



OSWEGO

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate, inspire, and empower all students

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

OVERVIEW OF THE 2023-24 BUDGET

SCHOOL VOTE

PROPOSITIONS AND CANDIDATES

BUDGET NOTICE & BASIC STAR

LETTER FROM INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS JEFFREY GORDON

Dear Oswego City School District community,

Our school district's *mission* is to **educate, inspire and empower** all students to achieve their highest potential, and our *vision* is to be an **innovative, high-performing district that graduates every student**. The 2023-24 budget, adopted by the Board of Education on April 18, 2023, is designed to help us accomplish both of these goals.

The 2023-24 budget for the Oswego City School District is \$103,332,823. The tax levy will increase 1.44%. Our budget is revenue based. One of the factors for the increase in revenue is the significant increase in foundation aid over the last three years. City schools had been consistently underfunded. The Fiscal Equity lawsuit against the state of New York, which maintained that city public schools were underfunded, resulted in a settlement giving city schools the revenue that had been withheld. The foundation aid was included in the state aid runs, over a three-year phase-in period, which began in the 2021-22 school year and will end in the 2023-24 school year.

We have worked to create a budget that is:

- **Fiscally Sound** – not excessive to taxpayers, with a 1.44% increase on the tax levy
- **Flexible** – provides for flexibility within budget codes
- **Foolproof** – provides for emergencies should they occur
- **Flowing** – has enough cash flow available in case State aid is withheld; and
- **Aligned** – is aligned to the district's strategic plan and designed to meet student programming and support needs

Our budget includes funding that supports our students in a variety of academic and extracurricular programs. Next year, middle school and high school students will have expanded robotics and drone experiences thanks to an expansion in the district's STEM programming. In grades K-8, science teachers will continue to expand their knowledge of the new science standards to better prepare students to reach grade-level standards. Grades K-8 science will also be implementing the New York State Science Investigations curriculum, which offers experiments that enable students to dive deeper into their understanding and knowledge of science.

Budget funds have also provided our ELA and mathematics teachers with an opportunity to work on aligning K-12 ELA and math curriculum and instruction to the new New York State Next Generation Learning Standards. Alignment of curriculum and instruction will better prepare teachers to help students reach

grade-level standards and prepare students to be college and career ready by graduation. By the start of the 2023-24 school year, ELA and mathematics curriculum blueprints will be available on the district's website.

Additional areas of development this school year have focused on grades K-6 English Language Arts. The district adopted the second edition of Core Knowledge Language Arts, which aligns to the New York Next Generation Learning Standards and includes a digital component for teachers and students that continues to expand their ELA knowledge.

We have also targeted improvements in mathematics for grades K-8, and next year's budget funds will support a new initiative aligned to the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards. The curriculum will provide hands-on and differentiated instruction for students. It will also incorporate a digital toolbox of instructional materials for teachers and an online learning platform for students.

All of these programs and supports are funded in the budget that will be on the ballot during this year's vote. Voting will be conducted from **9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16**, at four (4) sites throughout the district. School district residents will cast their votes at the Scriba Fire Station, Crisafulli Ice Rink, Elim Grace Church and the Oswego Town Hall.

The school budget is the biggest investment the community collectively makes with its tax dollars. District leaders work to make the most effective use of resources to benefit students, to develop and manage the budget in a responsible and transparent manner and to be accountable to taxpayers.

This newsletter contains pertinent information regarding the 2023-24 budget, the names of all school board candidates, additional propositions that will also be on the ballot, and the addresses of the four (4) designated polling locations.

