

Averill Park

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to the Pursuit of Life-Long Learning

Budget summary

- ▶ Proposed 2013-2014 Budget \$53,489,312
- ▶ Budget Decrease -\$30,253 or -0.06%
- ▶ Estimated Tax Levy Percent Increase 2.99%

Voters to decide three separate ballot issues

- ▶ Whether the proposed \$53,489,312 budget should be adopted.
- ▶ Whether to approve the \$12.9 million Capital Improvement Project.
- ▶ Elect three (3) seats on the Board of Education.

What's inside

- ▶ Board of Education Candidates
- ▶ Budget Information
- ▶ Capital Project Information



Good luck Algonquin Odyssey Team heading to world finals May 22-25

Budget decreases spending for 4th year, meets Property Tax Levy Cap

Residents to vote on proposed budget & capital project May 21

Averill Park Central School District residents will go to the polls on May 21 to vote on a proposed \$53.49 million budget for the 2013-2014 school year. Residents will also consider a \$12.9 million Capital Improvement Project referendum that addresses technology, health and safety needs and critical building repairs at no additional cost to residents and voters will elect three members to three seats on the Board of Education.

The proposed plan decreases spending for a fourth consecutive year and is 0.06 percent less than the current year's budget. If approved by voters, it would result in a 2.99 percent tax levy increase, which is at the district's maximum allowable tax levy limit as calculated under the state's tax levy cap formula. Tax rates for individual properties will be determined over the summer once equalization rates and assessments are available for the district's nine towns.

Our District has faced four continuous years of program reductions due to declining state aid, rising costs, and the property tax levy limit in the last two years. Each year has resulted in diminished course offerings, decreased support services and fewer extracurricular opportunities.

"Throughout the budget development process, the administration and Board of Education's goal has been to maintain programs with limited reductions and not eliminate programs," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Hoffman. "The 2013-14 budget proposal seeks to preserve as many academic opportunities as possible so that all students in grades K-12 meet educational goals and graduate college and career ready, even in challenging fiscal times."

When the budget process started, AP faced a \$1 million budget gap, mostly attributed to a significant increase in employee pension costs, and the state imposed Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). The increase in contributions to the pension system will cost the district an additional \$989,725, a 28.6 percent increase over the current year. That will bring the total contributions for pension costs to \$4.45 million, or 8.31 percent, of the \$53.4 million proposed budget. Under the GEA, Averill Park has lost more than \$10 million in aid and is projected to lose another \$2.9 million next year.

State aid would account for about 43.4 percent of the district's revenue in the 2013-14 proposed budget, and the tax levy, which is the amount of revenue a school

district collects through local property taxes, would account for about 51.5 percent. The final state budget allocates about \$23.2 million in state aid to Averill Park, an increase of \$322,895, or 1.49 percent, compared to the current school year.

A closer look at the proposed budget

In order to balance the budget and preserve programs, district officials made staffing reductions and program adjustments. Included in the proposal is the reduction of 13.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (5.5 FTE through attrition) including 1.3 FTE Art, 2.5 FTE Music (1.0 FTE through attrition), 1.3 FTE LOTE (Languages Other Than English), 0.5 FTE Family and Consumer Science (0.5 FTE through attrition), 2.0 FTE Physical Education (attrition), 3.0 FTE Elementary teachers (2.0 FTE through attrition), 1.5 FTE Special Education, 0.2 FTE Central Administration and 1.0 FTE Substance Abuse Counselor.

Changes to the high school program included in the proposal are driven by a decline in electives. Reductions include photography and yearbook classes, Japanese III and IV and Spanish and French V.

At the middle school, the proposed budget keeps Band/Orchestra/Chorus (BOC) intact to fulfill State mandate, as well as performing groups, creates a "seminar" course for Grade 6 as a year-long (alternating day 40 minute) program and restructures LOTE to be offered as a year-long (alternating day 40 minute) program. The proposal includes reducing Family and Consumer Science to mandated levels, reducing number of grade 6 sections due to lower enrollments and phasing out Studio Art.

At the elementary schools, the proposed budget includes reducing the kindergarten day by two hours (see page 2 for more details). Under the proposal, the Band/Orchestra program would commence in sixth grade, instead of grade five, as it does currently.

The proposed budget plan allows the district to maintain its core academic programs, including College in the High School courses through which students can earn college credits and Advanced Placement courses. A full list of programs being retained in the proposed budget is available on page 2.

To learn more about Averill Park's 2013-14 proposed school budget, please visit www.averillpark.k12.ny.us and click "The Budget Corner" icon.



