

The Impact of Sustained Success

*by Dr. Christopher R. Brown,
Superintendent of Schools*

Like many of you reading this, I am also a taxpayer in our community. The difference is that I am also the one ultimately responsible for preparing the budget that you consider, and for establishing the tax levy that each of us will pay a part of. This is a responsibility that is not taken lightly and your trust and support have been much appreciated throughout the years.



What we have Accomplished

We are in the midst of another tremendously successful school year. Our students have carried the West Genesee flag both in academics and athletics from coast to coast to compete in national championships after being crowned state champions. Our Fine Arts Department has been named one of the 2016 Best Communities for Music Education in the nation for the eighth time, another incredible feat, and the District has become the lead community partner in the fight against substance abuse.

Operationally, our Capital Project is entering the final phases remaining on time and on budget. We hope to have all construction complete by October, and I cannot say enough about the workers and supervisors and how they have respected our students, staff, and facilities.

In creating the budget for next school year, we will be continuing to focus on safety, academics, and managing our enrollment.

We will also be expanding our school counseling efforts to help the growing population of struggling students and families, while still expertly servicing students who are in more fortunate situations.

This balance of support will only make us stronger. As a result of these efforts, as well as the day to day work of our Board of Education, staff, and students, we will continue to improve our already award winning high completion rate.

This will all be accomplished with a financial plan that will be within the 1.77% tax cap established for West Genesee, making all residents who qualify, eligible for any tax program rebates that the state offers.

The one difference you will see at the polls this year will be the newer style ballot system. We tried to keep the old style voting machines as long as we could but the state did not renew our waiver request. We did order plenty of ballots and machines so that you can continue to enjoy voting with no lines as you have become accustomed to.

In Closing...

Thank you for your continued support and you have my personal word that we will continue to bring you the best education possible as efficiently as we can.

Inside this Budget Edition...

Summary, Bus, and Library Propositions
2

Budget Proposal
3

Budget Notice
4

Focus Areas
5

Candidate Bios
6-7

Voting Information
8

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Polls are open 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
High School Auditorium Lobby

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
High School Library – 7:00 p.m.

Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires districts to present their proposed budgets in three categories: program, capital, and administrative. The chart below shows the dollar amount and percentage of spending in each of those three categories in the 2015-16 budget and the proposed 2016-17 budget. An explanation of what is included in each of the categories is provided below:

Program:

- 2015-16.....\$61,781,680 ...78.594%
- 2016-17.....\$63,743,007....77.521%

Capital:

- 2015-16..... \$10,847,037....13.799%
- 2016-17..... \$12,275,021....14.928%

Administrative:

- 2015-16..... \$ 5,979,513.....7.607%
- 2016-17..... \$ 6,209,142.....7.551%

Total:

- 2015-16..... \$78,608,230....100.000%
- 2016-17..... \$82,227,170....100.000%

Program includes:

- all instructional programs, transportation, community service, and associated employee benefits.

Capital includes:

- operation of buildings, maintenance of buildings, refunded taxes, debt service, transfer to capital, and associated employee benefits.

Administrative includes:

- Board of Education, central administration, finance, legal services, personnel, public information, central services, special items, curriculum development and supplies, supervision of instruction, and associated employee benefits.

Budget Proposal

Shall the Board of Education of the West Genesee Central School District at Camillus be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$82,227,170 for the fiscal year 2016-17 and to levy the necessary tax for the local contribution thereto?

- The proposed 2016-17 budget requires an estimated 1.77% tax levy increase which is within the calculated tax cap.

Proposition #1 - District Vehicle/ Equipment Purchase

Shall the Board of Education of the West Genesee Central School District be authorized and directed to purchase nine (9) school buses for the 2016-17 school year for a total sum not to exceed \$1,081,200 and maintenance and custodial equipment not to exceed \$125,000 and to pay for said vehicles and equipment by the levy of a tax which may be 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?

- Under current law, the District is reimbursed approximately 76% of the cost of each bus from New York State over a 5-year period.

Proposition #2 - Fairmount and Maxwell Public Libraries

Shall the West Genesee 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 \$491,079 (which is an increase of \$132,000 from the combined levies in effect from 2015-2016 in the sum of \$359,079) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by the public libraries historically supported by the West Genesee Central School District, with said monies to be apportioned as follows:

- \$258,000 to Fairmount Community Library (an increase of \$66,000)
- \$233,079 to Maxwell Memorial Library (an increase of \$66,000)?

