



Continuing to Remain Program and Staff Strong

ON THE BALLOT

Proposition 1 2024-25 School Budget

Budget: **\$102,686,280**

Full-Value Tax Rate Increase
(Estimated): **0.73% - 1.47%**

Est. Tax Rate increase of
\$0.12 - \$0.24 per \$1,000
or
\$12 - \$24 on a \$100,000 home.

Budget Year-Over-Year
Increase: **9.37%**

Proposition 2 Purchase of Buses

Purchase of school buses and vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$1,600,000.

Board of Education

There are three available seats with eight candidates up for election. Learn more on pages 8-10.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Vote May 21

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Horseheads High School
South Gym

Dear Horseheads Community,

The Board of Education has been working on the proposed 2024-25 budget for several months. As you may know, it has been a difficult budget year for many districts across the state, including ours, due to:

- Significant rise in healthcare costs due to inflation,
- Rising inflation in all aspects of the budget, and
- State and local aid that has not kept pace with rising costs and inflation over several years.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank everyone who attended our budget workshops and provided their ideas and concerns. Combined with the public's input, the Board and administration established a budget that will:

- Challenge the New York State 2% tax levy limit (this challenge will result in an estimated full-value tax rate increase of **0.73% - 1.47%**).
- Include an estimated **\$12.00 - \$24.00 tax rate increase/\$100,000** home value.
- Utilize \$48 million in state aid and \$3.7 million from reserves and fund balance.
- Require **60%** supermajority of voters to approve this budget.

The challenge to the tax cap and the use of reserves will allow the district to **maintain our strong Academic, Athletic, and Arts** programming. We will continue student education programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics, while maintaining staff positions.

If this Board-approved budget does not pass with a supermajority vote, the Board will work to develop a revised budget proposal. A revised budget proposal would have an impact to programming and staff. Finally, if the revised budget proposal does not receive approval, the Board must automatically convert to a contingency budget. This would be devastating to Horseheads' educational programming, extracurricular activities, and athletics. There are a variety of limitations within a contingency budget. The contingency budget would result in the elimination of an additional \$4.1 million from the current budget proposal (which already includes \$5.3 million in budget reductions). This would greatly impact our programs, students, and staff across the entire district.

I encourage you to take the time to read the information included in this newsletter. Additionally, the entire budget proposal is available on our website at horseheadsdistrict.com.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the children of our community and the Horseheads Central School District.

Please vote on Tuesday, May 21.

Sincerely,

Warren Conklin,
Board of Education President

PROPOSITION 1: 2024-2025 BUDGET

The Horseheads Central School District Board has approved a proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year in the amount of \$102,686,280.

- The proposed budget results in an estimated increase of 0.73% - 1.47% in the tax rate, from \$16.38 in the current year to \$16.50 - \$16.62 per \$1,000 of assessed full value based on preliminary assessments. **On a home with a full-value assessment of \$100,000, the estimated change is an increase of \$12.00 - \$24.00.**
- This increase includes a challenge to maximum allowable levy calculation per law by \$1.2 million. This requires a 60% supermajority approval vote by the community and will allow the district to continue to provide academic supports, social and emotional services, and safety programming for our students. Assessment values and equalization rates are finalized by each municipality in the summer, with final tax rates calculated in August.



The district had two Unified Bowling teams who competed during the winter season.

Visit www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm for more information.

COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURES

| | 2023-24 Budget | 2024-25 Proposed | Dollar Change | Percent Change |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Program | \$64,484,353 | \$67,993,122 | \$3,508,769 | 5.44% |
| Capital | \$15,787,332 | \$20,714,556 | \$4,927,224 | 31.21% |
| Administrative | \$13,613,037 | \$13,978,602 | \$365,565 | 2.69% |
| Total | \$93,884,722 | \$102,686,280 | \$8,801,558 | 9.37% |

