



Cambridge Central School District 2017 BUDGET NEWSLETTER



May 2017

Proposition #1

2017-2018 Budget Resolution Shall the Board of Education of Cambridge Central School District, Counties of Washington and Rensselaer, New York be authorized to spend the sum of \$20,793,846 as set forth as General Fund Appropriations in the 2017-18 Budget, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition #2

Shall an appropriation of \$49,000 be made in the 2017-18 budget for the Cambridge Public Library: This sum to be raised by the levy of a tax on the taxable property of the Cambridge Central School District?

Proposition #3

Shall the Board of Education of Cambridge Central School District be authorized to dispose of two (2) 66-passenger buses, and replace them with two (2) 70 passenger buses for the purpose of pupil transportation at a maximum price not to exceed \$228,094 to be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said school district and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligation of said school?

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots are obtainable between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk's Office at 58 South Park Street.

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election 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 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, **May 16, 2017.**

BOARD CANDIDATES 2017-18

The Board of Education is made up of five members who serve for three year terms. *This year, two seats will be filled at the election on May 16th.*

The candidates are:

**Caleb Breault
Neil Gifford**

Qualifications for Voting

- Citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age
- Resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to voting
- **Vote on May 16, 2017**
- Noon to 8:00 PM at the School Auditorium

Cambridge Central School District

58 South Park Street
Cambridge, NY 12816

Phone: 518-677-2653
Fax: 518-677-3889

Vincent A. Canini, Superintendent
Beth A. Coates, Business Manager

Board of Education

Neil Gifford, President
Paul Baker-Porazinski, Vice President
Dede Nash
Beth O'Grady
Jessica Roosevelt

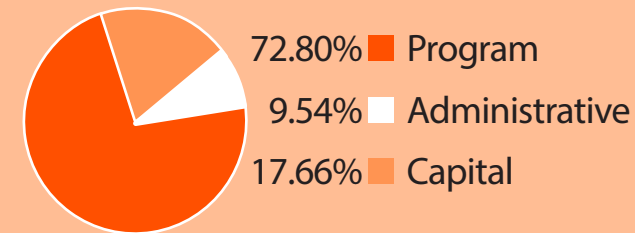
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POSTAL PATRON

HOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL DOLLAR IS SPENT

By New York State law, school budgets are broken into three categories: Administrative, Instructional Program, and Capital.

The State Education Department recommends these categories represent ALL expenses related to their function. Most school districts in the state follow these recommendations.

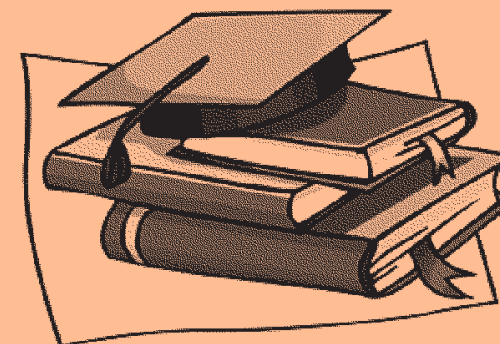


ESTIMATED TAX EXAMPLES FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

EXAMPLE

Based on a \$150,000 home

\$150,000.00	Home Value
-30,000.00	Less: Basic STAR
\$120,000.00	Taxable Property Amount
\$16.60	True Value for 16-17
\$17.09	True Value for 17-18
\$1,992	Estimated Tax Bill for 16-17
\$2051	Estimated Tax Bill for 17-18
\$59.00	Change



Fellow Cambridge Central School District Community Members,

On Tuesday May 16, 2017 we will host the annual school budget vote and Academic Fair in the auditorium from noon to 8 PM.

Thanks to your support, improving state aid and an incredibly experienced faculty, staff and administration, our school district has continued to improve its ability to prepare our kids for their future. This has resulted not only in improved academic performance and district standing, but also in highly successful athletic and extracurricular programs.

Your support of the building project (79.5% of which is state aid reimbursable) also provided for wise and much needed investments in the building; fixing critical infrastructure and improving safety, while creating long-overdue improvements to academic and athletic spaces. In particular, the improvements to the small gym, locker rooms, and library/media centers will foster continued excellence and pride in the classroom and on the field.