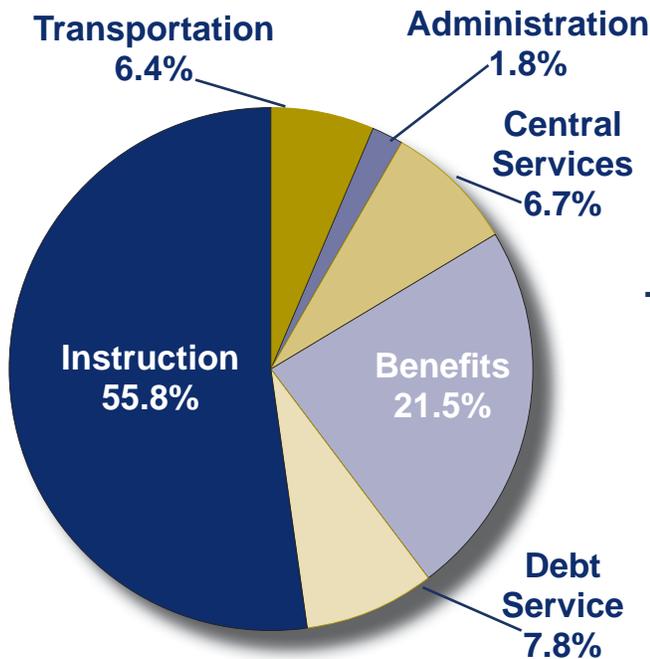
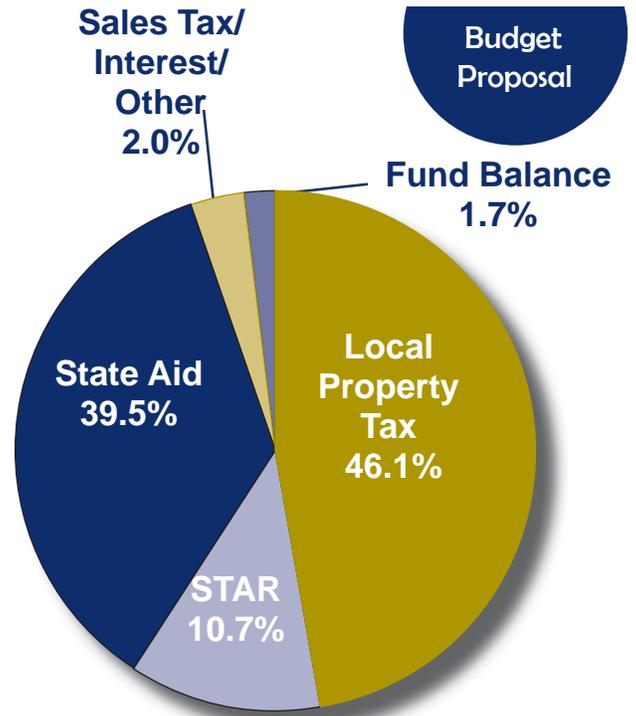
Proposition #3 - Onondaga Free Library

Shall the West Genesee 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 \$97,000 (which is an increase of \$9,000) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by the Onondaga Free Library historically supported by the West Genesee Central School District?

Budget Proposal

Revenues...where the money will come from...

Revenues	Actual 2015-16	Proposed 2016-17
State Aid	\$29,434,830	\$32,451,395
Local Property Taxes	37,423,775	37,946,170
STAR	8,530,860	8,822,560
Fund Balance	1,400,000	1,400,000
Sales Tax/Interest/Other	1,818,765	1,607,045
Total Revenue	\$78,608,230	\$82,227,170



...and what it will be spent on...Expenditures

Expenditures	Actual 2015-16	Proposed 2016-17
Instruction	\$43,254,185	\$45,902,790
Administration	1,391,915	1,468,030
Central Services	5,363,160	5,535,475
Transportation	5,068,295	5,227,855
Debt Service/Interfund	5,202,740	6,417,050
Benefits	18,327,935	17,675,970
Total Expenditures	\$78,608,230	\$82,227,170

What effect will the proposed budget have on my school taxes?

Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on the final assessment figures that are provided by towns and equalization rates for each town as provided by the state Office of Real Property Services. However, our District has estimated the true value tax rate for towns within our District. The true value tax rate is the estimated tax rate that a property owner with full value assessment and an equalization rate of 100% would pay per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The tax rates and increases for next year that are displayed in the chart are only estimates.

Estimated Tax Rates per \$1,000 of assessed value

Town	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Projected	\$ Change in Rate	Percent Increase	Percent of Tax Base
Camillus	\$23.14	\$23.55	\$0.41	1.77%	76.0%
Elbridge	\$23.15	\$23.56	\$0.41	1.77%	0.1%
Geddes	\$25.15	\$25.59	\$0.45	1.77%	5.3%
Onondaga	\$23.15	\$23.56	\$0.41	1.77%	15.7%
Van Buren	\$23.15	\$23.56	\$0.41	1.77%	2.9%

School District Budget Notice Summary

Each school district must mail a "School Budget Notice" to qualified voters in the District, as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 <u>School Year</u>	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 <u>School Year</u>	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 <u>School Year</u> *
Total budgeted amount	\$78,608,230	\$82,227,170	\$81,413,075
Increase/decrease for the 2015-16 school year		\$3,618,940	\$2,804,845
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		4.60%	3.57%
Change in the consumer price index		0.12%	
<hr/>			
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	\$45,954,635	\$46,768,730	
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 Yr Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C+D)	\$45,954,635	\$46,768,730	\$45,954,635
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,167,247	\$1,560,459	
G. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$44,787,388	\$45,206,272	
H. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$44,787,388	\$45,206,272	
I. Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval-See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$0	\$0	
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Administrative component	\$ 5,979,513	\$ 6,209,142	\$ 6,097,976
Program component	\$61,781,680	\$63,743,007	\$63,040,078
Capital component	\$10,847,037	\$12,275,021	\$12,275,021

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, all contingent budget items would be removed and the tax levy would be set at the legal limit. The budget would require that all equipment be removed and that public use of buildings and grounds be eliminated. Program reductions totaling \$814,095 would be required.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). (The Basic STAR Exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.)

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-2017 School Year \$ 696

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the West Genesee Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at West Genesee High School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Auditorium Lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

What is a contingency budget?

It is a budget which the Board of Education may establish without voter authorization in order to provide for an education program in the next school year. Under State Law, Boards can only pass a contingency budget that does not increase the tax levy over the prior year. Also, administrative expenses are capped at the same percentage as approved for 2015-16, or the percentage that was proposed for 2016-17, whichever is less.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

The Board of Education could decide to hold another vote on the same or a revised budget, to adopt a contingency budget, or to present one or more specific propositions.



We Strategically Focus our Resources to Enhance Learning

Embed the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts (including content area literacy) into Curriculum and Instruction.

- Continue to align grade level scope and sequences with the New York State Standards
- Enhance professional learning communities for teacher training

Analyze and improve Academic Support at All Instructional Levels with an emphasis on English Language Learners and the Response to Intervention Model, specifically on Tier 1 Interventions

- Provide teacher training on differentiated instruction to support all students' academic growth
- Utilize research-based interventions to close gaps in student achievement

Refine academic and social emotional counseling services to maintain a safe and supportive environment promoting the dignity and achievement of all members of the school community.

- Celebrate our diversity and help all stakeholders understand that our differences make us stronger
- Continue to enhance safety and security in all school buildings
- Increase student and family support through school and community connections that can minimize hurdles to academic success.

Increase support and access to instructional technology including but not limited to professional development, human resources and equipment.

- Enhance the District's technology plan to incorporate support for increased connectivity and computing needs of the 21st Century classroom
- Incorporate instructional technologies into curricula to support learners on all levels.



