

ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL BUDGET EDITION



Dear Stakeholders:

On May 16, 2023, Onondaga Central School District residents will have an opportunity to vote on a \$25,810,709 proposed budget for the 2023-2024 school year. We take pride that the Onondaga Central School Community can meet challenges so students can reach their maximum potential and be prepared to be contributing citizens.

This coming school year's budget is an increase of 3.72% (\$926,454) over the 2022-23 school year. Of the \$926,454 increase, \$209,862 will be covered by the proposed levy increase. The difference, \$716,592 will be covered by other sources including New York State Aid. The majority of the general fund budget increase is due to the addition of one School Resource Officer (2 to 3 SROs - one for each building), an additional school psychologist, an increase of the Jr/Sr High School Art position from .5 to full-time and adding a part-time athletic trainer. These specific additions will help us address school safety and academic, social, and emotional health needs. As well, this budget supports maintaining programs and small class sizes. The proposed budget will carry a 1.975% overall tax levy increase. The proposed budget supports the resources to maintain our educational programs, safety protocols, increased contractual obligations, and health insurance expenses. Under the NYS Tax cap law, the district has a levy threshold limit of 1.975%. The proposed tax levy increase of 1.975% has an estimated increase for the cost to landowners of the Town of Onondaga of 44 cents per \$1000 of assessed value.

The two major goals of Onondaga's annual budget are to balance the need to maintain all programs and staffing, as well as continue to keep our 10 year average tax rate increase to a minimum. Over the past ten years, district residents have averaged an annual tax increase of approximately .82%. The 2023-2024 budget priorities continue to include:

- School Safety & Security
- Commitment to Small Class Size
- ELL/ENL Staffing Support
- Special Education & Alternative Education Programs
- Academic Intervention Services (AIS)
- Maintain all Current Educational Programs
- Maintain Facilities
- Annual Computer Replacement Plan
- Ability to Handle Fiscal Challenges
- Annual School Bus Replacements
- Account for Federal/State Mandates

THE ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

CHALLENGES individual maximum potential, prides itself on SUCCESS and prepares contributing CITIZENS for life.

Budget 2023-2024

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The chart is a summary of our actual 2010-2011 through 2022-2023 school budget information and the proposed 2023-2024 school budget data. In August, we will receive the updated property assessment figures from the four towns located in our district. As evidenced by the chart, you can see there were many years with a zero percent increase in the tax rate. Over the past 14 years, the tax rate has averaged an annual increase of .65%.

The 2023-2024 General Fund budget does not encompass the additional Federal funding that districts have received in the form of the 2021 ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). OCS' ARPA allocation totals approximately \$2 million. It must be spent over the course of three years and will sunset during the 2023-2024 school year. There are multiple specific restrictions and parameters for which the money must be utilized, including programs focused

on learning loss and additional enrichment activities to address pandemic-related educational deficits. The ARPA funding is expense-based, in that OCS must spend the money on ARPA-approved programs to supplement our students' education and will receive reimbursement in the future. It is important to note these grant funds cannot be accounted for in the general, annual budget.

School Year	Budget to Budget	Tax Levy Increase	Tax Rate Increase
2010/11	1.88%	1.33%	0.00%
2011/12	-0.77%	1.44%	0.98%
2012/13	3.53%	0.50%	0.00%
2013/14	3.59%	1.25%	0.00%
2014/15	1.64%	1.07%	0.00%
2015/16	2.65%	1.75%	1.60%
2016/17	1.43%	1.25%	-0.65%
2017/18	2.01%	1.00%	0.36%
2018/19	1.10%	-0.47%	-0.47%
2019/20	4.10%	1.95%	1.01%
2020/21	2.40%	1.50%	1.18%
2021/22	2.60%	1.99%	1.50%
2022/23	7.31%	1.95%	1.95%
2023/24 est	3.72%	1.98%	1.71%
Average	2.66%	1.32%	0.65%

Elections and Voting will be in-person on May 16, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Rockwell Elementary School's Gymnasium, 208 Rockwell Road, Nedrow, NY 13120.

Jr./Sr. High School's Cafeteria Lobby 4479 South Onondaga Road, Nedrow, NY 13120.