COMPARATIVE REVENUE

| | 2023-24 Budget | 2024-25 Proposed | Dollar Change | Percent Change |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Property Taxes/STAR/Payments in Lieu of Taxes/Interest and Penalties | \$44,388,209 | \$48,057,843 | \$3,669,634 | 8.27% |
| State Aid | \$43,791,327 | \$48,157,904 | \$4,366,577 | 9.97% |
| Other* | \$3,054,986 | \$2,600,533 | -\$454,453 | - 14.88% |
| Interfund Transfer | \$0 | \$170,000 | \$170,000 | 100% |
| Appropriated Reserves | \$950,200 | \$700,000 | -\$250,200 | - 26.33% |
| Debt Service Fund | \$700,000 | \$2,000,000 | \$1,300,000 | 185.71% |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$0 | 0% |
| Total | \$93,884,722 | \$102,686,280 | \$8,801,558 | 9.37% |

*Other revenue includes items such as Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, BOCES refund, interest, rental income, donations and gifts, and gate receipts.

PROGRAM BUDGET COMPONENT

This budget component includes all expenditures necessary for all PK-12 educational programs, instruction, and transportation of our students, including teacher and support staff salaries and benefits, BOCES special education and instructional services, interscholastic athletics, and transportation. The Employee Benefits line is a pro-rated calculation of this component's share of costs as required by the state for self-insured health/dental claims, district retirement contributions, workers' compensation and disability insurance, and social security. This component also includes materials, supplies, and contractual items such as conferences, repairs, and service contracts. Program expenditures make up 66.2% of the budget.

| | 2023-24 Budget | 2024-25 Proposed | Dollar Change | % Change |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Legal | \$44,625 | \$44,625 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| In-service Training, Instruction | \$126,615 | \$91,315 | - \$35,300 | - 27.88% |
| Teaching, Regular School | \$21,273,771 | \$21,534,423 | \$260,652 | 1.23% |
| Students with Disabilities | \$9,541,888 | \$10,150,775 | \$608,887 | 6.38% |
| English as a New Language | \$193,464 | \$199,681 | \$6,217 | 3.21% |
| Occupational Education (Grades 9-12) | \$3,246,792 | \$3,201,987 | - \$44,805 | - 1.38% |
| Teaching, Special Schools | \$3,000 | \$3,150 | \$150 | 5.00% |
| School Library | \$836,866 | \$853,517 | \$16,651 | 1.99% |
| Computer Assisted Instruction | \$856,682 | \$544,533 | - \$312,149 | - 36.44% |
| Attendance | \$202,836 | \$224,674 | \$21,838 | 10.77% |
| Counseling | \$1,107,335 | \$1,145,083 | \$37,748 | 3.41% |
| Health Services | \$967,671 | \$855,656 | - \$112,015 | - 11.58% |
| Psychological Services | \$640,959 | \$674,444 | \$33,485 | 5.22% |
| Social Work Services | \$808,529 | \$778,168 | - \$30,361 | - 3.76% |
| Co-Curricular Activities | \$220,885 | \$239,936 | \$19,051 | 8.62% |
| Interscholastic Athletics | \$843,268 | \$863,612 | \$20,344 | 2.41% |
| Transportation Services | \$4,433,953 | \$4,606,821 | \$172,868 | 3.90% |
| Garage | \$62,400 | \$74,550 | \$12,150 | 19.47% |
| Employee Benefits | \$18,770,504 | \$21,547,172 | \$2,776,668 | 14.79% |
| Transfer to Other Funds | \$302,310 | \$359,000 | \$56,690 | 18.75% |
| Program Total | \$64,484,353 | \$67,993,122 | \$3,508,769 | 5.44% |