Demographics of our Graduating Seniors

Class	Number of Students	Graduation Rate	Percent of Class Receiving Special Education Services	Percent of Class Receiving Free or Reduced Lunch
2015	437	92%	9.2%	21.3%
2014	420	92%	8.6%	19.8%
2013	396	93%	8.1%	18.2%
2012	414	90%	9.4%	16.9%
2011	436	90%	11.5%	15.1%

Our Vision:
West Genesee continues to focus on improving, every day, the educational opportunities and academic performance of each student.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Residents may vote for a maximum of three (3) candidates. The vacancies are three (3) three-year terms. Candidates will be invited to speak at the Budget Public Hearing, Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

Eric Bacon



Eric Bacon of 100 Ivanhoe Avenue, Camillus, is a candidate for election to the Board of Education.

Eric and his wife Trisha have a daughter Sarah who is a fifth grader at Stonehedge Elementary School. He graduated from Weedsport Central Schools, then went on to receive his Associates Degree in Liberal Arts at Cayuga Community College, his Bachelors Degree in Recreation Management from SUNY Brockport, and his Masters Degree in Recreation Management from SUNY Cortland.

Bacon has been the Town of Camillus Director of Parks and Recreation since 2006. Prior to that, he was Director of Parks and Recreation for the Towns of Ogden, Chili, and Riga. He has been active in the community as a Camillus Optimist T-Ball Coach, a Camillus Softball and Baseball Association (CSBA) Softball Coach, a member of the Town of Camillus/West Genesee Hall of Fame Committee, and a member of the Memorial Day Parade Committee.

When asked why he wants to be on the Board of Education he shared, "Just like every parent, the most important thing in my life is my child. I want to make sure that my daughter and every student in the District has the best opportunities to give them the best education possible."

"Through my position as the Director of Parks and Recreation, I have had the opportunity to meet many people in our community. I feel as though I have an excellent understanding of their expectations and their values. Having this understanding, coupled with 19 years' experience as a public servant, I believe I have the necessary abilities to make a contribution."



Karen M. Fruscello



Karen M. Fruscello of 202 East Kimberly Drive, Syracuse, is a candidate for election to the Board of Education.

She is currently a Peer Observer, observing teachers for their NYS APPR in the Syracuse City School District. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Utica College and her Master of Science degree from Syracuse University.

Karen has also received training in Reading Recovery from SUNY Cortland.

Fruscello has more than 25 years of experience in the field of education working with diverse populations of students in Grades K-8. This includes being an Academic Intervention Specialist at Roberts School, a Reading Recovery teacher at Van Duyn Elementary School, an inclusion teacher at Huntington School (K-8), and a teacher at Delaware School (K-6).

Her husband, Dominic, is a teacher at Camillus Middle School in the social studies department, and he is also known as the "Voice of the Wildcats". Their daughter, Maria, graduated from West Genesee in 2011. She is currently working on her graduate degree at Syracuse University.

Fruscello is a Eucharistic Minister and has taught religious education at Holy Family Church. Karen has also been a consultant for the YMCA After-School and Summer School programs, and an election inspector for the Onondaga County Board of Elections.

When asked why she wanted to continue on the Board of Education, Karen shared, "I am proud of the work we have accomplished. We have faced some difficult decisions and challenges. Yet, through all of it we are still a District that is strong and able to meet the needs of our students. It has been my honor to serve our community."

"It is my desire to continue the good work we have started and build on it. I believe my extensive background in education along with my dedication will help continue to make West Genesee one of the strongest, most vibrant Districts in Onondaga County."

TO ACCESS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT, CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES:



BLOGGER



TWITTER



FACEBOOK

Roberta M. Herron



Roberta (Bobbie) M. Herron of 128 Peridot Drive, Syracuse, is a candidate for re-election to the Board of Education.

Bobbie and her husband Scott are both graduates of West Genesee High School. They have three children. Their twin sons Sean and Christopher are juniors at West Genesee High School and daughter Julia is a 2015 graduate of West Genesee.

Bobbie is currently employed with Total Care; a Medicaid Managed Care Company as a Business Analyst. She has close to 30 years of professional experience having been previously employed by AXA Equitable for 24 years, and ISSI Technology Professionals as an IT recruiter.

She has served on West Genesee's Board of Education since 2007 and is presently the Board President. Bobbie has been active on several BOE Committees; including Strategic Planning Committee, Policies and Bylaws Committee, Parent Curriculum Information Council, Ad Hoc Employees Benefit Committee, and the District's Audit Committee. Bobbie also holds a seat as a director on the Onondaga Madison School Board Association, representing West Genesee.

