

The Eagles' view



Whitney Point Central
School District Newsletter

May 2013

Whitney Point Central School District

Budget Edition

Whitney Point Central School District Budget

Dear Community Members,

On Tuesday, May 21, Whitney Point Central School District residents will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed 2013-2014 school district budget. I have been working closely with the Board of Education to develop a budget that accomplishes the following goals:

1. Develop a reasonable tax levy increase
2. Maintain a focus on education
3. Build a sustainable budget

I have confidence you will see these goals reflected in the proposed \$32,499,049 budget. This budget is built with a 1.98% tax levy increase which is considerably below the 4.38% increase allowed by the New York State Tax Levy Limit (Tax Cap). The amount of state aid the district will receive in 2013-2014 remains lower than it was five years ago but has increased from 2012-2013. This increase has been budgeted to keep the tax levy increase low, reduce the use of reserves, maintain current programs and staffing, and plan for the future by accomplishing the following:

- Add two teachers due to increased enrollment and special education needs
- Implement a modified 4:00 bus run to provide students with extra academic support
- Prepare students for an advancing world of technology by extending the use of iPads
- Transition to BOCES Central Business Office (CBO) to assure long-term savings
- Reinstate a full-time business official
- Maintain responsible stewardship of our facilities
- Digitize district records

I would like to thank the community for their continued support of the district. Over the last few years, we have all been challenged due to difficult financial times. The district has stayed strong to its commitment to providing a quality education for our students while considering the realities of our taxpayers.

I hope you will come out to vote on May 21. Please contact the district office at (607) 692-8313 with any questions about the district budget and visit our website at www.wpcsd.org for additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
*The WPCSD Board of Education &
Superintendent Patricia Follette*



2013-14 Budget Snapshot

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District be authorized to appropriate for the budget the sum of \$32,499,049 for the 2013-2014 school year and levy the necessary tax therefore with a projected tax levy increase of 1.98%?

Proposed 2013-14 Budget Total:	\$32,499,049
Current 2012-13 Budget:	\$31,041,874
Current Budget Increase:	\$1,457,175
Percentage of Budget Increase:	4.69%
Tax Levy Increase:	1.98%
Contingency Budget Tax Levy Increase:	0%

Budget Vote: May 21 from 1 - 8 p.m.

High School Cafeteria
10 Keibel Rd.,
Whitney Point, NY 13862

Projected Tax Levy

Average True Value Home.....	\$125,000
*2012-13 Tax Rate.....	\$24.54
*2013-14 Projected Tax Rate.....	\$24.69
*Average Tax Increase.....	\$18.75
Projected Tax Rate Increase.....	\$0.15

• *Averages are based on the average of the 11 municipalities with property in the district and are subject to changes in equalization rates, STAR exemptions and assessments.*

*** Average Tax Increase per Month..... \$1.56**

*** Average Tax Increase per Day..... \$0.05**

Preliminary Tax Rate Information for 2013-14

Final tax rates cannot be projected at this time because final assessment rolls from Broome, Tioga, Cortland, and Chenango counties, as well as final equalization rates from the state Office of Real Property Services, will not be available until the summer.

However, based on the information available at this time, preliminary tax rates have been projected. Despite the differences in projected tax rates, houses with the same true value (market value), located in different parts of the school district, should be taxed at nearly the same amount, if equalization rates work as designed. Equalization rates are established by the state Office of Real Property Services to assure equitable property tax allocation among different taxing jurisdictions.

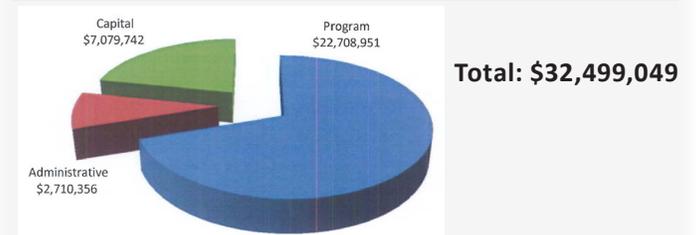
Preliminary Tax Rates 2013-14

Municipality	2012 Tax Rate/\$1000	2013 Tax Rate/\$1000	Increase
Barker	17.53	17.88	0.35
Chenango	26.46	26.99	0.53
Lisle	29.71	30.30	0.59
Maine	25.04	25.54	0.50
Nanticoke	29.71	30.30	0.59
Triangle	27.82	28.38	0.56
Greene	18.65	19.02	0.37
Smithville	26.16	26.68	0.52
Lapeer	19.05	19.43	0.38
Willet	17.53	17.88	0.35
Richford	17.53	17.88	0.35

Budget Summary

By law, school districts must divide their budgets into three components ---program, administrative, and capital---and compare them to last year's amounts. Whitney Point's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY



PROGRAM	2012-13	2013-14
Amount	\$21,950,122	\$22,708,951
% of total	70.71%	69.88%

- Salaries & benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, etc.
- Programs for students with disabilities and special schools
- Mandated training and professional development
- Library/media/computer services
- Instructional hardware & software
- Textbooks, materials, supplies & equipment
- Student transportation
- Co-curricular activities

ADMINISTRATIVE	2012-13	2013-14
Amount	\$2,553,606	\$2,710,356
% of total	8.23%	8.34%

- Salaries & benefits of administrators, supervisors and support staff
- Public information & central printing
- Research, planning & evaluation
- Central data processing
- Tax collection
- Legal services & insurance
- Board of Education administrative costs
- Financial operations
- BOCES administrative costs

CAPITAL	2012-13	2013-14
Amount	\$6,538,146	\$7,079,742
% of total	21.06%	21.78%

- Salaries & benefits of custodial staff
- Operations & maintenance
- Debt service on buildings
- School bus purchases
- BOCES capital costs

Estimated Revenues 2013-14

A number of revenue sources are used to build the 2013-2014 Whitney Point Central School District Budget. State aid amounts to approximately 70% of the budget and funds collected through the local tax levy account for approximately 23%. The district allocates around 4% of the budget to appropriated fund balance (used for tax reduction) and the remaining 3% comes from other revenue sources.

