



Special Edition: 2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET

Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi

NEWSLETTER

Home of the Bulldogs

www.delhischools.org

May 2020

2020-2021 Proposed Budget

First and foremost, I hope this budget newsletter finds you, your family, friends, and loved ones safe and healthy. The 2019-2020 school year has been a year of trials, tribulations, and uncharted territory. However, it has also been filled with successes, proud moments, community engagement and most of all, perseverance. As we look at the talented young men and women who will be graduating this year, we are filled with hope for our future.

Each year, the Board of Education and Administrative team review and formulate a budget that meets the needs of all students at Delaware Academy. While formulating the 2020-2021 budget, the District encountered many unanswered questions and unknowns. Questions like, what is the future climate of education? What are the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students going to look like going into the new school year?, and what will the depth of possible New York State funding cuts be? We feel confident that Delaware Academy has taken all these unknowns into account and are therefore proposing a budget to address those concerns without overburdening our taxpayers. The 1.75% tax increase proposed in this budget stays in line with last year's tax levy, and stays well below the calculated tax cap of 2.4%. The 2020-2021 budget maintains staffing levels necessary to address all student needs, creates "safety nets" for both academic and social needs, and builds in spending measures to curtail the possibility of additional state aid cuts mid-year.

The 2019-2020 school year may have ended abruptly, but it was not without much celebration. The students of Delaware Academy began the school year on September 4, 2019 and as they always do, they shined.

Below is just a portion of our student achievements for the 2019-2020 school year.

- 10 of the 11 Varsity teams that competed for Delaware Academy, during the 2019-2020 school year, earned the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete Team Award for maintaining a team GPA over 90%.
- AATG National German Exam Award Winners
 - 2- Gold Medal recipients (top 10% in the nation) = all-expense paid trip to Germany.

- 4- Silver Medal recipients (top 20 % in the nation)
- 7- Bronze Medal (top 30 %)
- Various art student entries in the Hartwick High School exhibition
- 33 MS/HS students chosen for the Delaware County Music Festival
- 18 HS Music students selected for Area All State Ensembles
- Girls Cross Country winners of the NYS Championship
- Boys Cross Country runner up of the NYS Championship
- Boys Varsity Basketball team winners of the Midstate Athletic Conference Championship
- Multiple students earning their Future Farmers of America (FFA) degrees,
- Delaware Academy named NYS FFA Superior Chapter

In addition to the many student achievements, we

celebrate our faculty, staff, parents, and community. Together we met the academic, social-emotional, and technological needs of our students during a global pandemic. Within a 72-hour period in March, the Delaware Academy CSD moved from a traditional school based platform to a completely new online platform. Though there were some impediments early on, hard work, dedication, determination, and cooperation on behalf of all involved ensured that our students' needs came first.

Of course, last but not least, we celebrate our 2020 Delaware Academy

Central School District at Delhi Senior Class. The challenges they have faced beginning on March 16th and throughout the remainder of this academic year were some of their greatest yet. These exceptional young men and women have been positive, resilient, energetic, compassionate and resourceful throughout this enormous emotional and academic upheaval. We are so proud of their accomplishments individually and collectively. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi has been fortunate to have had tremendous taxpayer support over the years. Without that support, the students would not have had these outstanding opportunities and successes. Again thank you, and stay safe!

Budget Vote

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020
through Absentee Ballot**

**Proposed
Budget \$20,626,876**

Budget Increase 2.51%

Tax Levy Increase 1.75%

2020-21 Propositions

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE: Delaware Academy CSD at Delhi School District Budget

Shall the Board of Education of Delaware Academy CSD at Delhi be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$20,626,876 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and to levy the necessary tax for the local contribution thereto?

