



EDUCATIONmatters

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 16

12 noon – 9 p.m.

Middle School Cafeteria

What am I voting on?

Voters will decide on the following items:

- A \$30,103,377 budget for the 2017-18 school year
- Selection of three Board of Education members
- Purchase of five school buses

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS: All voters must be United States citizens, age 18 or older on Election Day. Voters must be residents of the Cairo-Durham Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to Election day and registered to vote.

REGISTERING TO VOTE: Voter registration is required. Voters can register to vote with the Greene County Board of Elections or with the district on Tuesday, May 9 from 4-8 p.m. in the high school lobby. You are registered to vote if you have voted in the Cairo-Durham CSD election in the past four years.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Residents who will be unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You can obtain an absentee ballot by completing an absentee ballot application in the Board Clerk's office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The application deadline is May 5 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered. Please call (518) 622-8534, extension 25010 for more information.

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Proposed Budget Focuses on Student Programming

On Tuesday, May 16, the Cairo-Durham CSD community will vote on a proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year, as well as three open seats for the Board of Education and the purchase of five school buses. The proposed spending plan would expand student support services, educational opportunities and non-instructional support staff.

The \$30,103,377 proposed budget, which increases spending by \$1,137,222 over the current year's budget, requires an estimated 2.57% increase in the tax levy.

This increase is within the allowable tax levy, meaning that it is within New York State's Property Tax Cap. Therefore, qualifying residents would receive a refund check from the state.

The most notable changes to the budget would be the addition of key support staff. The proposed budget includes a part-time speech therapist as well as a full-time social worker to address personal/social issues impacting student attendance and academic achievement, provide counseling services, and offer support to families in accessing social services.

The proposed budget would enhance educational opportunities by allowing for the purchase

of new Chromebook laptops for all students in Grades 7, 9 and 10. Additional Chromebooks would be purchased for all grades at Cairo-Durham Elementary (CDE). A part-time non-instructional "help desk" position would be created to support students, faculty and staff with day-to-day technical issues in a timely fashion.

Other non-instructional support included in the proposed budget is a K-12 Math Specialist and a K-8 Response to Intervention (RTI) Coordinator to support Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teachers.

"Similar to last year, this budget proposal continues to focus on student programming," said Superintendent Anthony Taibi. "A primary goal is to prepare our students for college, career and life beyond school. We want to ensure that our students have the very best opportunities we are able to provide."

The May 16 ballot will contain additional propositions for the Board of Education election and bus purchasing. Residents will be asked to elect three (3) candidates to fill school board vacancies. Residents will also vote on the purchase of five (5) buses as part of the District's board-approved replacement plan.



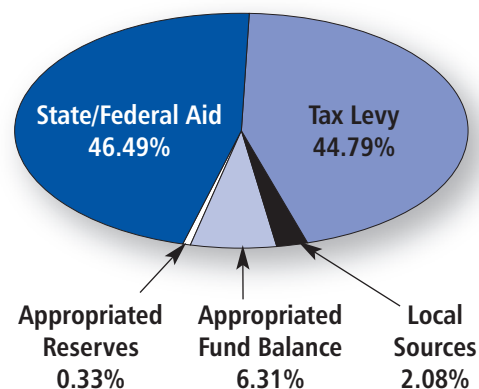
This year, nearly 300 new titles were added to the library collection at Cairo-Durham Elementary. Most of the new items are non-fiction to support curriculum, and students have been excited to read about topics such as science, weather, outer space and computer coding. Read more inside!



Where the money comes from...

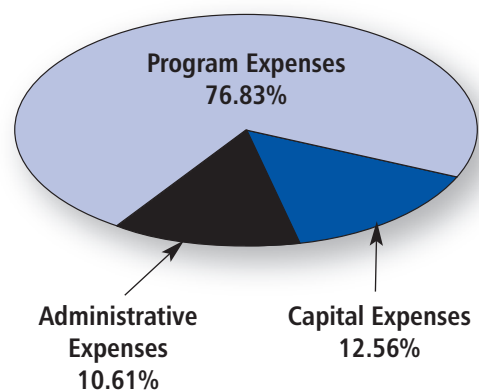
Source of Funds	2016-2017 Budget	2017-2018 Proposed	Increase/Decrease	Percent Change
State/Federal Aid	\$13,194,082	\$13,994,018	\$ 799,936	6.06%
Tax Levy	13,147,417	13,484,703	337,286	2.57%
Local Sources*	624,656	624,656	—	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,900,000	1,900,000	—	0.00%
Appropriated Reserves	100,000	100,000	—	0.00%
TOTAL	\$28,966,155	\$30,103,377	\$ 1,137,222	3.93%

* includes payments in lieu of taxes, interest penalties, charges for services, day school tuition, use of money and property, sale of property, refund of prior year expenses, etc.



