

BERNE - KNOX - WESTERLO



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BKW Budget maintains program, expands Pre-K, stays under tax limit

On Tuesday, May 21, residents of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District will go to the polls to vote on the district's proposed, \$23,882,634 budget for the 2019-20 school year. The proposal would increase spending 2.7 percent or \$627,448 from the current year. This would result in a 0.5 percent or \$55,277 tax levy increase. The proposed levy is less than the district's tax levy limit and will require a simple majority

of 50 percent plus one vote for approval.

The major increase in the budget is due to a \$400,000 increase in the district's prescription insurance plan and contractual obligations.

"...this budget holds the levy increase to 0.5 percent or roughly \$12 on a \$100,000 home."

- Dr. Timothy Mundell, Superintendent of Schools

"This budget represents the Board of Education's attempt to balance the growing demand to meet our students' educational and developmental needs with the practical limits of our tax revenues," said Superintendent Dr. Timothy Mundell.

"No one likes the idea of any tax increase, but that's not realistic when medical insurance costs outpace inflation. By using reserves, this budget holds the levy increase to 0.5 percent or roughly \$12 on a \$100,000 home."

The budget vote will take place on Tuesday, May 21 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Secondary School Auditorium. Also on the ballot will be a proposition to purchase three 66-passenger buses and two 28-passenger buses. There are also two seats up for election on the Board of Education.

Budget highlights

- The proposed budget:
- Adds a new Pre-K teacher to expand the program from one section to two,
 - Maintains all existing programs and staffing,

Inside...

- 2 ▶ Capital Project Update
 - ▶ Voter info
- 3 ▶ Meet the BOE candidates
- 4 ▶ Three-part Budget Breakdown
 - ▶ Bus Referendum
- 5 ▶ Expenditure and Revenue Breakdown
- 6 ▶ "They are Because We are"
 - ▶ Athletic Achievements
- 7 ▶ State Mandated Budget Notice

- Supports the long-term sustainability of Pre-K, Bulldog Club, Speech Therapy, and the School Resource Officer program,
- Trains a staff member in preparation for adding AP Marine Science, making nearly 20 college-credit-bearing courses available to our students,
- Funds the I-Ready Formative Math Assessment program for real-time data analysis,
- Funds regional curriculum development work to align with Next Gen standards, and
- Supports a long-term plan for replacing obsolete capital equipment.



2019-20 BUDGET SNAPSHOT

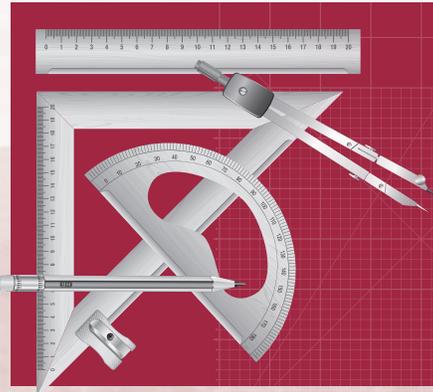
Proposed Budget
\$23,882,634

Spending Increase
2.7%

Tax Levy Increase
0.5%



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Capital Project Update

approved by the New York State Education Department. The district issued requests for bids, reviewed and awarded contracts.

Plans for the Capital Project approved by voters in November 2017 are continuing to move forward. Since the vote, plans were finalized and

Construction begins on June 26 in the secondary school and will be completed by Sept. 2019. In the elementary school, work begins over the summer and will be completed by Sept. 2020.

Thank you for your support and patience with the temporary inconvenience as we make our schools 21st Century places of learning that prepare our students for the careers of tomorrow.

The first steps will move secondary school guidance offices, the nurse's office, and the main office to the front of the building along Rt. 443 and creating a secure entry from the parking lot. Contractors will then:

- Expand the current lobby to safely accommodate large groups,
- Convert the current main office area into a wireless laptop computer lab,
- Convert the current guidance office into an Ag Science center,

- Completely wire the entire building with the latest technology infrastructure to accommodate digital learning and community access, and
- Transform the current parking lot between the two buildings into a safe, traffic-free courtyard for learning and social space.

In the elementary school, contractors will complete asbestos abatement by September. Work then begins renovating classrooms. That work will be done in phases, renovating blocks of six rooms at time. We will

move students into completed classrooms, freeing up the next area for renovation. To free up that space for construction, we will temporarily house sixth grade students at the secondary school for the 2019-20 school year.

