



# HADLEY-LUZERNE

## Central School District

**BUDGET NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2024**

### Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 9, 2024  
6:30 p.m., Stuart M. Townsend  
Elementary School

### Voting Day

Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
Noon - 8 p.m.  
Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School  
27 Hyland Drive, Lake Luzerne

- Proposed School Budget
- 1 Proposition for 3 School Buses
- 2 School Board Positions

### Eligibility to Vote

- Citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Resident within the district for a period of 30 days prior to the vote
- Registered to vote

### Register to Vote

If you are registered to vote in the general election, then you are registered to vote in the school election. If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, please call the Board of Elections Office for the county in which you reside.

### Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to registered voters of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District who will not be able to vote on Election Day. The ballot application, with instructions, is available at [www.hlcs.org](http://www.hlcs.org) or by contacting the District Clerk at 518-696-2378 ext. 1108.

## Annual School Budget Vote and Board Elections

The Hadley-Luzerne Central School District Board of Education is proposing a budget of \$24,202,479 for the 2024-25 school year resulting in an estimated 1.9% increase in the tax levy, which is well below the tax levy cap of 3.67%. This represents an overall budget-to-budget increase of \$908,584 or 3.67%, which will be offset by use of the district's fund balance and cost-saving measures.

Each year, our school district strives to provide an academic program that supports a safe, positive, and rewarding learning experience. As we developed the 2024-25 budget, our goals were to maintain programs, maximize taxpayer dollars, and keep budget increases to a minimum. We are pleased to say we have been able to achieve these goals.

For the 2024-25 school year, the district will continue to provide primary care health services to students on campus through our partnership with Hudson Headwaters. Having this provider on-site allows students to attend school consistently and receive the services they need while learning and playing alongside their peers.

When crafting the budget, the district examined expenditures line-by-line to identify cost-saving measures. Some BOCES services have been reduced for next year, along with some clinical counseling services through an outside service provider. We have switched to paperless systems for report cards and arrival/dismissal coordination, and two positions that will be vacated due to retirement will remain unfilled. Some of the services that BOCES provided will be brought in-house next year to better meet the needs of our students.

At the same time, the district is using \$1 million from the Fund Balance and Reserves to fill the gap between revenue and projected expenditures. We are mindful of using savings to balance the budget, which is why we are so careful with our spending.

NYS Education Law allows school districts to conduct one \$100,000 "capital outlay" project per year, which does not require special approval from voters. Capital outlay projects are reimbursed in the form of revenue (based on the district's NYS Building Aid ratio) the following fiscal year. The capital outlay planned for next year will repair the roofs over the Large Group Instruction space at Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School and the cafeteria at the Junior/Senior High School.

We are proud of the educational opportunities we are able to provide our students while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. We appreciate the support and partnership of the PTSA, Booster Club, and residents who entrust us with their children and their investment in our facilities.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Stuart M. Townsend Elementary School.



## ON THE BALLOT

### 2024-25 Proposed School Budget

RESOLVED, to adopt the annual budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$24,202,479 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the district.

### Proposition 1

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education is hereby authorized to acquire one (1) 66-passenger school bus and two (2) 22-passenger handicap accessible school buses at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$456,500, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, and to expend such sum for such purpose and to levy the necessary tax therefore taking into account state aid received, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the district at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$456,500 and to levy a tax to pay the interest on such obligations when due.

### Election of Two School Board Members

Vote to elect two (2) members to the Board of Education, at large, to three (3) year terms commencing on July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2027. The incumbents are Justin Hunt and Shana Graham, whose terms expire on June 30, 2024.

### Candidates:

**Shana Graham**  
**Justin Hunt**

## 2024-25 EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Line Item	Budget 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	\$ Change
Instruction	\$11,067,336	\$11,526,057	\$458,721
Employee Benefits	\$6,289,483	\$6,555,600	\$266,117
General Support	\$3,195,788	\$3,225,282	\$29,494
Transportation	\$1,342,126	\$1,353,901	\$11,775
Debt Service	\$1,359,162	\$1,401,639	\$42,477
Transfers	\$40,000	\$140,000	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$23,293,895</b>	<b>\$24,202,479</b>	<b>\$908,584</b>

## 2024-25 REVENUE SUMMARY

Line Item	Budget 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	\$ Change
Property Tax	\$11,438,218	\$11,656,012	\$217,794
State Aid	\$9,332,947	\$9,329,961	(\$2,986)
Federal Aid	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,742,730	\$1,300,000	(\$442,730)
Repair Reserve	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Workers Comp. Reserve	\$0	\$113,000	\$113,000
Restricted TRS Reserve (5997)	\$0	\$650,000	\$650,000
Restricted ERS Reserve (5997)	\$0	\$305,000	\$305,000
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Charges for Services	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
Use of Money & Property	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$675,000	\$633,506	(\$41,494)
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$23,293,895</b>	<b>\$24,202,479</b>	<b>\$908,584</b>

