

THE CARDINAL CONNECTION

Linking Community and School

Fort Ann Central School District

2018-19 Spring News

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Class of 2018 Award Winners

Renee Allen will be honored at the Capital Area School Development Association's Annual Scholars' Recognition Dinner at the Albany Marriott on May 17, 2018. The event celebrates students' outstanding scholastic achievement and the teachers who had a significant and beneficial influence on their education. Renee chose science teacher Mrs. Johnson as the person who influenced her life and made her want to strive to be the best she could be. Renee plans to attend State University of New York at Geneseo in the fall.



Renee Allen



Emily Ellis

Emily Ellis will be honored at the Adirondack Area School Boards Association's (AASBA) spring dinner on May 3, 2018. AASBA presents a \$300 scholarship to a graduating senior from each member school district whose community service is of "great magnitude and the highest quality." Emily has volunteered at the Double H Ranch, supervised and organized activities for children at the Crandall Library, fundraised for and organized events at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation, and fundraised for supplies for Hurricane Harvey relief, among other volunteer opportunities.

Emily plans to attend State University of New York at Potsdam this fall to study Early Childhood Education.

Fort Ann Central School
"Quality Education, Every Student, Every Day"

Proposed Budget Is Less Than Current Budget

The 2018-19 proposed budget is a budget-to-budget decrease of \$813,725 or 6.79%. This is a direct result of cost containment efforts and prudent fiscal spending. When developing the spending plan for the upcoming school year, administrators strive to meet the needs of all learners and attend to district goals that include:

- **Improved Safety Measures for the District**
- **21st Century Skills for College and Career Readiness**
- **Shared Services and Staff to Contain Costs to the District**

Budget Improves Campus Safety

In light of recent discussions regarding school safety, the Fort Ann Central School District will be taking additional measures to improve security and the systems the district has in place to keep students, staff, and visitors safe. Pending the approval of the 2018-19 budget, the district will hire a School Resource Officer (SRO) as a proactive endeavor. SROs are law enforcement personnel who work in community-oriented policing to provide a feeling of safety among students and staff, while reducing the likelihood of property damage, personal injury, and criminal activity. The Washington County Sheriff's Department will train officers this summer and assist school districts through the interviewing and hiring process. The district has also budgeted for the removal and replacement of worn locks and the replacement of outdated security camera equipment throughout the campus to ensure students, staff, and visitors are protected at all times.

Providing 21st Century Skills Through Shared Services

In order to supplement taxpayer funds and provide additional programs for students, the district regularly seeks partnerships and shared services. Fort Ann Central School continues to partner with the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex (WSWHE) BOCES to not only offer shared staff but also to offer enhanced opportunities for students. Through WSWHE BOCES, the district plans to hire a part-time social worker as well as a part-time curricular/math coach. For student opportunities, WSWHE BOCES continues to provide Career and Technical Education programs, New Visions programs, and dual enrollment in High School and SUNY Adirondack through the Early College Career Academy in order to earn college credits while still in high school.

Through partnering with the Washington County Collaborative, the district is able to share services with neighboring districts. Some initiatives of the Washington County Collaborative include: professional development, teaching impoverished students, advocacy for education funding, and shared staff members.

An Update On The Capital Project

The Fort Ann Central School District is working closely with Architects from Mosaic Associates on prioritizing health, safety, and program needs, along with finalizing schematic site plans and updating cost estimates for the Capital Project. The Capital Project is being prepared for submission to New York State Education Facilities Planning with the goal of receiving approval and building permits, preceding bids and construction. The District anticipates submitting all project documents by May, 25, 2018. The District hopes to obtain approval from NYSED Facilities Planning by September 15, 2018.

Proposed Budget Below Tax Levy Cap

The district continues to follow a financial plan that was established in 2013-14. It is the Board's intent to maintain stability in its budgeting practices and to balance the academic needs of students with a budget that is affordable to the community.

The Board of Education is asking voters to consider a budget of \$11,173,603, **which is a budget-to-budget decrease of \$813,725**. The proposed budget results in a tax levy of \$4,971,798 or an estimated \$13.39 per \$1,000 assessed value. This is an increase of 1.89% from last year, which is below the allowable tax levy limit of 3.60% for the Fort Ann Central School District.

In addition to keeping the tax levy below the limit imposed by NYS, Fort Ann anticipates to use \$319,626 of fund balance to continue to provide access and opportunities for students while offsetting the burden on taxpayers. The district has been slowly reducing the amount of Fund Balance it uses in order to maintain a healthy reserve and align expenses to anticipated revenue.

