



# Northern Adirondack Central School District

## Budget Newsletter / May 2022

Dear Northern Adirondack Central School District Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

On April 14, 2022, the Northern Adirondack Central School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget for the 2022 – 2023 school year of \$25,979,925. This budget has been proposed as an opportunity to continue to rebuild the District's financial footing that has been identified by the NYS Comptroller's Office as being Fiscally Stressed over the past three years. The proposed budget is an increase of \$1,242,700 over the budget that was approved for the 2021 – 2022 school year (\$24,737,225). As with most increases it may be seen as something more than most would like, however the increase is appropriately below our calculated Tax Cap and will provide an opportunity to continue to pay down some of the debt that has accumulated from borrowing money over the past few years. The cash flow or reserve position including fund balance drew the attention of the NYS Comptroller's Office again this year, and NAC has been placed in a category of being *Susceptible Fiscal Stress* on their Fiscal Stress Monitoring System.

The Comptroller's list can be viewed at the following link; <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/fiscal-monitoring/pdf/2021-schools-stressed.pdf> Northern Adirondack Central School District is one of 21 school districts in New York State that are categorized as being in *Susceptible Fiscal Stress*, and the only in Clinton County, however this designation is a step in the right direction over the past two years including last year's low point of being the number 1 district in *Significant Stress* out of the 674 districts in NYS. This report from the New York State Comptroller's Office does not include New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers.

Developing a proposed budget is always a very difficult task, because it should involve long range fiscal planning that maintains educationally sound programming while being fiscally responsible. This year has again proven to be extremely difficult in the development of such a budget. Our initial challenges stemmed from something that most of us thought would have disappeared by now, COVID-19, however we are still dealing with the pandemic to a certain level. The State budget process was favorable with the collaboration of the current Governor and the lawmakers in Albany. The best part about the budget process was the lack of games being played, which our former Governor seemed to enjoy especially when dangling the money necessary for school funding. The approach taken by Governor Hochul was to make a multiple year effort to fix some of the inequities in the State Aid Formula and make districts whole with funding in the eyes of the State. Keep in mind that the State still only expects to provide about 40% of any district's overall budget, and we are still relying on the State's contribution to be nearly 70% of our overall budget this year.

# KEY POINTS FOR THE 2022-2023 BUDGET

**\*Proposed Budget: \$25,979,925**

**Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 valuation: \$18.34**

*Rate will be adjusted in July after assessment process is completed*

*Most often wealthier districts in NYS have much lower rates than poorer districts. That's because people who own homes in communities with lower home values and little commercial real estate have to pay at a higher tax rate to generate enough money to cover the same basic services. More focus should be given to the Tax Levy, because that number is the dollar amount that the local taxpayers contribute to the entire budget. Our Tax Levy is \$7,995,000 this year, which equates to 30.77% of our overall budget leaving 69% to come from the State of NY and other avenues. NYS expects that no more than 40% of a School District's budget should be their burden.*

## Clinton County Comparative School Districts

*Percentage that the proposed tax levy represents in the overall budget. In other words, the proposed percentage to the overall budget that the local taxpayers contribute.*

Clinton County Schools	Proposed 2022-2023 Levy %	Expected State Contribution
District 1	43.44%	56.56%
District 2	47.07%	52.93%
District 3	43.37%	56.63%
District 4	35.91%	64.09%
NACS	30.77%	69.23%
District 6	Not Shared	Not Shared
District 7	50.77%	49.23%
District 8	36.05%	63.95%

## We are moving in the right direction

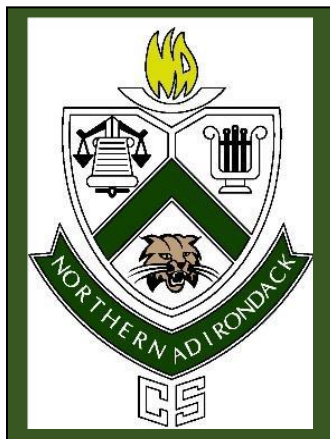
*The NYS Comptroller's Office listed NAC as the Most Fiscally Stressed School District in NYS on 2020 list. On the 2021 list NACSD is listed as susceptible to fiscal stress and hopefully by the next reporting year will be completely off the list.*

<http://wwe1.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/fsms.cfm>

## District/ Building/ Facilities

### Bullet Points - 2022-2023

- *Building Condition Survey that is performed every 5 years was completed in 2020-2021 and identified 19 high priority items, 1 medium priority item, and 1 low priority item*
- *The District's parking lot surfaces, resurfacing of tennis courts and grade on all game fields.*
- *The District plans to continue to take advantage of the \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project opportunity in the 2022-2023 budget. The specific work to be accomplished has not been identified yet, but will be prioritized by what is needed most immediately.*