To ensure student and staff safety, temporary walls will isolate work zones, preventing anyone from mistakenly entering the area. Contractors will only work 3:30-11 p.m. to avoid disrupting our young scholars.

In addition to classroom upgrades, the elementary cafeteria

will be modified to double as a space for meetings, complete with technology and sound systems. New high-efficiency hot water furnaces and piping and energy-efficient windows will lower energy costs. Masonry repairs will protect and preserve the building's historic architecture, a building our community views with great pride. And finally, site work will redesign bus traffic flow and create a separate visitor lot which will improve student safety, especially at arrival and dismissal times.



VOTING Information

Any U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District for at least 30 days prior to May 21 is eligible to cast a ballot in the budget vote. **But first you must be registered.** Those who are registered for the general elections are automatically registered for school votes.

For further questions on how to register to vote, contact District Clerk Anne Farnam at (518) 872-1293.

Can't get to the polls on May 21?

You can still vote using an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be issued, upon request, to residents of the school district who will be out of town or unable to vote in person due to illness or disability. To vote via absentee ballot, district residents must first complete and sign an absentee ballot application. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the elementary school.

If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the District Clerk must receive the completed application no later than 3 p.m., May 14. Applications for an absentee ballot that are delivered in person will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 20.

All absentee ballots must be returned to District Clerk Anne Farnam no later than 5 p.m., May 21.

Questions? Call Anne Farnam at (518) 872-1293.

Parking on Vote Day

The back parking lot between the secondary and elementary schools will be cleared for voters. Please park in this lot for easy access to the polls, which will be in the high school auditorium.

Vote Results

Polls are open on May 21, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Votes will be counted after that time and announced on the district's website, www.bkwschools.org



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**On the
Ballot**

Voters to elect two BOE members on May 21 ballot

Residents will consider four candidates for two three-year seats on the BKW Board of Education. The statements below were submitted by the candidates. The opinions contained within are theirs and may not reflect the opinions or views of BKW School District leaders or the Board of Education.

Matthew Tedeschi is seeking his second term on the Board of Education.

As a lifelong resident of the community and graduate of BKW, it has been an honor to represent the community over the last three years on the BOE. I ask for your support for three more years to keep the positive momentum moving forward.



I feel that my record over my tenure has aligned with the communities wishes. We have added programs, improved test scores and are beginning to improve the infrastructure, including improving safety in the buildings. We recognized the service of the veterans in our district and increased the exemption they receive. All of this was done while minimizing the year-to-year budget growth (1.42% per year average) and keeping taxes down (.375% average tax levy increase per year over the last four years).

More importantly, we have worked to rebuild BKW's reputation in the region. Administrative stability is the most important factor in this transition. I am running for another term on the BOE to maintain stability at the BOE level, as that is as important as administrative stability.

Rebecca Miller is seeking her first term on the Board of Education.

As a community member and a parent of two young children attending BKW, I am committed to being a voice for all of our youth while putting their needs at the forefront.

I moved here to raise a family seven years ago because I wanted my children to grow up in a close knit, supportive school district where people truly care about each other. What my children have found here at BKW is exactly that. I am a member of the PTA and volunteer at many school events. I am proud to be a part of this community.

Our school board has made amazing strides for our district while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I would be honored to be a part of that upward motion and continue to make things better for our students and community members. I feel that the keys to success are respect, responsibility to the taxpayers, open lines of communication and putting our students first. Let's keep the momentum going and make BKW the best it can be!



Robin Becker is seeking her first full term on the Board of Education.

My name is Robin Becker, I am a graduate of Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School class of 1987 and Mercy College class of 1993. I work for an Albany based technology company focused on the tolling industry. I am one of four candidates seeking election to the BKW Board of Education. My reasons are straightforward, I want to make certain every child within our community receives the best education we can provide.



We must offer a safe environment that will encourage learning, growth, and personal development. We must be fiscally responsible during these times of limited resources. It is of the utmost importance that we seek input from all residents and carefully consider what they have to say. It is essential that members of the Board work together as a team and are treated with respect as each are selected by the voters of the District.

I respectfully request you cast your vote Tuesday May 21, 2019 for Robin Becker for BKW Board of Education.

Mackenzie Hempstead is seeking her first term on the Board of Education.

