

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE: MAY 16, 2017

NOON-9 P.M. IN JR./SR. HS GYM LOBBY

Middleburgh

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER / MAY 2017

School Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 16, noon to 9 p.m.

Middleburgh residents to vote on school budget May 16

Proposal keeps tax levy at district's cap

Middleburgh Central School District residents will vote Tuesday, May 16, on a proposed \$21,784,576 budget for the 2017-18 school year.

The proposed budget, which preserves all existing student programming and staffing, increases spending by \$499,406 (or 2.35 percent) over the current school year and carries a tax levy increase of \$145,077 (or 1.52 percent). Because the proposed tax levy increase equals the maximum allowed for the district under the state's tax levy limit law, the budget will pass with the support of a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one).

Balancing the budget

Each year, every school district across New York must work to create a balanced school budget proposal for the next school year. District expenses (typically including salaries and benefits, facilities maintenance and operation, transportation, curriculum development, technology and supplies) are weighed against revenues (state and federal funding, property taxes and any existing fund balance from the previous school year) to come up with a spending plan that must be approved by the public.

At MCS, administrators faced a projected budget gap of \$1,013,000 at the beginning of the budget



development process in December 2016, stemming from changes in health insurance projections and teacher and staff contractual obligations. Once final figures for state aid, insurance costs, benefit expenses and operational expenses were calculated, the district still faced a budget gap of \$537,737.

Rather than reduce current programs and staff in the next year, the board of education voted to use additional fund balance to close the remaining gap.

What will I see on the ballot?

- ✓ **Proposed budget: \$21,784,576**
Budget Change: +2.35%
Tax Levy Change: +1.52%
- ✓ **Board of education election**
- ✓ **Bus proposition**

Voting will be held from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, in the Jr./Sr. High School gym lobby.

www.middleburghcsd.org

District celebrates year of successes

The funds that make up the district's annual budget are put to use to support all students at MCS. Over the past year, the district focused on realigning and uniting its goals in curriculum and instruction and celebrated a number of student achievements. Over the past year, students and staff were recognized for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, athletics and beyond – demonstrating the versatility of an MCS education.

The districtwide graduation rate hit 86 percent in 2016, an increase of 11 percent from 2015, marking the most dramatic increase among all schools in the Capital Region. In addition to achieving a graduation rate that exceeds the state average and ranks second-highest in all of Schoharie County, the district is the first among Schoharie County school districts – and in the top 75 of all New York state – in the number

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

Year of successes

of female students who graduate with Advanced Regents diplomas. The district also saw a decrease in its dropout rate – evidence that more MCS students are staying in school and thriving.

Additional student successes included:

- Students from Dr. Deborah Herodes' poetry class tried their hands at Shakespearean sonnet and free verse and had their poetry published 22 times this school year in "Teen Ink," a national writing magazine.
- Senior Emily Newsome headed to Proctors Theatre in Schenectady to participate in a program that connects science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), musical theater and career exploration.
- In March, students from Middleburgh Elementary School and the Junior/Senior High School joined forces with staff members – on-stage and off – to put together an exciting production of "My Fair Lady," showcasing the many musical and comedic talents of the district.
- Sophomore Hayden Francis traveled across the pond to compete in the Great Britain Irish Dancing Championships.
- Senior Marilyn Hanley secured high rankings at state competitions that put her many skills to the test, from business aptitude to animal handling.
- Junior Peyton Olsen marked his 1,000th point on the basketball court and overturned the 3-point record previously held for 25 years by MCS girls varsity basketball coach and teacher Ryan Coppolo.
- Mr. Coppolo celebrated his 150th win, senior Lyndsey McCoy scored her 1,000th point and junior Bre Palmatier set the new girls' 3-point school record.
- Both the girls and boys varsity bowling teams brought home league championship titles in 2017, and senior Nick Wilsey bowled an elusive perfect game in December.
- Several students traveled to Washington D.C. in January



to witness firsthand the country's 58th presidential inauguration ceremony.

- The elementary school showed its support for community veterans with a schoolwide celebration that recognized each branch of the military and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to serve their country.
- Kindergartners hosted a breakfast and a performance to share their gratitude with district bus drivers.
- Sixth-graders spearheaded a can-collection drive for local food pantries and families in need.
- District students and staff came together at Middleburgh Junior/Senior High School to participate in Project Night Night, a program that collected items for children and families over the holidays, and Project C.R.A.S.H., a presentation that sent a powerful message about impaired and distracted driving to teens around the region.
- High school students participated in eco-volunteerism, examining water quality and submitting their findings to the Hudson River Estuary Program to support ecological research projects.
- The district's new Community Schools program brought experiential education opportunities from the community right into the MCS Afterschool Program, where students engaged in dynamic lessons like fitness and fun through Zumba and career exploration through a tasty hands-on pasta cooking demonstration provided by students from SUNY Cobleskill.

Superintendent Michele R. Weaver underscored the lasting difference a Middleburgh education makes in a child's life – setting the stage early on in a young learner's experience to encourage them to sharpen their skills, broaden their horizons and continually reach toward new heights.

