Coxsackie-Athens Central School District Adopts 2020-2021 Budget Proposal

Registered voters will be mailed ballots to vote on the 2020-2021 school budget and choose Board of Education Members. Ballots must be received in the postage-paid return envelopes by June 9th, at 5:00 p.m.

The Board of Education adopted a $33,210,903 budget plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

The estimated tax levy is within the allowable tax levy cap and follows five years of annual changes of less than 0.6%.

Due to receiving no additional operating aid from New York State, we will be eliminating a total of four administrative and instructional positions to maintain a fair spending plan for our taxpayers. There will be no cuts to academic programs and services. This budget proposal preserves all sports and extra-curricular programs and maintains current class sizes in all buildings.

This budget proposal will allow the district’s teachers and staff to continue to help students reach our goals and support every kid, every day.

“In our current economic times, it is important for us to present a budget that balances our responsibility to provide a sound education for the children in our community and our residents’ ability to afford it.” stated superintendent of schools Randall Squier.

Running for the school board’s three vacant seats are: Tara Bachner, Kim Bushane, Jamie Dorr, James Ewing, Kyle Garland, Ina Griffin-Guilzon, William MacDonald, Viviana Tovar. The three candidates earning the most overall votes will be seated for 3-year terms.

School budget votes across New York are being conducted via absentee ballots. All qualified voters should be receiving a ballot. For more information on our budget go to https://www.cacsd.org/domain/184

Budget Information is available on our website www.cacsd.org
What Happens if the Budget is Defeated?

We are not sure what happens if the budget is defeated. The Governor’s EO is silent but we really don’t know. Contingency is one possible option.

The Governor’s executive order was silent regarding a second budget vote in the event the budget is defeated on June 9th. One possibility is that the Board could adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget requires two things, certain non-contingent expenditures must be removed from the expenditure budget such as non-aidable equipment purchases and consumable student supplies, outside organizations would be charged for using our facility and the tax levy cannot be any higher than the current year tax levy. These conditions would require additional budget reductions in the amount of $393,394.

Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
<th>Proposed 2020-2021</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>$17,949,247</td>
<td>$18,342,641</td>
<td>$393,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>$11,040,829</td>
<td>$11,204,772</td>
<td>$163,943</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$1,625,000</td>
<td>$1,965,000</td>
<td>$340,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILOTS School Tax Penalties &amp; Interest</td>
<td>$1,174,446</td>
<td>$1,076,998</td>
<td>-$97,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Revenues</td>
<td>$621,492</td>
<td>$621,492</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>$32,411,014</td>
<td>$33,210,903</td>
<td>$799,889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THREE-PART BUDGET

With the enactment of Chapter 436 of the 1997 Laws of New York State, a school district’s proposed budget must be presented to the voters in a three-part format. Below, you will find the proposed 2020-2021 budget in that format along with comparative data from the current year’s budget.

**PROGRAM**

- Current year: $24,907,384
- Proposed 2020-2021: $25,669,526
- Change of: $762,142

The Program Component includes instructional services, extra-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics, transportation and special education services. Benefits for all associated employees are included.

**CAPITAL**

- Current year: $4,137,843
- Proposed 2020-2021: $4,201,545
- Change of: $63,702

The Capital Component reflects expenditures for operation and maintenance of district facilities including salaries and benefits. Principal and interest payments on construction bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes are included.

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Current year: $3,365,787
- Proposed 2020-2021: $3,339,832
- Change of: -$25,955

The Administration Component includes expenditures for the BOE, Central Administration, the Business Office, Supervision of Regular School and benefits for all associated employees also included is the District’s share of BOCES administrative costs.

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

- Current Year: $32,411,014
- Proposed 2020-2021: $33,210,903
- Change: $799,889
Board of Education Seats up for Election

At large election for three open seats. Two incumbents and six new candidates—top three vote recipients will be elected

Tara Bachner and Jamie Dorr have chosen to run for another three year term. Kim Bushane, James Ewing, Kyle Garland, Ina Griffin-Guilzon, William MacDonald and Viviana Tovar will be running for the first time.

Tara Bachner
Tara will be running for a second, three year term. Tara resides in Coxsackie and is currently a stay at home mom, volunteering with Hope’s Mission and CE PTO. She holds a Masters degree in Childhood Education. Tara hopes to continue on the Board and to support and center her goals around the students and their education. Serving on the school board the last three years has been an honor and she looks forward to continuing.

Kim Bushane
Kim is running for her first term. She holds a Master’s in Social Work and has been a school social worker for the past 14 years in Catskill CSD. She has been the Interact club advisor, student council advisor, a girl scout leader and most recently a volunteer for the American Federation of Suicide Prevention. Kim’s experience as a community member, parent, volunteer and public school employee has allowed her to gain a broad perspective of our education system. As a board member she would work hard to help guide the District toward its vision. This can only be accomplished by working collaboratively to create learning opportunities for students to ensure they become adults who are prepared to succeed in our world today. We need to offer our young people a variety of opportunities to learn. It is imperative to prepare our youth to be well rounded individuals who are critical thinkers, community minded and are also college and career ready.