We encourage our entire community to vote on the school budget Tuesday, May 16.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Gordon

Mr. Jeffrey Gordon

Interim Superintendent of Schools

OSWEGO SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

OVERVIEW OF 2023-2024 BUDGET

REVENUE

	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	2022-2023 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE
Property Taxes	27,027,338	26,643,448	383,890
PILOTS	25,244,378	25,244,378	-
State Aid	49,267,107	42,602,056	6,665,051
Building Aid on Emergency Project	-	2,891,641	(2,891,641)
Other Revenue	1,794,000	1,492,714	301,286
Fund Balance/Reserves	-	-	-
TOTAL	103,332,823	98,874,237	4,458,586

EXPENDITURE COMPONENT BUDGET

	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	2022-2023 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE
Administrative	10,246,232	9,267,351	978,881
Capital	15,819,702	15,027,115	792,587
Program	77,266,889	72,866,510	4,400,379
TOTAL	103,332,823	97,160,976	6,171,847

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

Three factors that determine the tax rate on your home include tax levy, equalization rates and property assessment. The tax levy is set by the school district in May; equalization rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Services in August and each respective town establishes assessments and equalization rates, but these are just estimates. Therefore, tax rates are not finalized until late August, at which time school tax bills are printed and mailed. Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000).

	Budget Proposed for the 2023-2024 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings ¹	\$508
<small>¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.</small>	

POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. - 9 P.M.

On Tuesday, May 16, voters throughout the Oswego City School District will be going to the polls to decide upon the proposed 2023-2024 budget and elect four members to the Oswego City School District Board of Education.

Election District No. 1

Location of polling place:
SCRIBA FIRE STATION

5618 State Route 104E
Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here: Scriba and Volney
(Oswego City School District
residents only)

Election District No.2

Location of polling place:
ANTHONY J. CRISAFULLI RINK
(FORT RINK)

32 Fort Ontario Road
Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here:
Ward 2, Ward 4 and Ward 6

Election District No.3

Location of polling place:
ELIM GRACE CHURCH

340 W. First Street
Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here:
Ward 1, Ward 3, Ward 5
and Ward 7

Election District No. 4

Location of polling place:
OSWEGO TOWN HALL

2320 County Route 7
Oswego, NY 13126

Who will vote here: Oswego Town
and Town Of Minetto
(Oswego City School District
residents only)

Can I Vote?

TO BE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THE OSWEGO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT A PERSON MUST:

1. Be a citizen of the United States
2. Be 18 years of age or older
3. Be a resident of New York State and the Oswego City School District for 30 days preceding the May 16, 2023 voting day
4. Be a registered voter in their school election district

Anyone with questions regarding voting and budget information should contact Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Gordon at (315) 341-2001 or jgordon@oswego.org, or District Clerk Diane Schrader at (315) 341-2001 or dschrade@oswego.org.

SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTE: MAY 16, 2023

Proposition No. 1 - School Budget for 2023 – 2024

Shall the Board of Education adopt a budget for the Oswego City School District in the amount of \$103,332,823 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023?

Proposition No. 2 - Purchase of Student Transportation Vehicles

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Oswego (the "School District") on March 21, 2023, which authorizes (a) the purchase of student transportation vehicles, at a total combined maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$1,400,000; (b) the issuance of up to \$1,400,000 serial bonds of the School District to pay the cost thereof; (c) the pledge of School District's faith and credit for payment of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; and (d) the levy of taxes on the taxable real property in the School District to be collected in annual installments to pay debt service on such obligations, be approved?

Proposition No. 3 - Energy Performance Contract

Shall the Board of Education (the "Board") of the City School District of the City of Oswego, New York (the "District"), be specifically authorized by the voters of the District to undertake a particular energy performance/savings project pursuant to Article 9 of the Energy Law (such voter authorization not being necessary to allow the project to go forward, since such a project can be undertaken by the Board of Education acting on its own, but rather to allow the District to receive an extra 10% measure of building aid from the State of New York for such project going forward); therefore, in order to maximize the District's receipt of Building aid from the State, do the voters of the District specifically approve an energy performance/savings project, at an estimated maximum cost of \$5,000,000?