- **Employee Benefits** increased significantly to keep pace with rising healthcare expenses, prescription drug costs, and inflation. The district is self-insured, which means the district pays the costs of health and prescription claims incurred by its employees. This issue is not isolated to the district. Inflationary pressures on healthcare costs are having a costly impact on other self-insured entities. The district continues to work with a healthcare consultant to identify cost savings measures now and into the future.
- **Computer Assisted Instruction** includes funds to support the district's technology replacement cycle for student laptops. The expense decline is due to the reduction of student laptop purchases. This requires extending the life of laptops used by students for the short-term, planning for a return to the current replacement cycle in subsequent years.
- **In-service Training, Instruction** decreased due to the district's reduced participation in professional learning provided by GST BOCES, as well as decreasing funds for staff conference attendance.
- **Health Services** decreased due to licensed practical nurse services no longer needed based on student needs.
- **Significant reductions in supplies, contractual arrangements, and equipment were made within the lines as a cost-savings measure to balance this budget.** *These reductions are not a sustainable way to continue operations.* The district will gradually increase budget allocations in subsequent years as funding allows and inflationary pressures ease.

CAPITAL BUDGET COMPONENT

The capital component includes all costs related to the operations and maintenance of the district’s buildings and the financing of our annual bus purchases and capital improvement projects. This component includes all expenditures associated with custodial salaries, service contracts, supplies, utilities, and maintenance and repair of school facilities. The Employee Benefits line is a pro-rated calculation of this component’s share of costs as required by the state for self-insured health/dental claims, district retirement contributions, workers’ compensation and disability insurance, and social security. Capital expenditures make up 20.2% of the budget.

| | 2023-24 Budget | 2024-25 Proposed | Dollar Change | % Change |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Operation of Plant | \$2,606,742 | \$2,814,991 | \$208,249 | 7.99% |
| Maintenance of Plant | \$1,873,737 | \$1,700,246 | - \$173,491 | - 9.26% |
| School Construction Financing | \$7,013,998 | \$12,805,925 | \$5,791,927 | 82.58% |
| Bus Purchase Financing | \$1,431,950 | \$1,470,550 | \$38,600 | 2.70% |
| Transfer to Capital Fund | \$1,250,000 | 0 | - \$1,250,000 | - 100.00% |
| Employee Benefits | \$1,610,905 | \$1,922,844 | \$311,939 | 19.36% |
| Capital Total | \$15,787,332 | \$20,714,556 | \$4,927,224 | 31.21% |

- The increase in **School Construction Financing** is due to the planned financing for the two capital projects approved by the voters. The increase is due to the first principal and interest payments for the second referendum financing being due in the 2024-25 fiscal year. The district is receiving state building aid to support these costs.
- The **Transfer to Capital Fund** is money allocated to small construction projects. As planned, these funds have been reallocated to support debt associated with the voter-approved capital project, thereby reducing the local share.
- **Operation of Plant** increased primarily due to the rising cost of the gas and electric resources used to operate the district, along with the inflationary cost of supplies.
- **Employee Benefits** increased significantly to keep pace with rising healthcare expenses, prescription drug costs, and inflation. The district is self-insured, which means the district pays the costs of health and prescription claims incurred by its employees. This issue is not isolated to the district. Inflationary pressures on healthcare costs are having a costly impact on other self-insured entities. The district continues to work with a healthcare consultant to identify cost savings measures now and into the future.



Fifth graders in Mrs. Fuller’s explored mixtures and solutions. They were challenged with completely separating a mixture with a mystery item and created chemical reactions

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo and Anthony Gill, Co-Title IX/DASA Coordinators, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officers; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601. This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET COMPONENT

Administrative costs include all expenditures related to the administrative operations of the district: materials, supplies, and contractual obligations for school offices, the board of education, and district offices including the superintendent's office, business office, and human resources; legal fees; the district's portion of the BOCES administrative budget; and salaries of all school administrators, supervisors, and their support staffs. The Employee Benefits line is a pro-rated calculation of this component's share of costs as required by the state for self-insured health/dental claims, district retirement contributions, workers' compensation and disability insurance, and social security. Administrative expenditures make up 13.6% of the budget.