Averill Park's Class of 2012

- ▶ 94% of graduates earned Regents diplomas, 33% of those students earned Regents diplomas with advanced designation by completing additional requirements in science, math, and foreign languages
- ▶ 5 students achieved a CTE (Career Technical Education) endorsement on their diploma through Questar III coursework
- ▶ 86% of the Class of 2012 continued their formal education. Colleges included: Albany College of Pharmacy, Colgate University, Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, Syracuse University, University of Rhode Island, Vassar College and various New York State (SUNY) Colleges

EPA grant enables district to purchase new buses

The Averill Park Central School District has purchased two new 20-passenger buses thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, authorized through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA).

The EPA received over 1,000 applications from across the country for its first-ever 2012 School Bus Rebate program focused specifically on helping bus fleet owners replace older school buses with new, clean diesel school buses. Averill Park Central is one of only 30 entities in the country—three in New York State—to be awarded one of these grants.

The Diesel Emission Reduction Act was reauthorized in January 2011 with a significant change, allowing the EPA to award rebates toward new buses. Compared to just a decade ago, today's modern clean diesel buses have more efficient engines, more effective emissions control technology, and now also run on ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Each time a 10-year-old bus is replaced by a new, cleaner diesel bus, the emissions on that bus route are cut by 95%.

SCHOOL TAX DISCOUNTS

Annual income range	Exemption
\$0 - \$29,000	50%
\$29,001 - \$30,000	45%
\$30,001 - \$31,000	40%
\$31,001 - \$32,000	35%
\$32,001 - \$32,900	30%
\$32,901 - \$33,800	25%
\$33,801 - \$34,700	20%
\$34,701 - \$35,600	15%
\$35,601 - \$36,500	10%
\$36,501 - \$37,400	5%

The Board of Education discounts school taxes for residents who are over age 65 and low income property owners who meet income guidelines. These discounts must be applied for annually at the town assessor's office.

Shortened Kindergarten day will preserve academic program

Each year, the Averill Park Central School District Board of Education and district leaders make necessary adjustments to programs at all levels in order to develop a proposed budget that balances diminishing resources and district educational goals. One of the changes for the 2013-14 school year involves the Kindergarten program. Beginning in September 2013, the Kindergarten program will be reduced from a six hour to a four hour academic day.

While Kindergarten is not a state-mandated program (except in New York City), the District values Kindergarten and plans to maintain its Kindergarten program. At a four hour academic day, the Kindergarten program for next year would still be longer than a half day program and will include lunch and recess time to allow opportunities for social skill development. The structure of the 2013-14 program preserves the full academic program in English Language Arts and mathematics.

To accommodate the shorter day, rest/nap time would be eliminated from the daily schedule. Special area classes, such as art and music, would also be removed from the Kindergarten program, but would be maintained in grades 1-5.

Kindergarten students would arrive at school with all other

elementary students in grades 1-5 and dismiss at 1:15 p.m. Currently, at the end of the school day, parents of elementary students have three choices. The child rides home on district transportation, is picked up by a parent/guardian or the parent can elect for the child to attend an afterschool program housed in each of the elementary schools. The District has worked with the provider of that program (Greenbush Child Caring) to offer an additional opportunity for Kindergarten students for next year. The new program would provide a separate two hour program designed to provide child care for Kindergarten students whose parents elect for them to remain at school until dismissal for grades 1-5. At that dismissal time, Kindergarten students can join their older elementary peers on buses bound for home, can be picked up by a parent/guardian, or can remain at school for K-5 afterschool care. Transportation for the students who would go home at 1:15 p.m. would require at maximum two buses for each school at a cost no more than \$20,000 for the entire year.

Changes to the program have been communicated to parents who have registered their child for the 2013-14 Kindergarten program. Further information will be provided as the planning process continues.