Compare	Tax Levy Increase	Tax Levy Limit	Use of Fund Balance
2018-19	1.89%	3.60%	\$319,626
2017-18	1.72%	1.72%	\$338,123
2016-17	0.52%	0.52%	\$411,276
2015-16	1.52%	1.52%	\$657,401

A Quick Look at the Proposed Budget

Total Budget: \$11,173,603

Applied/Reserved Fund Balance: \$319,626

Tax Levy for School Budget: \$4,971,798

On The Ballot

Proposition 1: 2018-2019 School Year Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Fort Ann Central School District, Washington County, New York, be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the budget in the total amount of \$11,173,602.33 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition 2: 2018-19 Bus Proposition

Shall the Board of Education of the Fort Ann Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire one 21-passenger school bus, at a maximum aggregate cost of approximately \$67,597.29; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid and trade-in value; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds, notes and/or installment purchase contracts of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$67,597.29, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

Proposition 3: 2018-19 Repair Reserve

SHALL the Board of Education of the Fort Ann Central School District be authorized to fund the Repair Reserve in the amount of \$200,000, from the unappropriated 2017-18 fund balance, to be used for repairs of capital improvements or equipment, which repairs are of a type not recurring annually or at shorter intervals?

Proposition 4: 2018-19 Capital Reserve

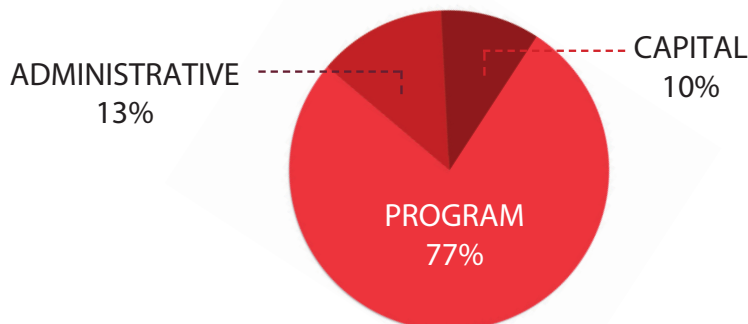
Shall the Fort Ann Central School District be authorized to (1) create a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing the general improvements, construction, reconstruction, renovations or additions to various School District, buildings and grounds, including site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings are to be used; (2) fund said reserve to the ultimate amount of \$1,000,000, and (3) annually deposit into the Capital Reserve fund such portion of the General Fund and/or available unappropriated fund balance, as determined by the Board of Education? The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is ten (10) years.

Expenditure Summary

Administrative	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Board of Education	\$13,140	\$12,540	(\$600)
Central Administration	\$191,415	\$197,099	\$5,684
Finance	\$260,965	\$206,084	(\$54,881)
Legal	\$68,912	\$75,013	\$6,101
Public Information	\$24,294	\$24,780	\$486
Central Services	\$153,018	\$115,986	(\$37,032)
Special Items	\$146,484	\$146,484	\$0
Instruction	\$279,347	\$253,225	(\$26,122)
Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$297,376	\$380,534	\$83,158
Subtotal	\$1,434,951	\$1,411,745	(\$23,206)

Program	2017-18	2018-19	Change
In-Service Training	\$25,675	\$44,200	\$18,525
Teaching	\$4,506,204	\$4,576,723	\$70,519
Instructional Media	\$459,677	\$482,513	\$22,836
Pupil Services	\$429,567	\$471,382	\$41,815
Pupil Transportation	\$528,289	\$564,131	\$35,842
Culture and Recreation	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Home and Community Services	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$2,442,675	\$2,457,920	\$15,245
Interfund Transfers	\$ 11,750	\$11,750	\$0
Subtotal	\$8,409,837	\$8,614,619	\$204,782

Capital	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Plant Operations	\$534,149	\$573,881	\$39,732
Plant Maintenance	\$77,000	\$123,000	\$46,000
Employee Benefits	\$209,658	\$141,413	(\$68,245)
Debt Service	\$1,321,733	\$208,945	(\$1,112,788)
Transfer to Other Funds	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Subtotal	\$ 2,142,540	\$1,147,239	(\$995,301)
Total Expenditures	\$11,987,328	\$11,173,603	(813,725)



Notes

State law requires that school districts present their budgets in three component parts; administrative, program and capital. As with any budget, there is a revenue side and an expenditure side, which is the portion of the budget that voters approve in May. Here's a summary of what's happening on both fronts:

The Expenses

The major increase in expenses is due to the district's salary costs.