Absentee Ballots can be requested.

For an absentee ballot that is mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote.

Absentee ballots may be picked up in person at the OCSD District Office, 4466 South Onondaga Road, Nedrow, NY 13120.

Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2023.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 16, 2023.

We are very thankful to the community for your continued support of the Onondaga Central School District, its budget, and the programs it provides to our children. We certainly appreciate the investment that each of you makes in the education and future of all OCS students. Without you, all the great programs we offer and updated facilities cannot happen.

Sincerely,

Rob Price

Superintendent

ROCKWELL

Rockwell Building Highlights 2022-2023

- Popsicles with the Principal (August)
- Preschool orientation (September- 1st day of school)
- Book Fair (September)
- Open House in person (September)
- Friday morning program (weekly)
 - Native American Dances
 - Fire Safety Show
 - Veteran's Day
 - Black History
 - NYS Troopers K9 safety class
- Halloween Parade (October)
- Tim's Pumpkin Patch/ Marcellus Park field trip- Kindergarten (October)
- Parent/ Teacher conferences in person (November)
- Syracuse University Women's Basketball Game- 2nd grade (December)
- 100th Day of School (February)
- Dental Health Month- demonstration- Dr. Anderson-Pickering (February)
- Agricultural Day- Maple Syrup Demonstration- Mr. & Mrs. Hotaling (March)
- Earth Day (April 22)
- Rev Theater (multiple dates during the year)
- Family Fun Nights (4x per year)
- Planetarium visit Rockwell (June)
- Field Day (June)
- Flag Day (June 14th)
- Water Fun Day- 2nd Grade (June)
- Baltimore Woods field trip- 2nd Grade (June)
- 2nd Grade moving up day (June 16th)

Below
Dr. Anderson-Pickering



Mrs. Featherstone's 2nd grade during Fire Safety



Bingo for Books

Left front Mac Ryan & Mom Chalis Ryan,
Left back Erin Kolwaite & Kensley
Kolwaite, Right back Abigail Price
Right Front Logan Donegan with Mom K

WHEELER

Wheeler Building Highlights 2022-2023:

- 3rd Grade Welcome to Wheeler (August)
- LETRS Training for Teachers (the science of reading)
- Clubs and Enrichment activities all year (even summer!)
- Wheeler Curriculum Night (September)
- Wheeler Glow Stick Party (October)
- Halloween Parade (October)
- Wheeler Holiday Concert (December)
- Astronaut visit for the 5th grade (December)
- 3rd grade attends Syracuse Stage production of The Little Mermaid (December)
- Wheeler attends a Syracuse Women's basketball game (December)
- Friendship Dance and Dodgeball (February)
- Wheeler Music Festival (March)
- Planetarium visit Wheeler (May)
- Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes presentation for the 4th grade (May)
- Wheeler End of Year Concert (May)
- Race Day (June)
- Water Olympics (June)
- 6th Grade Moving Up Day (June)
- Wheeler Drama Club performance of Shrek Jr, the Musical (June)



Eliana Homes & Madelyn Walsh



By Wheeler 4th Graders

JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Mr. Mauro and eight members of the OCS Environmental Club attended the CNY Youth Climate Summit at SUNY ESF

Jr/Sr High School Building Highlights 2022-2023:

- 7th Grade Orientation & Open House (September)
- Homecoming (October)
- Drama Productions:
 - Footloose (November)
 - Disney's High School Musical (March)
- Spirit Week (February)
- Academic Letter Banquet (February)
- 100 Days Till Graduation Celebration for Seniors (March)
- National Honor Induction Ceremony (May)
- Multicultural Fair (May)
- SECNY Contests & Give-aways
- Weekly P2 Acknowledgements
- Various Events Focused on Mental Health



