

Spring 2023

Message from the Superintendent

The 2022-2023 school year has been filled with examples of great success. As seen in the regular editions of the West Genesee District e-Newsletters, there have been celebrations of student accomplishments, group successes, and ongoing achievements across a wide-array of areas within a comprehensive educational program. Our extra-curricular areas have had great success regionally, across New York State, and at the national level. Please take the time to visit (and revisit) our website for current and archived stories that celebrate hard work and recognition in a plethora of areas.

The Board of Education continues to stay active in bi-monthly regular meetings, sub-committee work, in visits with administrators, and as representatives to District committees including the Facilities Committee, Parent Curriculum Information Council, and District Strategic Planning Committee. This year, meetings have been scheduled to meet in every school building to showcase that building, the implementation of initiatives, and in celebration of the staff. This change in scheduling has been enjoyable to provide visibility and recognition due to all grades and levels.

The District Strategic Planning Team now operates with the name District Guiding Coalition to remain in-sync with the seven school buildings where there is a functioning Guiding Coalition. The three focus areas are Curriculum and Assessment, Social-Emotional Learning, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Within the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, found on a dedicated page of the West Genesee website, you can find a description of the work, the members involved, and the goals and action steps of the coalition.

Our District Safety Committee continues to meet and update plans that are approved by the Board of Education annually. Some of the recent work includes a safety audit from Armoured One LLC to objectively review our daily operations and procedures with a view to continued improvement. We will continue the relationship established this year as we look to the 2023-2024 school year fully staffed with our School Resource/Patrol

Officer program; one officer in each of our seven buildings. This is only one part of the ongoing work done in partnership with the Camillus Police Department and the Town of Camillus.



Upgrades to security equipment are also planned for the upcoming school year.

The 2023-2024 proposed school budget includes attention to safety, mental health, curriculum and instruction, technology, operations, and extracurricular supports. Enrollment and program-based needs are reflected in increased staffing in the areas of English language learning, special education, counseling, reading, fine arts, technology, and clerical support. We anticipate the continuation and possible expansion* of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten initiative begun this year. Professional development needs are addressed in planned expenditures to further the work of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and for appropriate workshops and conferences regarding work identified in the Strategic Plan Focus Areas. This year, the program portion of our budget has increased and the estimated tax levy is an increase of 2.70% and within the tax cap.

**At this writing, the NYS Budget has not been finalized and is predicted to result in a third extender to support state spending.*

We continue our goal, as stated in the West Genesee Mission Statement, for students to become cooperative, self-directed, productive, caring citizens. It is also our continued goal to offer comprehensive experiences that will interest and challenge our students of all ages.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our schools. We share the awesome responsibility to create experiences today that shape our tomorrow, and tomorrow's tomorrow. We are West Genesee Wildcats - Stronger Together!

David C. Bills, Superintendent of Schools

Inside this Budget Edition...

Summary, Transportation/Maintenance Equipment, Libraries	2
Budget Proposal	3
Budget Notice	4
Focus Areas/Library Proposition/Addition of Ex Officio Student Board Member to BOE	5
BOE Information/Candidate Bios	6-7
Voting Information	8

PUBLIC HEARING

**Wednesday,
May 3, 2023**
 Video Recording
 Available on Website

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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

Three-Part Budget Summary

New York State requires districts to present their proposed budget 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 2022-2023 budget and the proposed 2023-2024 budget. An explanation of what is included in each of the categories is provided below:

Program:

- 2022-2023..... \$77,432,805....79.60%
- 2023-2024..... \$84,289,458....79.70%

Capital:

- 2022-2023..... \$12,691,555....13.05%
- 2023-2024..... \$13,710,046....13.00%

Administrative:

- 2022-2023..... \$ 7,155,400.....7.35%
- 2023-2024..... \$ 7,749,546.....7.30%

Total:

- 2022-2023..... \$ 97,279,760...100.00%
- 2023-2024..... \$105,749,050...100.00%

Program includes:

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

Capital includes:

- Operation and security of buildings, maintenance of buildings, refunded taxes, debt service, and associated employee benefits. The Capital portion also includes a transfer to Capital for \$100,000 to be used for a Capital outlay building project. The District will receive approximately 85% building aid on this project in the 2024-2025 school year. The project will focus on security upgrades, replacements, and renovations at West Genesee High School.