| | 2023-24 Budget | 2024-25 Proposed | Dollar Change | % Change |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Board of Education | \$11,000 | \$12,020 | \$1,020 | 9.27% |
| District Meeting | \$24,080 | \$32,126 | \$8,046 | 33.41% |
| Chief School Administrator | \$363,049 | \$376,561 | \$13,512 | 3.72% |
| Business Administration | \$955,082 | \$849,249 | -\$105,833 | - 11.08% |
| Auditing | \$40,544 | \$43,000 | \$2,456 | 6.06% |
| Tax Collection | \$3,760 | \$3,760 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| Fiscal Agent Fees | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| Legal | \$44,625 | \$44,625 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| Human Resources | \$636,085 | \$632,919 | -\$3,166 | - 0.05% |
| Public Information and Services | \$97,789 | \$100,403 | \$2,614 | 2.67% |
| Central Printing and Mailing | \$294,893 | \$379,079 | \$84,186 | 28.55% |
| Central Data Processing | \$2,565,945 | \$2,531,615 | -\$34,330 | - 1.34% |
| Insurance | \$245,000 | \$285,000 | \$40,000 | 16.33% |
| School Association Dues | \$12,452 | \$1,200 | -\$11,252 | - 90.36% |
| BOCES Administrative Costs | \$1,743,023 | \$1,849,879 | \$106,856 | 6.13% |
| Curriculum Development/Supervision | \$1,592,953 | \$1,377,360 | -\$215,593 | - 13.53% |
| Supervision, Regular School | \$2,083,328 | \$2,194,549 | \$111,221 | 5.34% |
| Research, Planning, and Evaluation | \$95,023 | \$101,846 | \$6,823 | 7.18% |
| Employee Benefits | \$2,799,406 | \$3,158,411 | \$359,005 | 12.82% |
| Administrative Total | \$13,613,037 | \$13,978,602 | \$365,565 | 2.69% |

- **District Meeting** relates to the annual budget vote. The increase is due to the rise in cost of the voter software.
- **Business Administration** decreased due to two vacancies within the business office that will not be filled as a cost savings measure. The duties of these positions will be absorbed by others within the department and district office.
- **Central Printing and Mailing** is the printing services provided by GST BOCES. The increase is due to the rise in supply costs related to inflation, and additional printing needs to provide students with instructional materials.
- **Insurance** increased due to anticipated renewal rates. Insurance includes items such as student accident insurance, property insurance, and cyber liability insurance.
- **School Association Dues** decreased due to the Board of Education withdrawing its membership from the Rural Schools Association and the New York State School Boards Association as a cost-saving measure.
- **Employee Benefits** - please refer to the Employee Benefits comment within the Program or Capital Budget Component on page 3 or 4.
- **Curriculum Development/Supervision** includes funding for curriculum work, professional learning, and required trainings for all instructional staff. This was significantly reduced for next year, only possible by using remaining American Rescue Plan funds, which must be spent by September 2024.
- **BOCES Administrative** is the district's share of GST BOCES administrative budget, which all districts that participate in GST BOCES services are required to pay. The district has no control or authority over this budgetary item.

REVENUE

PROPERTY TAX

The proposed 2024-25 budget challenges the state's 2% tax levy limit law, resulting in an increase in the tax levy of 9.36% over the current year. The tax levy refers to the total amount collected in school taxes across the entire district. This is not the same as the full-value tax rate, which indicates the cost to the property owner based on their property's assessment by their municipality.

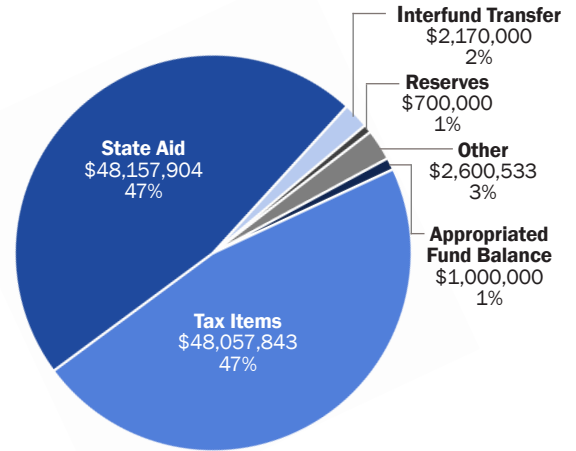
The district's current 2023-24 full-value tax rate is **\$16.38 per \$1,000** of assessment. **For 2024-25, the full-value tax rate is estimated to increase to a potential rate of \$16.50 - \$16.62 per \$1,000, or between 0.73% - 1.47%.** The estimated annual change is an **increase of \$12.00 - \$24.00 per \$100,000 home value.**

