

# *2020-21 Proposed Budget Message...*

Dear Byron-Bergen Community,

The Byron-Bergen Central School District Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2020-21 budget during their May 18<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

The 2019-20 year will be remembered as extraordinary. With the Governor's Executive orders, the closing of all schools and the directive for schools to continue education, many changes had to be made very quickly. Although it was disappointing to hear that Governor Cuomo eliminated any increases in State Aid revenue for the 2020-21 school year, it was alarming to hear that he will probably be cutting State Aid at one, two or three times throughout the 2020-21 school year. Trying to develop a budget which continues to provide all existing programs for our students with the understanding that we may lose an unknown amount of income next January has been a struggle. The adopted budget 2020-21 continues to include all existing programs and the first payment of debt for the 2017 Capital Project which will be completed by August 31, 2020. Some cost savings for the District are from faculty member's retirements, a vacant clerical position not being filled and reduction in special education costs.

The following Propositions and Election of Board Candidates are on the absentee ballot for June 9, 2020:

## **Proposition 1: 2020-21 Proposed Budget**

The \$24,599,800 proposed budget projects an increase. The budget was balanced utilizing retirement of employees, reduction in Special Education costs, and Fund Balance. The property tax levy of 1.99% is less than Byron-Bergen's "allowable" tax levy limit (cap) of 2.52% for the 2020-21 school year.

## **Proposition 2: Bus Purchase Proposition**

This proposition is for the purchase of two buses. The State aid ratio is approximately 90%, making the net local share per bus \$12,300. The estimated average cost for the bus proposition is, \$2.00 per year on a house valued at \$100,000.

## **Board of Education Trustee Election:**

Two Board of Education trustees will be elected to serve a three year term beginning July 1, 2020.

We encourage you to review the information on the following pages to learn more about the budget, propositions, and Board candidates. Community members will also have an opportunity to learn more about the Budget by viewing a pre-recorded presentation on the school website, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

The budget presentation, bus purchase proposition, and additional resources are posted on our website at [www.bbschools.org/DistrictBudget.aspx](http://www.bbschools.org/DistrictBudget.aspx). Please feel free to contact our Business Office at (585) 494 -1220 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continual support and we encourage you to exercise your right to vote on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Per Governor Cuomo's Executive order 202.26, absentee ballots must be received by 5 pm.

Best Regards,

Mickey Edwards

## *Answering your tax-related questions...*

### ***Q. Why is the Budget Vote and Board candidate election by absentee ballot this year?***

- A. As a result of COVID-19 and the requirement to socially distance, Governor Cuomo declared all School budget votes and board candidate elections must be done by absentee ballot only and must be held on June 9, 2020, voting closes at 5:00 p.m.

### ***Q. Why is the Budget Vote so late this year?***

- A. Section 2022 of Education Laws state school Budget votes and Board Elections shall be held the “third Tuesday in May.” Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Cuomo issued Executive order No. 202.26 which modified School District Budget Vote and Board of Elections. The Executive order cancelled the May 19, 2020 vote date and rescheduled it to June, 9, 2020.

### ***Q. What is Byron-Bergen’s allowable tax levy limit?***

- A. Under the law, Byron Bergen can establish a maximum tax levy limit of 2.52% for a simple majority vote. The proposed tax levy increase for 2020-21 is **1.99%**, we are under the tax cap.

### ***Q. What is Byron-Bergen Central School’s budget for next year?***

- A. The proposed budget is \$24,599,800. This represents a budget-to-budget increase of 4.48%.

### ***Q. Why is the Budget increase so large?***

- A. In September 2017, the school was authorized to enter into a capital project for renovation work at the elementary school which included, removal of the movable walls, replacing windows, changing from electric heat to natural gas, replacing the dehumidification system at the Natatorium. In addition, some sections of roofing were replaced on the Jr./Sr. high school building, the entire roof on the bus garage was replaced, new bleachers at the soccer stadium, new tennis courts and more. This capital project will be completed by August 31, 2020 and the school must pay its first debt mortgage payment during the 2020-21 school year.