Jamie Dorr
Jamie is currently running for her third term as a board member in the district. Her focus has been to emphasize a culture of quality education for all students by partnering with parents, teachers and the administration. She believes we need to find the correct balance in traditional learning between teacher and student with the added benefits of modern technology at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer. She is also a parent whose children have progressed through our schools and has seen the positive steps our district has taken to continuously improve. As an active resident of Athens, Jamie is involved in our community as the Vice President of the Coxsackie-Athens Rotary Club and a member of the Helping Hands of Sleepy Hollow Lake. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology and twenty years working as a graphic designer, she decided to pursue her love of being in the classroom by becoming a teaching assistant. Jamie also volunteers within the community and enjoys photography and gardening in her spare time.

James Ewing
Athens resident, James Ewing is running for his first term. In 2015 he relocated to Athens to raise a family and currently has a daughter in kindergarten. He has a Masters of Fine Arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art. He has a successful business career as an architectural photographer. He is a member of the Greene County Historical Society and the Athens Community Pool PR committee. James grew up on the footsteps of a large university and was immersed in the culture of education. His parents instilled in him the value of education and the understanding that the greatest joy in life is learning. He would like to foster a culture of self reliance and self confidence in our students and staff; fiscal discipline; listen to parents needs; support teachers; keep class sizes small. He hopes to encourage exploration/awareness of Greene County’s exceptional local natural resources; fostering arts programming, music and visual art.

Kyle Garland
Coxsackie resident, Kyle Garland is running for the first time. He is a proud 2007 graduate of Coxsackie-Athens and earned a Bachelor’s degree in Sports Management from SUNY Cortland. He is currently employed as a welder at Central Hudson Gas and Electric and has been a volunteer for the past 14 years with Earlton Fire Company. Kyle considers a strong school system to be the foundation of a strong community. His goal is to aid in fostering relationships among the administration, faculty and staff that lead to excellence in the classroom and the community. He is passionate about our community; Kyle and his wife have two children, ages four and two, and are excited for them to soon become part of the C-A family.

Ina Griffin-Guilzon
Lifelong Athens resident, Ina Griffin-Guilzon is running for her first term. Raising a family in the Coxsackie-Athens school district has given Ina valuable insight about the challenges that families face in today’s global community. As the proud mother of a 2006 C-A graduate as well as a future class of 2022 graduate she has witnessed the rapidly changing effects that technology has made in the school environment. Moving forward, Ina would like to see technology being used to enhance, but not overshadow, the importance of student/teacher interactions. Having the correct balance will ensure the district is able to meet both its academic and social-emotional goals expected of students. As a licenced Real Estate Appraiser and Salesperson, Ina practices balancing technology with interpersonal skills daily. She holds a BS in Childhood Education and a MS in Literacy Education, and has worked extensively in our school district as a teacher and tutor. Ina has volunteered with local Historical Societies, school events and community sports and enjoys restoration work and gardening. Ina looks forward to being an advocate for the Coxsackie-Athens community.

William MacDonald
William is running for his first term. He is graduate of Naval Engineering School and has been an engineer for the 31 years. William is a member of the RC Sportsmen’s Club, Knights of Columbus and a life member of the VFW. His goals for the district are to provide the best educational opportunities for students in the most fiscally responsible manner and to establish a system with area employers to provide internships and training for Coxsackie-Athens students. He would also like to increase scholarship opportunities for students and funding for the school district that would reduce the burden on the current tax base.

Viviana Tovar
Viviana is running for her first term. She moved to Coxsackie from Staten Island three years ago with her husband and three children. She is a currently a paralegal and holds a J.D. from New York Law School, a NYS Bar candidate. Also a member of the CE PTO. Viviana believes more communication between school and parents is essential. Believes that parent involvement within the school is key for children’s success.
**District Goal**

By 2022, 100% of students will demonstrate competence in a majority of the Life Ready Skills indicators appropriate for their school level. The CAMS Future Cities Team earned the rank of number five in this year’s competition held Saturday, January 11th at the Armory at Sage College. The team created the future city of Qaanaaq, a totally green city boasting tidal, solar, and wind energy. This year’s challenge was creating a sustainable water source and eliminating the threats to that supply. The project requires a computer-based city, a 1500 word research paper, a physical model using recycled materials and incorporating a moving part and finally a seven-minute presentation to a board of engineers. Members pictured are Christopher Mozzillo, John Kunz, Brendan Woytovich, Gavin Faria, Matthew Kunz, and advisor Mr. Andrew Wager. Members not pictured include Ronin Rausch, Jackson Purdy, Daniel Pearlstein, and advisor Mrs. April Bergman. The team earned $500.00 and has the goal of reaching First Place next year. A special thanks to Robert Flores for being a constant engineering mentor.

If you do not receive a ballot in the mail and would like to vote, please contact Judy Zoller, District Clerk at 518-731-1710, email zollerj@cacsd.org.