What's being retained in the proposed 2013-14 budget

- ▶ Maintains current number of elementary homerooms with an average class size of 23
- ▶ Preserves Academic Intervention Services (AIS) grades K-12
- ▶ Maintains special area subjects (Art, Music, Library, PE) taught by content specialist in grades 1-5
- ▶ Maintains academic program at the Kindergarten level
- ▶ Maintains full range of special education programs
- ▶ Preserves transition & related services for Students with Disabilities
- ▶ Maintains School Counselor Services grades 6-12
- ▶ Continues Social Work, Psychological support at each level
- ▶ Maintains the Band, Orchestra and Chorus program grades 6-12
- ▶ Maintains accelerated Earth Science and accelerated math program
- ▶ Maintains approximate current class size in middle school core courses
- ▶ Maintains Advanced Placement course offerings & College in the HS opportunities in LOTE (Languages Other Than English) & math
- ▶ Continues Distance Learning (students will have access to 2 additional Advanced Placement courses, one additional LOTE offering & two College in HS STEM courses)
- ▶ Preserves four LOTE opportunities
- ▶ Upholds Project Lead the Way technology curriculum
- ▶ Sustains electives in Art, Theater, AutoTech & Construction Technology
- ▶ Preserves remaining fourth year high school electives in science, math & social studies
- ▶ Continues JV & Varsity Interscholastic Athletic Program



REVENUES: Where money comes from to pay for Averill Park's school

State aid

State aid for both operating and capital expenses combined provide 43 percent of Averill Park's revenues.

Local taxes

Local taxes provide about 51 percent of the district's revenues.

Source of Revenue	Actual 2012-13	Proposed 2013-14	Dollar Change
State Aid Operating:	\$16,689,258*	\$17,714,342**	1,025,084
Local School Tax:	26,727,378	27,525,611	798,233
State Aid Capital:	6,209,561	5,507,372	(702,189)
Miscellaneous:	2,121,400	2,011,133	(110,267)
Fund Balance:	1,321,010	730,854	(590,156)
Reserves:	450,958	-	(450,958)
Total:	\$53,519,565	\$53,489,312	(30,253)

*Includes GAP Elimination State Aid reduction of \$3,793,505

**Includes GAP Elimination State Aid reduction of \$2,938,298

Student Academic Accomplishments at a Glance

► 5 juniors met the PSAT score requirements to enter the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program: Eric Bush, Christopher Hough Deane, Lewis Masella, Eric Snyder, Joseph Toth

► 4 APHS students were awarded the Rensselaer County 2013 YMCA Outstanding Student Award: Wesley Clayton, Ashley Kerwin, Alexandria Perry, Jordan Tymeson

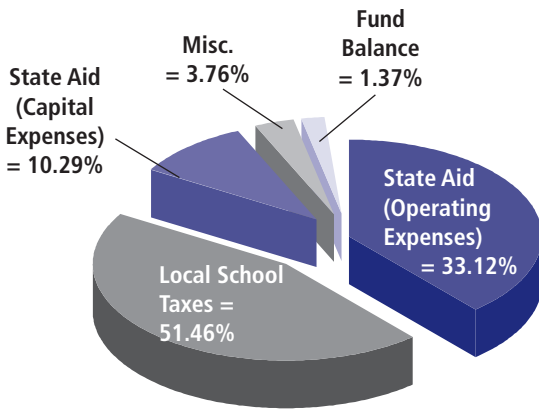
► Regional SkillsUSA Competition: Shelby Engwer, fourth place, commercial baking, Sean Farrell, fourth place, HVAC

► BOCES Media Arts Festival: Samantha Bedell, first place (photography), Jacob Evans, first place (digital illustration), Adam Heisig, honorable mention (digital enhancement), Emma Reinisch, honorable mention (black & white photography)

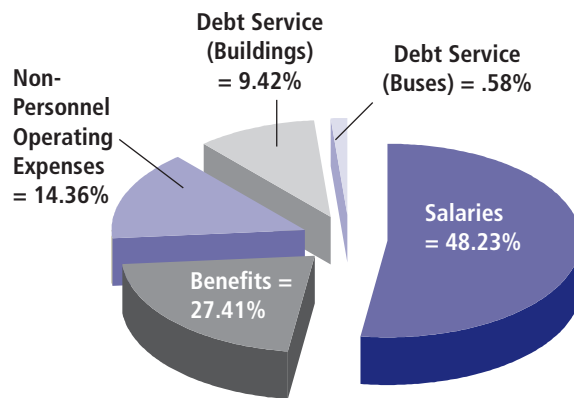
► 341 APHS students completed 1236 credits in the University in the High School program

► 161 APHS students will take 259 Advanced Placement exams in May

REVENUES



EXPENSES



EXPENSES: How money is spent for Averill Park's schools

Expenses	Actual 2012-13	Proposed 2013-14	Dollar Change
Operating Expenses			
Personnel - Salaries	\$25,767,090	\$25,799,816	32,726
Personnel - Benefits	13,612,043	14,663,444	1,051,401
Non-Personnel Items	7,514,480	7,675,545	161,065
Total Operating Expenses	\$46,893,613	\$48,138,805	\$1,245,192
Capital Expenses			
Debt Service Buildings	\$6,444,064	\$5,039,613	(1,404,451)
Debt Service Buses	181,888	310,894	129,006
Total Capital Expenses	\$6,625,952	\$5,350,507	(1,275,445)
Total	\$53,519,565	\$53,489,312	(30,253)