Proposition No. 4 - Bond Resolution for Energy Performance Improvement Project

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Oswego (the "School District") on March 21, 2023, which authorizes (a) the acquisition, construction and installation of renovations, improvements, equipment, machinery and apparatus at School District buildings and facilities to improve the energy efficiency of such buildings and facilities, at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$5,000,000; (b) the issuance of up to \$5,000,000 serial bonds of the School District to pay the cost thereof; (c) the pledge of School District's faith and credit for payment of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; and (d) the levy of taxes on the taxable real property in the School District to be collected in annual installments to pay debt service on such obligations, be approved?

Proposition No. 5 - Technology and Equipment Reserve




Shall the Board of Education of the Oswego City School District be authorized to establish a new capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) plus earnings thereon, the probable term of such fund to be ten (10) years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until all funds are exhausted, to be known as the Capital Technology- Equipment Reserve Fund 2023 to be used for the purchase of equipment, machinery or apparatus incidental thereto, and the purchase of technology equipment, transportation vehicles, furnishings, and other equipment, machinery or apparatus separately; provided that such capital costs are an object or purpose that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law, such reserve fund to be funded from: (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund; (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves; (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time; and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law?

Proposition No. 6 - Bus Reserve Fund and Authorization to Expend Funds

Pursuant to Education Law §3651, shall the Board of Education be authorized: (1) to establish the Bus Purchase Reserve Fund (2023) in the ultimate amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) plus accrued interest and investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years, for the purpose of the purchase of transportation vehicles and equipment (the "Fund"), and (2) to pay into the Fund in the 2023-24 school year and annually thereafter funds from the District's available funds balance, State aid reimbursement, other such monies as voters may direct, and other legally available funds of the District in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount?

Proposition No. 7 - Oswego City Public Library

Shall the Oswego City School District Public Library Board of trustees be authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$1,416,207.78 (an increase of \$27,768.78) for the continuing support and maintenance of the Oswego SD Public Library, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote by the taxpayers of the Oswego City School District?

Candidates for the Board of Education Vote for up to four		Library Trustee Vote for up to three		
William Braun	Lisa Glidden	 Mercedes Niess	 Karen Swartz	 Zachary Vickery
Sean Callen	James MacKenzie			
Julie Chetney	Kristin Norfleet			
Pamela Dowd				

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The Oswego City School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, employment, and admissions, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Robert Duffy, Ed.D, District Coordinator. He can be reached by calling (315) 341-2014 or by mail at 1 Buccanear Boulevard Oswego, NY 13126. Inquiries concerning the application of the OCSD non-discrimination policies may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, telephone (646) 428-3800 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TTY).



OSWEGO
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate, inspire, and empower all students

1 Buccaneer Boulevard
Oswego, NY 13126

Non-Profit Organization
Carrier Route Sort

**BULK RATE
POSTAGE
PAID**

Permit No. 315
Oswego, NY 13126

Board of Education

Dr. Lisa Glidden, *President*
Tom Ciappa, *Vice President*
Mr. David Crisafulli
Mrs. Pamela Dowd
Dr. James MacKenzie
Mr. Sean Ohnmacht
Maura Dempsey, *Student Representative*

Interim Superintendent of Schools

Jeffrey Gordon

Postal Patron

2023-24 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 97,160,976	\$103,332,823	\$102,772,523
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$6,171,847	\$5,611,547
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.35 %	5.78%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$26,643,448	\$27,027,338	
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)	\$26,643,448	\$27,027,338	\$27,027,338
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$3,919,287	\$3,218,796	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$30,562,735	\$30,246,134	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$22,724,161	\$23,808,542	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$7,838,574	\$6,437,592	
Administrative Component	\$9,267,351	\$10,246,232	\$978,881
Program Component	\$72,866,510	\$77,266,889	\$4,400,379
Capital Component	\$15,027,115	\$15,819,702	\$792,587

Should the Budget be defeated, all new equipment that does not constitute ordinary contingent expenses will be eliminated. These include, no new capital expenditures except in emergency situations; no non-essential maintenance would be allowed and outside organizations would have to pay for facility use.