She and her family are members of St. Joseph's Church, where she serves as both Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She is an alumni of and currently volunteers for the West Genesee Marching Band as Color Guard Instructor. She is a former volunteer for Meals on Wheels of Syracuse.

As a lifelong resident of Camillus and a West Genesee Alumnus, Bobbie said, "I consider the success, safety, and overall development of every student to be the primary focus of our board. Supporting our students and staff is a valuable investment and asset to our community. I have a deep devotion to preserving and building on the quality of our District.

"By continuing my service on the Board, I am committed to supporting the continued successes of the District and am prepared to undertake any challenges. I feel that my continued dedication, enthusiasm, and knowledge will be beneficial, and I would be proud to continue my role on the West Genesee Board of Education."

YOU CAN ALSO ACCESS UP-TO-DATE NEWS AND INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM WESTGENESEE.ORG OR OUR MOBILE PHONE APP.



Tonya D. Wilson



Tonya D. Wilson of 4 Meadow Lane, Camillus is a candidate for election to the Board of Education.

She and her husband Jim have been married and living in the Camillus area for 16 years. They have three daughters: Rachel who is a freshman at West Genesee High School; Jessica who is in the 8th grade at

Camillus Middle School; and Judy who is a 5th grader at East Hill Elementary School.

For the last 15 years, she has had the opportunity to be a stay at home mother. She is currently working part-time at Maxwell Memorial Library in Camillus and also part-time at Michael's in Fairmount where she is a paper crafting instructor. Professionally, she has worked in the field of Dental Practice Management in Virginia Beach and the city of Syracuse.

Over the years, she has had the opportunity to give back to the community by volunteering at: Camillus Babysitting Co-operative at St. Luke's Church and then at Christ Community Church, Camillus Babysitting Service at First Presbyterian Church, Mom's N Tots at St. Joseph's Church, Mommy & Me at Christ Community Church, and Christ Community Church.

Tonya has been actively involved for 10 years as a volunteer at East Hill Elementary School, and a member of the CMSPTO, WGHSPTSO, and West Genesee Special Education PTSA. Most recently, her community service has been dedicated to the advocacy of public education and support of Opt Out CNY, a group of parents and educators dedicated to informing the Central New York public about the impact that Common Core State Standards, high stakes testing, and data mining are having on public education.

When asked why she would like to be on the Board Tonya stated, "I am interested in joining the West Genesee Board of Education because the future of public education and education policies are important to our community's future. It is my hope that as a Board of Education member I might be able to further advocate for the concerns of parents across the District about the future of public education.

"I am proud to be a part of such a successful and academically enriched community as West Genesee Central Schools. I look forward to the opportunity to take part in the direction of future policy decisions."

WG Communicator

2016-2017 BUDGET PROPOSAL

WEST GENESEE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Publications Office
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Camillus, NY 13031
Telephone 315-487-2179

Web site: westgenesee.org

e-mail: brussell@westgenesee.org

Christopher Brown, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Brian Kesel, Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Paul Pelton, Assistant Superintendent
for Management Services
Debra Miller, Assistant Superintendent
for Human Resources
Bonnie Russell, School Information Officer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Roberta Herron, President

Karen Fruscello, Vice President

Kimberly Coyne

Vladimiro Hart-Zavoli

Shawn Mitchell

Kimberly Sacco

Joseph Simon

James Soper

Neil Widrick

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Voting Information...

Who is eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote on May 17, 2016 if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and have been a District resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No pre-registration is required although personal identification may be requested at the polls. Questions? Call the District Clerk at 315-487-4563.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who will not be in the area on May 17, 2016 may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office.

If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote. If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 16, 2016.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 17, 2016.

When and where is the vote?

The Annual School District Board of Education Election and Budget Vote will take place from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, in the West Genesee High School Auditorium Lobby.

Please note: We will again be using a computerized registration system this year. The voting will take place on new paper scanners for the first time.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Below is a schedule of visual presentations by Superintendent Dr. Christopher Brown of the proposed 2016-2017 school budget at these PTA/PTO and public meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting & Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 18	PTA/PTO Presentations at WGHS LGI Room	7:00 p.m.
May 4	Budget Public Hearing at the High School Library	7:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend any of these presentations.