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.

2023-2024 School Budget Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the West Genesee Central School District at Camillus be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$105,749,050 (one hundred-five million, seven hundred forty-nine thousand, fifty dollars) for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and to levy the necessary tax for the local contribution thereto?

- The proposed 2023-2024 budget requires an estimated 2.70% tax levy increase which is within the calculated tax cap.

Proposition #1 - Transportation and Maintenance Equipment Purchase

Shall the Board of Education of the West Genesee Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance eleven (11) student transport vehicles and two (2) maintenance pick-up truck vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$1,929,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, 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, in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,929,000, shall be issued?

Proposition #2 - Fairmount Community 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 \$383,609 (which is an increase of \$14,754 from the Fairmount Community Library Tax Levy in effect from 2022-2023 in the sum of \$368,855) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to District residents by the Fairmount Community Library historically supported by the residents of the West Genesee Central School District?

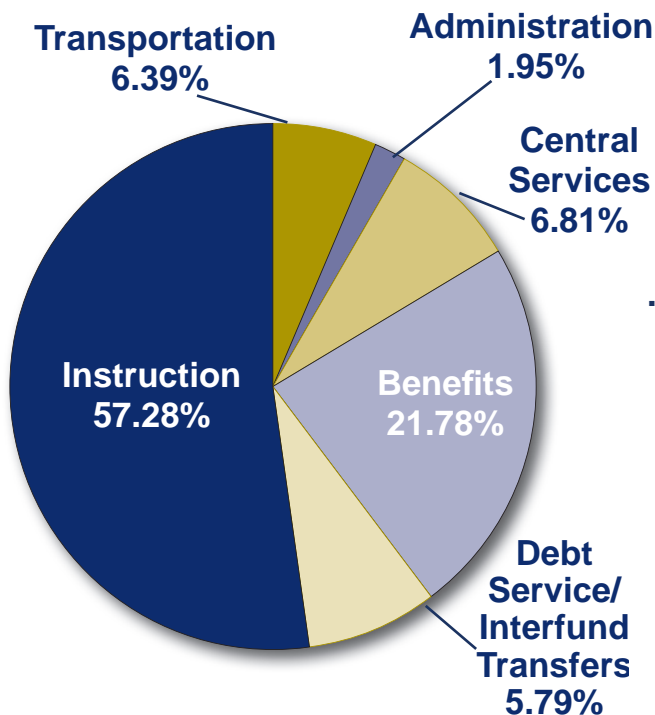
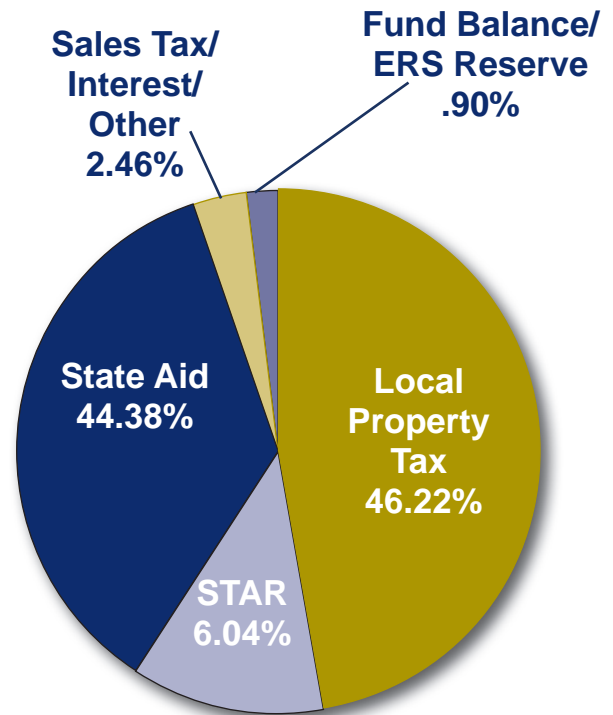
Proposition #3 - Maxwell Memorial Library