Student Academic Accomplishments at a Glance

- ▶ Questar III 24th Annual High School Invitational Art Exhibition: Zara Davis (honorable mention, ceramic), Emma Dickinson, Mia Eddy and Emily Heizer (third place, graphite drawing) selected to participate in this juried show
- ▶ Averill Park hosted the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Majors Festival in April
- ▶ Four music students were accepted into the Area All-State Musical Festival
- ▶ Two music students participated in the Melodies of Christmas in December
- ▶ West Sand Lake Elementary School has been recognized as a New York State School of Character

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
“Maintaining Our Investment”

On May 21, residents will vote on a separate proposition—the Capital Improvement Project—that focuses on critical repairs and renovations that address student safety, security and instructional needs, while maintaining the community’s investment in its schools. The \$12.9 million proposed project includes technology upgrades and renovations district-wide—all at no additional cost to taxpayers.

The project will provide 21st Century technology infrastructure across the district by providing a wireless environment in support of innovative educational opportunities aimed at improving student skills for college and career readiness. Enhanced bandwidth and connectivity capabilities will increase access to Internet resources and expand online and distance learning options. The project will also provide the District with the capability to conduct State-mandated online New York State assessments beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Health and safety priorities will also be addressed, such as improving public access to the Averill Park High School, alleviating bus, car and pedestrian traffic congestion at the Miller Hill Elementary School and repairing deteriorating play areas at Algonquin Middle School, George Washington and Miller Hill Elementary Schools.

The restoration component of this project will provide necessary improvements to aging boilers, roofs and lighting systems throughout the district, reducing long-term repair and maintenance and energy costs. Additionally, the auditorium at the Averill Park High School will undergo the first structural renovation since its construction in the 1950s.

The proposal was developed using the recommendations of both the Board of Education’s Long Range Planning Committee and the District’s AP2020 Task Force.

A newsletter with details about the Capital Improvement Project was mailed to residents in April. Public tours of the proposed renovations at the high school were offered on April 29 and May 7. For more information about the project, including Questions & Answers or to view a photo gallery, please visit www.averillpark.k12.ny.us/CapitalProject/index.htm.

Scope of Capital Improvement Project

District Wide — \$3,405,000

- TECHNOLOGY:**
- ▶ Wireless Access for Every Student
 - ▶ Network Hardware – 1GB
 - ▶ Environment – Temperature Controls & Ventilation
 - ▶ Voice Over Internet Phone Communication
 - ▶ Enhance Distance Learning Opportunities

Averill Park High School — \$5,614,000

- ▶ Main Entrance Security Vestibule
- ▶ Renovate Auditorium
- ▶ Replace Cast Iron Boilers
- ▶ Modify Classroom for Distance Learning Incl. w/ Technology Upgrades
- ▶ Re-point Select Areas of Brick Veneer
- ▶ Replace Ventilation in Room 227 & Shop
- ▶ Replace Gym Lighting – Energy Conservation
- ▶ Replace Select Areas of Asphalt/Sidewalks

Algonquin Middle School — \$887,000

- ▶ Replace Gym Lighting – Energy Conservation
- ▶ Exhaust & Ventilation Upgrades – 1961 Classrooms (26)
- ▶ Address Domestic Hot Water System
- ▶ Modify Classroom for Distance Learning Incl. w/ Technology Upgrades
- ▶ Refurbish Recreation Area – Outside Cafeteria
- ▶ Replace Select Area of Auditorium Ceiling

Miller Hill Elementary — \$1,561,000

- ▶ Traffic Flow – Bus/Parent/Staff Safety
- ▶ Replace Cast Iron Boilers
- ▶ Replace Roof – Original Building
- ▶ Ventilation in Cafeteria
- ▶ Replace Well Storage Tanks
- ▶ Upgrade Path to Playground – Safety
- ▶ Replace Deteriorated Window Sills

West Sand Lake Elem. — \$141,000

- ▶ Install Ceiling Heating Unit – South Corridor
- ▶ Insulate Attic – Original Building
- ▶ Evaluate Gym Floor

Poestenkill Elementary — \$494,000

- ▶ Replace Roof – Select Areas
- ▶ Replace Piping in Boiler Room
- ▶ Evaluate Hot Water Storage Tanks

