**Budget Q & A**

**Q:** Why is there an increase to the budget during this difficult time?

**A:** Most of the budget, about 89%, is non-negotiable items such as federal and state mandates and personnel salaries and benefits. The other 11%, as well as the 89% of the budget stated above, was reviewed and reductions and cuts were made. Reductions and cuts include the elimination of teaching and non-instructional positions through retirements and vacancies; reductions in professional development and conferences; and managing home teaching in-district, amongst other items that won’t negatively compromise or impact the education of our students.

**Q:** Can the district use any potential savings from the pandemic crisis for the 2020-2021 school year’s budget?

**A:** While there may be savings in 2019-2020, due to the pandemic crisis and school closings, the savings will not be known until after the 2020-2021 budget is voted upon. Any potential savings will be allotted to fund balance and available in the following budget cycle. The amount of savings we will see will be utilized in the 2021-2022 school year.

**Q:** What does it mean to have the budget “stay within the tax cap” or “not exceeded the maximum allowable tax levy”?

**A:** The 2% tax levy is not straight across the board for each district. The tax cap calculation is complicated, consisting of many factors and calculations. The end result of this calculation is the maximum allowable tax levy. At that time, the dollar and percentage rate difference from the previous school year can be calculated and compared. The Board of Education and District administration has always approved a budget that has “stayed within the tax cap” or “not exceeded the maximum allowable tax levy”.

**Q:** What happens if the voters do not approve the budget on June 9th?

**A:** If the budget fails to pass, the district may have to go to a contingency budget requiring the reduction of expenses by approximately an additional $7 million.

Continued on page 4

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**Proposition #1: 2020-21 Budget**

**Proposition #2: Bus Purchase**

- **Vehicle Type**  
  - 71 Passenger Buses – diesel  
  - 20 Passenger Vans - gasoline  
  - 28/30 Passenger Vans – gasoline  
  - Transportation Service Truck

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Type</th>
<th>Number of Vehicles Being Requested</th>
<th>Cost per Vehicle</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71 Passenger Buses – diesel</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$115,046</td>
<td>$1,725,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Passenger Vans - gasoline</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$54,355</td>
<td>$217,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/30 Passenger Vans – gasoline</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$59,603</td>
<td>$238,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Service Truck</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $2,271,522

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**Meet the BOE Candidates**

- Peggy KELLAND
- John C. LUMIA
- Keith ODUMS
- Ved SHRAVAH

Three seats are open. For more information visit [https://bit.ly/MeetTheBOECandidates](https://bit.ly/MeetTheBOECandidates)

Visit www.wappingerschools.org for more information or contact Alberta Pedro, District Clerk by email at alberta.pedro@wcsdny.org or phone at 845-298-5000

**Absentee Ballots Must be Received by June 9, 2020 @ 5PM**
Dear WCSD Community,

The 2019-2020 school year has been challenging for everyone. We have exceptionally talented and capable students who have enriched our community with school plays, musical performances, the science fair, Science Olympiad, Arts-in-the-Park, and athletic competitions. Then the COVID-19 pandemic created an unforeseen reality that has impacted education and has changed the world for all students.

WCSD students have missed out on significant milestones like the junior and senior proms and the traditional graduation ceremony marking the next chapter in their lives. This year’s ceremony will be subject to health guidance from our Governor. Our hearts go out to the amazing students of the class of 2020 and to our staff members who are concluding their careers with us. Their contributions have made a lasting impact over the years.

In spite of the uncertainty of what education may look like in the near future, we continue to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. State school aid was frozen at last year’s level, while non-negotiable costs continued to rise. We await guidance as to possible additional cuts in aid, as well as potential increased expenses for social distancing. It has been extremely difficult to create a 2020-2021 budget for your vote.

Although we have had to face many reductions and cuts, no one in our WCSD learning community will lose employment. Most importantly, we have been able to maintain small class sizes and to keep all academic programs intact, including athletics and the fine and performing arts. Our primary goal is to continue to provide our students with a high-quality and well-rounded education.

On the front page of this Budget newsletter, you will see each proposition on the ballot: Budget, Bus Purchase, and Board of Education Candidates. It is important to note that WCSD remains within the allowable tax cap. Safety and security continue to be of utmost importance, as evidenced by the second proposition, which reflects the purchase of new buses and vans to replace an aging fleet. In the face of this crisis, we need to do what is BEST for our students and families.

This year, voters will have the opportunity to select up to three individuals to serve as members of the Wappingers Board of Education for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020. The candidates will appear on the ballot as follows: Peggy Kelland, John C. Lumia, Keith Odums, and Ved Shravah.

More information about the Budget and Bus Purchase propositions and the Board Candidates is available on our website at www.wappingerss.schools.org. We hope that all of our presentations, information on our website, and continued social media presentations will assist you in making informed decisions when casting your ballot. Please do not forget that absentee ballots must be received by Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

John Lumia
President of the Board of Education

José L. Carrión
Superintendent of Schools
WCSD Valedictorians & Salutatorians

WCSD proudly salutes the achievements of our Valedictorians and Salutatorians!