**The following is a summary of the 2022-2023 proposed budget with comparative data for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 budget:**

**ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS**

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
I. Board of Education	\$ 33,320	\$ 33,950	\$ 34,105
II. Central Administration	605,434	635,754	669,078
III. Operation & Maintenance	1,365,254	1,370,062	1,514,242
IV. Special Items	489,006	513,331	543,707
V. Instructional Program	10,685,039	11,037,050	11,670,306
VI. Transportation	983,915	946,837	939,528
VII. Community Services	1,700	1,700	1,750
VIII. Employee Benefits	6,665,200	6,830,030	7,118,740
IX. Debt Service - Buses/BOCES C.P.	483,382	819,711	943,169
X. Debt Service – EXCEL C.P.	2,446,400	2,448,800	2,445,300
XI. Capital Projects Fund Transfer	-	100,000	100,000
	<u>\$ 23,758,650</u>	<u>\$ 24,737,225</u>	<u>\$ 25,979,925</u>

**ESTIMATED REVENUES**

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
I. State Aid:			
A. Basic Formula	\$ 13,235,000	\$ 13,902,225	\$ 14,844,425
B. EXCEL C.P. Building Aid	1,725,000	1,725,000	1,725,000
II. Other Revenues	1,498,650	1,410,000	1,215,500
III. Fund Balance	-	-	200,000
IV. Reserve for Debt Service	-	-	-
Total Revenues and Fund Balance	<u>16,458,650</u>	<u>17,037,225</u>	<u>17,984,925</u>
Other than Real Property Taxes			
Tax Levy	<u>7,300,000</u>	<u>7,700,000</u>	<u>7,995,000</u>
NACS Budget	\$ 23,758,650	\$ 24,737,225	\$ 25,979,925
NACS Estimated Full Valuation	419,931,050	423,126,166	436,044,743
NACS Estimated Average Tax			
Rate Per \$1,000 Full Valuation	\$ 17.384	\$ 18.198	\$ 18.335

## 2021-22 Property Tax Report Card

### 090901 - No. Adirondack CSD

Contact Person: James C. Knight, Jr.

Telephone Number: 518-594-7060

	Budgeted 2021-22 (A)	Proposed Budget 2022-23 (B)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	24,737,225	25,979,925
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>1</sup>	7,700,000	7,995,000
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable <sup>2</sup>	0	0
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	7,700,000	7,995,000
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	1,072,724	1,039,252
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>3</sup>	6,640,127	6,961,522
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	6,627,276	6,955,748
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) <sup>2</sup>	12,851	5,744
Public School Enrollment	820	820
Consumer Price Index		

<sup>1</sup> Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

<sup>2</sup> Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

<sup>3</sup> For 2022-23, includes any carryover from 2021-22 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2021-22 (D)	Estimated 2022-23 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	259,904	261,100
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	0	200,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,747,183	2,045,987
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	7.06%	7.88%

# Northern Adirondack CSD School Board

## Our Mission

The mission of the Northern Adirondack Central School District, in partnership with family and community, is to educate students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.



**Steven Bartlemus- President**  
(2023)



**Bryan Trombley- Vice- President**  
(2024)



**Phalon Miner**  
(2025)



**Trevor Finley**  
(2024)



**Amanda Smith**  
(2026)



**Richard Harriman, Sr.**  
(May 17, 2022)

## Term of Office:

**5-Year Term Ending  
June 30, 2027 Present  
Incumbent: Mark  
DeCoste**

**3-Year Term Ending  
June 30, 2025 to fill the  
unexpired term of  
Willie Venne.**



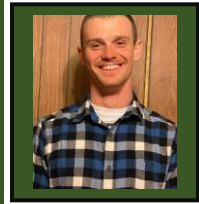
**Mark DeCoste**  
(2022)



# *Petitions received from the following candidates:*

*Nicholas Manor, Richard Moore, Mark Reif and Pamela Ross*

NORTHERN ADIRONDACK CSD



My name is Nicholas Manor, and I am running for a seat on the school board. I was born and raised in Ellenburg Depot, graduating from NAC in 2011, Clinton Community in 2013, with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. I am currently employed by NYSDOC, and work as Correctional Officer at Clinton Correctional Facility. I have built my own home, in Ellenburg Depot so I plan to stay in the area. I want to bring a new generation to the school board, with fresh ideas, common sense, the ability to listen, and the ability to be heard, on behalf of the people of the district.