## ESTIMATED TAX RATES

Per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

Town	Actual 2023-24	Proposed 2024-25	\$ Change Per \$1,000	% Change
Day	\$19.01	\$19.46	\$0.36	1.9%
Edinburg	\$20.59	\$20.97	\$0.38	1.9%
Hadley	\$11.26	\$11.47	\$0.21	1.9%
Lake Luzerne	\$10.71	\$10.91	\$0.20	1.9%
Stony Creek	\$966.73	\$988.97	\$18.24	1.9%
Warrensburg	\$9.21	\$9.39	\$0.17	1.9%



### Budget Vote

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**

**Noon to 8 p.m.**

**Stuart M. Townsend  
Elementary School**

# SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

## Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for 2023-24	Budget Proposed for 2024-25	Contingency Budget for 2024-25
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$23,293,895	\$24,202,479	\$24,128,979
Increase for the 2024-25 School Year		\$908,584	\$835,084
Percentage Increase in Proposed Budget		3.9%	3.5%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,438,218	\$11,656,012	
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)	\$11,438,218	\$11,656,012	\$11,438,218
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$573,364	\$689,072	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,864,854	\$10,966,940	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$10,864,854	\$10,966,940	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$1,999,904	\$2,054,334	\$2,044,084
Program component	\$17,294,033	\$17,974,368	\$17,946,368
Capital component	\$3,999,958	\$4,173,777	\$4,138,527

\*\*Separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: PROPOSITION ONE (1) Purchase one (1) 66-passenger handicap accessible school bus and two (2) 22-passenger school buses at a total cost not to exceed \$456,500.

## BASIC STAR EXEMPTION IMPACT

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within Lake Luzerne with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) and a Basic Star exemption of \$22,960. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

**Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year**

Basic STAR tax savings \$276

## ALSO ON BALLOT

### Election of Library Trustees

Vote to elect FOUR (4) members to the Board of Trustees of the Rockwell Falls Public Library, at large. Two to three (3) year terms, commencing on July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2027 and two one (1) year terms commencing on July 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2025. The two candidates with the highest votes will fill the two three-year terms, and the third and fourth highest votes will fill the one-year terms.

### Candidates:

Janice Waterhouse    Colin Hagadorn  
Ted Mirczak            Margaret Hartley

### Why Are We Voting for Library Trustees?

In June 2019, voters approved the Hadley Luzerne Public Library's request to change its charter from a "municipal library" - funded only by the towns of Hadley and Lake Luzerne - to a "school district library" that would expand the tax base to the same geographical area as the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District. The vote was 241 votes for and 199 against.

"School District Public Libraries" are totally independent of the school district. They are corporate entities chartered by the Board of Regents and registered by the Commissioner of Education. NYS Education Law provides a means for public and association libraries to access voters in the community in order to levy taxes and to use tax collection mechanisms. Tax money collected for the library is kept separate from the school district budget, and any increases to the library budget would face approval by popular vote of school district constituents. The library board of trustees are elected to three-year terms rather than appointed.

# Hadley-Luzerne Central School District

PO Box 200, 27 Hyland Drive  
Lake Luzerne, New York 12846  
518-696-2378



Hadley-Luzerne Central  
School District  
**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846  
PERMIT #7

## Board of Education

Eddie Joe Moulton, President  
Shana Graham  
Gregory Novotarski  
Justin Hunt  
BJ Weiss

## Administration

Burgess Ovitt, Superintendent  
Dan Hamm, Junior-Senior High School Principal (7-12)  
Jon Baker, Elementary School Principal (PK-6)  
Michelle Taylor, School Business Official  
Robert Mark, Director of Special Education

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

*Produced in cooperation with WSWHE BOCES Communication Services.*

## PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	Percent Change
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$23,293,895	\$24,202,479	3.9%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,438,218	\$11,656,012	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$11,438,218	\$11,656,012	1.9%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$573,364	\$689,072	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,864,854	\$10,966,940	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$10,864,854	\$10,966,940	
I. Difference (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	\$0	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	633	630	(0.47%)
Consumer Price Index			4.12%
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$4,255,157	\$4,423,000	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,874,956	\$1,300,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$184,970	\$400,000	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	0.79%	1.65%	

## Community Spirit

Students, families, and community members have enjoyed many special events and activities this year, with more planned for the months ahead. These events epitomize our community spirit of collaboration and support.



*The Hadley-Luzerne Polar Plunge team won first place for the school district with the most participation! Our HL Eagles plunged with over 80 team members and raised well over \$4,000 for Special Olympics New York.*



*High School students volunteered to facilitate games during the St. Patrick's Day Family Fun Night.*

Please check the district website and/or Facebook page for more upcoming events!