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 \$381,449 (which is an increase of \$14,671 [or 4%] from 2022 in the sum of \$366,778) for the continuing support and maintenance of the free library services offered to district residents by Maxwell Memorial Library historically supported by the West Genesee Central School District?

Propositions #4 and #5 are continued on page 5...

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

Revenues	Actual 2022-2023	Proposed 2023-2024
State Aid	\$40,210,872	\$46,935,107
STAR - NYS	6,589,052	6,386,030
Local Property Taxes	47,220,656	48,876,847
Fund Balance	450,000	500,000
ERS Reserve	450,000	450,000
Sales Tax/Interest/Other	2,359,180	2,601,066
Total Revenue	\$97,279,760	\$105,749,050



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

Expenditures	Actual 2022-2023	Proposed 2023-2024
Instruction	\$55,079,963	\$60,577,535
Administration	1,820,473	2,060,142
Central Services	6,264,303	7,196,546
Transportation	6,277,605	6,754,478
Debt Service/Interfund	5,941,013	6,028,802
Interfund Transfer to Capital	100,000	100,000
Benefits	21,796,403	23,031,547
Total Expenditures	\$97,279,760	\$105,749,050

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

This table represents the estimated tax rates, per \$1,000 of assessed value of your home. As with previous years, we have presented the estimated maximum tax rates that you will see on your tax bill. We typically come in under what we estimate. Please note that these tax rates do not take into consideration your STAR Exemption.

The actual tax rate for each town will be set in August. The tax rates will be based on the final assessment figures that are provided by each town and the equalization rates provided by the NYS Office of Real Property Services.

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

Town	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Estimated	\$ Change in Rate	Percent Increase	Percent of Tax Base
Camillus	\$20.99	\$21.56	\$0.57	2.70%	75.47%
Elbridge	\$23.97	\$24.62	\$0.65	2.70%	0.04%
Geddes	\$29.08	\$29.86	\$0.78	2.70%	5.49%
Onondaga	\$26.12	\$26.83	\$0.71	2.70%	15.93%
Van Buren	\$20.33	\$20.88	\$0.55	2.70%	3.07%

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 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount Not Including Separate Propositions	\$97,279,760	\$105,749,050	\$104,295,881
Increase/decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$ 8,469,290	\$ 7,016,121
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.71%	7.21%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.00%	
<hr/>			
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$53,809,708	\$55,262,877	
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)	\$53,809,708	\$55,262,877	\$53,809,708
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,450,876	\$1,544,847	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$52,358,832	\$53,718,030	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$52,358,832	\$53,718,030	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
<hr/>			
Administrative component	\$ 7,155,400	\$ 7,749,546	\$ 7,625,005
Program component	\$77,432,805	\$84,289,458	\$83,110,830
Capital component	\$12,691,555	\$13,710,046	\$13,560,046

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. All non-contingent items would be removed. Public use of the buildings and grounds may be prohibited. The administrative component will be capped at 8.42%. Program reductions of \$1,178,628 will need to be made.

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

Description	Amount

**NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$664

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 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 16, 2023 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Auditorium Lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by machine ballot unless machines are unavailable, in which paper ballots will be used.

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. The administrative component of a contingency budget must not exceed the lesser of the percent the administrative component comprised in the 2022-2023 budget (exclusive of the capital component) or the percent the administrative component comprised in the last defeated budget (exclusive of the capital component).

