

Wynantskill

UNION
FREE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Gardner-Dickinson Gazette

THE 2021-2022 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

BUDGET VOTE

TUESDAY
MAY 18, 2021
Noon – 9 p.m.

Gardner-Dickinson School
25 East Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

1.72% TAX LEVY
INCREASE

PROPOSED
2021-22 BUDGET

\$10,148,898

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Developing upon technological infrastructure within the district
- Enhancing security in the building
- Expanding ELA curriculum
- Keeping up with transportation needs

ALSO ON THE BALLOT:

- Board of Education Election (Two Seats)

District Developing Technology, Security

A community vote on Wynantskill UFSD's 2021-22 budget will take place Tuesday, May 18 from noon - 9 p.m. in the Gardner-Dickinson School. The polls will be open to vote by voting machine. The 2021-22 school budget totals \$10,148,898 and requires a 1.72% tax levy increase, which is within New York State's Property Tax Cap for the ninth consecutive year.

The COVID-19 pandemic projected the district into uncharted territory, but it has also acted as a catalyst for positive changes. In this technological era, it is essential to ensure education is propelling forward at the same rate as modern technology and not remaining stagnant. Technology has been the district's main focus during the 2020-21 academic year and will continue moving forward into the 2021-22 academic year.

Last year, Wynantskill UFSD was approved to receive the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA). The SSBA finances advanced technological infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students. Through the SSBA, Wynantskill UFSD was able to develop its technological infrastructure at its core, beginning with new network switches. Upgrading network switches allowed the district to, in turn, enhance its servers, security and classroom technology.

Set for July 2021, the district will implement its security upgrades including lock replacements, a brand new access system with key fobs, automatic door openers, increased security cameras and handicap accessible entrances. In April, the district upgraded its phone systems to allow for a more secure phone network. The phones, now in each room in the building, have the capability to call for lock downs and more. The SSBA also allowed the district to gradually phase interactive, touch screen promethean boards into classrooms.

Through the district budget, the district will continue to build upon one-to-one devices and computer security. Pre-K through Grade 8 students will each receive a new chromebook to develop and maintain foundational skills in technology. Securly, a student safety and device management software, will now be on each student's chromebook. The software protects students while online using district-issued devices, filtering for cyberbullying, inappropriate content and more.

"We're trying to help students stay on track and avoid distractions," said Wynantskill UFSD Network Systems Engineer Anthony Vescio. "Our goal is to always provide a safe, effective learning environment for our students while encouraging healthy socialization."

"Developing our technology gives us the leverage we need to help achieve our academic goals," said Wynantskill UFSD Superintendent Dr. Mary Yodis. "This is an investment in the quality of our education to ensure our students will excel in all subject areas."

BUDGET COMPARISON

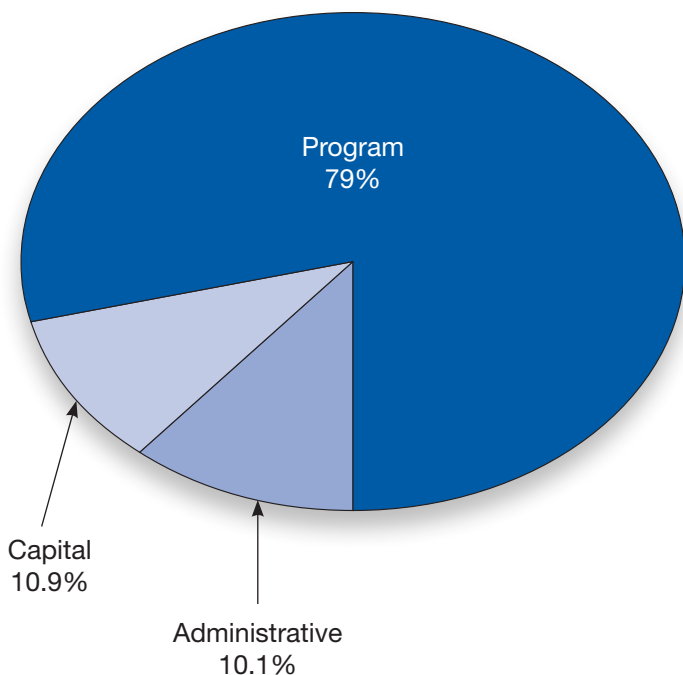
	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change	% of Budget
PROGRAM	\$7,645,478	\$8,025,704	\$380,226	79%
Teaching & Instruction, Instructional Media, Computer Services, Guidance/Health Services, Co-Curricular/Athletics, Special Education, Student Transportation, Bus Repairs/Maintenance				
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,105,424	\$1,023,806	-\$81,618	10.1%
Board of Education: Clerk, Legal, Census, Treasurer, Tax Collection Superintendent: Business Administration, Purchasing, Payroll, Insurance, BOCES Administration Principal: Supervision, Staff Development & Training, Curriculum Auditing Services: External, Internal & Claims				
CAPITAL	\$1,113,508	\$1,099,388	-\$14,120	10.9%
Operation of Plant, Maintenance of Plant, Construction Principal/Interest, Purchase of Buses				
BUDGET TOTAL	\$9,864,410	\$10,148,898	\$284,488	100%

