

Averill Park



BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday
May 18, 2021**

**7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Averill Park High School
AUXILIARY GYM**

*Voting will take place
by scanning-type voting
machines, as required by law*



Whether students are learning in-person or virtually, they have put in a tremendous amount of work this year.

2021-22 Proposed Budget Addresses Pandemic-Related Needs; Stays Under Tax Cap

2021-2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

- ▶ **Proposed Budget**
\$61,456,847
- ▶ **Budget-to-Budget**
Increase 0.75%
- ▶ **Estimated Tax Levy**
Increase 0.95%
(Below the tax levy limit of 1.9%)

The Proposed Budget maintains programs and services offered in 2020-21 and meets the changing needs of the district.

Also on the Ballot...

- ▶ **Board of Education Election** (See page 2)
- ▶ **Bus Purchase Proposition** (See page 5)

On Tuesday, May 18, Averill Park Central School District residents will vote on a spending plan for the 2021-2022 school year that addresses the educational and social-emotional challenges our students face as we look to move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year schools across the state have dealt with a variety of issues and have been forced to adapt to a very fluid situation due to the impact of the virus, which has made the development of this budget a challenge.

"Due to long-term financial planning, we are able to develop a 2021-2022 budget that allows us to fulfill our mission of meeting the needs of and creating opportunities for every student every day," Superintendent Dr. Franchini said. "There are still many unknowns ahead of us, but we will do everything we can to continue to be good financial stewards for our community."

The \$61,456,847 budget is supported by a 0.95% tax levy increase. This increase is below the maximum increase of 1.9% allowed this year under the State's statutory property tax cap limit. The District was able to keep the tax levy increase exceedingly low this year due to the welcome addition of Federal stimulus funds. More information about these funds can be found on page 2.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

Increases: Originally, the budget reduced faculty that worked in academic intervention services to help close the expected budget gap. Due to the increase in funding from the Federal and State Government, the District is able to reinstate these positions to address student learning loss caused by the pandemic. In addition, the District plans to add academic intervention services at the secondary level and increase support services, such as social workers, to address social-emotional needs.

Reductions: The District will see a reduction of 2.0 FTE in staffing from temporary appointments that are expiring. There will be a faculty reduction in APHS English and Music which will not impact programs.

The community will also vote on a proposition to purchase nine school buses and one Rack/Plow Truck at a maximum cost of \$834,474 as part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan (page 5).

If the proposed budget is approved by voters, Averill Park CSD will maintain current academic programs, AP classes, college credit courses and athletic teams. The budget continues to hold a wide range of academic programs, extracurricular activities and services for students in K-12. For more information about the proposed budget, please visit averillpark.k12.ny.us and click on the "Budget Corner."

Stimulus Package Provides Short-Term Infusion

The Averill Park Central School District has been made aware of the fact that it will receive stimulus funds as part of the American Rescue Plan and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations.

A large portion of these funds must be used for specific state-regulated purposes, such as for providing summer enrichment and afterschool programs, addressing learning loss, providing professional development, and more.

Prior to learning of these additional funds, the District planned on reducing AIS at the elementary level. With the additional stimulus money, the District is now looking to continue to offer these services and increase AIS programs at the secondary level to assist our learners who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and may experience achievement gaps. Additionally, the District is planning for a K-12 summer school program and will address social-emotional issues that are already being observed in our schools by adding support services.

These funds are completely separate from the normal operating budget that community members will be voting on, and are not a recurring source of revenue. Once the stimulus money is spent, the normal operating budget must be able to continue to support programs so that the District does not have to make cuts that may negatively impact students' learning.

A detailed plan has not yet been made for the use of these funds. Community input will be sought in the form of a public comment period. Once the use of the funds has been solidified, the District will post a detailed list of items on its website.

Board of Education Election

Voters in the Averill Park Central School District will elect two members to the Board of Education this year. Board members serve three-year terms. For more information on candidates running for the Board of Education, visit averillpark.k12.ny.us and click on "Budget Corner."



School districts across the country have seen an increase in social-emotional learning challenges during the pandemic. Stimulus funds will help address these issues.

Algonquin Middle School Fire Alarm System Repairs

The 2021-22 budget includes funding to improve safety in Algonquin Middle School by repairing and replacing the 25-year-old building-wide fire alarm system which is nearing the end of service life.

