



Avon Central School District News

BUDGET NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

from Board President Rodney George & Superintendent Ryan Pacatte

AVON'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

-This communication is intended to relay information about the 2020-2021 proposed school budget. It will do so, but it is important to start with some additional news. During this time, the Avon Central School District has worked as best we can to continue to support the needs of the children we serve. Working in partnership with families and community organizations, we are honored to be part of this community's response during this time of crisis. From food donations to creative virtual classroom experiences, all should be proud of the efforts that have helped in this time of need.

With these thoughts in mind, we partnered with families to provide meals and distribute resources. Families altered schedules and assisted our effort to distribute more than 600 devices to students with just two days' notice. Nutritional support continues by serving more than 12,500 meals via our cafeteria food service efforts. The weekend food program also continues through volunteer efforts. We hope these endeavors on the part of the schools help to return the generous support we typically benefit from during more favorable circumstances.

COVID-19's IMPACT ON BUDGET PLANNING

- There is a great deal to celebrate in regards to all of Avon's response to the pandemic. Yet, the crisis had a profound impact on our budget planning. In 'normal' years, the District's budget process is fairly linear. We start by calculating an approximate rollover cost, making some assumptions about future expenses. Using this approximate number, we start making adjustments based on actual budget costs that become clearer as we examine factors such as enrollment changes, state mandates, internal plans for regular expenses, and costs associated with long-term goals. Typically, the Executive Branch of NYS Government, Governor Cuomo's Office, then releases a proposed

State Budget that includes a proposal for School Aid which informs an anticipated State Aid figure for Avon Schools. In normal years, this then initiates advocacy, negotiation, and legislation that normally results in some additional funds for all schools in the form of the actual State Aid amount for each district. Working with this actual amount, Avon then finalizes the actual budget for the coming year. After the Board of Education adopts a budget, we conduct a Budget Hearing, followed by an annual voting process in which the community elects Board of Education members and either approves or disapproves of the proposed budget and propositions. There are more steps to the process, but this was a high-level overview of the typical process.

This year is very different. New York State's response to the pandemic accelerated in the time between the Executive Proposal and the advocacy, negotiation, and legislation. There is no doubt the health crisis impacts the economy significantly. From added expenses to decreased revenues, the downturn will impact both the NYS and the national economy in future years as well. This impact is real. Millions of people are out of work. Retailers are struggling, and families are navigating additional pressures. This is the current landscape in which we all find ourselves. Yet, the pressures brought on by the healthcare crisis do not change the fact that the Executive Proposal of Aid to Avon prior to the crisis was not sufficient. Unfortunately, our finalized State Aid amount was very near the original Executive Proposal, and more than 20% under what is recommended for Avon. NYS continues to underfund Avon schools in significant ways and has done so for over a decade. NYS School Aid is not a handout or charitable donation. Adequate funding for schools is New York State's responsibility under the law. We are expected to provide a sound basic education for the children of the community in response to the existing regulation and mandates. Each year, NYS

calculates an approximate cost for this responsibility using a formula created by NYS itself; not Avon. This year's final aid amount for Avon is more than 1.6 million dollars under the calculation established by NYS's own formula. Again, this was all prior to the pandemic.

Additionally, this year's final State Aid is not a fixed number as it usually has been in past years. The finalized state budget includes a provision for Executive Cost Containment. This provision allows NYS to fund State Aid based on actual revenues received by NYS. On April 30, June 30, and December 31 the revenues will be examined and adjustments to aid will be made. The reality is that we will likely receive much less than the aid amount communicated when the budget was finalized by NYS. How much aid will be withheld? When will it be withheld? These factors continue to be unknown. The end result is that schools have planned for a budget using an approximate State Aid.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR AVON

2020-2021 - With this background, the District prepared a school budget that will continue to offer robust educational opportunities for children in the classroom and via extracurricular opportunities that are so important to the overall student experience. Further, the budget responds to: increased mandates for information privacy and student mental health, the community's expressed desire for school safety, surveys requesting increased opportunities for meaningful technology-enhanced instruction, support for unique programming, and desire for expanded career exploration. Working cooperatively with the Leadership Team, the Board of Education unanimously approved a proposed spending plan of \$20,756,651. This is an approximate year-to-year increase of just .67%. The complex formula used to calculate an allowable tax levy for the district produced an allowable tax levy of 3.79%. However, by examining expenses, creating efficiencies,