### ***Q. What happened to the property tax relief credit ?***

- A. The property tax relief credit program ended as of March 31, 2020 and was not renewed by the Governor or the NYS Legislature. What this means as a taxpayer, the School stayed in compliance with the tax levy limitation, however, NYS will not be mailing a check to homeowners.

### ***Q. Is the STAR program still in effect?***

- A. Yes. The STAR program is in effect. Basic STAR entitles the eligible homeowner to a \$30,000 reduction in taxable value, which is a 30% decrease in school taxes. A homeowner eligible for the Enhanced Senior STAR program will see a \$69,800 reduction in taxable value, which represents a 69.8% decrease in school taxes. These values are based on a principal residence valued at \$100,000.

## *Answering your tax-related questions Continued...*

### ***Q. How do new homeowners apply for their STAR benefit?***

- A. For homes purchased after August 1, 2015, the homeowner will need to register for the STAR credit through New York State rather than applying with your assessor. For these homeowners a STAR credit will be received in the form of a check from New York State directly. This program still exists and is different from the Property Tax Relief check.

### ***Q. Am I eligible for the Enhanced Star benefit?***

- A. If you own your home and it is your primary residence, are age 65 by December 31, 2020 and your income is \$88,050 or less, you are eligible for the Enhance STAR benefit. Go to [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) for more information.

### ***Q. What affect does an increase in property assessments have on my school taxes?***

- A. Increases in property assessments can cause an increase in your tax bill to be greater than the propose 1.99%. Please note, the school is not involved in any increases/decreases with your property assessment. If you have any questions with regard to your assessment or need any information changed on your tax bill, you should contact your town tax assessor.

## *What you will see at the polls?*

### ***Proposition #1***

RESOLVED that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Byron-Bergen Central School District for the school year 2020-21, totaling \$24,599,800 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State aid and other sources as provided by law.

### ***Proposition #2***

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Byron-Bergen Central School District is hereby authorized to acquire two (2) 70 passenger school buses at a cost not to exceed \$246,000, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, expend such sums for such purpose, levy the tax necessary therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account State aid received, and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time, or enter into a lease-purchase agreement to acquire said vehicles.



# FOCAL POINT

## Byron Bergen Central School District 2020 Annual Budget Vote And Election

This notice is sent pursuant to New York Governor Executive Order No. 202.26 to provide information regarding the Byron-Bergen Central School District's (the "School District") 2020 Annual Budget Vote and Election.

**Date of the Budget Vote and Election:**

June 9, 2020 (via absentee ballot only);

**Date of Budget Hearing:** May 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm via the School website - [www.bbschools.org](http://www.bbschools.org);

**Definition of Qualified Voter:** A person shall be entitled to vote in the School District's 2020 Annual Budget Vote and Election, who is:

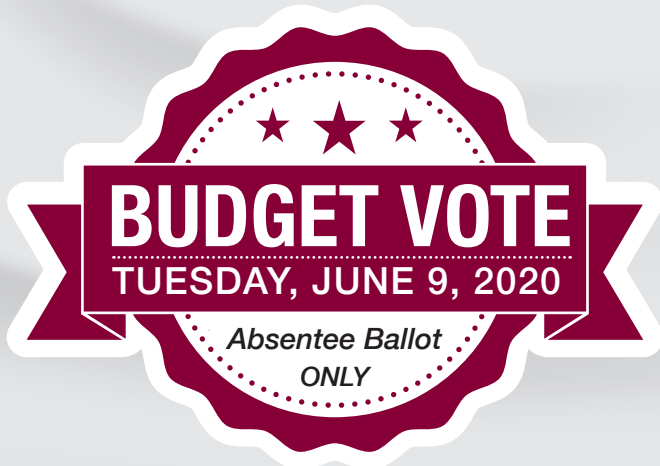
1. A citizen of the United States;
2. Eighteen years of age;
3. A resident within the School District for a period of thirty days preceding June 9, 2020; and
4. No person shall have the right to register for or vote who would not be qualified to register for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law.