Because assessments and equalization rates are finalized after the budget process, the district must estimate the effect on the full value tax rate at this time. The district calculates the final tax rate in August upon receipt of final assessments and equalization rates.

The Horseheads Central School District serves all or part of seven municipalities: Horseheads, Big Flats, Catlin, Erin, Veteran, Cayuta, and Baldwin. Each municipality assesses its properties separately and submits final assessments in late summer.

State law requires that all property within a municipality be assessed at a uniform percentage of market value. In the summer, the state sets equalization rates, which are meant to equalize the assessments from one municipality to the other.

REVENUE CATEGORIES



STATE EDUCATION AID

The state budget for fiscal year 2024-25 includes a 9.97% increase in total state aid to the district based on the governor's budget released February 2024. Subsequent to the Board of Education's adoption of the budget, the New York State budget was finalized and will provide the district with an estimated \$105,000 in revenue, which will be used to support the 2024-25 budget and the continued inflationary pressures impacting the district.

OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

The proposed budget includes \$2 million in debt service funds, \$1 million of fund balance, \$700,000 from appropriated reserves, and \$170,000 interfund transfers. Other revenue of \$2.6 million includes Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, BOCES refund, interest, admissions, rental income, and donations and gifts.



Middle School students performed Disney's "Moana JR." in March as their spring musical.



Third graders at Gardner Road Elementary School spend time reading in the Library.



Vote

Tuesday, May 21 | 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School South Gym

PROPOSITION 2: PURCHASE OF BUSES

Each year, voters are asked to vote on the purchase of buses. This allows the district to borrow funds to replace buses that are ten years old or older and have 100,000 miles or more. This replacement process meets New York State Education Department recommendations for maintenance and replacement of a bus fleet.

For 2024-25, the district seeks approval to purchase school buses and vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$1,600,000. The district will finance the purchase through a five-year bond, with a substantial portion of the payment covered primarily by state aid for the five years following the purchase.

Maintaining a replacement schedule allows the district to keep its bus fleet in good working order, minimizing maintenance needs. The district's Transportation Department has a current bus inspection passing rate of 98.7% as a result of the regular care they take in maintaining buses while minimizing costs.



Currently, the district has 74 buses and six other student transportation vehicles.



Students across the district prepared for the Great American Solar Eclipse through various lessons, including the use of models to explore how a moon makes a shadow during an eclipse and the path the eclipse will take.



The Varsity Cheerleading team finished third in Class B at the NYS PHSA A Cheerleading Championship, with zero deductions.

ABSENTEE AND EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Qualified voters who cannot get to the polls on May 21 may request an application for absentee or early mail ballot.

Applications for absentee and early mail ballots are available in the district's Business Office, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. up to and including May 20.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Business Office no later than 5 p.m. May 21. The district mails absentee ballots to voters listed as "permanently disabled" by the Chemung County Board of Elections.

Questions? Call (607) 739-5601, x4201.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

On May 21, voters will elect three residents to three-year terms on the Board of Education. Below are eight candidates and information they provided to the district. Candidates are listed in the order their names will appear on the ballot.