Specifically, the main annunciator panel, which is the component of the fire alarm system that displays the location of a fire alarm within the building, using visible and audible indicators, will be replaced. Additionally, all smoke detectors, heat detectors, alarm pull stations, duct smoke detectors and power supply systems will be replaced.

The fire alarm system replacement will be accomplished through a \$100,000 Capital Outlay project. These projects receive State Building Aid in the year following project completion. The cost of this project will be partially paid for in 2021-22 through an offsetting revenue transfer of \$88,000 from district reserves. The District will then receive approximately \$75,000 in State Building Aid in 2022-23 as reimbursement for this project.

Spotlight on Student Success

HIGH SCHOOL

- Merry Gaylord was named First Team All-State for girls varsity soccer.
- APHS music department released a holiday CD in lieu of a winter concert, consisting of 11 tracks of instrumental pieces and vocals.
- 5 students (Ashlee Bayer, Fiona Carroll, Geoffrey Dawes, Alex Heap and Libby Bulmer) were accepted into the Virtual Juried High School Regional Art Exhibition.
- Madison Matice was re-elected as the Lieutenant Governor of Key Club for District 18.
- The boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, girls tennis, girls swimming & diving, girls basketball, and girls bowling teams were named NYSPPHSAA Scholar-Athlete teams.
- The APHS band performed the first-ever outdoor concert in March.
- Junior Amelia Wood scored her 1,000th career point, becoming the fourth girls basketball student-athlete to ever eclipse the milestone.
- David Morelli was selected to be a part of the SPAC Adirondack Trust Co. Festival of Young Artists and have his musical composition performed by professional musicians.
- 5 students (Tristan Mason, Kellan Rokjer, Kyle Sherman, Ruby Slyer and Hannah Williams) fulfilled their academic requirements in an accelerated manner and

graduated in January.

- McKenzie Swinson (softball - SUNY Albany), Mia Tessitore (lacrosse - Merrimack College) and Anna Jankovic (basketball - D'Youville College) signed Letters of Intent

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Madison Passineau was awarded a National Silver Key award for her silly face self portrait drawing created in 8th grade Studio Art class.
- Theodore Hart won the first-ever AMS Virtual Spelling Bee.
- Algonquin Middle School held its inaugural Warrior Wellness Day! This fully virtual event focused on giving students and parents ways to manage their social, emotional and physical well-being.
- AMS teachers Michelle Michaud, Beth Willis, Stella Conti, Jackie Costello, Erin Fitch, Holly Gardinier and Cathy Reinisch, as well as administrators Rob Messia, Brian Rhode and Kate Dorgan, applied for, and were awarded, participation in a new federal grant program that will provide professional development valued at \$35,000 through the WestEd on the Reading Apprenticeship Program.

ELEMENTARY

- Elementary Schools are providing 8 classes and teachers dedicated solely to 100% virtual

instruction. Additionally, staff are supporting students with disabilities and ELLs, and special area teachers are also posting weekly assignments for the 150 virtual students.

- MHSL fifth grader Aly Thorsen was named the recipient of the 2020-21 Kelsey Kittleson Memorial Music Scholarship.
- PES K-Kids sponsored a Cereal Collection and received 240 boxes of cereal to donate to local food pantries.
- WSL collected four boxes of items to donate to deployed troops in the United States military as part of Yellow Ribbon Day.
- WSL staff created a new outdoor walking trail that includes three themes — Mindfulness, Yoga and Fitness. The trail stretches 2,000 feet and includes 10 stops where students participate in different activities.
- PES students stayed after school and made sandwiches for Street Soldiers of Troy, which is an organization that provides meals and other items for those in need.
- MHSL held its yearly Random Acts of Kindness week with students participating in Kindness Challenges.
- WSL K-Kids supported the Toys From Tyler annual holiday drive in honor of the memory of Tyler McIntyre. Tons of toys were donated this holiday season! (Tyler was a WSLE student who passed away when he was a 1st grader and we support his mother's efforts each year.)

May 18 Vote to be Held In-Person

The May 18, 2021 School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election will be held in-person, unlike last year's vote which was held solely by absentee ballots due to an Executive Order made by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

Absentee Ballots can still be obtained by residents who will be out of town or are unable to vote in person due to medical conditions or other reasons. Residents must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. COVID-19 related quarantine, illness, or your concern about in-person voting due to the pandemic will be considered an acceptable medical condition for residents to request an absentee ballot.