PROPOSITION 1: Bus Lease

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED that, pursuant to Chapter 472 of the Session Laws of 1998, shall the Board of Education of the Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi hereby authorized to lease and expend therefore, including costs incidental thereto and the financial thereof, an amount not to exceed \$953,750.00 over five (5) years, eight (8) 2021 model 66 passenger Thomas Saf-T Liner C2 school buses and one (1) 2021 model 62 passenger and 1 wheel chair station Thomas Saf-T Liner, C2 school bus, AND, that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax collected in annual installments; and that in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued. Contingent upon voter approval on June 9, 2020 and in no way obligates the district should the Board of Education or the voters fail to approve the lease of said buses.

PROPOSITION 2: Asbestos Abatement

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED, that the Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi, Delaware County, New York, is hereby authorized to pay the cost of asbestos abatement at the Middle School/ High School, including incidental improvements and expenses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,100,000, 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 shall be issued.

Note: Proposition #2 will not require an additional tax increase due to the taxpayer portion being supplemented with reserve funding.

Budget Q & A

Q. What is the tax levy limit for 2020-2021 and does Delaware Academy exceed the limit?

- A. The Delaware Academy tax levy limit for 2020-2021 is 2.4%. The proposed tax levy increase for 2020-2021 is 1.75%, therefore well below the allowable limit.

Q. How does State Aid affect Delaware Academy's yearly budget?

- A. State aid revenues equate to approximately 44% of the 2020-2021 budget. With the uncertainty of the New York States fiscal situation, any decreases in aid have a dramatic impact on a balanced budget.

Q. Why does Delaware Academy lease their buses rather than an outright purchase?

- A. Whether purchasing outright or leasing, the district receives approximately 55% aid on transportation vehicles. The district has continuously reviewed the pros and cons of leasing vs. purchasing. The district feels that leasing is the best option overall. Leasing not only reduces overall maintenance costs, but also ensures that our students are transported in the safest, most up to date vehicles that are available. Leasing also helps create a much "smoother" budget from year to year by eliminating the need for large cash purchases of buses and reducing the risk of years where the district cannot afford such purchases due to reductions in state aid revenue. Having the most up to date and well maintained transportation equipment is a priority to Delaware Academy, and follows the established guidelines of providing continued safety to our students.

Q. Why is there a proposition on the 2020-2021 ballot for an asbestos abatement project? Didn't the taxpayers recently approve a capital project?

- A. In October of 2018, the district taxpayers approved an \$8.9 million dollar capital project that will address much

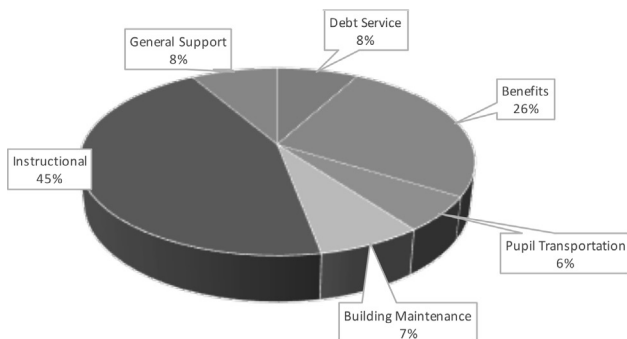
needed repairs, and various renovations throughout each building. During the summer of 2019, it was discovered that there is asbestos underneath the crawlspace of the MS/HS building. While this discovery is not harmful to students and staff, it still needs to be remedied due to New York State Department of Health regulations. This issue was discovered after the October 2018 capital project approval and therefore will need to be addressed as a separate project altogether. It is critical that the district address this asbestos remediation at this time. The recently approved capital project requires worker access to the affected crawl space and Department of Health regulations will not allow work to be performed until it is corrected. Therefore, this project will need to be presented to the voters for their approval. Please understand that the funds required for this project can be used only for this project and nothing else throughout the district. If approved, the state will fund 72% of the project with building aid, while the remaining 28% will be covered with reserve funding already within the district savings. Therefore, there will be no additional tax burden to the community.