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Proposed Three Part Budget Summary

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	%
PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET			72.01%
Staff Development	\$302,041	\$231,820	
General Instruction.....	\$5,578,315	\$5,569,303	
Special Education*.....	\$1,839,866	\$2,152,269	
Career and Technical Education	\$301,660	\$366,536	
Summer School	\$28,941	\$49,935	
Libraries and Media	\$273,704	\$282,659	
Computer Instruction / Distance Learning	\$761,259	\$614,127	
Pupil Services.....	\$908,858	\$852,385	
Student Activities	\$84,327	\$84,327	
Athletics	\$372,959	\$373,000	
Transportation Services**	\$943,748	\$913,924	
Employee Benefits.....	\$3,222,997	\$3,431,090	
Interfund Transfer to Federal Fund	\$25,000	\$25,000	
TOTAL	\$14,643,675	\$14,946,376	

*The district has entered into a three-year contract for OT and PT services; this is year one.

**The district has entered into a three-year contract for transportation; this is year one.

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	%
PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET			17.58%
Operations and Maintenance.....	\$1,571,138	\$1,570,048	
Community Use of Facilities	\$18,744	\$18,900	
Employee Benefits	\$421,974	\$428,049	
Judgments, Claims / Tax Refunds.....	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Debt Service.....	\$1,840,041	\$1,630,705	
TOTAL	\$3,853,897	\$3,649,702	

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	%
PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET			10.41%
Board of Education	\$34,106	\$30,214	
Central Administrative Support.....	\$584,970	\$590,178	
Legal Services	\$42,000	\$42,000	
Other Central Services.....	\$424,087	\$429,361	
Instructional Education Support	\$607,403	\$652,300	
Employee Benefits.....	\$427,404	\$416,520	
TOTAL	\$2,119,970	\$2,160,573	

	Budget	Proposed
TOTAL PROPOSED BASIC BUDGET	\$20,617,542	\$20,756,651

Projected Revenues

	2019/20 Final	2020/21 Proposed	% of Budget
State Aid	\$9,664,445	\$9,437,190	46%
Other Sources	\$786,097	\$775,510	4%
Fund Balance	\$200,000	\$280,000	1%
Use of Reserves	\$20,000	\$120,000	1%
Property Taxes	\$9,947,000	\$10,143,951	48%
Total Revenues	\$20,617,542	\$20,756,651	100.00%

Message to the Community, continued

thinking creatively, and building from the Board's history of well-informed long-term financial planning to provide for additional revenue opportunities, this year's proposed tax levy will be just a 1.98% increase. We feel very good about this budget given the unprecedented economic challenges placed on our doorstep in recent weeks.

Capital Outlay Project - The budget includes a \$100,000 transfer to the Capital Fund for another Capital Outlay project. This is a sound maintenance and economic strategy that helps preserve facilities. The planned project is focused on addressing safety by extending the door project that was approved for the 2019-20 school year and adding energy efficient lighting in the Middle and High School buildings. This expenditure will generate building aid in the 2021-2022 school year. We are also seeking voter approval to fund this project by transferring \$100,000 from the 2009 Capital Building Reserve, which is listed in Projected Revenues as Use of Reserves on page 2.

A CLOSER LOOK - What follows are brief explanations of other propositions included on the ballot:

School Bus Capital Purchase - The District proposes the purchase of one school bus at an expense not to exceed \$123,000. This purchase is the result of the District's long-term planning aimed at minimizing unanticipated expenses through the established Vehicle Replacement Plan. Community approval is needed for the Capital Purchase.

Equipment Purchase - There is a proposition to access funds in the Vehicle and Equipment Reserve to purchase items earmarked for replacement. This is not new money. It is a proposition to allocate funds that have been set aside in previous years. Accessing these funds allows the District to plan for replacement costs that can serve to offset impact to the year-to-year budget.

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Annual Budget Referendum 2020-2021

Proposition #1 YES NO

Shall the 2020-2021 basic school budget in the amount of \$20,756,651 be approved.

Proposition #2 YES NO

BUS
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Avon Central School District is hereby authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$123,000 for the purchase of one (1) 64-passenger school bus with such cost being raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said District to be levied and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be partially offset by State aid available therefore, and in anticipation of such tax by obligations of the District as may be necessary.

Proposition #3 YES NO

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Avon Central School District is hereby authorized to expend \$120,000 from such District's existing Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, for the purpose of purchasing furniture and equipment for buildings and grounds, instructional, athletic and cafeteria purposes.

