

Oneonta City School District



SPECIAL 2023-24 BUDGET ISSUE

Dear Yellowjacket Community Members:

It is my sincere wish that this letter finds you all well. As we continue to further our district's mission to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and values to become productive participants in a changing world, I am writing to share information about the 2023-2024 school budget designed to do just that. Our caring staff remains committed to encouraging students to accept personal responsibility, undertake civic participation, prepare for future careers and develop a life-long love of learning. To this end, we remain committed to offering our students a robust and opportunity-filled educational experience and will never lose sight of the reality that we are most fortunate to have an incredibly supportive Yellowjacket Community to collaborate with as we collectively undertake this incredibly important work.

Please note that New York State public school districts will conduct budget and board of education member elections on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Voting will take place at The Foothills Performing Arts Center on Market Street from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the Board of Education has proposed a budget of \$44,210,485 that represents a 4.61% expenditure increase. We continue to do our best to balance education and finances while our actual state aid calculations for the current and future years are still not clear. We believe that this budget plan is responsible financially while including enhancements to our programs to assist students with their academic progress. We continue to endeavor to position our students as favorably as possible when they embark on whatever their "next" is. It is because of your continued support, the students in the Oneonta City School District are afforded that opportunity. I proudly share that the Oneonta City School District continues to lead the region with rigorous programming and extra- and co-curricular offerings. Your continued support makes this all possible, and for that—we thank you.

This proposed budget equates to an estimated 3.687% increase in the total tax levy. The Board of Education will set the final tax levy in August. To balance the budget while being mindful of all of our stakeholders, the district continues to look for ways to provide the same or better product in a cost-effective manner. This plan allows us to maintain and improve our facilities, equipment, and technology as well as enhance our programming and security. We are also hopeful that some changes to our health insurance offerings will provide substantial savings.

We continue to be appreciative of the state and federal funding but need to be mindful that these funding streams may not be sustainable.

I encourage you to visit our website www.oneontacsd.org for additional information.

This year, you will be voting on four (4) items:

1. Budget \$44,210,485
2. Election of two (2) Board of Education members
3. Proposition for two (2) bus purchases to be bonded.
4. Establishment of a Capital Reserve

Your approval of this budget will enable the Oneonta City School District to continue to be the academic leader in our region providing excellent opportunities for our children.

Continued best wishes to you and your families and thank you as we continue to serve our students and community in the best possible manner.

—Thomas Brindley, Superintendent

BUDGET HEARING

The Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m.
at the Oneonta High School Cafeteria

Please visit our website www.oneontacsd.org
for more detailed information.

YOU WILL BE VOTING ON FOUR (4) ITEMS

Budget \$44,210,485

Election of two (2) Board of Education members

Proposition for two (2) bus purchases to be bonded

Capital Reserve

ABSENTEE BALLOT

All qualified voters unable to go to the polling location on May 16, 2023, may vote by Absentee Ballot. Applications for Absentee Ballots may be obtained from the District Clerk at the School Superintendent's Office, 31 Center Street., Oneonta, Monday through Friday (except holidays), 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ballots must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 16, 2023. For further information, please email the District Clerk at rmcguinness@oneontacsd.org.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER ELECTION

Two positions are open, for three-year terms to the seven-person Board of Education. Candidates running are:

Shawn Beckerink—This year I will be running for my third term as a member of the Oneonta City School District Board of Education. During my tenure with the BOE, we have been challenged with some very difficult times however, our top priority has been and always will be, to provide the best possible education for all our students. As a member of the board, I currently sit on the following committees: Policy, Building and Grounds/Capital Improvement, Safety, and Technology. What I have enjoyed most about being a member of the BOE is watching our students grow to their potential and fulfilling their visions. This task could not be accomplished without the hard work and dedication from our Oneonta Yellowjacket Family.

Margot Reynolds—Margot has lived in Oneonta since 2013 and has been involved in education for over 15 years. Currently, she is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Communication Studies at SUNY Oneonta. Prior to working at SUNY, Margot taught at the elementary level in Otego, NY and Stoneham, MA. Margot also has several years of experience in finance as a research assistant for Wellington Management, a private investment management firm in Boston.