George Washington Elem. — \$337,000

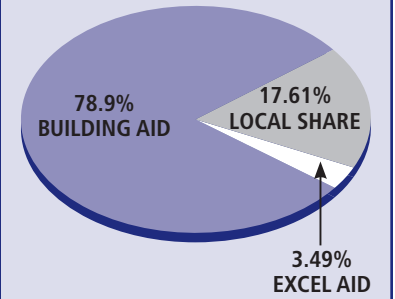
- ▶ Address Moisture Issues in Basement
- ▶ Replace Gym Roof
- ▶ Resurface Hard Surface Play Areas
- ▶ Install Flow Meters at Sprinkler System

Transportation Center — \$461,000

- ▶ Replace Roof over Center Bay
- ▶ Modify Exhaust at Parts Repair Area

PROJECT FINANCING

The \$12.9 million referendum will be funded by applying \$450,000 from the District’s allocation of EXCEL Aid (Expanding our Children’s Education and Learning). This aid is a special opportunity being provided to Districts by the State of New York to help offset the cost of health and safety and technology related projects. After EXCEL Aid, the remaining \$12.45 million of these important educational facilities improvements will be financed over 15 years by applying State Building Aid (currently at 78.9% State reimbursement on approved capital projects) to the principal and interest payments. The resulting local annual share is about \$210,000, approximately the same amount that has been included in the District’s annual operating budget for debt issued on a 1997 capital project. That debt retires this year and can be replaced by the payments toward the new project at no additional cost to taxpayers.



NO ADDITIONAL COST TO TAXPAYERS

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

The Capital Improvement Project will allow the District to upgrade its technology backbone supporting teaching and learning. By having a modernized technology infrastructure across the district, the District will be able to provide a wireless environment to support innovative educational opportunities. Enhanced bandwidth and connectivity capabilities will increase access to Internet resources, expand online and distance learning options, and enable students to use their own devices in the District. The project will also provide the District with the State-mandated capability to conduct online New York State assessments beginning in the 2014-15 school year.



RENOVATE AUDITORIUM & ADJACENT ROOMS: A significant portion of the Capital Improvement Project budget (\$3.7 million) has been allocated to the high school auditorium. Since the high school was built in the 1950s, there have been no improvements made to the auditorium other than seating replacement. The project would allow the District to make the following improvements:

- ▶ New heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system
- ▶ Ceiling repairs including new house lighting (required to accommodate new ductwork for AC and current code required ventilation)
- ▶ New sound system
- ▶ Create sound and lighting control/teaching space at rear of auditorium
- ▶ New theatrical lighting; several of the current fixtures no longer work. Students are missing out on this experience.
- ▶ New theatrical rigging system with structural reinforcement as required by code. The current system poses a hazard and cannot be used.
- ▶ Refinish stage floor
- ▶ Create expanded wing space at stage right
- ▶ Reconfigure access to the stage for use during performances
- ▶ Remove built-in tiers in the choral and drama classrooms to provide better use of those rooms
- ▶ Construct appropriate dressing rooms

The aging boilers at Averill Park High School, shown here, and Miller Hill Elementary School need to be replaced. Over time, these boilers have become increasingly expensive to operate. Repair costs for parts and intensive and frequent labor do not qualify for state aid leaving the district to pay 100% of the costs. By replacing the boilers through the capital project, the cost would be eligible for state aid.



How the proposition appears on the ballot

Shall the Board of Education of the Averill Park Central School District be authorized to (A) reconstruct various District buildings, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings are to be used and pay incidental costs related thereto, at a maximum aggregate cost of not to exceed \$12,900,000, (B) expend such sum for such purpose, (C) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law taking into account state aid and EXCEL grants received, and (D) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$12,900,000 and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

Student Academic Accomplishments at a Glance

- ▶ Over 60 students participate in NYSSMA this year
- ▶ APHS Concert Band, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra participated in NYSSMA Majors for the first time in over a decade
- ▶ APHS Bands and Choirs traveled to competition in New England in April. Band placed third in Competition and the Jazz Ensemble won first place
- ▶ Three current APHS seniors will pursue music as a major in college
- ▶ Poestenkill Elementary Principal Dr. Peter DeWitt was named School Administrators Association of New York State 2013 NYS Outstanding Educator

Capital Project Questions and Answers

Q: When will the work begin?

A: If voters approve the referendum in May, the work will take place in phases. First, the District will finalize the design, obtain state approval and bid the project. Construction work is expected to take place June 2014 through August 2015 with final paperwork completed by fall 2015.