Q. What is the status with the previously approved October 2018 capital project?

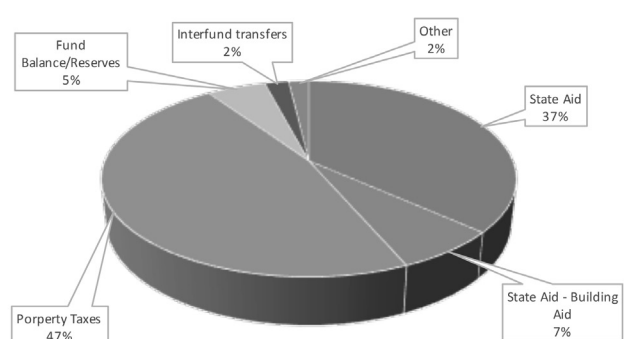
- A. The district held a bid opening on February 12th, 2020 in the HS/MS auditorium. Unfortunately the majority of the bids came in much higher than what the voter approved costs were. Therefore, the district rejected a majority of the bids and will schedule a re-bid for those items in October of 2020. The district did accept the site work portion of the bids in which pertains to storm water drain repairs, paving, and sidewalk and curbing repairs. This work is scheduled to begin in June of 2020.

Expenses	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
Debt Service	\$1,634,477	\$1,642,926	0.52%
Benefits	\$5,103,199	\$5,322,570	4.30%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,167,100	\$1,242,857	6.49%
Building Maintenance	\$1,459,120	\$1,493,297	2.34%
Instructional	\$8,990,126	\$9,178,216	2.09%
General Support	\$1,767,452	\$1,747,010	-1.16%
TOTAL	\$20,121,474	\$20,626,876	2.51%

Expenses



Revenues



Revenues	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
State Aid	\$7,585,350	\$7,546,812	-0.51%
State Aid—Building Aid	\$1,412,500	\$1,423,934	0.81%
Property Taxes	\$9,514,624	\$9,681,130	1.75%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$650,000	\$1,130,000	73.85%
Interfund transfers	\$625,000	\$460,000	-26.40%
Other	\$334,000	\$385,000	15.27%
TOTAL	\$20,121,474	\$20,626,876	2.51%

What Else is on the Ballot?

**Two (2) Seats on the Board of Education.
(2) 3 year terms.**

Candidates:
Kenneth Aikens
Jonah Shaw
Kimberly Shepard
James R. Tucker, Jr.

“Virtual”

Budget Hearing
June 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.



Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi
 2 Sheldon Drive
 Delhi, New York 13753

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Norwich
 New York
 13815
 Permit #18

Board of Education

Elizabeth Huneke, President
 Tammy Neumann, Vice President
 Ken Aikens
 Seth Haight
 Lucy Kelly
 Sean Leddy
 Mark Schneider

Current Resident or

ECRWSS
 Postal Patron

DELAWARE ACADEMY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AT DELHI

2020-21 School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL		Budget Adopted 19-20	Budget Proposed 20-21	Contingency Budget 20-21*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions		\$ 20,121,474	\$ 20,626,876	\$ 20,519,376
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year			\$ 505,403	\$ 397,902
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget			2.5118%	1.97749%
Change in the Consumer Price Index			1.80%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount		\$ 9,514,624	\$ 9,681,130	
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)		\$ 9,514,624	\$ 9,681,130	\$ 9,647,829
F. Total Permissible Exclusions		\$ 0	\$ 0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions		\$ 9,604,485	\$ 9,742,975	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)		\$ 9,514,624	\$ 9,681,130	
I. Difference: (G - H) Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval **		\$ 89,861	\$ 61,845	
Administrative Component		\$ 1,958,134	\$ 1,993,865	\$ 1,993,865
Program Component		\$ 14,288,431	\$ 14,725,223	\$ 14,717,723
Capital Component		\$ 3,874,909	\$ 3,907,788	\$ 3,807,788
Est. Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount		
		Desc:	Desc:	Desc:
\$ 426		\$	\$	\$
*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.				
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi, Delaware County, New York, will be held in the Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi in said district on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. ***Pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.26 all voting will be done by Absentee Ballot.***				
¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.				
**Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.				