"Even though we're a small district, we're able to bring significant opportunities to our students," Mrs. Weaver said. "We're producing well-rounded students who succeed not only during their time at Middleburgh but for years to come, and we want to support them by providing all the resources they need to get the most out of their time in school."



Middleburgh Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingent Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$21,285,170	\$21,784,576	\$21,475,272
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$499,406	\$309,304
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.35%	1.44%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,518,615	\$9,663,692	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	n/a	n/a	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	n/a	n/a	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	n/a	n/a	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$9,518,615	\$9,663,692	\$9,518,615
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$9,518,615	\$9,663,692	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$9,518,615	\$9,663,692	
I. Difference: G – H; (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,946,069	\$2,053,261	\$2,049,938
Program Component	\$15,016,441	\$15,438,573	\$15,251,342
Capital Component	\$4,322,660	\$4,292,742	\$4,173,992

If voters do not approve the proposed 2017-18 budget within two attempts, the board must adopt a contingent budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, with no exclusions. As a result, the board would be required to reduce the budget by \$309,304 to \$21,475,272. In this event, the district would be subject to restrictions and limitations in areas where money could be spent. For example, the purchase of new equipment would not be permitted, and there would be mandated charges for the use of school facilities by outside organizations (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 proposition	\$224,644

	Under the Budget Proposal for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$623

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Middleburgh Central School District, Schoharie County, New York, will be held at Middleburgh Jr./Sr. High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the gymnasium lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

School districts are required by New York State law to mail this information to all households within the district. If you would like more information about the budget, please call the superintendent's office at (518) 827-3625 or visit the district website at www.middleburghcsd.org

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

Board of Education Elections

On May 16, voters will elect one candidate to the Board of Education to fill one expiring term. The incumbent, Ernest W. Kuehl, Jr., is running unopposed, and his full candidate profile can be found online at www.middleburghcsd.org. The three-year term commences with the organizational meeting in July.

Administrative changes set the stage for success

In April, the MCS Board of Education approved the appointment of a new principal to Middleburgh Elementary School (MES), closing the search that had been underway as the district prepared for Amy Tubbs to complete her work as interim principal at the end of the 2016-17 year.

Michael Teator, who currently serves as co-principal at Middleburgh Junior/Senior High School, will bring his skills to the principal position at MES. Lori Petrosino will remain in her position at Middleburgh Jr./Sr. High School and will become the sole principal for the school.

Prior to his time at MCS, Mr. Teator served in a number of teaching and school leadership positions in New York. Mr. Teator worked as assistant principal of Watervliet Elementary School, where he received tenure in administration. While there, he worked to establish an orderly, safe learning environment for students and supported the growth of each child – keeping the success of all students his personal priority.

“Mr. Teator is a great fit for our elementary school,” Superintendent Weaver said. “In addition to his strong skillset, we will benefit from his in-depth knowledge of the district, its culture and its needs. Rather than taking time to learn the ropes, Mr. Teator can hit the ground running and start off the next school year on a prepared and positive note.”

While Middleburgh Elementary School has seen a number of changes in leadership over the past few years, district officials are excited that Mr. Teator will bring continuity to the school community. During the remainder of the school year, district officials will be implementing a transition plan to facilitate collaboration between Mrs. Tubbs and Mr. Teator to formulate a plan for student success in the final months of this school year and for the start of 2017-18.

Mrs. Weaver said that she feels students will benefit from Mrs. Petrosino’s continued leadership at Middleburgh Jr./Sr. High School.

“Mrs. Petrosino’s thoughtful and deliberate guidance has benefitted our school for years,” Mrs. Weaver said. “She’s someone who is truly vested in the community, and she will remain sensitive to the needs of our students, staff and community members as we move forward.”

While Mr. Teator will transition into his role at the elementary school over the next few months, these administrative changes will be fully implemented by the beginning of the next school year on July 1, 2017.

The district welcomes input from families and community members about these administrative changes and hopes to incorporate more community voices as it plans for the future.



Budget Q&A

Were any cuts made to the budget?

- There are no reductions to current programming or staffing in the proposed 2017-18 budget.

What expenses increased in the budget?

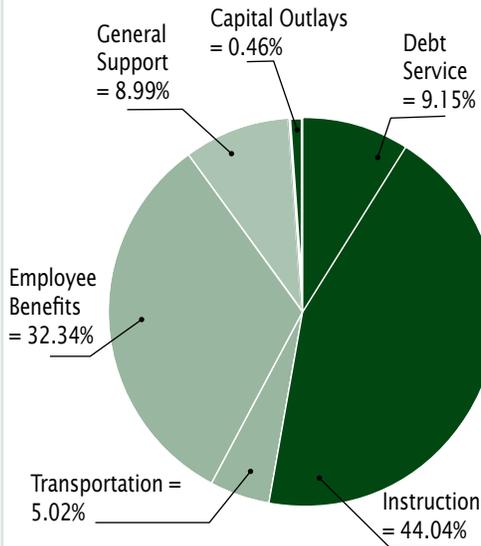
- The 2.35 percent increase in expenses under the proposed budget is due mainly to contractual obligations, essentially the salaries and benefits for the faculty and staff.

