



OESJ

OPPENHEIM | EPHRATAH | St. JOHNSVILLE



ABOVE, Zoe Jones, grade 8, donated eight inches of her hair to the Children with Hair Loss program. The program provides human hair replacements at no cost to children and young adults facing medically-related hair loss due to cancer treatments, Alopecia, Trichotillomania, burns, etc. We are proud of you, Zoe! This is one example of the many ways in which OESJ students selflessly give back to their communities every day.

2021-22 Budget

- 1-2** | Proposed 2021-22 budget contains no tax increase
- 2** | Revenue and expenditure listing from the proposed 2021-22 budget
- 3** | NYS required budget notice, STAR savings information
- 4** | More budget news, voting and absentee ballot information; 9 years of steady taxes

PROPOSED 2021-22 BUDGET CONTAINS NO TAX INCREASE

The proposed 2021-22 school budget keeps taxes the same as the 2020-21 school year while maintaining all student programs.

While the Board of Education could have raised taxes by as much as 1.33% according to the 8-step state tax levy formula, board members opted to keep the tax levy increase to zero.

“WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP THE TAX INCREASE TO 0% EVERY YEAR, BUT IT SEEMS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO DO SO THIS YEAR.”

SUPERINTENDENT ADAM HEROTH

“We may not be able to keep the tax increase to 0% every year, but it seems especially important to do so this year,” said Superintendent Adam Heroth, noting that many families have been financially

PROPOSED 2021-22 BUDGET KEEPS TAXES STEADY, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WHAT WILL I SEE ON THE MAY 18 BALLOT?

Community voting will be held from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 18 at the OESJ Jr./Sr. High School auditorium (44 Center St., St. Johnsville) and at the OESJ Elementary School auditorium (6486 State Highway 29, St. Johnsville) on these proposals (see page 6 for more information):

- \$21,297,061 budget carries a 0% tax levy increase; the state's maximum tax levy increase would have allowed OESJ to raise taxes by 1.33%.
- One candidate for two, three-year seats on the Board of Education: Shellie Walrath (150 Allen Heights St. Johnsville).
- Allow the district to buy two 30-passenger buses for \$165,000 from the district's reserve. This would have NO IMPACT on the 2021-22 tax levy.



PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021-22 CALLS FOR A 0% TAX LEVY INCREASE, FROM PAGE 1

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

OESJ, as did all other school districts, received a boost in state aid from the NYS budget. The state Legislature also promised to fully fund Foundation Aid over the next three years.

Though not included in this budget, federal stimulus funding for OESJ is in place to keep school finances in order until 2024.

Heroth noted that 59% of the budget goes for salaries and benefits and 11% is for debt payments.

The budget adds a Jr./Sr. High School math and Spanish teacher, an elementary teacher and includes a health insurance premium increase of 13.5%.

The budget includes these reductions: transportation supervisor, special education teacher and two retirees from the fall have not been replaced.

Check us out at www.oesj.org/ and www.facebook.com/OESJschools

An overview of the 2021-22 OESJ budget

Where the money comes from...



REVENUES	Budgeted 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	\$/% Change '20-21 to '21-22	% of budget
State Aid	\$15,361,404	\$14,846,404	-\$515,000/-3.3%	69.7%
Property Taxes	\$4,992,857	\$4,992,857	\$0/0%	23.5%
Transfer from Reserves	\$400,000	\$0	-\$400,000/-100%	0%
Other	\$342,800	\$257,800	-\$85,000/-24.8%	1.2%
Fund Balance	\$200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,000,000/500%	5.6%
Total Revenue	\$21,297,061	\$21,297,061	\$0/0%	100%



...and where it is spent

EXPENDITURES	Budgeted 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	\$/% Change '20-21 to '21-22	% of budget
Instruction	\$9,479,831	\$9,696,362	\$216,531/2.3%	45.5%
Employee Benefits	\$5,029,130	\$5,035,890	\$6,760/0.13%	23.6%
General Support*	\$2,962,367	\$3,061,716	\$99,349/3.4%	14.4%
Pupil Transport.	\$1,279,148	\$1,184,974	-\$94,174/-7.4%	5.6%
Debt Service	\$2,546,585	\$2,318,119	-\$228,466/-9.0%	10.9%
Total Expend.	\$21,297,061	\$21,297,061	\$0/0%	100%