The Absentee Ballot Application can be obtained at the District Office, located at Averill Park High School, 146 Gettle Road in Averill Park, Please call ahead to schedule a pick-up appointment.

Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the absentee ballot is to be mailed by the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally by the voter.

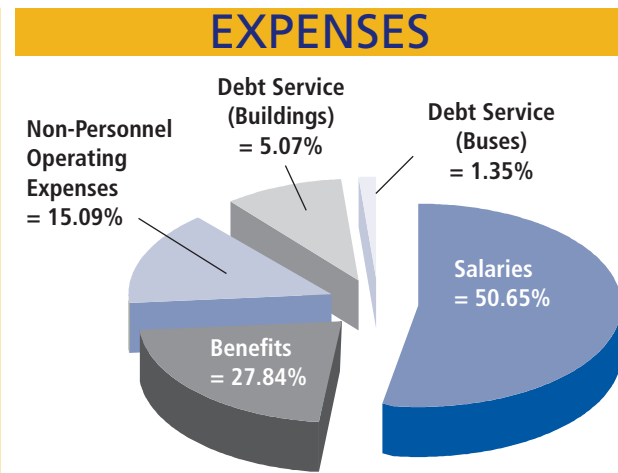
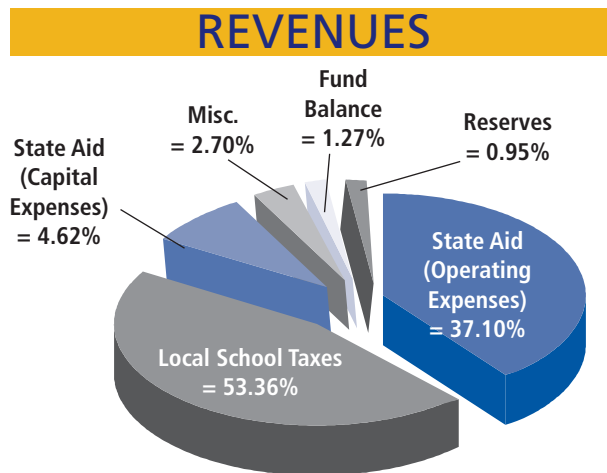
All ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.



The APHS band performed its first-ever outdoor concert, adhering to social distancing guidelines.

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

Source of Revenue	Actual 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	Dollar Change
State Aid - Operating	\$22,268,172	\$22,801,568	\$533,396
Local Tax	32,481,774	32,790,622	308,848
State Aid - Capital	2,839,161	2,839,161	—
Misc	1,655,221	1,657,496	2,275
Fund Balance	780,000	780,000	—
Debt Reserve	100,000	88,000	(12,000)
ERS Reserve	869,284	500,000	(369,284)
Total Revenues	\$60,993,612	\$61,456,847	\$463,235



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

Expenses	Actual 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	Dollar Difference
Operating Expenses			
Personnel Salaries	\$31,454,572	\$31,143,498	(\$311,074)
Personnel Benefits	16,687,612	17,109,350	421,738
Non-Personnel Items	8,898,658	9,254,608	355,950
Total Operating Expenses	\$57,040,842	\$57,507,456	\$466,614
Capital Expenses			
Debt Service Buildings	\$3,124,575	\$3,117,375	(\$7,200)
Debt Service Buses	828,195	832,016	3,821
Total Capital Expenses	\$3,952,770	\$3,949,391	(\$3,379)
Total Expenses	\$60,993,612	\$61,456,847	\$463,235

School Bus Purchase Proposition

On May 18, when Averill Park residents vote on the 2021-22 school budget, they will also consider a bus and equipment purchase proposition. The proposition seeks voter approval to purchase nine (9) school buses (\$798,363) and one (1) Chevrolet 3500 Rack/Plow Truck (\$53,711) to replace a 2011 Ram 2500 Truck, at a total cost not to exceed \$834,474 (see the breakdown of bus cost and financing below). The bus purchase is part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan designed to keep the district's fleet in safe, working order.