What would a 1.52% tax levy increase do to my bill?

- School districts establish the tax levy but cannot determine what portion of the tax burden is placed on any one property owner. What will happen to individual tax bills is determined by the tax rate, which cannot be predicted until a number of factors outside the control of the district are determined, such as equalization rates and assessments. District residents with individual tax bill questions are encouraged to contact the assessor’s office. *(See chart on page 5 for additional information on estimated tax rates for each town in the district.)*

Revenue Summary

	Approved Budget 2016-17	Proposed Budget 2017-18	Percent Change
State and Federal Aid	\$10,964,714	\$11,202,511	2.17
Charges for Services	\$104,000	\$158,000	51.92
Use of Money and Property	\$3,000	\$3,000	0
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$220,000	\$220,000	0
Real Property Tax Levy	\$9,518,615	\$9,663,692	1.52
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$474,841	\$537,373	13.17
Revenue in Budget	\$21,285,170	\$21,784,576	2.35



Projected Expenditures

	Approved 2016-17	Proposed 2017-18	% Change	\$ Change
General Support	\$1,899,770	\$1,958,946	3.11	\$59,176
Instruction	\$9,377,903	\$9,593,628	2.30	\$215,725
Pupil Transportation	\$1,079,119	\$1,093,314	1.32	\$14,195
Employee Benefits	\$6,906,873	\$7,046,217	2.02	\$139,344
Debt Service	\$1,921,505	\$1,992,471	3.69	\$70,966
Capital Outlays	\$100,000	\$100,000	0	0
Total	\$21,285,170	\$21,784,576	2.35%	\$499,406

Estimated Tax Rates by Town

	2016-17 Final	2017-18 Estimated	Dollar Change
Berne	\$33.38	\$33.89	\$0.51
Blenheim	\$26.70	\$27.11	\$0.41
Broome	\$21.36	\$21.69	\$0.33
Cobleskill	\$26.70	\$27.11	\$0.41
Conesville	\$21.36	\$21.69	\$0.33
Fulton	\$30.09	\$30.54	\$0.45
Middleburgh	\$30.52	\$30.98	\$0.46
Rensselaerville	\$36.15	\$36.70	\$0.55
Schoharie	\$21.36	\$21.69	\$0.33
Summit	\$32.37	\$32.86	\$0.49
Wright	\$24.28	\$24.65	\$0.37

Tax rates are shown per \$1,000 of assessed value. These are estimates only based on 2016-17 data, with no change in the equalization rate, and do not reflect STAR or other tax exemptions. Final tax rates will be set in August.

BOARD of EDUCATION

Pamela Standhart, *President*
Becky Binder, *Vice President*
Ernest Kuehl, Jr.
Debra A. Bechtold
Vicki Hoerz

DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Superintendent of Schools
Michele R. Weaver
Business Manager
Terry Gillooley

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Amy Tubbs: *Elementary School*
Lori Petrosino: *Jr./Sr. High School*
Michael Teator: *Jr./Sr. High School*
Maura Green: *DPSS*

CONTACT

Phone: (518) 827-3625
Editor: *Samantha Brumley*
*Newsletter produced by the
Middleburgh Central School District,
in cooperation with the Capital Region
BOCES Communications Service.*

**More budget information:
www.middleburghcsd.org**

Middleburgh

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

291 Main Street
Middleburgh, NY 12122
www.MiddleburghCSD.org

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

POSTAL PATRON

School budget vote day is Tuesday, May 16, 2017, from noon to 9 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. HS gym lobby.

VOTER INFORMATION

Who is eligible to vote?

- Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age and a resident of the Middleburgh School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote is eligible.

What should I bring with me on May 16?

- Personal identification/proof of residency is required (e.g., driver's license with current address or utility bill showing your name and current address).

Can I vote by using an absentee ballot?

- Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 16 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. Download an absentee ballot application at www.middleburghcsd.org, pick one up at the district office (located in the junior/senior high school) or call (518) 827-3625. If the ballot is to be mailed, the application for the ballot must be received by May 9. If the ballot is to be delivered in person, the application must be received by May 15. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 16.

What if I have questions?

- For further information, please call (518) 827-3625 or visit www.middleburghcsd.org.

Bus Proposal

On the day of the budget vote, MCS residents will vote on a special proposition to purchase two new 48-passenger buses at a cost not to exceed \$224,644.

Financing for the buses would be paid through property taxes that would be collected in annual installments for five years. After factoring in 77.3 percent transportation aid from the state, the vehicles would have an average annual cost of \$10,838 – less than \$3 per year for the average taxpayer.

MCS follows a regular bus replacement schedule based on mileage, vehicle age, repair history and operating condition.

Your opinion matters!

MCS invites voters to complete a voluntary, anonymous exit survey after voting on May 16. Your participation helps the district gather feedback and will help inform future budget and educational decisions at Middleburgh Central Schools.