...and where it is spent

Expense Category	2016-2017 Budget	2017-2018 Proposed	Increase/Decrease	Percent Change
ADMINISTRATION:				
Board of Education	\$ 40,770	\$ 29,800	\$ (10,970)	-26.91%
Central Administration	199,795	207,810	8,015	4.01%
Finance Services	477,164	507,388	30,224	6.33%
Legal/Public Information	71,100	74,175	3,075	4.32%
Central Services	589,406	621,787	32,381	5.49%
Supervisory/Improvement	1,127,837	1,175,861	48,024	4.26%
Fringe Benefits	550,054	578,437	28,383	5.16%
Administrative Total	\$3,056,126	\$3,195,258	\$ 139,132	4.55%
PROGRAM:				
Legal	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 10,000	20.00%
Regular Instruction	7,652,634	7,822,709	170,075	2.22%
Special Education	3,529,172	3,695,420	166,248	4.71%
Occupational Education	908,422	813,624	(94,798)	-10.44%
Library/Technology	998,067	1,329,238	331,171	33.18%
Student Services	1,028,008	1,161,142	133,134	12.95%
Transportation	1,802,764	1,819,556	16,792	0.93%
Interfund Transfers	235,000	155,000	(80,000)	-34.04%
Fringe Benefits	6,164,440	6,269,230	104,790	1.70%
Program Total	\$22,368,507	\$23,125,919	\$ 757,412	3.39%
CAPITAL:				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 1,670,243	\$ 1,806,988	\$ 136,745	8.19%
Certiorari/Judgments	8,000	8,000	—	0.00%
Debt Service	1,363,015	1,469,823	106,808	7.84%
Transfer to Capital Fund	100,000	100,000	—	0.00%
Fringe Benefits	400,264	397,389	(2,875)	-0.72%
Capital Total	3,541,522	3,782,200	240,678	6.80%
TOTAL	\$28,966,155	\$30,103,377	\$ 1,137,222	3.93%



Residents to Vote on Bus Purchasing

A separate proposition on the May 16 ballot seeks voter approval to purchase five (5) school buses at a total cost of \$564,591 (before state aid reimbursement). The District will receive a trade-in credit \$157,500, for a net purchase price of \$407,091. Approximately 54% of the bus purchase would be returned through state aid, offsetting the local taxpayer share.

The bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to keep the District's fleet in safe, working order. The State Education Department recommends that districts replace small buses every five to seven years and large buses every 10 years. Cairo-Durham CSD follows a seven-year bus replacement plan to better control repair and maintenance costs while ensuring student safety. Each year, the District phases out a certain number of older buses and replaces them with new models.

If approved by voters, the bus proposition would allow the District to trade in and replace five (5) buses that have become too costly for the District to maintain.

Points of Mustang Pride...

Preparing Students for the Future

College and career readiness is a term that is often used to assess the success of schools and students, but what does it actually mean? Cairo-Durham CSD students demonstrate readiness with the skills they learn, the courses they complete and achievements they earn. Here are some examples:

- Michaelangelo Guldenstern, Raven Patterson and Jacob Spain qualified to compete in the 2017 SkillsUSA state competition. Guldenstern and Patterson are Criminal Justice students and Spain is an Automotive Services student in Questar III's Career & Technical Education programs.
- The Class of 2016 earned nearly 971 college credits while still in high school. More than 54% of students earned at least three college credits. The Class of 2017 is on track to earn 982 college credits before graduation.
- Colleges attended by the Class of 2016 include: Cornell, Saint John's University, Seton Hall, Syracuse, Siena, Manhattan College, Saint Rose, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Oneonta, Bard College and Universal Technical Institute.
- For the first time in more than 10 years, CDE sent two teams to the Region 4 Odyssey of the Mind competition. One team came in third place in their division.
- The Greene County Music Educators Association chose six Grade 5 band students to represent CDE at the All-County Spring Music Festival.
- Hailey Schrull (Grade 5) was chosen as a semifinalist in the 2017 miSci Invention Convention, which is a regional and statewide invention competition for students in Grades K-8. Her invention, a ferret diaper, will be on display with other projects at the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady from May 6-18, 2017.