Julie Monahan

Employment: R.V.I. Insurance Group

Educational background: B.A. in Marketing, Lynchburg College; MBA, University of Phoenix

Family: Michael Monahan (Spouse); Kegan Monahan (10th grade), Pyper Monahan (5th Grade)

Number of years living in the district: 21

Reason(s) for running: "As a proud graduate of Horseheads High School, class of 1997, and as the wife of a local business owner and mother of two children currently enrolled in the district, I am deeply committed to our community's values and future. My roots run deep here, driving my dedication to the district's success. I believe in full transparency and collaboration among all stakeholders. My goal is to propose solutions and advocate for positive changes that prioritize the students' well-being. This district belongs to all of us, and by working together, we can ensure its continued success and bring about positive changes that benefit our children and community."



Mary Joan Glanton

Employment: CASA-Trinity (Retired)

Educational background: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, St. Bonaventure University

Family: Dawn Bush (Spouse); Michael Collins, Kathleen Collins, Cory Bush (Adult Children)

Number of years living in the district: 16

Reason(s) for running: "As a tax-paying member of the Horseheads community, I have a keen interest in the stability of our school district, the success of our students, and the job security of district employees. Having recently retired as the Chief Financial Officer of CASA-Trinity, I would like to offer my time and expertise to our community by becoming a member of the Horseheads Board of Education.

During my 30+ years of experience in finance, I created and implemented project, departmental, and organization-wide budgets. I managed state and federal regulatory audits as both the auditor and auditee. I instituted and maintained internal controls to safeguard organization resources. I worked diligently to ensure that my organizations were able to deliver quality services in a fiscally sustainable way in compliance with local, state, and federal guidelines.

My objective is to represent my community's interests while collaborating with fellow board members and school employees to offer exceptional educational opportunities to our students and secure, fulfilling employment to school district employees in a financially responsible manner."



Susan Ungvarsky

Employment: Group family daycare provider

Educational background: Graduate of Thomas A. Edison

Family: Edward (Spouse) 46 years; Daughter Kara (James), Jordan, Andrew, Lexi, Son Kristopher (Vanessa), Devon, Derek, Jamison, Daughter Katrina (Dan), Kingston, Zachary, Son Kyle (Lizzy)

Number of years living in the district: 44

Reason(s) for running: "I'm running for the school board to be a voice for the community, staff and students. I have previously served on the Horseheads school board from 1993-2003. I operated a Universal Pre-K program for the Horseheads school district, in my home, from 2003-2019. Lead advisor for the HHDS/Southern Tier Snowkats ski club for 31 years. Continuing to offer daycare for the children in the Horseheads Central School district since 1984. Our four children are graduates of Horseheads and have greatly benefited from their experience there. Four of our grandchildren now attend Horseheads. Enrollment is declining, but the budget keeps increasing. We need to look at our capital projects and the impact on our budget. I have many questions and want to ensure that the decisions that are made are best for our students, staff and community. Engaging in mental health and safety are one of my top priorities as well as advocating for full transparency in the way the budget is presented to the community.

I would be honored to serve on the board again to represent the community, staff, and students."



Matthew Feinberg

Employment: High School Band Director , Waverly Central Schools

Educational background: Bachelor of Music in Education, Ithaca College; Master of Music in Education, Ithaca College

Family: Amanda (Spouse) 15 years; Maya (4th Grade, Center Street), Sebastian, (2nd Grade, Center Street Elementary), and Beatrice, 3 years old (Pre-K in the fall).

Number of years living in the district: 9

Reason(s) for running: “My family moved to this area because we loved so much of what this area can offer us and our children. We moved to Horseheads; however, because of its schools. We saw a dedication from its students, teachers, and community members rarely seen in other towns and knew it was a place to be a part of. I would be honored if elected to this position and would serve faithfully and with integrity.

As a teacher myself, I can appreciate a Board of Education that runs effectively and responsibly when employees and community members need action and support from well-informed board members. I believe my expertise and knowledge as an active educator would help this board of education function thoughtfully and professionally, while keeping the community in the know at all times about the goings-on in the school district. Too often school districts consider and enact decisions without purposeful communication to the community at-large. If we as a community are to continue supporting student achievement and opportunities here in Horseheads, then it must begin with a well-informed Board of Education.