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

Strategic Focus 1: Curriculum and Instruction

Implement district-wide norms for a continuous cycle of standards, curriculum, instruction, and common assessment implementation and review.

Strategic Focus 2: Social-Emotional Learning

- Establish a multi-tiered system of support incorporating academic, behavioral, and social emotional support services throughout the school community.
- Enhance student engagement in school-related extracurricular activities and student clubs

Strategic Focus 3: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Provide resources and ongoing professional development regarding diversity, inclusion and antiracism to create a safe, supportive, and equitable school climate and culture for ALL students.

Proposition #4 - 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 \$105,994 (which is an increase of \$3,087 from the levy in effect from 2022-2023 in the sum of \$102,907) 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?

Proposition #5 - Addition of Ex Officio Student Board Member to Board of Education

Should a high school senior student be designated to serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Education, and thereby be entitled to sit with Board Members at all its public meetings, and participate therein, but without the authority to vote on matters before the Board or to attend executive sessions?

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
2022	340	95%	9.0%	21.0%
2021	355	93%	12.0%	27.0%
2020	415	97%	10.8%	27.2%
2019	398	97%	10.3%	22.1%
2018	386	95%	11.1%	25.9%
2017	385	93%	10.2%	27.3%



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Residents may vote for up to three (3) candidates. The vacancies are two (2) three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2023 and one (1) three-year, one month, and 14-day term starting May 17, 2023. Candidates will be invited to speak at the Budget Public Hearing, Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Responsibilities of the Board of Education

The West Genesee Board of Education is the elected policy-making body of the District. At West Genesee, the Board consists of nine members who serve without pay. The term of office is generally for three years, (July 1 - June 30), with three positions elected at the annual election each year.

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing the quality of education in the District. It serves as a liaison between the schools and the community.

The Board of Education:

- Defines the philosophy of the District
- Establishes the policies for the operation of the District
- Recruits and hires the superintendent
- Sets goals and objectives to achieve educational progress
- Evaluates the effectiveness of District programs and services
- Adopts and monitors a budget consistent with educational needs and community resources
- Communicates the needs and progress of the District to the community, educational governing boards, and legislators
- Acts on recommendations set forth by the superintendent regarding financial, personnel/operational, and curriculum items

Regular Meetings

Board of Education Meetings are generally held the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at West Genesee High School unless otherwise noted.



Our Mission: "The mission of the West Genesee Central School District, in partnership with the community, is to ensure that each student attains the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary, not only for lifelong learning, but also for becoming a cooperative, self-directed, productive, caring citizen."



Kathryne A. Moulton

Kathryne A. Moulton of 221 Starksboro Drive, Camillus NY is running for a position on the Board of Education.



She and her husband Ryan, a West Genesee graduate, have three children in the West Genesee School District: Desmond, an eighth grader at CMS; Kaleb a sixth grader at WGMS; and Emerson, a second grader at East Hill.

She earned her C.A.S. in Educational Leadership from Syracuse University, a Masters in Education from University at Buffalo, and a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education from University at Buffalo.

She is currently a Principal at Meachem Elementary in the Syracuse City School District since July 2016; previously the Principal at Clary Middle School in the same school district. She has also been a Vice Principal at Southside Academy Charter and before that a teacher for five years in that school.

Her family is active within our West Genesee community as she has two sons that play lacrosse for The Wild, where her husband is an Assistant Coach. Her youngest son also plays hockey for CYHA, and she supports their Parent Org. She has also served as an Assistant Coach for WOYSA.

She shared, "I am a mother of three children who are all school aged and attending West Genesee schools. Currently a principal, I am an educator who has always had a passion for serving others.

"I would like to serve our community on our school board because I feel that I will bring a balanced and informed perspective by my deep understanding of the educational system as a parent, an educator, and an active community member. I also enjoy being part of the decision-making process by challenging what is not right, supporting best decisions for children, and thinking outside the box."