**Absentee Ballot:** In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, absentee ballots are to be mailed by the District. New York State Schools, other than city schools, are not required to have prior voter registration for the annual meeting and Election. As a non-city School, Byron-Bergen CSD does not have a list of every eligible voter in the District. We will be mailing absentee ballots to every voter registered with the County Elections Office, Byron-Bergen School students who are or will be 18 years of age by June 9, 2020, parents/guardians of Byron Bergen School students, everyone who voted on the 2019-20 budget last May 2019 and employees who reside in the District. The absentee ballots will be mailed on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. If you are an eligible voter who does not receive an absentee ballot in the mail by June 1, 2020 and would like one, please contact the District Clerk via email at [taxcollector@bbschools.org](mailto:taxcollector@bbschools.org) or call (585) 494-1220 ext. 2529. For the School District to provide an absentee ballot when requested, the District Clerk will need the spelling of the name and the entire mailing address.

**Return of Ballot:** Ballots (enclosed in sealed return envelope) can be returned to the School District via U.S. mail or dropped off at the District Office entrance of the Jr./Sr. High School Building. Drop-off hours are:

- 8:00 am to 2:00 pm - Monday through Thursday from May 27, 2020 to June 8, 2020
- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm – June 9, 2020 (Budget Vote Day)

The exterior door of the District Office will be unlocked and ballots can be dropped into the "teller" drawer on the right side.



# Three part budget expenditures

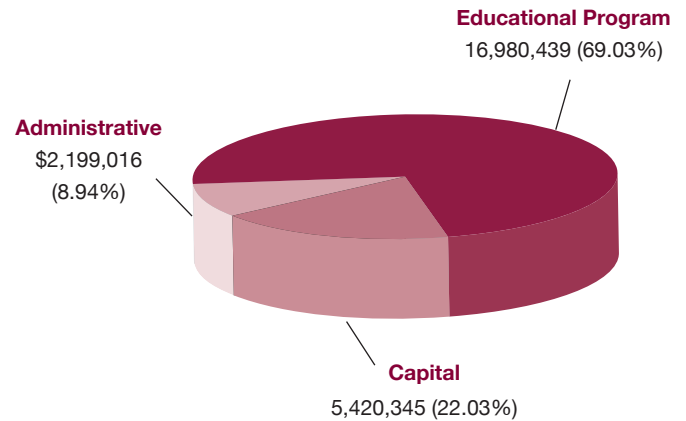
Component	Actual Budget 2019-20	Proposed Budget 2020-21
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
Board of Education	\$23,750	\$26,450
Central administration	\$253,173	\$253,415
Finance	\$310,483	\$367,849
Legal services	\$114,500	\$107,776
Public information	\$83,200	\$86,500
Other central services	\$38,000	\$41,050
Other special items	\$269,517	\$263,792
Curriculum, development & supervision	\$110,298	\$146,558
Supervision regular & special schools	\$521,363	\$537,428
Employee benefits	\$374,994	\$368,198
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$2,099,278</b>	<b>\$2,199,016</b>

<b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>		
Teaching regular school	\$6,251,513	\$6,416,265
Teaching special school	\$2,970,643	\$2,874,261
Pupil personnel services (attendance, counseling, health, psychologist, clubs, athletics, recreation/civic activities)	\$2,594,413	\$2,581,345
Pupil transportation	\$1,188,727	\$1,173,528
Garage building	\$81,315	\$81,315
Contract transportation and community service	\$4,000	\$4,000
Employee benefits	\$3,924,360	\$3,849,725
<b>TOTAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$17,014,971</b>	<b>\$16,980,439</b>

<b>CAPITAL</b>		
Operations of plant	\$1,024,280	\$978,532
Maintenance of plant	\$705,799	\$736,843
Other special items	\$167,433	\$167,433
Principal/interest payments	\$2,195,855	\$3,205,329
Transfer to capital and federal funds	\$100,000	\$100,000
Employee benefits	\$237,726	\$232,208
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$4,431,093</b>	<b>\$5,420,345</b>