The School Bus Purchase Proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$593,520 purchase of five (5), 65-passenger school buses at \$118,704 per bus.
- \$170,793 for the purchase of three (3), 29-passenger school buses at \$56,931 per bus.
- \$34,050 for the purchase of one (1) Chrysler Pacifica Van.



Residents will vote on a proposition to purchase nine school buses and one Chevrolet 3500 Rack/Plow Truck.

Breakdown of Bus Cost & Financing

Bus Total	\$ 798,363
Less Trade-ins	\$ 17,600
Net Borrowing Cost After Trades	\$ 780,763
Total Principal to be financed (5 years)	\$ 780,763
Add Finance Cost	\$ 35,484
Total Purchase Cost	\$ 816,247
Less State Aid (72%)	\$ 587,697
Total Taxpayer Cost	\$ 228,550
Annual Local Taxpayer Cost (over 5 years)	\$ 45,710

Because the district is eligible to receive approximately 72 percent State Aid on the purchase of these buses, the actual cost to the district will be significantly less than the amount requiring voter approval. The district would also trade in eight buses with a total value of \$17,600 that have become too costly for the district to maintain. These buses are one 2009 bus with 155,413 miles; four 2010 buses with an average mileage of 118,642; two 2012 buses with an average mileage of 99,468; and one 2014 bus with 88,818 miles.

TRANSPORTATION FACTS

- ▶ Between daily transport, sports, field trips, summer school and summer camps, Averill Park's 75-unit bus fleet travels nearly one million miles a year.
- ▶ In 2020-21, there are 39 in-district runs covering 130 square miles and 14 out-of-district runs to 30 different private, parochial, charter and special needs schools. New York state requires the district to provide transportation to students living in-district who attend private and parochial schools within 15 miles of their home.
- ▶ The average life of fleet buses, due to terrain traveled and Northeast weather conditions, is about 10 years with each bus logging approximately 90,000-130,000 miles over that time.

Bus Purchase Questions & Answers

Why does the district purchase buses on a regular basis?

The proposed bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards. The plan allows the District to trade in or phase out older, high-mileage vehicles to avoid cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service.

How does the district determine when to replace a bus?

Mileage is not the only consideration when determining which buses to remove from service and to replace. The primary consideration is the age of the bus. The average lifespan of a school bus in Upstate New York is roughly 10 to 12 years, mostly due to weather conditions. The salt mixture used on local roads is corrosive to a bus structure. After about 10 to 12 years, buses require costly and necessary repairs to pass New York state's rigorous inspection process. It is not cost effective for the District to repair these vehicles.

Why do I sometimes see buses with only a few students on them?

Usually, when you see a bus with only a few students on it, you are probably seeing a bus at the beginning or end of its route, depending on the time of day. Because we have combined high school and middle school bus runs, you may see a bus light in passengers as it travels between the schools for pickup or drop off. We also transport students to several private, parochial, charter and special needs schools, using smaller vehicles in our fleet better suited to transport smaller numbers of students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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ADMINISTRATION

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Superintendent of Schools

Matthew Hladun
*Assistant Superintendent
 for Teaching & Learning*

Michael Ouimet, CPA
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

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SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 school year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 school year	Contingent Budget for the 2021-22 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 60,993,612	\$ 61,456,847	\$ 61,147,999
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 school year		\$ 463,235	\$ 154,387
Percentage Increase/Decrease in proposed budget		0.75%	0.25%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 32,481,774	\$ 32,790,622	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Tax Year Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$ 32,481,774	\$ 32,790,622	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$ 570,494	\$ 618,121	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 31,911,280	\$ 32,481,348	
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)	\$ 31,911,280	\$ 32,172,501	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ -	\$ 308,847.00	
Administrative Component	\$ 5,587,605	\$ 5,394,741	\$ 5,394,741
Program Component	\$ 47,641,624	\$ 47,966,591	\$ 47,657,743
Capital Component	\$ 7,764,383	\$ 8,095,515	\$ 8,095,515

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 10, 2021 but no later than six days prior to the budget vote and election.

The annual Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Averill Park Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at the Averill Park High School Auxiliary Gym in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:00 a.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 within the allowable tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority. The proposed tax levy increase under the proposed budget is \$308,848.

**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
	NONE	\$0
	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		\$556

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

WHO MAY VOTE?

In order to vote, you must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the Averill Park CSD for at least 30 days prior to May 18, 2021. 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's 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. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 18, 2021.