Proposition #4 YES NO

INFORMATION/AUDIOVISUAL TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND
RESOLVED, to establish a "Capital Reserve for Information/Audiovisual Technology Equipment and Supplies," for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the purchase of information technology equipment and supplies and/ or audiovisual technology equipment and supplies, such as, but not limited to computers, laptops, classroom display and audio solutions, and other hardware needed to support these devices, not to exceed \$1,000,000, for a time period of 10 years. The reserve can be funded through transfers from other reserves, budgetary appropriations, interest earnings, and proceeds from the sale of obsolete equipment.

Proposition #5 YES NO

AVON FREE LIBRARY
RESOLVED, shall the Board of Education of the Avon Central School District be authorized to levy taxes annually in the amount of one hundred ten thousand (\$110,000), increased from one hundred one thousand (\$101,000), and pay over such monies to the trustees of the Avon Free Library.

Board of Education Members

Board of Education Members

Last incumbent: Robert DeBruycker
3-year term (vote for one):

Robert DeBruycker
 Write-in

Last incumbent: Rodney George
3-year term (vote for one):

Rodney George
 Write-in

Please visit www.avoncsd.org to see a sample ballot.

Message to the Community, continued

Creation of Capital Reserve for Technology Purchasing - This proposition asks the community to approve the creation of a specific reserve that will help fund future technology purchases. If approved, the reserve will be funded by existing funds or allocation. A dedicated Technology Purchase Reserve will allow the District to use existing set-aside funds to proactively plan for both replacement costs and new purchases. This proposition is also based on existing funds. Taxpayers will have the opportunity to approve any expenditures from this reserve during future budget votes.

Avon Free Library - The New York State mandate increases in the minimum wage place significant pressure on the Library's personnel budget. The \$9,000 increase in our tax levy will allow us to meet our legal obligations without cutting services or personnel. This explanation was provided by the Avon Free Library.

VOTING PROCESS AND DATE - The COVID-19 pandemic has caused changes to the voting process. The vote will be held on Tuesday, June 9. The entire voting process for the Board of Education election and School Budget Vote will take place via an absentee ballot process. We anticipate the newsletter will be placed in the Penny Saver and ballots will be mailed from the District and received the week of May 26. We will mail the ballots and a postage-paid return envelope for the ballot. A budget hearing will be conducted at 5:00 PM on May 27 via Google presentation. This will also be recorded and posted. **All ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on June 9 in order for the ballot to count.**

We thank you for your continued support of Avon Schools. Please contact us directly if you have any questions about the information communicated in this correspondence. Now, more than ever, it is important that your voice be heard in this annual process.

You may reach Superintendent Pacatte by email at rpacatte@avoncsd.org

Absentee Ballots

In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, the budget vote will be conducted solely by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots with return postage will be mailed to each District voter registered with the Livingston County Board of Elections. Should there be more qualified voters residing at a household than absentee ballots received, the qualified voter should contact the District Clerk by email at mkellogg@avoncsd.org to obtain a ballot. Military ballots may be requested via email from the office of the District Clerk at mkellogg@avoncsd.org. Completed ballots must be received in the District Office by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020

Voter Qualifications

- United States citizen
- Eighteen (18) years of age or older
- Legal resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the district meeting and election

Postal Customer

Avon Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget adopted for the 2019-2020 school year	Budget proposed for the 2020-2021 school year	Contingency budget for the 2020-2021 school year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	20,617,542	20,756,651	20,636,641
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-2021 school year		139,109	19,099
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		.67%	.00%
Change in Consumer Price Index		1.81%	1.81%
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A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	9,947,000	10,143,951	10,025,051
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	0
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	0	0	0
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	0
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	9,947,000	10,143,951	10,025,051
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	0	0	0
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	9,947,000	10,324,831	10,324,831
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	9,947,000	10,143,951	10,025,051
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	504	180,000	299,780
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Administrative Component	\$2,119,970	\$2,160,573	\$40,603
Program Component	\$14,643,675	\$14,946,376	\$302,701
Capital Component	\$3,853,897	\$3,649,702	\$(204,195)

In the event the proposed budget is defeated and a contingency budget is adopted, the District would be prohibited from purchasing certain supplies, as well as any costs associated with the community use of school facilities. The capital outlay project would also be removed from the budget.

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings..... \$687