As the former BKW Network Technician I will share my knowledge of the district and my IT experience with my fellow board members and administration to make certain that BKW leads the way technologically. I hope to be a uniting force on the Board and find amicable solutions to difficult problems. I will not voice complaints without solutions but rather provide and work with the Board to identify and implement solutions.



I plan on being an advocate for ALL students and a critical steward of our tax dollars. It is important to me that every child has the chance to maximize his or her full potential, that additional opportunities are made available to students, and that every dollar is spent in that regard.

Being a lifelong resident, a BKW graduate and a mother of two (currently enrolled at BKW), I will ensure that decisions made in recent years are worth maintaining, are supported and that wasteful decisions are addressed.



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Three-part budget shows breakdown of costs

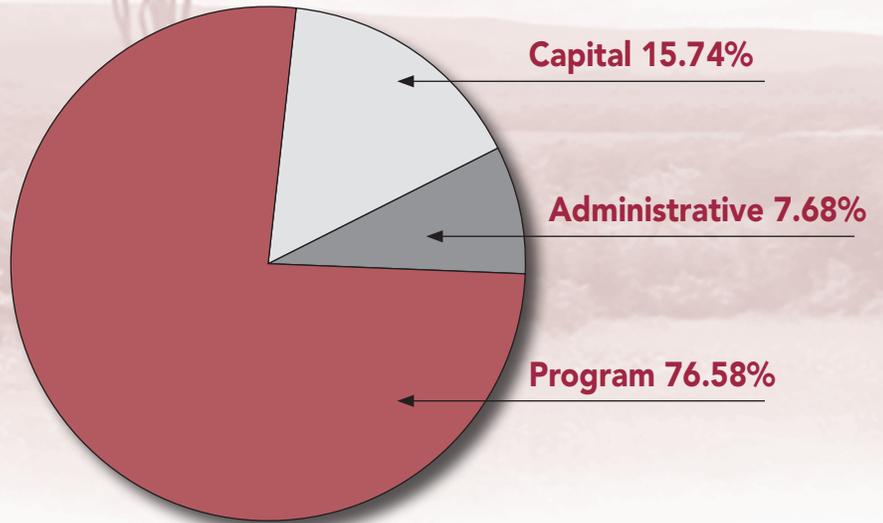
State law requires that a school district present its budget in three component parts: administrative, program and capital. In the proposed budget, the district's administrative and capital costs would decrease next year while program costs increase.

Administrative costs include salaries and benefits of administrators and administrative clerical staff, school board costs, staff development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing and BOCES administrative costs.

Program costs include salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, etc.), curriculum development, textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular activities, athletics, BOCES program costs, and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

Capital costs include salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings, bus purchases, utilities, insurance, tax certiorari, and other court-ordered costs.

Proposed 2019-20 Budget



| Three-part budget | 2018-19 Budget | 2019-20 Proposed | Difference |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Administrative | \$1,844,249 | \$1,834,206 | (\$10,043) |
| Program | \$17,760,787 | \$18,290,225 | \$529,438 |
| Capital | \$3,650,150 | \$3,758,203 | \$108,053 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | \$23,255,186 | \$23,882,634 | \$627,448 |

Bus Referendum



Residents will also vote on a referendum to purchase three 66-passenger buses and two 28-passenger buses to replace aging vehicles in the district fleet. Maintaining an up-to-date fleet keeps students safe and minimizes repair costs.

Stay Connected...

BKW uses the Blackboard mass notification system. Stay up to date on school closings, delays, and events at BKW by signing up!

Parents: make sure your information is up to date in eSchoolData Parent Portal. Be sure to have an email address listed and a phone number if you want phone calls in case of closings or an emergency.

Community members: Head to www.bkwschools.org to create an account.

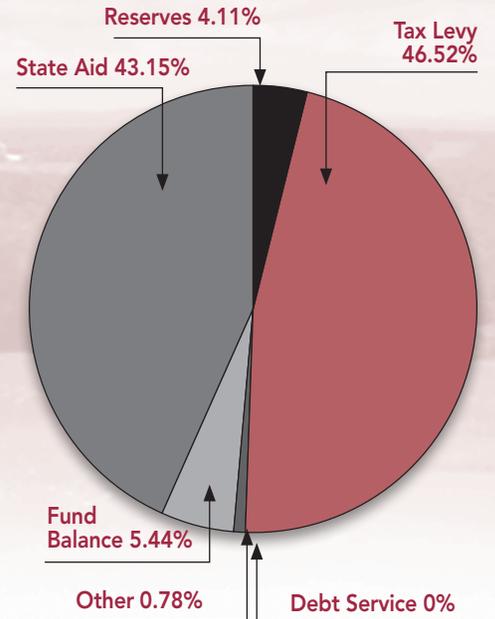


CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVENUES

Where the money comes from...