From my experience as a band director, I find myself in line with fellow educators as well as athletics. Some colleagues equate a Board of Education to the front office of a professional sports team. If the administration isn't coaching the team in the right direction, then hard questions need to be asked. In an effort to make classrooms and schools more successful, I support the idea that policies may need to be revisited periodically to ensure relevance to student and employee needs.

After moving to Horseheads nine years ago, I believe it's time to begin giving back to the community and the school district that has given so much to me, my wife, and my children. I want to be part of a school board that will make education a priority for every child and to make sure the community knows what's being done for its schools.”



James Jacobus

Employment: Retired Teacher

Educational background: AS in Business Administration; BS in Elementary Education

Family: Cathie (Spouse)

Number of years living in the district: 50+

Reason(s) for running: “In 2016, I decided to not seek reelection to the Board of Education even though I was the incumbent president of the Board. I left to enjoy some time traveling with my wife. Now, I want to pursue some issues that I wasn't able to finish previously.

I am looking forward to emphasizing the importance of early childhood education and prioritizing elementary education. I am pleased that the State Ed is making the teaching of reading a priority. The district should make it a top priority, especially since we also had to deal with COVID and learning loss. I'm not sure how hard the district has worked to prioritize catching up with the lost time. I intend to see that the district provides funding and support to help students catch up. I am told that many students are struggling. This needs to be addressed.

Now that the district has spent a great deal of time and money on capital projects, we need to get back to the primary purpose of our existence, that being education.”

continued on page 10



Vote

Tuesday, May 21 | 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School South Gym



Kristine Dale

Employment: Program Director, Corning Incorporated

Educational background: BS in Ceramic Engineering from Alfred University

Family: George Dale (Spouse); Jeremy Dale (Class of 2018), Tommy Dale (Class of 2020), and Cody Dale (12 grade)

Number of years living in the district: 20

Reason(s) for running: “I have had the privilege of serving on the Horseheads Board of Education for the past 9 years and I welcome the opportunity to serve another 3 years. In my time on the board I have come to greatly appreciate every position and function within the district. I have been a part of some wonderful district accomplishments as well as some very tough challenges. Throughout my time I have learned that a successful board needs to be able to balance the needs of all stakeholders (staff, administrators, parents, community members and most importantly our students) as well as balance the immediate needs and future vision of the district. I am visible in the district and I am committed to listening and making informed decisions to ensure our district continues to thrive. My experiences in the corporate environments and with community charitable organizations give me a diverse perspective and allow me to share new ideas and ways of thinking. I firmly believe that our school district is the heart of our community and I am committed to ensure we have a high level of educational programs and opportunities for our students while being fiscally responsible to the community.



Theresa Cain

Employment: Special Education District Leader, Elmira City School District

Educational background: B.S. in Elementary and Special Education, Concentration in Psychology; M.S. in Education and Advanced Study in Educational Administration

Family: Will (Spouse); John (12th grade), Joseph (10th grade), and Jeffery (7th grade)

Number of years living in the district: I was born in Big Flats, NY and have lived in our current home for the past 11 years

Reason(s) for running: “Becoming a Horseheads school board member has always been a personal and professional aspiration of mine. Being elected to this prestigious governing body is a way that I can give back to my community.

As an active and devoted parent in this district, I have watched my children benefit from the many robust extracurricular, athletic, and academic programs that HCS D offers. These programs have fostered a love of learning, strong social-emotional development, and life-long memories. I want to continue to maintain the Raider commitment to excellence that will shape future generations.

As a current school district leader, I have the education and experience to help navigate the modern-day challenges and opportunities within our education system. In a collaborative setting, I weigh all sides of an issue and use relevant data to drive my decision-making. I possess effective communication and problem-solving skills that consider the viewpoints of all stakeholders. It is my goal to participate in productive deliberation that includes critical questioning, as well as active listening to arrive at the best results. Go Raiders!