REVENUE ESTIMATES

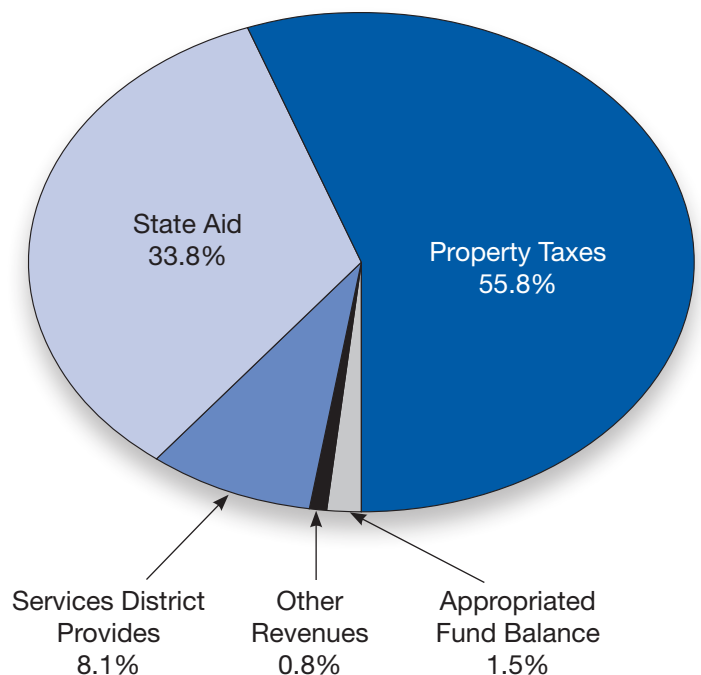
	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change	% of Revenues
Property Taxes	\$5,567,523	\$5,663,056	\$95,533	55.8%
State Aid*	3,200,000	3,430,288	230,288	33.8%
Services District Provides	855,887	817,554	-38,333	8.1%
Other Revenues	85,000	82,000	-3,000	0.8%
Appropriated Fund Balance	156,000	156,000	0	1.5%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,864,410	\$10,148,898	\$284,488	100%

* Does not include Federal Stimulus Funds

Expenses



Revenues



Wynantskill Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 9,864,410	\$10,148,898	\$10,053,365										
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$284,488	\$188,955										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.88 %	1.92%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$5,567,523	\$5,663,056											
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 Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$5,567,523	\$5,663,056	\$5,567,523										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$	\$											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$5,567,523	\$5,663,056											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$5,567,523	\$5,663,056											
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$1,105,424	\$1,023,806	\$1,017,577										
Program Component	\$7,645,478	\$8,025,704	\$7,948,048										
Capital Component	\$1,113,508	\$1,099,388	\$1,087,740										
To reach contingency budget amount, the District would reduce or eliminate certain expenses including equipment purchases, supply increases, non-union increases, and other contractual services, as necessary.													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount		\$		\$		\$		\$
Description	Amount												
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	\$												
<p>** 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)</p>													

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$577

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held in the Gymnasium at Gardner-Dickinson School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of Noon and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

DID YOU KNOW? — TRANSPORTATION EDITION

Local routes transporting to and from Gardner-Dickinson, as well as 20 different school locations, average about 23,000 miles per academic year. These numbers include providing transportation services to the North Greenbush Central School District, as they contract with us for all of their transportation needs.