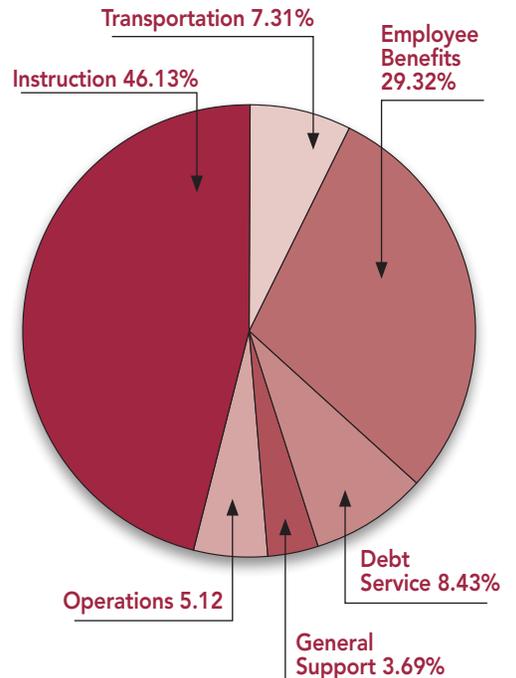
| Revenues | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Revenue Source | 2018-19 Budgeted | 2019-20 Proposed | Difference |
| State Aid | \$10,113,803 | \$10,303,993 | \$190,190 |
| Fund Balance | \$1,299,835 | \$1,300,000 | \$165 |
| Reserves | \$534,165 | \$980,981 | \$446,816 |
| Debt Service Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Tax Levy | \$11,055,383 | \$11,110,660 | \$55,277 |
| Other | \$252,000 | \$187,000 | -\$65,000 |
| Total Revenues | \$23,255,186 | \$23,882,634 | \$627,448 |



EXPENSES

Where the money goes...

| Expenditures | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Budget Category | 2018-19 Budgeted | 2019-20 Proposed | Difference |
| General Support | \$827,713 | \$880,530 | \$52,817 |
| Operations/Maintenance | \$1,180,900 | \$1,223,800 | \$42,900 |
| Instruction | \$11,021,691 | \$11,017,549 | (\$4,142) |
| Transportation | \$1,699,520 | \$1,745,520 | \$46,000 |
| Employee Benefits | \$6,524,049 | \$7,001,565 | \$477,516 |
| Debt Service/Transfers | \$2,001,313 | \$2,013,670 | \$12,357 |
| Total Expenditures | \$23,255,186 | \$23,882,634 | \$627,448 |



BKW

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"They are because we are"

In her 2018 valedictory address, Marcy Forti referenced the philosophy "Ubuntu," which roughly translates as "I am because you are."

For Superintendent Dr. Timothy Mundell, the word became a call to action, to understand and act on the truth that "They are because we are." It was an opportunity to place the focus back on students and helping them find their success.

He said, "We are preparing our children for their futures, not our past. That is an awesome responsibility. Their success rests squarely on our shoulders.

"We understand and accept that responsibility. We know that when our conversations center on children, children win. When we determine to be our best as parents, educators, and community members, children win. When we model integrity, enthusiasm, and compassion, children win.

"In the coming year, if we embrace the truth in Marcy's words and live into the roles we play, BKW's students will find success. Remember, "They are because we are."

Making it real

The question was how to show school and community the many ways they influenced the success of BKW students. The answer was to use video and let those involved tell the story. Over the course of the school year, the district produced four distinct stories. Each video was posted on www.bkwschools.org and the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Facebook page. Here is a summary of each.

Chris Lewis



Elementary school students develop a sense of community and patriotism thanks to custodian Chris Lewis. Each day, Chris selects two fourth graders to help him raise the American flag. He teaches them what the flag represents and how to handle it appropriately.