Q: What if the capital project is defeated?

A: If this project is turned down, student health and safety issues will continue to be a concern. The District may not be able to meet code requirements and our buildings will still need major upgrades. The District would have to continue fixing problems on an emergency basis as issues arise, absorbing the costs through local taxes.

Additionally, due to new online assessments that are due to be introduced in the 2014-2015 school year, technology upgrades will

need to occur as well. Without the project covering the cost, district funds will be diverted from current programs and staff, since we must have the infrastructure in place for these assessments.

Q: How does the Capital Project Proposition affect the school budget for 2013-14?

A: Simply put, it doesn't. If the proposition is passed, the work will be done, but will have no impact upon the school budget. If the proposition is not passed, the school budget will not change for 2013-2014. In fact, we will not be able to use any of the funds planned for the capital project in the school budget, for the coming year nor in future years as well.

Additional questions and answers pertaining to the proposed Capital Improvement Project are available at www.averillpark.k12.ny.us/CapitalProject/index.htm

District reduces energy costs

- ▶ Since 2004, the district has had an aggressive energy conservation program in place that focuses on behavioral modification. With the support of administrators, teachers, support staff and the Maintenance Department crew, the district has achieved more than \$3.2 million in energy costs to date. Programming and weekly energy audits make sure that the district maintains the program at a high level of efficiency.
- ▶ In 2008-2009 the district had an energy benchmarking conducted. Averill Park's Algonquin Middle School, Miller Hill Elementary School, George Washington Elementary School and West Sand Lake Elementary School earned an Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signifying that they operate more energy efficiently than 75 percent of the schools in the country.
- ▶ Past upgrades to lighting systems in our schools and offices have substantially reduced lighting costs. The district stands to achieve more energy savings if the proposed capital project is approved.
- ▶ The district uses a computer-automated system to monitor and control heating and lighting throughout a majority of the district's properties. The proposed capital project would allow the District to upgrade gym lighting to T-5, now considered to be the most energy efficient, at the middle and high schools.
- ▶ The proposed capital project would also provide significant energy conservation by replacing inefficient boilers at the high school and Miller Hill Elementary, installing insulation at West Sand Lake Elementary and replacing roofs at George Washington and Miller Hill Elementary Schools.

Board of Education Candidates

There are three candidates seeking three seats on the Board of Education. Each carries a new three-year term beginning July 1. The following biographies are written by the candidates and the candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the May 21st ballot:

Student Academic Accomplishments at a Glance

- ▶ The curricular theatre arts program teamed up with its co-curricular afterschool partner The Off-Broadway Players to provide more opportunities for district students and community members this year. Productions included "Hashtag: the Show," "Little Women," and "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940." A production of "Harvey" on Friday May 17 at 7 p.m. will benefit Friends of Averill Park Performing Arts.
- ▶ In addition, The Off-Broadway Players staged original student written one-acts this winter and raised over \$1500 for Rensselaer County Commission for Economic Opportunity, performed for nursing home residents, hosted the annual Hollyball dance and integrated Algonquin Middle School students into the fall play.
- ▶ The theatre arts program serves 128 APHS students during the school day and over 200 afterschool over the course of the academic year, as well as providing entertainment and learning activities for the entire community.



Shawn Morgan

Shawn Morgan

When our son reached school age, my wife Lisa and I decided that we needed to move from Orange County to an area with a strong school system, and landed in Averill Park given its high marks for quality education. We moved to Poestenkill in the summer of 2004, merely months before I was deployed to Iraq in October of that year.

The District has faced many challenges in the past few years, and I have seen changes in my son's (APHS) and daughter's (AMS) education. Despite this, it is apparent to me that everyone in this District is very motivated to provide a well-rounded, excellent education for our children, and to keep Averill Park as a great choice for prime real estate and quality education in the Capital District.

I have been in the Army and Army Reserves since 1986, and a Social Worker since 1997. I am currently a Program Director for the Navy in Saratoga. Although that experience does not provide direct understanding of school district operations, it has provided me with a keen ability to make informed decisions, by seeing all sides, and weighing out the consequences of the tough decisions to be made. I look forward to the opportunity to serve this community on the APCSD BOE.



Stuart Nippes

Stuart Nippes

I grew up in Poestenkill and attended the Averill Park School District. My experiences include but not limited to management positions and business owner. I have had a 20 year career with UPS Freight; with job descriptions of driver, chairperson safety committee, and shop steward. Currently I am a real estate agent with Alani Realty. I am a member of RAAD (Rage against alcohol and drugs) and serve on their board. I am an active member of the Sand Lake Kiwanis.