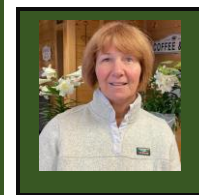


My name is Richard Moore and I am running for a seat on the Board of Education at Northern Adirondack Central School. I am a life long resident of Ellenburg Depot, NY. I graduated from Northern Adirondack Central School in 1993. I attended Paul Smith's College, where I earned an Associates Degree in Land Surveying in 1995. I worked for Luck Brothers as a surveyor until I was called to the New York State Police Academy in 2000. Upon graduating from the New York State Police Academy in 2000, I began a career as a State Trooper. In 2006, I was promoted to an Investigator with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, I retained that rank until retiring in 2020. I am very interested in becoming a member of the Northern Adirondack Central School's Board of Education, as I have two school-age children. The future of Northern Adirondack Central School is of utmost importance.



I, Mark Reif, have lived in the NACSD for the last 23 years. I reside in Chazy Lake with my wife Melissa, daughter Samantha (NAC class of 2019, sons Kyle (NAC High School) and Brayden (NAC Elementary School). I was employed by NYDOCS for 26 years and retired as a lieutenant at Clinton Correctional facility. I am a combat veteran, retired from the United States Army Reserve as the Company 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant with 25 year of service. Currently I am employed by the United States Postal Service in Champlain.

I believe the school board needs someone to advocate for the children and employees of the district, while addressing the needs and concerns of the community. I have held multiple management positions, in which I have addressed many difficult situations. With my experiences, I have developed many leadership skills that will assist the board during their uncertain times. The board needs to have leadership that can address the problems that the NAC school district will face in the future. By the board working with the school administration and community, we can overcome difficult situations and improve on building better academic, athletic and extracurricular experiences for our students. In conclusion, I will have the integrity to make unbiased decisions that will help the school district, children, and the community as a whole.



My name is Pamela Ross and I would consider it a privilege to serve on the Northern Adirondack Board of Education. I have been married to my husband, Larry for 50 years. We reside in Altona where we raised two children, Cory and Kristen. Both graduated from NACS before attending college. We have four grandchildren. Retirement two years ago did not slow me down. I took over management of Copper Rooster Floral & Gifts, a family business. I read, I bike, I walk and enjoy looking for unique items to include in the shop. I earned a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from SUNY Plattsburgh with certifications in Elementary Education, Home Economics and ELA/Reading Specialization with further study and advanced certifications in School Administration and Supervision, as well as, School District Administration, also from PSUC.

I taught for a number of years in Altona, Lyon Mountain and Ellenburg before becoming Assistant Principal in the High School. In 2009, I became Principal of our newly developed Middle School. As Principal, I also mentored four administrative interns. To this day, I am extremely proud of the staff and our accomplishments. We were truly dedicated to creating an optimal learning environment and culture for our young people. We provided many opportunities and encouraged our students to take advantage of new experiences. There was a true sense of family. I believe I would bring a unique perspective as a Board member. I am an active community member, parent, former educator, both as a teacher and administrator. Throughout my 42 years in various roles at NACS, I worked collaboratively with many Boards of Education and would appreciate the opportunity to work as a member.

# *Voter Information*

**Qualified Voter** A person shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting for the election of school district officers and all matters that may be brought before such Meeting who is:

1. A citizen of the United States of America
2. Eighteen years of age or older, and
3. A resident within the school district for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election

## **(PROPOSITION I)**

### **2022-2023 BUDGET**

**RESOLVED**, that The Board of Education of Northern Adirondack Central School at Ellenburg be and is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$ 25,979,925 total general fund appropriation, and to levy the necessary tax for the school year 2022 - 2023.

## **(PROPOSITION II)**

### **BUS PURCHASE**

**RESOLVED** Shall the Board of Education purchase and finance three (3) student transport vehicles at an estimated cost not to exceed \$390,000, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$390,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax which is hereby voted foregoing in the amount of \$390,000, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$390,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.



## **Annual Bus Purchases**

- *Rotation of 3 Buses Annually to Maintain Fleet*
- *Bus Aid Currently 90%*
- *(3) 66 Passenger Diesel Buses to not exceed \$390,000*
- *Debt Service Payment begin 2023/24*

# Important Dates:

**May 3, 2022**

Proposed Annual Budget Summary Available online and in District Office.

**May 10, 2022**

Budget Hearing – Open to the public in the Middle High School Auditorium at 5:30pm



**Northern Adirondack Central School  
District**

5572 State Route 11  
PO Box 164  
Ellenburg Depot, NY 12935

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Mailing Address Line 1  
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Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

James C. Knight, Jr., *Superintendent of Schools*  
Brian Tousignant, *Business Official*  
Michael Loughman, *High School Principal*  
Robert Witkiewicz, *Middle School Principal*  
Lisa Silver, *Elementary School Principal*

**Board of Education**

Steven Bartlemus, President  
Bryan Trombley, Vice President  
Mark DeCoste  
Phalon Miner  
Amanda Smith  
Richard Harriman, Sr.  
Trevor Finley