The proposed 2017-18 budget looks to build on this success and available state aid. It provides for a year-to-year increase of only 1.03 %, compared to the 2.61% increase approved last year. Savings on retirement, utilities (thanks to previous energy conservation measures), transportation, and debt service will also allow the district to continue to reduce its dependence on the fund balance – further strengthening its financial health and stability.

If approved, the 2017-18 budget will maintain existing programs and staff, and return the secondary Life Skills class. The budget also keeps the District well below the state tax cap which maintains Star Tax Exemption Rebate eligibility.

To learn more about the proposed budget, improved district standing and academics, and Election Day details, please review the information provided within this newsletter. Information is also available on the District website, www.cambridgecsd.org. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the District Office by phone (677-2653 ext. 1016) or e-mail beth.coates@cambridgecsd.org.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the budget vote and Academic Fair and to working with you to provide our kids with an education we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Education
Neil Gifford, President
Paul Baker-Porazinski, Vice President
Dede Nash
Beth O'Grady
Jessica Roosevelt

Superintendent Vincent Canini

2017-17 BUDGET Expenditure Summary

Administrative expenditures cover expenses related to district management. The Administrative expenses comprise 9.54 percent of the overall budget, down slightly from 9.55 percent from the previous year.

Program expenditures include items directly related to instruction. These include salaries, benefits and pupil transportation costs. The Program budget comprises approximately 72.80 percent of the total budget which reflects an increase from the previous year's total of 71.14 percent. This was primarily due to an increase in benefit costs for the district of the instructional staff.

Capital expenditure account for 17.66 percent of the total budget. This is a decrease of 1.65 percent, from the previous year of 19.31 percent. This decrease is due to a decrease in debt service obligations of the districts. Project 2015 has been in full swing since the summer of 2016 and is on schedule for completion in the fall of 2017. These expenditures also include the cost of maintenance, operations, utilities, transportation (bus purchases). Also included in this component is the on going \$100,000 project line item that will allow the district to replace science wing windows and improve lighting in the auditorium where testing takes place at a reimbursement of 79.5 cents on the dollar through state building aid.

Bus Purchases are reimbursed by the State at a rate of 73.6 cents on the dollar. Currently, the district has 3 buses that are both over ten (10) years old AND have over 100,000 miles. Buses are subject to much more stringent DOT inspections than are passenger vehicles. The two buses the district is proposing to replace actually failed their last DOT inspection. The district is proposing to purchase two (2) 70 passenger buses to replace these two (2) 66 passenger buses. The net cost is approximately \$60,217 to the tax payers. The buses traveled 228,094 miles last year transporting 808 pupils.

ADMINISTRATIVE	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Board of Education	\$27,411	\$27,700	\$289
Central Administration	\$197,358	\$204,997	\$7,639
Finance	\$305,755	\$279,200	-\$26,555
Legal	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Personnel	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Public Information	\$28,583	\$28,722	\$139
Central Services	\$6,630	\$8,750	\$2,120
Special Items	\$204,071	\$202,068	-\$2,003
Curriculum Development	\$67,450	\$80,350	\$12,900
Supervision-Regular School	\$361,818	\$362,882	\$1,064
Supervision-Special School	\$6,900	\$6,920	\$20
Supervision-Non Instructional	\$119,386	\$122,968	\$3,582
Instruction	\$0	\$0	\$0
Benefits	\$623,410	\$642,470	\$19,060
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,966,272	\$1,984,528	\$18,256

PROGRAM	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Legal	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Central Services	\$37,434	\$52,199	\$14,765
Instruction	\$9,130,588	\$9,444,874	\$314,286
Other District Transportation	\$739,219	\$802,247	\$63,028
Garage Building	\$99,642	\$99,367	-\$275
Contract Transportation	\$48,299	\$38,299	-\$10,000
BOCES Transportation	\$692	\$692	\$0
Benefits	\$4,544,826	\$4,660,366	\$115,540
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$14,640,700	\$15,138,042	\$497,342

CAPITAL	2016-17	2017-18	Change
Plant Operation	\$909,712	\$887,173	-\$22,539
Plant Maintenance	\$162,546	\$159,768	-\$2,778
Special Items	\$0	\$0	\$0
Bus Purchases	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Benefits	\$408,786	\$417,478	\$8,692
Debt Service	\$2,490,560	\$2,203,857	-\$286,703
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$3,974,604	\$3,671,276	-\$303,328