Excellence in Academics

The College Board named Cairo-Durham CSD (CDCSD) to the AP® District Honor Roll, a distinction shared by 433 school districts across the United States and Canada. The AP District Honor Roll recognizes schools that achieved increases in access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses for more students, while also maintaining or improving the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Of the 433 school districts, 25 districts in New York State received this distinction and CDCSD is one of only two districts in the Capital Region to make the list. Furthermore, Cairo-Durham is the only honor recipient in NYS to have a 30% or greater enrollment of students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

"We believe that it is our responsibility to afford our students the same opportunities at Cairo-Durham that other students at much larger schools are exposed to," said Superintendent Taibi. "This honor is a testament to our belief that our students are capable of great things if we continue to challenge them. We are very proud of this accomplishment."

School Libraries Enhance K-12 Curricula

This year, Media Center Specialist Nancy Pine added nearly 300 new titles to the library collection at CDE. Most of the new items are non-fiction to support curriculum, and students have been excited to read about topics such as science, weather, outer space and computer coding.

"It's been wonderful to see the enthusiasm when new boxes come in," said Bianca Rell, a teacher assistant in the CDE library. "The kids get so excited and we're seeing more interest in reading non-fiction."

The new additions include traditional books and over 90 eBook titles. Pine also added to the eBook collection at the Middle/High School, which features mostly non-fiction titles to support curricular needs as well.

In addition to supporting K-12 curricula and aspects of current learning standards, Pine also teaches information literacy skills and integrates the use of technology and high-quality resources.

After the school year ends in June, the impact of our school libraries continues through the Summer Reading Program. In an effort to prevent "summer slide," students can check out up to five books to read over the summer and return to the school libraries in September.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Is there a property tax rebate from the state?

Yes, the new Property Tax Rebate replaces the property tax freeze credit that provided property tax rebate checks to eligible taxpayers in 2014 and 2015. This rebate, which will be active until 2019, is for homeowners who receive the STAR exemption and who live in a district that passes a budget at or below its tax cap. Because the District stayed with its tax cap, eligible taxpayers making less than \$200,000 a year should receive a rebate check from New York State in the fall.

Why is a 2.57% increase within the tax cap?

When New York State passed the Property Tax Cap law, elected officials often referred to the new law as a "2% tax cap." But the law they passed requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy, which does not always work out to 2 percent. Very few school districts actually have a 2% tax cap because the formula causes the cap to vary from district to district. A school district is considered tax cap compliant as long as it does not increase its tax levy by more than the amount determined by the eight-step calculation.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the budget is not approved on May 16, the District may submit the original budget or submit a revised budget to the voters on June 20, or adopt a contingency budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year (0 percent increase in tax levy). If the resubmitted/revised budget proposal is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education must adopt a budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year. In that case, districts would not be allowed to increase the tax levy to the extent necessary to fund items of expenditure excluded from the tax cap.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the District Office at 518-622-8534 or visit our website, www.cairodurham.org, and click on the "Budget & Tax Information" link.



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Produced by Questar III Communications Service

BUDGET VOTE
Tuesday, May 16
12 noon – 9 p.m.
MS Cafeteria

Cairo-Durham Central School District Budget Notice 2017-2018

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 school year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 school year	Contingent Budget for the 2017-18 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$28,966,156	\$30,103,377	\$29,762,644
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 school year		\$1,137,221	\$796,488
Percentage Increase/Decrease in proposed budget		3.93%	2.75%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$13,147,417	\$13,484,703	
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 Tax Year Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$13,147,417	\$13,484,703	\$13,147,417
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$353,407	\$403,004	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$12,794,010	\$13,081,699	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$12,794,010	\$13,081,699	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,056,126	\$3,195,258	\$3,192,682
Program Component	\$22,368,507	\$23,125,919	\$22,941,522
Capital Component	\$3,541,523	\$3,782,200	\$3,628,440

School districts are required by law to mail this information to all voters of the District after the date of the Budget Hearing on May 4, 2017, but no later than six days prior to the budget vote and election.

The annual Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Cairo-Durham School District, Greene County, New York, will be held at the Cairo-Durham Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

*Under NYS law, a school may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the budget is defeated, the Board may adopt a contingent budget or put a budget before the voters a second time. If the budget is defeated twice, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly, a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount. Using the required formula the proposed budget is below the allowable tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$337,286.

**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
	N/A	N/A

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
	\$407

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