By Daelyn Cousineau



Kaitlyn Holl repaired and repainted Wheeler's Little Free Library

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	PERCENT INC/DEC
Board of Education	\$23,245	\$24,120	\$875	3.8%
Board of Education, District Clerk, Budget Meeting				
Central Administration	\$309,467	\$346,201	\$36,734	11.9%
District Office				
Finance	\$371,439	\$398,963	\$27,524	7.4%
Business Office, Independent Auditor, Tax Collection, Fiscal Agent Fee, Treasurer				
Staff	\$88,285	\$90,374	\$2,089	2.4%
Legal Services, Personnel and Public Relations				
Maintenance	\$1,966,858	\$2,091,899	\$125,041	6.4%
Central Services	\$293,610	\$344,923	\$51,313	17.5%
Printing Operations, Admin, Computers, and SRO's				
Special Items	\$201,282	\$204,933	\$3,650	1.8%
Liability Insurance, BOCES Rent and Administration, Unclassified				
Admin. Improvement	\$786,589	\$777,723	(\$8,866)	-1.1%
Principals, Clerical Staff, BOCES Services, SRO In-Service Training				
Teaching	\$8,231,934	\$8,680,129	\$448,194	5.4%
Instructional Media	\$1,027,192	\$1,093,106	\$65,914	6.4%
Pupil Services	\$1,311,787	\$1,519,968	\$208,181	15.9%
Guidance, Health & Psychological Services, Co-curricular Activities, Athletics				
Transportation	\$1,691,514	\$1,758,908	\$67,394	4.0%
Student local and out-of-district transportation and				
Employee Benefits	\$4,972,235	\$4,898,765	(\$73,470)	-1.5%
Debt Service	\$3,608,817	\$3,580,698	(\$28,119)	-0.8%
10-Year Bonds, 5-Year Bonds, Tax Anticipation				
Total Budget	\$24,884,255	\$25,810,709	\$926,454	3.7%
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$3,254,187	\$3,501,413	\$247,226	7.6%
INSTRUCTION	\$13,049,017	\$13,829,834	\$780,817	6.0%
UNDISTRIBUTED	\$8,581,052	\$8,479,463	(\$101,589)	-1.2%
	\$24,884,255	\$25,810,709	\$926,454	3.7%

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria



PLEASE VOTE!

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Rockwell Gymnasium
Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024

THREE PART BUDGET

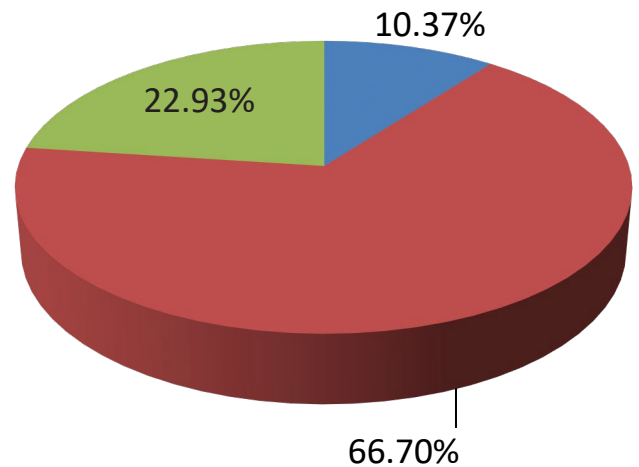
	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED	3 PART BUDGET	BENEFITS	TOTAL 3 PART
Administration	10.33%	10.37%	\$2,187,237	\$489,877	\$2,677,113
Program	66.26%	66.70%	\$13,052,111	\$4,163,950	\$17,216,061
Capital	23.41%	22.93%	\$5,672,597	\$244,938	\$5,917,535
	100.00%	100.00%	\$20,911,944	\$4,898,765	\$25,810,709

Administrative Costs include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff who spend 50% or more of their time in administration, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also, school board costs, curriculum development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing and BOCES administrative costs.

Program Costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, and athletics). Also, textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs, and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

Capital Costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, utilities, and general insurance.

■ Administration ■ Program ■ Capital



Contingent Budgets

If residents vote down the proposed budget, the Board of Education has two options:

1. Resubmit the same budget or a revised budget for a revote on June 20, 2023.
2. Adopt a contingent budget, which state law now dictates cannot exceed the current year's tax levy. (If residents vote down a re-submitted budget, the district **MUST** adopt a contingent budget.)

