liz Corey — Special Educator of the Year.

2023-24 School Budget Maintains All Programs and Stays Well Below Tax Cap

The East Greenbush Central School District has proposed a school budget for next year that maintains all programs and services with a 0.5% tax levy increase, which is below the state tax cap of 3.96%. The proposed budget, totaling \$108,812,882, would include staffing additions, technology upgrades, facility improvements and funding to continue the Pre-K Program.

Residents will also vote on the replacement of eight (8) school buses, which if approved by voters, will be fully paid for by the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund with no tax impact.

The Budget Vote and Board of Education Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- **Proposition 1: School Budget of \$108,812,882 with 0.5% Tax Levy Increase**
- **Proposition 2: Authorize \$965,386 from Bus Purchase Reserve Fund to Replace Eight School Buses**
- **Election of Three Board of Education Members**

2022-23 Highlights

- All district schools are in "Good Standing" according to the NYS Education Department.
- Graduates from the Columbia Class of 2022 were accepted to top colleges around the country including the University of Michigan, Notre Dame, Purdue, RPI, Rochester Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, Texas Tech, University of Virginia and the United States Military Academy.
- The district expanded its Pre-K Program this school year, and now serves 61 four-year-old children.
- Two teachers - Columbia Social Studies Teacher Stephen Lapolla and Red Mill Librarian Liz Griffin - were selected as News Channel 13 Top Teachers this school year.
- Speech Therapist Allie Harling was named the 2023 EGTA Teacher of the Year.
- Genet Special Education Teacher Liz Corey was named the Mary P. Van Derzee Special Educator of the Year.
- Teddy Howard '23 was named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist this spring.
- Akkhil Morkonda '23 is one of 25 New York State high school seniors to be nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.
- Both Columbia Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams won Section 2 championships in the fall.
- Bella Satalino '26 won a bronze medal at the inaugural NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships.
- Caitlin Weinheimer '24, who plays the violin, was selected to perform at the All State Music Festival hosted in Rochester this past winter.
- East Greenbush CSD added stop arm cameras to its entire fleet of school buses at no cost to the district to help improve school bus safety.
- For the 20th consecutive year, the East Greenbush CSD has received the School Safety Excellence Award from Utica National Insurance Group.
- The East Greenbush CSD has hosted a number of community events this school year including musical concerts, Veterans Day celebrations, Winterfest, the District-wide Art Show and a Multicultural and Tolerance Fair.
- For the 10th 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.
- For the second year in a row, the East Greenbush CSD was voted "Best School District" in the Times Union Best of the Capital Region contest.

BUDGET REVENUES

Category	Current Budget 2022-2023	Proposed Budget 2023-2024
Local Property Tax Levy	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 58,666,419
Other Receipts	8,511,603	7,636,905
Fund Balance	6,829,322	6,829,322
State and Federal Aid	31,124,999	35,680,236
Totals:	\$ 104,840,470	\$ 108,812,882

BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Category	Current Budget 2022-2023	Proposed Budget 2023-2024
Board of Education, Central Administration Operations, Legal Services, Personnel & Public Information	\$ 1,924,291	\$2,021,329
Central Services	6,605,563	7,203,011
Insurance & Contractual Items	1,653,225	1,694,950
Instructional Programs	53,124,668	55,985,820
Pupil Transportation	5,880,437	6,050,380
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	28,084,091	28,877,381
Debt Service	7,568,195	6,980,011
Totals:	\$ 104,840,470	\$ 108,812,882

Strategies for Long Term Savings

The East Greenbush Central School District has taken steps to reduce costs district-wide, thereby limiting the tax impact on local residents.

- Use of Bus Purchase Reserve Fund approved by voters in 2018 to acquire new school buses totaling \$965,386, and avoiding the need to borrow funds and make interest payments.
 - > Proposition 2 on this year's ballot seeks approval to purchase eight buses from the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund with no impact to taxpayers. The district would also be reimbursed by the state for 69.5% of the total purchase.
- Utilized federal COVID funds, rather than the school budget, to add early intervention services for students and purchase new technology such as software, classroom display boards and chromebooks.
- Participation in an energy conservation program for the last 15 years has saved an estimated \$6.3 million.
- Reduced printed newsletters and correspondence in favor of less expensive digital communication.

Voter Propositions on the May 16 Ballot

Proposition No. 1 (Budget)

RESOLVED; That the operating budget, in the amount of \$108,812,882 as proposed by the Board of Education, be adopted for the school fiscal year 2023 – 2024 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 four (4) sixty-six passenger buses at the estimated cost of \$590,071, two (2) thirty passenger buses at the estimated cost of \$165,423, and two (2) wheelchair buses at the estimated cost of \$209,892; (b) that the Board of Education is hereby authorized to expend \$965,386 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.

The East Greenbush CSD has stayed under the state tax cap every year since its implementation, and it has had no tax levy increase the past two years, all while continuing to maintain programs and services for students.

Bus Purchases from Reserve Fund

In addition to the school budget, voters will decide on the replacement of eight school buses, which 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	\$ 590,071
30-Passenger	2	\$ 165,423
Wheelchair Bus	2	\$ 209,892
Total	8	\$ 965,386

With voter approval, New York State will reimburse the District for 69.5% of the total bus purchase.

East Greenbush CSD Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 104,840,470	\$108,812,882	\$ 107,883,655
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 3,972,412	\$ 929,227
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.79 %	.85%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 58,666,419	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 58,374,546	\$ 58,666,419	\$ 58,374,546
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,580,239	\$ 3,441,646	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 57,681,469	\$ 57,243,710	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 54,794,307	\$ 55,224,773	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 2,887,162	\$ 2,018,937	
Administrative Component	\$ 12,336,310	\$ 12,750,096	\$ 12,560,195
Program Component	\$ 78,010,321	\$ 80,137,240	\$ 79,397,914
Capital Component	\$ 14,463,839	\$ 15,925,546	\$ 15,925,546

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** 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)

Description	Amount
Bus Purchases from Reserve	\$ 965,386
	\$
	\$
	\$

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 470

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the East Greenbush Central School District, Rensselaer and 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 16, 2023 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.

1. 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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2022-2023 Board of Education

- Michael Buono, President
- Kathleen Curtin
- John J. Dunn, Jr.
- Cheryl Kennedy, Assistant Clerk
- Mark Mann, Vice-President
- Jennifer O'Brien
- Michele Skumurski, Deputy Treasurer
- JoAnn Taylor
- Emily Steinbach

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 16, 2023

Board of Education Candidates

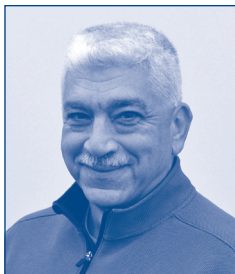
There are three open seats for the Board of Education. Qualified district residents may vote for up to three persons to fill these positions. The following candidates filed nominations:



Michael Buono



Andy Garrigan



Mark Mann



Jesse Temple

To learn more about each of the candidates, visit egcsd.org/2023boardcandidates.

Voting Information

DATE OF THE ELECTION:
Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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. to 4:00 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. For more information, visit www.egcsd.org/absentee.