Administrative Expenditures cover expenses related to district management and central services including legal audits and BOCES administration. Administrative expenses comprise 13 percent of the overall budget.

Program Expenditures include items directly related to instruction. These include salaries, benefits, and transportation. The program budget comprises approximately 77 percent of the total budget.

Capital Expenditures in this category are associated with the operation and maintenance of the physical property of the school district and all debt service. The capital budget comprises approximately 10 percent of the total budget.

Revenue Summary

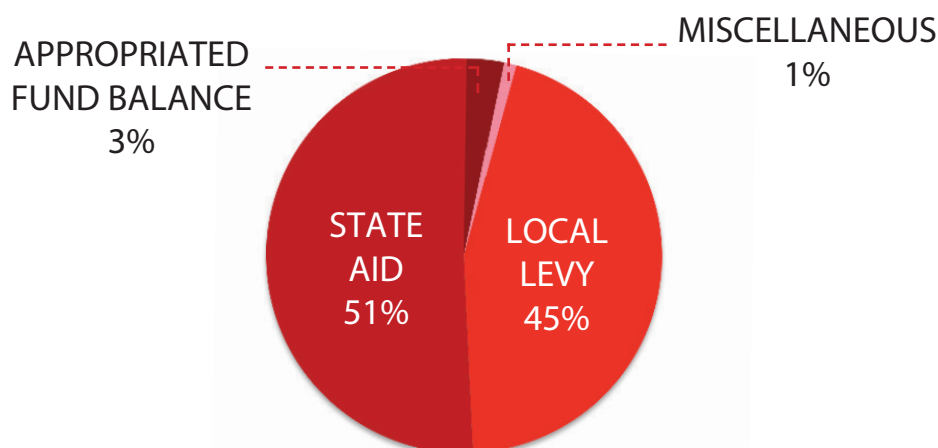
ESTIMATED REVENUES	2017-18	2018-19	Change
Real Property Taxes	\$4,879,574	\$4,971,798	\$92,224
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$16,688	\$16,688	\$0
Interest & Penalties	\$6,000	\$4,000	(\$2,000)
Charges for Services	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Other Districts & Government	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Used of Money & Property	\$22,191	\$22,316	\$125
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$136,500	\$123,000	(\$13,500)
State Aid	\$6,530,252	\$5,658,175	(\$872,077)
Federal Aid	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$338,123	\$319,626	(\$18,497)
Total Revenues	\$11,987,328	\$11,173,603	(\$813,725)

Where Does the Revenue Come From?

Schools receive revenue from two principal sources: New York State and local property taxes.

Next year, the district will receive a decrease of \$872,077 in state aid compared to the state aid budgeted in 2017-18. State Aid includes; Foundation Aid, Building Aid, Transportation Aid, and other categories. Miscellaneous revenues come from tuition-paying students, interest earned, and charges for services.

The revenue derived from property taxes comes from taxpayers and the STAR program.



Contingency Budget

According to state law, the public may vote on a school budget only twice in any given year.

In the event the proposed budget is defeated there are three options:

- Put the same budget before the voters a second time.
- Put a revised (and typically lower) budget before the voters.
- Or go directly to a contingent budget.

After a second defeat, the board has no choice, but to adopt a contingent budget.

With the tax cap regulation, if the proposed budget is defeated twice, then there can be no increase in the contingent budget.

The contingent budget would be \$11,095,603. Under a contingency budget, certain equipment and pupil supplies would be eliminated, and the community would have to pay to use the buildings and grounds as required by state regulations. This would have a negative long-term effect on the district.

Fort Ann Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 • Noon - 8 P.M. • Old Gym

2018-19 Property Tax Report Card

	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Budget
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$11,987,328	\$11,173,603
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$4,879,574	\$4,995,486
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)	\$4,879,574	\$4,995,486
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$96,438	\$133,106
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,783,136	\$4,862,380
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)	\$4,783,136	\$4,862,380
I. Difference (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	\$0	\$0
Public School Enrollment	476	493
Consumer Price Index		2.13%
	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Estimated
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$413,900	\$1,888,350
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$338,123	\$319,625
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$1,770,080	\$548,234
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	14.77%	4.91%

*Please note that this Property Tax Report Card presentation is in accordance with NYS Education Law sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3).