Judy Tambasco



Students find a love for reading thanks to retired BKW alumnus and teacher Judy Tambasco and the volunteers of Blue Bag Program. Each week Judy and her team put together bags of age-appropriate books and deliver them to elementary school children. The goal is to find joy in reading, to read 1,000 books and hopefully to learn important lessons about perseverance.

Emma Detlefsen



At just 10 years old, Emma Detlefsen will not let lymphedema stop her. Rather than surrendering to her challenges, she harnesses her energy to serve as a spokesperson at the state and federal level, lobbying for research funding and insurance coverage. Emma is proof that youth is never a limitation when we want to change the world.

Ben Boone



The game of football transformed Ben Boone into a leader. His dad and coaches marvel at how a simple game drew him out of his shell and inspired him to always do his best. Whether in the classroom or on the field, Ben is driven to excel. He credits all of the people who made BKW football possible as being responsible for his success as a person.

ATHLETIC Achievements

NYSPPHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams:

Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Girls Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Bowling, Boys & Girls Indoor Track

Section 2 Individual Scholar Athletes:

Trevor Burnside (Football & Basketball), Riley Morrow (Girls Basketball), Riley Morrow (Girls Basketball)

WAC Champions: Girls Basketball Team

All-State: Michelle Puzulis (Cross-Country), Ezeke Pulliam (Boys Basketball)

WAC Mohawk Division MVP:

Taylor Meacham (Girls Basketball)

Section 2/Division 2 Wrestling:

Tyler Goodemote Third Place, 182 lbs.





CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BKW School District Budget Notice

The information below is the New York state mandated School District Budget Notice. It shows specific items for the 2018-19 budget, as well as the 2019-20 proposed budget and the 2019-20 contingent budget (implemented if the proposed budget does not pass). The 2019-20 proposed budget of **\$23,882,634** represents a **2.7%** increase in spending, or **\$627,448**, from the 2018-19 school year. The 2019-20 proposed tax levy of **\$11,110,660** is a **0.5% increase** from the 2018-19 tax levy.

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL | Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year* |
|--|--|--|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$23,255,186 | \$23,882,634 | \$23,598,804 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year | | \$627,448 | \$343,618 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 2.70% | 1.48% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 2.44% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve | \$11,055,383 | \$11,110,660 | |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | N/A | N/A | |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable** | N/A | N/A | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy | N/A | N/A | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D) | \$11,055,383 | \$11,110,660 | \$11,055,383 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$211,576 | \$242,856 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$10,895,779 | \$11,084,364 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$10,843,807 | \$10,867,804 | |
| I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)** | \$51,972 | \$216,560 | |
| Administrative Component | \$1,844,249 | \$1,834,206 | \$1,788,082 |
| Program Component | \$17,760,787 | \$18,290,225 | \$18,113,520 |
| Capital Component | \$3,650,150 | \$3,758,203 | \$3,697,202 |

* If voters do not approve the proposed 2019-20 budget within two votes, the Board must adopt a contingency budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, with no exclusions. Expenditures not deemed necessary to maintain educational program, preserve property, and assure the health and safety of students and staff would be removed from the budget. These would include, but are not limited to, professional development, salary increases for non-contractual employees, capital purchases, summer enrichment and afterschool programming.

**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).

| Description | Amount |
|---|-----------|
| Proposition to purchase three 66-passenger buses and two 28-passenger buses using \$150,000 from transportation reserves. | \$299,656 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Berne-Knox-Westerlo Secondary School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Secondary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

| | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year |
|---|--|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ (average savings on \$100,000 home) | \$565 |

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

Board of Education

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BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BKW

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2019



VOTING Information

Any U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District for at least 30 days prior to May 21 is eligible to cast a ballot in the budget vote. **But first you must be registered.** Those who are registered for the general elections are automatically registered for school votes.

For further questions on how to register to vote, contact District Clerk Anne Farnam at (518) 872-1293.

VOTE RESULTS

Polls are open on May 21
from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
in the high school auditorium.

Votes will be counted after that time and immediately announced on the district's website, www.bkwschools.org

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- ▶ BKW's 2019-20 proposed school budget
 - **\$23,882,634 spending plan**
 - **2.7% spending increase**
 - **0.5% tax levy increase**
- ▶ Two open Board of Education seats (see page 3)
- ▶ Bus proposition (see page 4)

VOTE!
TUESDAY, MAY 21
6 A.M. TO 8 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM