

# the Pulse of Plattsburgh City Schools

May 2018 Issue

Budget Vote  
& School Board  
Election  
Tuesday, May 15  
7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

## Supporting Quality Schools

Plattsburgh City School District voters will vote Tuesday, May 15th, on a proposed \$44,673,843 spending plan for the 2018-19 school year. This proposal features a tax levy of \$22,542,574 which is once again **within the tax cap** (aka tax levy limit).

This year's budget development process was unusual, in that one single expense area – healthcare premiums -- drove the majority of the overall spending increase. Schools throughout our region are facing similar challenges in overcoming rapidly-increasing healthcare costs. Solutions to this health insurance situation are being pursued at the consortium level, and our district is central to this process.

Compensating for this increase was challenging, and evoked the memories of difficult budgets associated with the Great Recession of a decade ago. In navigating this difficult process, the Board of Education and administration sought (as always) to balance taxpayer sensitivity with stable, quality student programming. To that end, staffing reductions which take advantage of attrition, and which will not fully eliminate educational opportunities were explored first.

In keeping, some soon-to-be vacant faculty positions will not be filled.

There never seems to be a good time to add budget expenses (least of all amidst the sorts of budgetary pressures which districts are currently experiencing), but recent school violence tragedies have prompted reflection upon our own security measures. As such, this budget features sufficient funding to support \$75,000 dollars worth of security enhancements, and the Board of Education will continue to consider the best use of these funds. Plattsburgh City Schools are fortunate to enjoy a wonderful working relationship with (and great geographic proximity to) the Plattsburgh Police Department. Plattsburgh Officers are already frequently present in our buildings, but a budget allocation which will provide supplemental security has now been created.

In recent years, our district has experienced an impressive expansion in student offerings – most visible in the increased number of electives at the secondary level. This budget proposal entails a slight curtailing



of these offerings (specifically in the removal of certain business electives). I am pleased that further programmatic reductions were avoided, and hope to see more electives restored in future years.

Again, this year's budget vote and election will take place May 15th from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the traditional 'neighborhood' voting sites (Bailey Avenue Elementary, Duken Building, Momot Elementary). I recognize how busy life can be, but I hope that you will make time to vote on May 15th. Thank-you all for your role in sustaining a wonderful community and a school district in which we can all take great pride.

Sincerely,

Jay Lebrun, Superintendent of Schools

Facts  
& Figures

Change in  
Budget  
4.28%

Change in  
Tax Levy  
3.62%

Budget Hearing  
Duken Building  
Wednesday,  
May 2, 7:30 p.m.

# Exciting New Program

Our district, based on the recommendation of a district-wide leadership team, and with the support of the Board of Education, is implementing an ambitious and exciting literacy initiative. The Comprehensive Integrated Three Tiered Model of Prevention (aka Ci3T) has been in-place for approximately one year. We have persevered through the challenges of starting a new program, and we take great pride in each student's achievement! The purpose of the Ci3T initiative is to universally identify students in need of strategic and intensive literacy support with foundational skill deficits. This programming is proven to provide 1.5 to 2 years of growth in one year, and it has been implemented in grades K-10. The providers of these programs have completed explicit instruction in English Language Arts that is based on a 'direct instruction' methodology and intense student engagement.

Data Teams in buildings are monitoring academic growth in ELA and we are seeing impressive gains in literacy components that will have a resounding impact on the overall literacy of students. Improved literacy skills should yield enhanced academic results in all areas – as students become better able to comprehend questioning, and more skilled in articulating responses. Teachers in our district have expressed the following:

*"I am happy to share the amazing work my kiddos have been doing in RM2. We started in January and we are*



*already on lesson 41, with minimal re-teaching required. The students love the mix of informational text and fiction and have gained knowledge in many areas in addition to reading. Measurement, geography, and recall of factual information are a part of our daily routine. Each of my students in RM has increased their confidence, accuracy, rate and expression in reading. They are so clued in to accuracy, they love to point out if I am inaccurate in any of the passages that I read to them and they follow along. I love this because it keeps them engaged in the story and drives home the importance of reading exactly what the author has written."*

*"Students are feeling more confident about their paragraph writing."*

*"Students see that they have specific strengths and weaknesses which makes it easier to address specific deficit areas and for them to see growth in those areas."*

*"There is a high level of engagement for all students."*

*"Students are taking skills they have learned and transferring them to other content areas."*

*"Students have gained confidence in their ability to read – more daring and less negative."*

*"Students are excited to go to a strategic group because they realize they are becoming better readers."*

*"Parent commented on how excited her child was that he is now reading."*

*"I want to celebrate the results! What a crew I have, honestly. I could not ask more of them, and am so proud of them. The Lexile jumps are just the first crystal clear data I've gotten. It's good news!"*

*"I thought I would take a minute and share with you a success story in reading. In the fall I had two students come to me that were essentially 'non-readers.' One student could read 4 words and the other 12 words total. They are now capable of reading short stories independently. They are full of confidence and pride in their reading abilities. Their parents have shared that they no longer 'fuss' about doing their nightly reading assignments. This makes my heart happy!"*

# 2018-19 Budget Overview

	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	Change
<b>Budget</b>	\$42,840,628	\$44,673,843	4.28%
<b>Revenues</b>	\$41,559,168	\$43,215,839	3.99%
<b>Applied Reserves</b>	\$1,281,460	\$1,458,004	13.78%
<b>Proposed Tax Levy</b>	\$21,754,265*	\$22,542,574**	3.62%

\* includes omitted taxes

\*\* The proposed tax levy is below the Tax Levy Limit, and the proposed budget therefore requires only a 'simple majority' for approval.

## Projected Actual Tax Impact of 2018-19 Budget

The tax impact estimates to the right do not assume any change in the total taxable assessed value for the City. This total valuation will not be known until June.

**\*Note: These estimates do not reflect any exemptions (ie. STAR).** Each taxpayer should further consider those exemptions for which they qualify.

Property Assessment*	Current Tax Bill \$22.5736 per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Projected Tax Bill \$23.4266 per \$1,000 Assessed Value*	Annual Increase
\$50,000	\$1,129	\$1,171	\$42
\$100,000	\$2,257	\$2,343	\$86
<b>\$145,850**</b>	<b>\$3,292</b>	<b>\$3,417</b>	<b>\$125</b>
\$200,000	\$4,515	\$4,685	\$170
\$250,000	\$5,643	\$5,857	\$214
\$300,000	\$6,772	\$7,028	\$256
\$350,000	\$7,901	\$8,199	\$298

\*\*Note: The bold line represents the average home value in the City of Plattsburgh.



the **P**ulse  
of  
Plattsburgh City Schools

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# Board of Education Election

**The election of new Board of Education members will take place at the same time as the Budget Vote:  
May 15, 2018, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m..**

**Voters will elect three (3) members of the Board of Education to three (3) year terms, commencing on  
July 1, 2018 and expiring on June 30, 2021.**