I believe in giving back to my community. The community where I was raised; the community I call home. I have been an advocate for education, reasonable taxes, and responsible school spending. I am asking you to elect me to the Board of Education of the Averill Park Schools. I believe I can contribute to the success of the school board district. It's time the majority of the board members make decisions that are going to help the children's education. It's time for commonsense. It's time to give true meaning to "Do it for the Kids".



Peter Schaefer

Peter Schaefer

My family and I moved to Averill Park ten years ago because of the outstanding reputation of the school district. Our daughters have attended West Sand Lake Elementary School, Algonquin Middle School, and Averill Park High School and participated in sports, theater, and the arts. One is now in college with an academic scholarship, in part because of the high quality of education she received here. As an educator for over twenty years, I know the importance of a well-rounded academic curriculum for workplace preparation and career and college readiness. For the past ten years, I've worked as the Science Chair at Hudson Valley Community College and helped to make connections between the college and the school district.

I've served on the Averill Park BOE for the past three years and have been disheartened by the continuing state aid cuts that are affecting all our children's educational development. Our community cannot continually bear the impact of increased taxes at any level. In an effort to advocate for the district, I've met with legislators and attended regional district conferences about budget issues.

I will continue to work for quality education and to fight for elimination of unfunded mandates and restoration of equitable state aid.

The New York State School Report Card Fiscal Accountability Supplement for Averill Park Central School District

New York State Education Law and the Commissioner's Regulations require the attachment of the NYS School Report Card to the public school district budget proposal. The regulations require that certain expenditure ratios for general education and special education students be reported and compared with ratios for similar districts and all public schools. The required ratios for this district are reported below.

	2010-2011 School Year	General Education	Special Education
This School District	Instructional Expenditures	\$26,608,184	\$11,666,317
	Pupils	3,341	510
	Instructional Expenditures Per Pupil	\$7,964	\$22,875
Similar District Group	Instructional Expenditures	\$7,820,663,210	\$3,172,283,304
	Pupils	798,424	110,978
	Expenditures Per Pupil	\$9,795	\$28,585
All Public Schools	Instructional Expenditures	\$29,473,160,406	\$12,260,104,540
	Pupils	2,688,528	412,226
	Expenditures Per Pupil	\$10,963	\$29,741

Similar District Group Description: Average Need/Resource Capacity

Averill Park CSD is in good standing and is a high achieving school district. The district is reaching these standards all while keeping costs down. Averill Park's cost per pupil is significantly less than other districts of similar size within New York State.

Proposed 2013-14 budget Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How is a 2.99% tax levy increase within the cap?

A: When New York passed a property tax cap in 2011, elected officials touted the new state law as a "2% tax cap." However, the law does not restrict any proposed tax levy increase to 2 percent—or any other amount. Instead, the legislation requires each school district in the state to calculate its own tax levy limit using an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy by. As a result, most school districts can raise their tax levies by more than 2% and still be within the tax cap. Under the state's calculation for 2013-14, AP has a tax levy limit plus exclusions of \$ 27,525,611. This is the district's maximum allowable levy limit to pass the budget with a simple majority of voters (50 percent + 1). The tax levy proposed in the adopted budget is at this amount. That is why the proposed 2.99 percent increase in the tax levy for next year is within the property "tax cap" limit according to the law. The Board decided to cap the tax levy increase at 2.99% in an attempt to reduce the level of cuts that would be required to programs while still being mindful of our community's taxpayers.

Q: What happens if the budget is not approved by voters?

A: The Board of Education has the option of putting another budget (revised or not) up for a vote in June or adopting a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated a second time, the Board must adopt a contingent budget. Under New York's tax "cap" law, the contingent budget cannot result in a tax levy that's higher than the previous year—a true 0 percent cap without any of the currently allowable exemptions (certain pension costs, court judgments and local capital expenses). For AP, a contingent budget would mean cutting an additional \$798,233 from the proposed budget, which could result in

additional reductions in educational programs and services.

Q: What is the Gap Elimination Adjustment?

A: Due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), AP will lose another \$2.9 million in the coming year, for a total loss of \$13.4 million under GEA legislation. The GEA was first introduced for the 2010-2011 fiscal year as a way to help close New York State's budget deficit. Under the legislation, a portion of the funding shortfall at the state level is divided among all school districts throughout the state and reflected as a reduction in school district state aid. GEA is money that is deducted from state aid originally promised to school districts based on state aid formulas. Essentially, it's a "take-back" by the state of aid originally due to school districts. School districts across the state, including AP, have asked state leaders to remove the GEA.