Jeffrey M. Reina

Jeffrey M. Reina of 128 Snowflake Circle, Camillus, is a candidate for re-election to the Board of Education.



Reina and his wife Courtney have two children currently attending West Genesee High School. Their daughter Avery is a senior and their son Cameron is a sophomore. Courtney, a West Genesee graduate, began her teaching career in the District in 2001, and is currently an Instructional Specialist at East Hill Elementary School.

A graduate of Liverpool High School (1994), he earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering and Interdisciplinary Engineering and Management from Clarkson University ('98). He is a Professional Engineer and is employed by C&S Companies. He currently leads the highway team as department manager within C&S's Transportation Service Group.

As a current board member, he has been active in several committees including the Claims Audit Sub-Committee, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, Safety Committee, Finance Committee, and the Facilities Committee. He was also part of the internal review committee to assist in the recertification of the District's CTE Engineering Technology Strand this past December.

When asked why he is seeking re-election he shared, "I want to continue to have an integral role in shaping the future of our District. I believe prioritizing the continued awareness of mental health, providing a safe and supporting learning environment, and being intentional about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, is critical to the success of our students.

"I hope to continue serving our community by representing all students, faculty and staff, and taxpayers of the West Genesee Central School District."

Barbara A. Wells, Ph.D

Barbara "Barb" A. Wells, Ph.D of 110 Terrytown Heights Drive is running for a position on the Board of Education.



She and her husband Brian have four children. Their sons Christopher and Hunter are graduates of the District. Their daughter, Isabelle, is a senior and son, Bryce, is a freshman at WGHS.

Wells earned her Ph.D. from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Pharmacology and her Bachelors of Science degree from Le Moyne College in Psychology with Chemistry and Biology minors. She is a Professor of Biology at Onondaga Community College (OCC) and has taught Anatomy and Physiology for 13 years at the college.

She has been involved in a multitude of community/District entities in the past and/or present in various capacities including, but not limited to: West Genesee Board of Education member (2018-2021), OCC Faculty Senator, Upstate Childcare Center Board of Directors member, K-12 Partnership College Credit mentor, CTE engineering recertification review, WGSD and OCC search committees, West Genesee PCIC, West Genesee District Council, Onondaga Road Elementary School Shared Decision Making Committee (SDMC), WGMS SDMC, Onondaga Road Elementary School PTA, WGMS PTA, Onondaga Road Elementary Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon Chairwoman and Environmental Challenge Science Fair judge.

She shared, "I recognize the importance of a Board that listens to input from its constituents and carefully weighs options before making critical decisions.

"As an educator in higher education, a former social worker, and a parent, I believe I offer a unique perspective that will support our teachers and schools in an effort to cultivate a learning environment where students can reach their full academic and personal potential."

WG Communicator

2023-2024 BUDGET EDITION

WEST GENESEE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Publications Office
300 Sanderson Drive
Camillus, NY 13031
Telephone 315-487-2179
Website: westgenesee.org
Email: brussell@westgenesee.org

David C. Bills, Superintendent of Schools
Brian Kesel, Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Christine DeMass, Assistant Superintendent
for Management Services
David Cirillo, Director of Staff Relations
Bonnie Russell, School Information Officer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kimberly Coyne, President
Jennifer James, Vice President
Eric Bacon Elizabeth Donaldson
Vladimiro Hart-Zavoli Matthew Hudson
Jeffrey Reina Aaron Ryder

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAMILLUS, NY
PERMIT NO. 8

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Voting Information...

Who is eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote on May 16, 2023 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. Questions? Call the District Clerk at 315-487-4563.

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 16, 2023 in the West Genesee High School Auditorium Lobby.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who are unable to appear personally at the polling place on May 16, 2023, due to one of several reasons specified by law, 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 15, 2023. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 16, 2023.



Our Vision:

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