*District-wide operations such as business, property insurance, operations and maintenance



Three-part budget

	Budgeted 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	\$/% Change '20-21 to '21-22	% of Budget
Administrative	\$2,758,090	\$2,851,836	\$93,746/3.4%	13.4%
Program	\$13,956,579	\$14,050,551	\$93,972/0.67%	66.0%
Capital	\$4,582,392	\$4,394,674	-\$187,718/-4.1%	20.6%
TOTAL	\$21,297,061	\$21,297,061	\$0/0%	100%

Required NYS 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	\$21,297,061	\$21,297,061	\$20,971,615
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$0	-\$325,446
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0%	-1.53%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$4,992,857	\$4,992,857	
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)	\$4,992,857	\$4,992,857	\$4,992,857
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,992,857	\$5,059,358	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$4,992,857	\$4,992,857	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$66,501	
Administrative Component	\$2,758,090	\$2,851,836	\$2,758,090
Program Component	\$13,956,579	\$14,050,551	\$14,008,751
Capital Component	\$4,582,392	\$4,394,674	\$4,204,774

* A statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. Reductions as a result of a contingent budget would total \$325,446 and would include the elimination of all non-essential equipment in the budget, a reduction to non-essential supplies and contractual items in the administrative component, and the elimination/reduction of district provided school supplies, other supplies, and contractual items.

Description	Amount
Use of Capital Bus Reserve (purchase two buses)	\$165,000

** List Separate Propositions that are *not* included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings
(The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.) **\$454.00**

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the OESJ school district, Fulton, Montgomery and Herkimer counties, New York, will be held at **OESJ High School and the OESJ Elementary School** in said district on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m.**, prevailing time in the schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. In accordance with the District's COVID-19 procedures, all voters will be screened prior to entering the voting area.

Board of Education

Neil Clark, **President**

Dean Handy, **Vice President**

Chad Barnes

Sarah Barnes

Jeremy Brundage

Susanne Sammans

Shellie Walrath

Adam Heroth, **Superintendent**

Produced by the Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville
Central School District in cooperation with the
Capital Region BOCES Communications Service

Robert Hanlon, **Editor**



OESJ

Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville

44 Center Street | St. Johnsville, New York 13452

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

ECRWSSEDDM

Local Postal Customer

4



OESJ

OPPENHEIM | EPHRATAH | St. JOHNSSVILLE | CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

More budget news

Voter eligibility

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 18 vote, be at least 18 years of age and be a U.S. citizen.

Voting locations - May 18, 2021

Community voting will be held from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the:

- **OESJ Junior/Senior High School** auditorium, 44 Center St., St. Johnsville
- **OESJ Elementary School** auditorium, 6486 State

Highway 29, St. Johnsville

If you are unsure where to vote, contact District Clerk Stephanie Bonk at stephanie.bonk@oesj.org or by calling (518) 568-7280.

Voter registration

If you are registered to vote in national, county and town elections through the county where you live, you do not have to do anything. You are already registered to vote in the school district election.

In-person voter registration will be in the elementary school lobby from 2 to 6 p.m. on May 11.

If you are not registered to vote, you may register just for the school district election or to request an absentee ballot application by contacting District Clerk Stephanie Bonk at stephanie.bonk@oesj.org or by calling (518) 568-7280.

Absentee ballot information

Residents who will not be in the area on May 18 or are otherwise unable to vote in person may apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office, 44 Center Street, St. Johnsville.

- If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the

application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote – by **May 11**.

▪ If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until **May 17**.

▪ Completed absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on **May 18**.

A 9-YEAR HISTORY OF TAX STABILITY AT OESJ

Taxpayers were promised tax stability during the 2012 merger between Oppenheim-Ephratah and St. Johnsville. OESJ has upheld its commitment.