Avery Forcier-Rodabaugh

Employment: Director of Technology for Addison Central School District (GST BOCES)

Educational background: Horseheads High School '12; BA Elementary Education; MS Curriculum and Instruction; MEd Learning and Technology; CAS Educational Leadership

Family: Theodore (Grade 2 at Gardner Road), William (Kindergarten at Gardner Road)

Number of years living in the district: 22

Reason(s) for running: “As a Horseheads High School graduate, parent to two children in the district, educator, and dedicated member of this community, I am compelled to offer my candidacy for the Board of Education. My decision to run stems from a profound passion for education and an unwavering commitment to the children who represent our future. As a potential board member, I offer: **1. Experience:** With a background in elementary education and educational leadership, I bring a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience to the role. **2. Collaboration:** I believe in working collaboratively with all stakeholders to foster a supportive learning environment. **3. Innovation:** I am committed to exploring innovative approaches to education that prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world. **4. Transparency:** I prioritize transparency and open communication, ensuring that decisions are made with the best interests of students at heart. **5. Dedication:** My genuine passion for education drives me to advocate tirelessly for students’ needs and interests. Together, let’s build a brighter future for our children and our community.”

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for 2023-24 School Year | Budget Proposed for 2024-25 School Year | Contingency Budget for 2024-25 School Year* |
|---|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$93,884,722 | \$102,686,280 | \$98,594,178 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year | | \$8,801,558 | \$4,709,456 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 9.37% | 5.02% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 4.12% | |
| Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$43,727,924 | \$47,820,026 | \$43,727,924 |
| Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy | \$43,727,924 | \$47,820,026 | |
| Total Permissible Exclusions | \$965,589 | \$2,317,250 | |
| School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$42,762,335 | \$44,214,624 | |
| Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions | \$42,762,335 | \$45,502,776 | |
| Difference: (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)** | \$0 | -\$1,288,152 | |
| Administrative Component | \$13,613,037 | \$13,978,602 | \$13,049,950 |
| Program Component | \$64,484,353 | \$67,993,122 | \$64,892,924 |
| Capital Component | \$15,787,332 | \$20,714,556 | \$20,651,304 |

*A contingency budget includes ordinary contingent expenses as determined by the Board and salaries subject to a cap on the administrative portion of the budget, with no increase in the tax levy over the prior year. There would be no purchase of new equipment, including buses unless approved by separate proposition, no capital expenditures unless approved by separate proposition and except in emergency situations, no salary increases for certain civil service employees not covered by an agreement with a recognized bargaining unit, outside organizations would have to pay for all facilities use, and the budget would be subject to an administrative cap on administrative expenditures.

Separate Propositions**

| Description | Amount |
|--|-------------|
| Acquire full size school buses and four-wheel drive student transportation vehicles. | \$1,600,000 |

Estimated Basic School Tax Relief (STAR) Exemption Savings¹

| | Budget Proposed for 2024-25 School Year |
|------------------------|---|
| Basic STAR Tax Savings | \$479 |

¹The basic School Tax Relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Horseheads Central School District, Chemung, and Schuyler Counties, New York, will be held at the Horseheads High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Horseheads High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.



Vote

Tuesday, May 21 | 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School South Gym

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School
South Gym

Who is eligible to vote?

All district residents are eligible to vote, as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote on May 21
- Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law

You do not have to be registered in general elections or own property in order to vote.

Horseheads Central School District
143 Hibbard Road • Horseheads, NY 14845
607-739-5601

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Above: The High School Marching Band performs during homecoming. Below: The High School Greenroom Players presented "The SpongeBob Musical" in March.



Board of Education

Warren Conklin, *President*
Liz O'Dell Wehling, *Vice President*
Daniel Christmas; MaryAnne Corbett;
Kristine Dale Doug Johnson; Katrina Ungvarsky;
Anthony Miller, *Student Representative*

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas

Contact

Samantha Eck, (607) 739-5601, x4295
hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com