



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-21 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

2020-21 BUDGET
AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget
\$23,442,127

Spending Decrease
-\$440,507 (-1.84%)

Tax Levy Decrease
-\$111,107 (-1%)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE PROPOSED BUDGET CAN
BE FOUND ONLINE:

www.bkwschools.org

BKW Central School District residents are being asked to vote on a proposed \$23.4 million budget for the 2020-21 school year by mail-in ballot only. Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. June 9.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the extreme economic strain this has placed on New York state and resulting state aid to schools, the proposed 2020-21 BKW budget represents a spending decrease of 1.8 percent or \$440,507 under the current year budget and a tax levy decrease of 1 percent or \$111,107.

Following adoption of the NYS budget on April 1 and the reduction in state aid to schools due to the state's \$10-\$15 billion revenue shortfall, BKW was forced to make its own reductions to meet the loss of state revenues. Those reductions totaled more than \$600,000 of expenses, without impacting current BKW programming. The reductions also mirrored state aid



reductions, indicating sound and difficult decision making in the process.

Compounding the problem, the NYS budget also calls for multiple "look back" periods to allow NYS to assess its revenues and adjust aid payments to school districts based on what revenues are available. The education revenue shortfall in the NYS budget during this first "look back" is \$2.5 billion. Understanding this, the district identified additional expense reductions that would not impact current programs. Through retirements and equipment expense reductions, the district was able to reduce costs by an additional \$241,500, for a current proposed total budget of \$23,442,127.

VOTE:
June 9, 2020



2020 Voting Information

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.26 issued on May 1, 2020 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, all voting for the June 9, 2020 election will be done by absentee ballot. School districts are sending absentee ballots with a postage paid return envelope to each "qualified voter." A qualified voter is someone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Qualified voters on the most recent years' poll lists will be automatically sent an absentee ballot. Anyone who meets the definition of a "qualified voter," but does not believe he/she will be on the school district's poll list, which contains the names of residents who voted in recent years' elections, please contact the District Clerk, at (518) 872-1293 or by email at anne.farnam@bkwschools.org. All ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020, to qualify.

Bus Purchase and Fund the Repair Reserve Propositions

Two other propositions will appear on the 2020 ballot. One proposition seeks voter approval to allow the district to purchase three (3) 72-passenger school buses and two (2) 28-passenger school buses at a cost not to exceed \$489,000. The district would use \$150,000 from the Transportation Reserve Fund toward the purchases. The bus purchases are eligible for state aid. Another proposition asks for voter approval to transfer up to \$90,000 from the district's Unemployment Insurance Payment Reserve Fund to the Repair Reserve Fund for repairs to capital improvements or equipment. This proposition has no tax impact.

Board of Education Election

Two candidates, incumbents Nathan Elble and Kimberly Lovell, have submitted petitions to run for two seats open July 1, 2020 on the BKW Board of Education. Each seat carries a three-year term.

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year	\$23,882,634	\$23,442,127	\$23,414,466
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget Change in the Consumer Price Index		\$-440,507	\$-468,168
		-1.84%	-1.99%
		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,110,660	\$10,999,553	
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)	\$11,110,660	\$10,999,553	\$11,110,660
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$255,415	\$309,577	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$11,339,779	\$11,382,794	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$11,110,660	\$10,999,553	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$229,119	\$383,241	
Administrative Component	\$1,357,830	\$1,338,005	\$1,310,344
Program Component	\$19,412,334	\$19,110,188	\$19,110,188
Capital Component	\$3,112,470	\$2,993,934	\$2,993,934

* If the voters do not approve the proposed 2020-21 budget within two votes, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero. The Board has reduced the tax levy by 1%. Expenditures not deemed necessary to maintain the educational program preserve property and assure the health and safety of students and staff would be removed from the budget. This would include new equipment, salary increases for non-contractual employees, summer enrichment and after school programming, and to stay at the administrative cap. The community cannot use the school facilities during a contingent budget year. The proposed budget for 2020-21 does not include new equipment, summer enrichment and after school programs. The tax levy however could increase by \$111,107 and be at the cap of this year's tax levy of \$11,110,660.

** 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
Purchase of Buses, using \$150,000 from the bus reserve	\$339,000
Fund the Repair Reserve from the unemployment reserve	\$90,000
Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$565

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held by mail-in ballot only as per New York State Executive Order 202.26 on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 with ballots received until 5 p.m. prevailing time.

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

Postal Customer

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CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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