



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-22 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

2021-22 BUDGET
AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget
\$23,672,248

Spending Increase
+ \$230,121 (+ 0.98%)

Tax Levy Decrease
- \$219,991 (- 2.0%)

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE PROPOSED BUDGET CAN
BE FOUND ONLINE:

www.bkwschools.org

Proposed 2021-22 district budget lowers tax levy while maintaining educational programs

BKW Central School District residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 18, to vote on a proposed \$23.67 million budget for the 2021-22 school year. Voting will be held from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the elementary school cafeteria.

The proposed spending plan represents a slight spending increase of 0.98 percent or \$230,121 over the current year budget and a tax levy decrease of 2.0 percent or -\$219,991.

The budget increase is attributed to annual contractual salary obligations and debt service related to the recent capital improvement project. The tax levy decrease is due to \$194,000 more in Foundation Aid awarded to BKW by the New York State Legislature, and a promise to fully fund Foundation Aid for all school districts over the next three years.



"That should add much-needed stability for our financial planning going forward," said Superintendent Timothy Mundell.

The proposed budget focuses on student-centered expenses and calls for maintaining all current staffing levels and existing academic programming, including two sections of Pre-Kindergarten. It also restores basic equipment funding frozen in 2020-21 during the state's financial uncertainty due to COVID-19. The district also expects to realize savings in employee benefit expenses, money it expects to shift to finance instructional costs. In addition to the annual budget, the district is expected to receive more than \$2.25 million in federal coronavirus relief funding over the next five years to supplement (not supplant) state funding for local education.

VOTE:
May 18, 2021



2021 Voting Information

Voting on the 2021-22 district budget and Board of Education election will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., in the elementary school cafeteria.

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

For any questions on how to register to vote or about applying for an absentee ballot, contact District Clerk Anne Farnam at (518) 872-1293 or email at anne.farnam@bkwschools.org.

Bus Purchase Proposition

One other proposition will appear on the May ballot. The district is seeking voter approval to purchase three (3) 72-passenger school buses and (2) 28-passenger buses at a cost not to exceed \$504,000. The district would use \$150,000 from the Transportation Reserve Fund toward the purchases. The bus purchases are eligible for state aid.

Board of Education Election

One candidate, Lisa Joslin, has submitted petitions to run for one seat open July 1, 2021, on the BKW Board of Education. The seat, which carries a three-year term, is now held by board member Randy Bashwinger, who is not seeking re-election.

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 Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year	\$23,442,127	\$23,672,248	\$23,619,565
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget Change in the Consumer Price Index		\$230,121	\$177,438
		.981%	.760%
		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,999,553	\$10,779,562	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$10,999,553	\$10,779,562	\$10,779,562
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$309,577	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$11,382,794	\$10,924,077	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$10,689,976	\$10,779,562	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$692,818	\$144,515	
Administrative Component	\$1,338,005	\$1,513,158	\$1,503,800
Program Component	\$19,110,188	\$18,965,850	\$18,956,525
Capital Component	\$2,993,934	\$3,193,240	\$3,159,240

* If the voters do not approve the proposed 2021-22 budget after 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 2%. 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.

Description	Amount
Proposition to purchase three 72-Passenger Buses and two 28-Passenger Buses using \$150,000 from the Transportation Reserve	\$504,000

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	\$550
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at BKW Elementary School between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., prevailing time, in the cafeteria, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by machine.

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

BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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