What's a contingent budget? Unlike in years past, the new statute requires contingent budgets to carry a ZERO percent increase over the current year's levy. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less – without any adjustment for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not. It also means all "non-contingent expenses" would have to be cut from the budget. These include field trips for social or entertainment purposes, new equipment, non-essential maintenance spending and some **student supplies**.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024

SUMMARY OF BUDGETED REVENUES

Category	2022-2023	2023-2024	\$ Change
Property Tax Including Star	\$10,626,138	\$10,836,000	\$209,862
State Aid			
Foundation Aid, Building Aid, Special Education	\$9,334,047	\$9,549,849	\$215,802
Transportation Aid	\$1,908,016	\$1,905,347	-\$2,669
BOCES Aid	\$1,218,797	\$1,198,037	-\$20,760
Textbook, Library, Hardware, Software	\$78,220	\$75,140	-\$3,080
TOTAL State Aid	\$12,539,080	\$12,728,373	\$189,293
Other Revenues	\$440,000	\$480,000	\$40,000
Appropriated Reserves			
Employee Retirement Reserve	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0
Teachers Retirement Reserve	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$200,000
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	\$140,000	\$185,000	\$45,000
Unemployment Reserve	-	\$75,000	\$75,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$689,037	\$856,336	\$167,299
Total Revenues	\$24,884,255	\$25,810,709	\$926,454



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



My name is **Nathaniel Brown** and I reside in the Nedrow area along with my wife, Delia Brown, and along with two sons, Nathaniel Brown III and Maxwell Brown. We are also the parents of two older daughters, Lanasia Ogletree and Kayla Brown. All of our children have attended Onondaga Central Schools. Maxwell is currently a freshman at the Senior High School.

I graduated from Thomas J. Corcoran High School in 1987. I received a BS in Sociology from Buffalo State College. I am currently a Probation Officer with Onondaga County Probation. I have worked for Onondaga County for over 26 years. I have also worked in the Syracuse City Schools as a Teacher Assistant and as a School Sentry. I have also coached high school and pop warner football. In my free time I play music in my band, Brownskin Band.

As a parent sitting on the sideline, I wanted to venture into something that allows me to get involved and help keep the focus on the children. I am an advocate for diversity with keeping the children as the main goal.



My name is **Laurel Bennett**, and I am running for re-election to the OCS School Board. My husband, Pat, and I have three children: Connor (12), Aubrey (8), and Maeve (5). I work for the NYS Office of Mental Health, and I am a Real Estate Agent as well. In our free time, my family and I enjoy getting outdoors with our dogs, and we've been very busy renovating a house on Griffin Road!

I am running for re-election because I have enjoyed serving my community as a board member and getting better acquainted with the inner workings of our school district. My goal as a board member is to continue to ensure that all children at OCS have ample opportunities to grow and excel socially, emotionally, and academically. I am proud to be a member of this community, and it would be an honor to serve your family again on the OCS Board of Education.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024

TAX INFORMATION BY TOWN

TAX INFORMATION BY TOWN

PROPOSITION I:

The calculation on the chart below assumes that the following estimates are valid

TOWN	EQUALIZATION RATE	ASSESSED VALUE
ONONDAGA	78.00%	\$468,186,631
LAFAYETTE	75.00%	\$2,199,588
MARCELLUS	95.00%	\$3,153,398
OTISCO [1]	1.70%	\$2,624,294

TOWN	\$ ASSESSED VALUE	TAX RATE PER 1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE	TAX RATE INCREASE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE BEFORE STAR
ONONDAGA	50,000	\$28.61	1.975%	\$29.18
	100,000	\$28.61	1.975%	\$58.35
	150,000	\$28.61	1.975%	\$87.53
LAFAYETTE	50,000	\$29.75	1.975%	\$30.34
	100,000	\$29.75	1.975%	\$60.68
	150,000	\$29.75	1.975%	\$91.03
MARCELLUS	50,000	\$23.74	1.975%	\$24.21
	100,000	\$23.74	1.975%	\$48.42
	150,000	\$23.74	1.975%	\$72.63
OTISCO [1]	50,000	\$1,312.71	1.975%	\$1,338.64
	100,000	\$1,312.71	1.975%	\$2,677.28
	150,000	\$1,312.71	1.975%	\$4,015.92

[1] As of 2010, the town of Otisco has not been re-assessed to full value.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a citizen of the United States
 Must be eighteen (18) years of age
 Must be a resident of the OCS District for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to
 May 16, 2023

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024

Onondaga Central School District Strategic Goals 2023-2024

Mission Statement

The Onondaga Central School Community challenges individual maximum potential, prides itself on success and prepares contributing citizens for life.