	2012-13	2013-14	Difference
State Aid	\$21,170,311	\$22,573,738	\$1,403,427
Tax Levy	\$7,281,144	\$7,425,311	\$144,167
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0
Other Revenue Sources	\$1,390,419	\$1,300,000	(\$90,419)
Total	\$31,041,874	\$32,499,049	\$1,457,175

Contingency Budget Information

If the proposed budget is defeated at the polls on May 21, state law provides the school board three options:

1. Put the same budget before the voters, or
2. Put a revised budget before the voters, or
3. Go directly to a contingent budget.

If voters defeat a budget a second time, the school board must go to a contingent budget. A district that adopts a contingency budget cannot increase its tax levy from the prior year by any amount. For Whitney Point Central School District, that would mean reducing \$182,334 from the budget. This amount includes the required reductions for equipment. Additionally, the district would be required to charge fees for public use of school facilities.

Changes to the STAR Program

New York state's School Tax Relief (STAR) Program provides property tax exemptions for New York homeowners. Basic STAR is available to anyone who owns and lives in their own home and earns less than \$500,000 per year. Enhanced STAR is available to senior homeowners whose incomes do not exceed \$79,050. STAR savings vary in each municipal segment of the school district as the calculation factors in the equalization and tax rate of the municipality.

The 2011-12 Enacted State Budget established a new cap on increases in STAR savings. Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, maximum STAR savings cannot exceed more than 2% of the prior year savings. While the calculated STAR savings may vary by municipality, the following lists the maximum STAR savings allowable for 2013-14.

Municipality	Basic	Enhanced
Town of Barker	\$545	\$1,092
Town of Chenango	\$543	\$1,086
Town of Greene	\$543	\$1,086
Town of Lapeer	\$522	\$1,046
Town of Lisle	\$526	\$1,055
Town of Maine	\$495	\$989
Town of Nanticoke	\$526	\$1,055
Town of Richford	\$536	\$1,112
Town of Smithville	\$518	\$1,038
Town of Triangle	\$516	\$1,034
Town of Willet	\$533	\$1,069

Open Board of Education Positions

On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, voters are asked to consider two propositions--the proposed budget and the election of three (3) Board of Education members.

Proposition #1: Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District be authorized to appropriate for the budget the sum of \$32,499,049 for the 2013-2014 school year and levy the necessary tax therefore with a projected tax levy increase of 1.98%?

Proposition #2: Election of Board of Education Candidates

The Whitney Point Central School District has a seven member Board of Education. Members are elected for three-year terms. This year, Whitney Point residents will elect three (3) Board of Education members. One of the Board seats up for re-election is currently held by Sara Bencoter. The second seat is held by Mary Ellerson, and the third seat is held by Joseph Silvanic.

Andrew Palmer will be running for one of the three open seats. The other two seats will be available for write-in candidates.

WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Whitney Point, New York 13862
www.wpcsd.org

Board of Education

Mrs. Sara Bencotter, President
Mrs. Stephanie Champney, Vice President
Mrs. Kathy Driscoll
Mrs. Mary Ellerson
Mr. Gene Paul Jordan
Mr. Joseph Silvanic
Mr. Thomas Tasber

Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Follette

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Jo-Ann Sexton

School Business Executive

Mr. Zachary Woodard

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Whitney Point,
New York
Permit No. 2

ECRWSS

Postal Patron

or Current Resident

Budget Vote: May 21 from 1 - 8 p.m.

High School Cafeteria
10 Keibel Rd.,
Whitney Point, NY 13862

Voter Eligibility

No prior registration is required

The Voter must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the May 21 vote.

Student Service Community Awards recipient Ryan Brown (second from right) with Broome-Tioga BOCES superintendent Allen Buyck, WBNG News Director Candace Chapman and Senator Tom Libous.



Proposed Budget Document

The proposed budget document, including the Budget Statement, Property Tax Report Card, School Academic Report Cards, District's Fiscal Accountability Summary, Salary Disclosure Notice and Exemption Reporting for Tax Jurisdictions are attached to and made a part of the 2013-14 Budget.

The proposed budget documents are available for public inspection in the Main Office of each school of the Whitney Point Central School District, the District Office, the District website, the Mary Wilcox Public Library and the Lisle Free Library. School offices are open weekdays between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Absentee Ballots

- The District Clerk must receive the actual absentee ballot by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote, Tuesday, May 21, 2013 in order to be counted.
- Call the District Clerk's office at 607-692-8313 to obtain an application for an absentee ballot.
- Fill out the application for an absentee ballot and return to the District Clerk's office at least seven days prior to the vote, in order for the ballot to be mailed to the voter, or one day before, if it is to be personally delivered or picked up.

Whitney Point Central School District Mission Statement

The mission of the Whitney Point Central School District is to provide an excellent education ensuring that all children maximize their potential, become contributing citizens, and pursue lifelong learning.