Margot has a B.A. in English from Middlebury College, and an M.A. in English & an M.A.T. in Elementary Education from Simmons College. She is the Treasurer of the Greater Plains PTO, a coordinator for Oneonta Reading is Fundamental, and has previously held board appointments for the West Kortright Centre and the Wellington Management Company Charitable Fund.

Margot and her husband Chilton have two children who attend district schools, and she is eager to use her experience in education and finance to support students, families, and educators in the Oneonta City School District.

ONEONTA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

31 Center Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

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13815

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Amy Burnsworth, President
Susan Kurkowski, Vice-President

Michael Iannelli
Shari Johnson-Ploutz
Shawn Beckerink
Maureen Artale
Ryan Swan

Superintendent of Schools
Thomas Brindley

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

2023-24 BUDGET

Resolved, to approve the Budget adopted by the Board of Education for the Oneonta City School District on April 12, 2023 for the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$44,210,485 to meet the estimated expenditures contained therein during the 2023-24 school year, and to levy the necessary tax, therefore.

Explanation: Our Yellowjacket team worked collectively to develop a plan that continues to provide outstanding educational programming and support, paving the way for student success. This budget also maintains development and support for our Yellowjacket staff so that as team members, we have the tools that we need to provide the very best to our students. This budget allows us to continue to make positive strides forward. It provides safety enhancements and educational stability. Our district is proud of the many extra-curricular offerings district-wide for students on all levels, which includes 41 teams and 65 clubs, enhancing well-rounded programming and providing a variety of opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. The district is entering year four (4) of a five (5) year Transportation Contract with Durham School Services.

A large increase in foundation aid will enable us to absorb and continue utilizing many of the student support positions that were created as a response to the COVID pandemic and were initially funded by Federal Stimulus funds. The state aid increase came with the same criteria for use as the stimulus funds.

Our capital portion includes necessary buildings and grounds maintenance as well as health and safety considerations, including the addition of 2 security guards. The capital portion also includes our debt service, or principal and interest payments on bonds to fund voter approved capital improvements, which are offset by building aid. Transportation purchases (Buses) have not been included in the budget (\$312,473) and will be listed as a separate proposition on the ballot, funded by future borrowing which aligns with transportation aid.

A Reserve for Capital Improvements proposition is also included on our May ballot. A successful vote will allow the district to create a reserve to offset the local portion of a future capital project, which will be presented to the voters. This future project will include roofing, safety enhancements and other necessary maintenance.

The 2023-2024 budget being presented to the voters results in an estimated tax levy increase of 3.69% or \$822,108. This is within the allowable maximum tax levy ("Tax Cap"). We feel that we are presenting a fiscally responsible and educationally sound budget.

If the school budget is defeated, the Board of Education has the option of presenting the same or a revised budget for a second vote, or immediately adopting a contingency budget. The contingency budget must remain within a zero percent increase in taxes. The administrative portion of the budget is subject to a cap. Certain non-contingent items as determined by the Board of Education, including supplies and staff development could be reduced if a contingency budget was implemented.

Please visit our website, www.oneontacsd.org, to view details regarding the 2023-2024 budget. Click on Community and then Budget Information to view expenditure and revenue details, presentations and property tax cap information.

ANTICIPATED REVENUES					
REVENUE CATEGORIES	STATE AID	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	LOCAL AND OTHER	PROPERTY TAX LEVY	TOTAL
2022-23	\$17,892,965	\$946,558	\$1,128,029	\$22,294,864	\$42,262,416
2023-24	\$19,358,950	\$900,000	\$834,563	\$23,116,972	\$44,210,485
% Change	8.19%	(4.92%)	(26.02%)	3.69%	4.61%
ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES					
EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES	PROGRAM	CAPITAL	ADMINISTRATIVE (SCHOOL MANAGEMENT)	TOTAL	
2022-23	\$32,400,707	\$6,397,529	\$3,464,180	\$42,262,416	
2023-24	\$34,263,583	\$6,429,017	\$3,517,885	\$44,210,485	
% Change	5.75%	0.49%	1.55%	4.61%	