Student Achievement

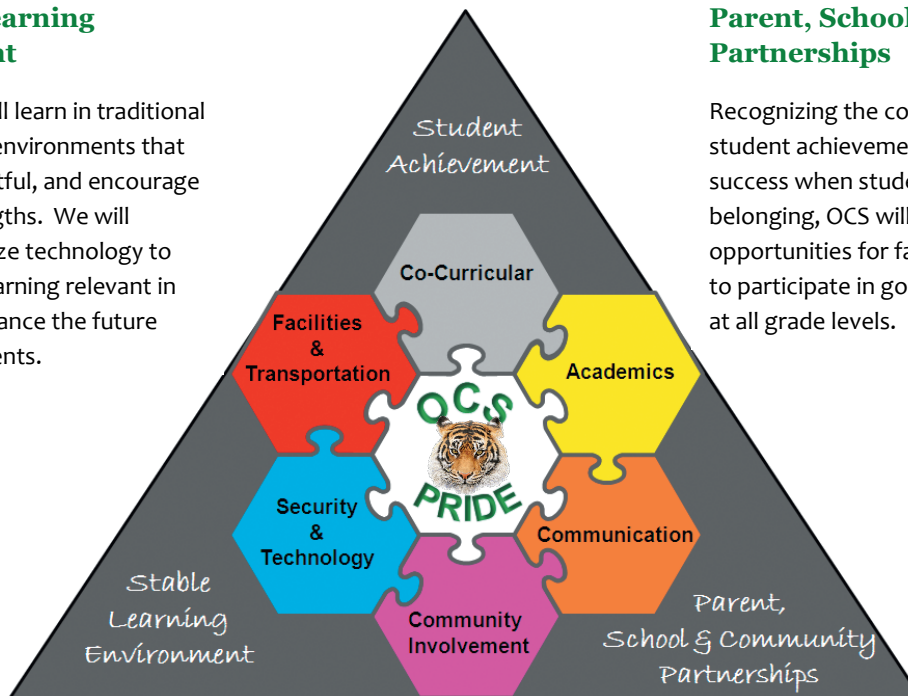
Onondaga Central School PK-12 students will be proficient in all curricular areas, as measured by state, local, formative, and summative assessments, by having the necessary resources in place, and service learning will be implemented for all students.

Engaging Learning Environment

Our students will learn in traditional and innovative environments that are safe, respectful, and encourage individual strengths. We will continue to utilize technology to keep student learning relevant in an effort to enhance the future success of students.

Parent, School & Community Partnerships

Recognizing the connection between student achievement and school success when students feel a sense of belonging, OCS will communicate opportunities for families and students to participate in goal-oriented activities at all grade levels.



Vision Statement

The Onondaga Central School District is committed to educating all students in a safe and healthy environment, setting high standards and expectations for all members of the learning community. The school staff, students, parents, Board of Education and community share the responsibility for this mission.

**ONONDAGA CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
4466 South Onondaga Road
Nedrow, NY 13120
315-552-5000
FAX 315-492-4650
onondagacsd.org

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Tara Carter-Lettsome
Noelle Relles
Kyle Kolwaite

Rob Price, *Superintendent of Schools*

**Proposition 1
(Budget)**

Shall the proposed budget of the Onondaga Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefore?

**Proposition II
(Student Transport Vehicles)**

Shall the Board of Education of the Onondaga Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance two (2) 66-passenger school buses, one (1) 24-passenger school bus and one (1) 30-passenger school bus, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$434,300, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$434,300, shall be issued.

**Proposition III
(Library)**

Shall the Onondaga Central School District levy and collect a tax, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law of the State of New York, in the sum of \$60,100 (which is an increase of \$1,750 from the levy in effect from 2022-2023 in the sum of \$58,350) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by the Onondaga Free Library historically supported by the Onondaga Central School District?

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY THE DISTRICT CLERK NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. on MAY 16, 2023.**