School buses are one of the safest vehicles on the road because they are the most regulated. School buses are serviced regularly and are inspected every six months. The State Education Department recommends districts replace 28-passenger buses every five to seven years and 66-passenger buses every 10 years. Older buses are unlikely to pass safety inspections without significant investment in pricey parts and repairs. The total cost to purchase up to two brand new school buses would not exceed \$171,680.

FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS

The Coronavirus Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan Act are one-time federal stimulus funds that will be distributed over the next few years and have specific parameters in how they may be spent. **Additional guidelines for spending are projected to be released at a later date.* Wynantskill UFSD has begun plans to use these additional funds.

The district is excited about the opportunity to select an updated ELA curriculum along with program materials that will enhance the district's balanced literacy instruction in all grade levels as well as align to the new pre-k through grade 8 learning standards.

"This funding will allow us to enhance our current English Language Arts instruction by purchasing resources that will support an enriching and rigorous reading and writing program," said Gardner-Dickinson Principal Suzann Cornell. "We will be able to provide daily literacy instruction that is tailored for whole class, small group, and individual student needs. We plan to emphasize authentic experiences in reading, thinking, talking, writing and reflection."

ECRWSS *** POSTAL CUSTOMER

Superintendent
Dr. Mary Yodis

Board of Education
Andrew Lanese, *President*
Darcy Mack, *Vice President*
Cathleen Castle
Keith Hirokawa
Eric Strang

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www.wynantskillufsd.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Voters will elect candidates to fill two (2) open seats on the Board of Education. Each elected seat is a three-year term expiring in June 2024. The following incumbent candidates will be listed on the ballot: Darcy Mack, Keith Hirokawa.

DARCY MACK

Darcy Mack has been a resident of Wynantskill for 19 years with her husband Tom and two children, Brigid and Cooper. She has a master's degree in Educational Psychology and works for the St. Peter's Health Partners' Nursing Professional Development Department in Instructional Design. She has been a Wynantskill Community Board member for the past six years serving four of them as Vice President. She has also volunteered her time as President of the Wynantskill Community SEPTA, PTA Member, the Talent Show committee and as a Girl Scout Leader. She states "as a Board Member, I will continue to support innovation that gives our children tools to become lifelong learners, and I will continue to support issues that work to resolve equity in education. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve this district."

KEITH HIROKAWA

Keith Hirokawa teaches law at the Albany Law School. He teaches courses involving property and environmental and land use law. He has published articles exploring teaching theory, ecology, ethics, economics and law. Professor Hirokawa has taught at Albany Law School, Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (presently Texas A&M) and the University of Oregon School of Law. He holds an MA and JD from the University of Connecticut and an LLM from Lewis & Clark Law School. He attributes the success of his two boys, Owen and Ethan, to their experiences at Gardner-Dickinson.

VOTER INFORMATION

When and where is the vote?

TUESDAY, MAY 18 • NOON – 9 P.M.
Gardner-Dickinson School Gymnasium

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and is a resident of the Wynantskill Union Free School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?

A district resident who is unable to go to the polls on May 18 can cast their vote by absentee ballot. To request an application for an absentee ballot, please call the District Clerk at 518-283-4600 or email hhallock@wynantskillufsd.org. Hand-delivered absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 17. Those who do not wish to vote in person due to COVID-19 may request an application for an absentee ballot.

What if I have questions?

The district website, www.wynantskillufsd.org/district/budget-taxes, has additional budget resources including a budget presentation from a Board meeting. You can also call the District Office at 518-283-4600.