Top Row: Valedictorians:
Jessica Healey, from John Jay HS, Cara Carbone, from Roy C. Ketcham HS, and Autumn Sharpe, from Orchard View AHS

Bottom Row: Salutatorians:
Brielle Miano and Matthew Long, from John Jay HS, Tabshir Forkan from Roy C. Ketcham HS, and Rosie Halstead, from Orchard View AHS

Stay strong, stay positive, keep in touch with loved ones and be proud to be a Patriot!

Together in #RCKspirit

Things are a little different this year and a little distant. But your walk across the stage doesn’t make you a Ketcham Indian. You were part of Ketcham Nation the moment you walked into school four years ago.

Once a Patriot always a Patriot

Turn your Can’ts into Cans and your Dreams into Plans.

Turn this pain into power.

A legacy of adapting & perseverance

#LifeislikeTEA...howYOUmakeit!

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations

Ketchamnation Graduate#2020

#justkeepswimming #seniorstrong

We aren’t low-key -
#classof2020 is the class to be

The OV class of 2020 will forever be remembered for their resilience, compassion, and friendships. Each of you have exemplified the true meaning of perseverance, and we are so very proud of you.

#OVFamily

#memoriesandfriendshipstolastalifetime

The future will look unlike anything we have known. With 2020 vision, I am confident we can see our way through this together.

Be proud to be a Patriot!

#JayVision

#keepyour2020visionbright

#MayyouDANCE!

Congrats Seniors UR #RCKStrong!

School started the journey
Graduation changes the path.

Always make things fun.

If YOU care, it matters.

Reunited in #RCKspirit
**Overall Budget Proposal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year</th>
<th>Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year</th>
<th>Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</td>
<td>$234,950,988</td>
<td>$245,041,769</td>
<td>$237,725,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year</td>
<td>$10,090,781</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,774,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</td>
<td>4.29%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in the Consumer Price Index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | $169,171,293 | $175,328,236 | $169,171,293 |

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) | $169,171,293 | $175,328,236 | $169,171,293 |

F. Total Permissible Exclusions | $2,241,170 | $6,071,357 | $2,241,170 |

G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions | $166,930,123 | $169,256,879 | $166,930,123 |

H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D) | $166,930,123 | $169,256,879 | $166,930,123 |

I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | $0 | $0 | $0 |

Administrative Component | $21,942,227 | $22,567,923 | $21,371,996 |

Program Component | $186,357,977 | $193,037,557 | $187,160,128 |

Capital Component | $245,041,769 | $259,328,236 | $245,328,236 |

NYS sets limits for spending under a contingency budget. If Proposition 1 is defeated on June 9, 2020, absent a further Executive Order permitting the school district to hold a budget re-vote, it is anticipated that the Board of Education will adopt a contingency budget for the 2020-2021 school year no later than June 30, 2020. The district would be required to levy taxes for the 2020-2021 school year in the same amount as it has for the 2019-2020 school year. This will reduce the proposed expenditures for the 2020-2021 school year by $7,448,429.

Pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law a contingency budget would eliminate the following items: approximately 9 administrative positions, approximately 3-5 maintenance and custodial positions, approximately 38 teaching and support staff positions, plus significant reductions and/or cuts to inter-scholastics, extracurricular activities, reduced instructional slots, course selection options and opportunities at the HS level; reduction in the number of students to attend career training programs at BOCES; and additional cuts to contracted services, supplies, materials and resources for the classroom.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions is not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Proposition</td>
<td>$2,271,522</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Wappingers Central School District will be held Tuesday, June 9, 2020 per the Governor’s Executive Order No. 202.26. Qualified voters must return an absentee ballot via a postage paid return envelope to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

** Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings † (Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year) | $636.66

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

Questions & Answers Continued

A: ...Reductions would include the elimination of over 50 administrative, teaching and non-instructional positions; a major reduction of all interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities; reduction of instructional slots, course selection options and opportunities at the HS level; reduction in the number of students to attend career training programs at BOCES; and additional cuts to contracted services, supplies, materials and resources for the classroom.

Q: What can you say about future budgets?

A: WCSD has followed a fiscally responsible process to balance this year’s budget. Taking this approach and using the allowable amount of the tax levy continues to increase the necessary fund balance in order to address the almost guaranteed continued financial downfall that New York may face. Our goal is to be able to continue to work responsibly and be resourceful for WCSD students and the community.

Congratulatory Remarks

To All of Our First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Graders, We Miss You and look forward to seeing you enter into the next grade level!

To our MOVING UP students in Kindergarten, Sixth and Eighth Grade.

A Special Congratulations to All of You and Your Families!

To our SENIORS – Page 3 is Just For YOU!

To our RETIREES – Congratulations and You Will be MISSED!