TOTAL BUDGET	2016-17	2017-18	Change
	\$20,581,576	\$20,793,846	\$212,270

2017-18 BUDGET Revenue Summary

Revenues primarily come from two sources: Taxes and State Aid. State Aid is comprised largely of Foundation aid and what is referred to as an expense driven aid. State Aid decreased by \$188,512 over the 2016-17 school year due to the decrease in debt service obligation on the expenditure side. While there was a decrease in state aid, the district was still able to reduce its Assigned Fund Balance to \$600,000 to balance the budget. The District hopes to be able to further reduce it's Assigned Fund Balance to a more sustainable level over the next few years.

The District intends to stay within the Property Tax Levy Limit calculation by proposing an increase of 2.9% to generate \$251,741 in tax revenue.

REVENUES	2016-17	2017-18	Change
State Aid	\$11,004,610	\$10,816,098	(\$188,512)
Fund Balance	\$700,000	\$600,000	(\$100,000)
Interest on Investments	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Real Property Taxes	\$8,446,634	\$8,676,588	\$229,954
Summer School Tuition	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$390,831	\$661,660	\$270,829
Total Revenues	\$20,581,575	\$20,793,846	\$212,270

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-18 by the qualified voters of the Cambridge Central School District, WASHINGTON County, New York, will be held at the High School Auditorium in said district on **Tuesday May 16, 2017** between the hours of **12:00 PM and 8:00 PM** prevailing time, at which the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

School District Budget Notice			
Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-2017	Budget Proposed for the 2017-2018	Contingency Budget for the 2017-2018
Total Budget Amount	\$20,581,575	\$20,793,846	\$20,542,105
Increase /Decrease for the 2017-2018 School Year		\$212,271	-\$39,470
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Each Proposed Budget		1.03%	-0.19%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
School Tax Levy Limit		\$8,702,588	
Proposed School year Tax Levy (without permissible Exclusions to the School Tax levy Limit)		\$7,980,468	
Total Permissible Exclusions		\$696,120	
Proposed School year Tax Levy (including permissible Exclusions to the School Tax levy Limit)		\$8,676,588	
Administrative Component	\$1,966,272	\$1,984,528	\$1,972,886
Program Component	\$14,640,700	\$15,138,042	\$15,027,043
Capital Component	\$3,974,604	\$3,671,276	\$3,542,176
*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a Contingency Budget for the 2017-2018 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. State law establishes a limit on the increase of a contingent budget over the district budget for the prior year.			

CONTINGENT BUDGET

According to state law, the public may vote on a school budget only twice in any given year. In the event the proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget. The Board may elect to go directly to a contingent budget after the first defeat.

With the establishment of the Property Tax Cap in July, 2011, the spending cap on contingent budgets was removed. This means district expenditures are NO longer restricted to the contingent budget cap (4% or 120% of CPI). Instead, the tax levy can be no greater than the prior year actual tax levy, and could possibly be less. No increase in the tax levy is allowed.

Certain expenses are exempt from the spending cap, including the cost of new enrollment, gifts, grants. A contingency budget may allow field trips, sports, transportation to school; however, most equipment and pupil supplies are not allowed (i.e. buses, computer equipment). Also, the annual \$100,000 project, which generates Building Aid revenue, and gets considerable amount of capital work done to the building, would not be allowed. The district would be forced to cut **\$251,741** in expenditures to reach the contingent budget amount of **\$20,542,105**.

Cambridge CSD Property Tax Report Card			
	Budgeted 2016-17	Budgeted 2017-18	Change Percent
Total Spending	\$20,581,575	\$20,793,846	1.03%
Total Estimated Tax Levy	\$8,424,847	\$8,676,588	2.99%
Public School Enrollment	884	888	0.45%
Consumer Price Index			1.26%

Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$763,969	\$707,219
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$700,000	\$600,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$822,263	\$825,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.00%	3.97%

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR² Exemption Savings Based on a home within the school district with a Full Value of \$100,000.



for the Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year

¹Provide a statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law.

²The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.