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$23,545,342</b>	<b>\$24,599,800</b>
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**Total Budget: \$24,599,800**



Component	Actual Budget 2019-20	Proposed Budget 2020-21	Dollar Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Increase (Decrease)
Administrative	\$2,099,278	\$2,199,016	\$99,738	4.75%
Educational Program	\$17,014,971	\$16,980,439	(\$34,531)	(.20)%
Capital	\$4,431,093	\$5,420,345	\$989,252	22.33%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$23,545,342</b>	<b>\$24,599,800</b>	<b>\$1,054,459</b>	<b>4.48%</b>

## School bus proposition

The District will have a proposition to purchase replacement school buses on the ballot on June 9<sup>th</sup> in an amount not to exceed \$246,000. The proposition includes the purchase of 2 buses. If approved, the District will purchase two (2) 70 passenger buses. With the purchase of buses annually, the District will continue to have a fleet of 30 school vehicles on a replacement schedule of over 9 years. School vehicles are subject to DOT inspections every year. If a vehicle does not pass inspection, it cannot be used to transport students.

Byron Bergen is receiving approximately 90 percent state transportation aid on

our 2019-20 school bus purchase. If the aid ratio remains the same for these two new buses, the District would receive \$221,400 in aid with the remaining \$24,600 local share being financed over five years (\$4,920 each year). The impact of \$4,920 on the levy is less than \$.02 per thousand of assessed value or \$2.00 on a \$100,000 home per year.

Summary of bus proposition:

- Total Cost = \$246,000
- Proposed # of buses = 2
- Aid to be received = \$221,400
- Local share = \$24,600
- Tax increase for a \$100,000 home = less than \$2.00/year

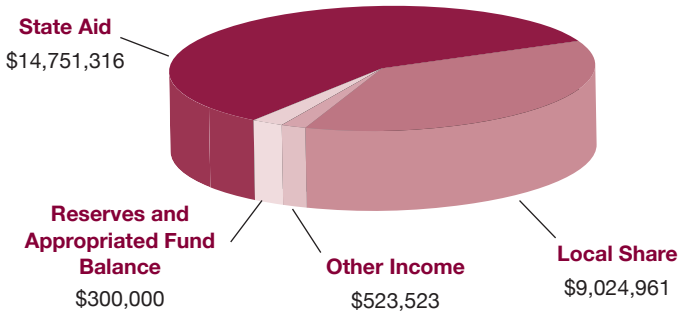


## 2020-21 Revenue

Revenue Sources	Actual Budget 2019-20	Proposed Budget 2020-21
Local property tax & STAR	\$8,849,011	\$9,024,961
Other tax items	\$51,000	\$117,523
Sales tax	\$35,000	\$25,000
Charges for services	\$16,000	\$12,000
Use of money & property	\$50,000	\$104,000
Other revenue	\$254,000	\$245,000
State aid	\$13,665,831	\$14,751,316
Federal aid	\$39,500	\$20,000
Reserves	\$285,000	\$0
Appropriated fund balance	\$300,000	\$300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,545,342</b>	<b>\$24,599,800</b>

The major sources of projected revenue for the 2020-21 school year are shown in the graph. State aid accounts for 59.97 percent of revenues. The local share, which represents local property taxes and STAR, accounts for 36.69 percent of revenues. District income, which represents all other sources of revenue, accounts for 1.8 percent of revenues.