Q: What is a fund balance? How is it used?

A: A fund balance is a reserve much like a homeowner's savings account. Just as homeowners are careful not to use up their savings accounts, school districts also must plan carefully how they use their fund balance to ensure it does not run out. When a district's expenses are less than what was expected or revenues are higher than expected, the money is held in the fund balance. The money is can be used for unforeseen expenses throughout the school year. AP does not have a substantial fund balance to help compensate tax increases. Currently, AP expects to ends the fiscal year with an unappropriated fund balance of about \$1,069,786, or two (2) percent of the proposed budget, well below the four (4) percent limit allowed by state law in an unrestricted fund balance.

For more budget questions and answers, please visit www.averillpark.k12.ny.us and click on the "Budget Corner" icon.



APHS Athletic Accomplishments at a Glance

► The following teams have been recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for achieving a team wide grade point average of 90 or higher

► Fall and Winter Sports:
Boys' & Girls' Cross Country, Football, Golf, Boys' & Girls' Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Bowling, Boys' & Girls' Basketball, Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track

► Track:
New School record in 4 x 1 Mile Relay—Matt Miller, Andrew Tario, Chris Shaw, Josh Foust each ran a mile with combined time of 18:52 breaking a record that stood for 17 years

► Cross Country:
Andrew Tario
• Suburban Council Champion
• New course record at Rensselaer Co. Championships
• 10th in NYS cross country meet
• Troy Record Athlete of the Week

► APHS football player John Sweet is one of 11 area players recently recognized by Section 2 as a National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chris Foster, *President*
 Jennie Glasser, *Vice President*
 Neil Bonesteel
 William Reinhardt
 Dori Salisbury
 Peter Schaefer
 Jessica Zweig

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James Hoffman
Superintendent of Schools

Sharon Lawrence
Assistant Superintendent

Michael Ouimet
Assistant Superintendent for Business

For more information,
 please call the district at
 (518) 674-7066

Averill Park

CENTRAL SCHOOLS

146 Gettle Road, St.1
 Averill Park, NY 12018

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 CAR-RT SORT
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Averill Park, NY
 Permit No. 11

To: BOX HOLDER
 POSTAL PATRON
 RURAL ROUTE
 STAR ROUTE

Averill Park Central School District Budget Notice

School districts are required by state law to mail this information to all households within the district.

If you would like additional information about the proposed budget, please call the Superintendent's Office at (518) 674-7066.

WHO MAY VOTE?

In order to vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. Citizen, and a resident of the Averill Park CSD for at least 30 days prior to May 21. Advance registration is NOT required however, you will be asked to show proof of residency. Such forms may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card.

HOW CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. Applications may be requested by calling the District Clerk's office at 674-7085 or picked up at the District Office, located in the Averill Park High School at 146 Gettle Road. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21.

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2012-13 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2013-14 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 53,519,565	\$ 53,489,312	\$ 52,691,079
Increase/Decrease for the 2013-14 school year		\$ (30,253)	\$ (798,233)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in each Proposed Budget		-0.06%	-1.49%
Change in Consumer Price Index		2.10%	
Total Proposed School Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	\$ 26,727,378	\$ 27,525,611	\$ 26,727,378
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 276,597	\$ 176,908	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$ 26,450,781	\$ 27,348,703	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, Not Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 26,450,781	\$ 27,348,703	
Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$ -	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,999,410	\$ 4,314,041	\$ 4,064,041
Program Component	\$ 39,304,966	\$ 40,401,900	\$ 39,853,667
Capital Component	\$ 10,215,189	\$ 8,773,371	\$ 8,773,371

Should the proposed budget not receive voter approval, a contingent budget would require the reduction of \$798,233 from the proposed budget, including non-contingent expenses such as art, athletics, foreign languages, high school electives, kindergarten, middle school literacy, music and administrative expenses to comply with the statutory administrative budget cap.

	Budget Proposed for the 2013-14 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$ 504

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2013-2014 by the qualified voters of the Averill Park Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Averill Park High School Auxiliary Gym, in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Averill Park High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot machine.

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE VOTE?**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

Averill Park High School Auxiliary Gym

Polls are open from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Visit the school district website:

▶ www.averillpark.k12.ny.us

Email the Superintendent:

▶ hoffmanj@averillpark.k12.ny.us