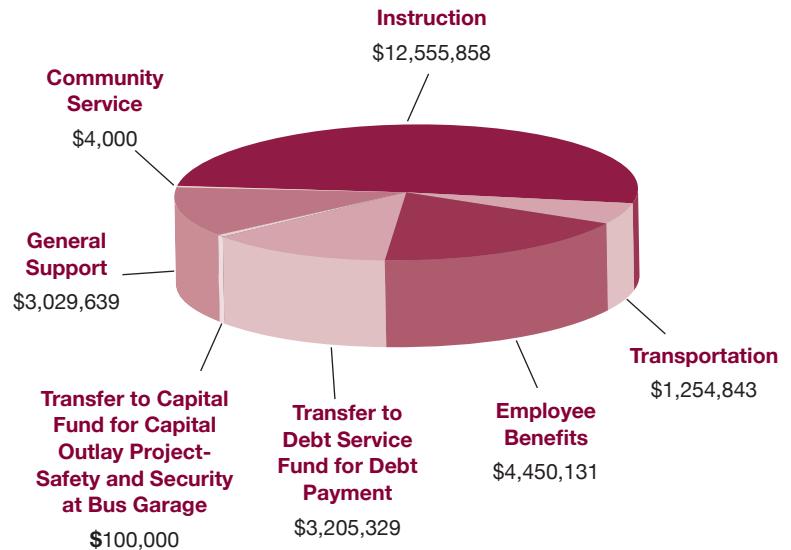
### Total Revenues: \$24,599,800



## 2020-21 Proposed Expenditures

Proposed Expenditures	Actual Budget 2019-20	Proposed Budget 2020-21
Board of Education, Central Administration & District Office	\$701,906	\$755,490
Maintenance	\$1,730,079	\$1,715,374
Printing, postage, liability insurance, BOCES administrative cost	\$558,150	\$558,775
Supervision	\$631,661	\$683,986
Instruction – regular and summer school	\$6,296,013	\$6,416,265
Instruction – special education	\$2,970,643	\$2,874,261
Occupational education	\$770,180	\$808,205
Audio/Visual, Technology & Student services	\$1,298,303	\$1,285,266
Co-curricular/Interscholastic	\$481,430	\$487,875
Transportation & community service	\$1,274,042	\$1,258,843
Employee benefits	\$4,537,080	\$4,450,131
Transfer to Debt Service Fund for Debt Payment	\$2,195,855	\$3,205,329
Transfer to Capital Fund for Capital Outlay Project at the Bus Garage for Security	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,545,342</b>	<b>\$24,599,800</b>

### Proposed Expenditures: \$24,599,800



## B-B Public Budget Presentation

Thursday, May 28, 2020  
at 5:00 p.m.

See presentation online at [www.bbschools.org](http://www.bbschools.org)

**B-B Budget Vote,  
& Board Candidate Election**

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

*Absentee Ballot only*

## Superintendent

Mickey Edwards

## Board of Education

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Yvonne Ace-Wagoner,  
*Vice President*

Kimberly Carlson

William Forsyth

Tammy Menzie

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Bergen, NY 14416

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# Meet the Board of Education Candidates



## Tammy Menzie

Board member  
since 2014

My name is Tammy  
Menzie and I am

seeking re-election to the Board of Education. I have been a member of this community for more than 40 years. I am a proud Byron Bergen graduate (Class of 1984). My husband, Jerry (Class of 1981), and I remained in this community to raise our 6 children. Our youngest is a member of the Class of 2020. I have served on the School Board for the past 6 years. My goal as a School Board member is to ensure that our District is doing what is best for our students. Thank you for your consideration.



## Amy Phillips

Board member  
since 2013

I am seeking  
re-election to the

Board of Education to continue to serve the Byron-Bergen community. It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Byron Bergen Board of Education for the last seven years. I have learned so much throughout my time on the Board and am hoping to continue to grow if re-elected. I feel I can bring knowledge and experience to represent all constituents of the District. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (585) 703-7690 if you have any questions or would like more information. Thank you so much for your consideration.



## Lynn Smith

I respectfully ask for  
your consideration  
and vote to be the  
newest member of the  
Board of Education at

Byron-Bergen CSD. My husband Doug and I have lived in Byron for 22 years. Our son, Kyle, is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at the Elementary School. As recovery slowly begins from COVID-19, schools have a complex road ahead. I am up for the challenge and look forward to working collaboratively and thoughtfully with other Board members from our community to make decisions that support and benefit our students. Thanks in advance for your consideration!

For full candidate statements, please visit <http://www.bbschools.org/2020BoardofEducationCandidates.aspx>