Elect Three Board Members

The Fort Ann Central School District has three vacancies on the Board of Education. Residents will vote to elect three (3) members of the Board of Education, each to a three (3) year term commencing on July 1, 2018 and expiring on June 30, 2021 to fill seats currently held by Amy Bailey, James Allen, and Pamela White. Candidates are:

Pamela White

Diana Sustar

James Allen

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget 2018-19 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$11,987,328	\$11,173,603	\$11,095,603
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		(\$813,725)	(\$891,725)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		(6.79%)	(7.44%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, net of reserve	\$4,879,574	\$4,995,486	
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)	\$4,879,574	\$4,995,486	\$4,879,574
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$96,438	\$133,106	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,783,136	\$4,862,380	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Library to Support Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$4,783,136	\$4,862,380	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$1,434,951	\$1,411,745	\$1,411,745
Program component	\$8,409,837	\$8,614,619	\$8,581,619
Capital component	\$2,142,540	\$1,147,239	\$1,102,239
* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, certain equipment in the capital and program components would be reduced. **Separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: one 21-passenger buses at a total not to exceed \$67,598; capital reserve fund establishment of \$1,000,000; and funding of the repair reserve at \$200,000.			

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-2019 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$402

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-2019 by the qualified voters of the Fort Ann Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held at the secondary portion of the school in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time at which time in the secondary portion of the school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

(1) The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Absentee Ballots

District residents may apply for absentee ballots at the Office of the Clerk at the District Offices located at One Catherine Street, Fort Ann. The District Clerk must receive the completed application for review at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; OR prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day before the election if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the District Clerk. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued is available to the public up to the day of the election during regular office hours in the district office.

Voter Qualifications

A person shall be entitled to vote at the Annual School District Meeting and the Annual School Election who is: a citizen of the United States; eighteen years of age; and a resident within the District for a period of thirty days preceding the next meeting at which they offer to vote.

FORT ANN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

One Catherine Street
Fort Ann, NY 12827
www.fortannschool.org

Superintendent of Schools

Kevin A. Froats

Business Official

Alexander V. Bodensieck, CPA

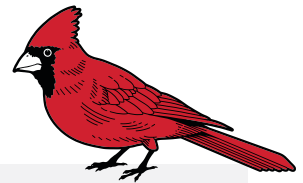
Board of Education

James Seeley, President
Pamela White, Vice President
James Allen
Amy Bailey
Alison West
Cathy Graham
Paul Greene

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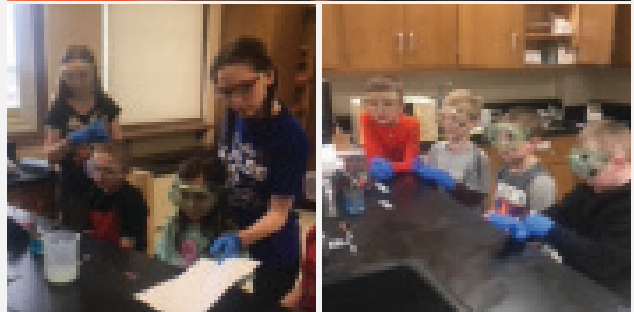
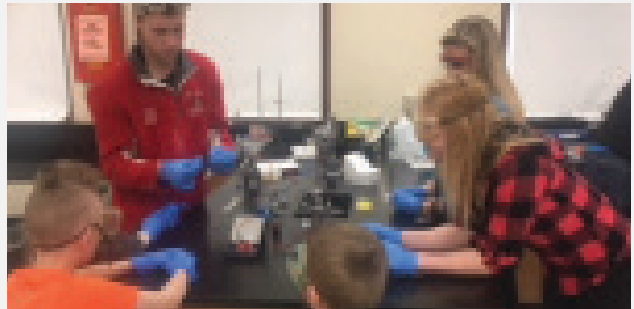


Creative Thinking Through STEAM

The Fort Ann Central School District constantly looks for ways to improve classroom experiences and align curriculum with 21st Century skills. Through innovative approach, our staff has worked with students to enforce the importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) in the classroom. Our updated district goals include:

Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills

Implement 80-20 teaching strategy to engage students in innovative and personalized learning tasks, complete a three-year technology plan to include alignment of 21st Century Skills to instruction, and provide Professional Development for all instructional staff focusing on STEAM across curriculum



Mrs. Wood's fourth grade science class made plant lapbooks and did a soil comparison lab. Lapbooks are educational scrapbooks that fit into the lap of the student.

Mr. Dobkowski's 11th grade chemistry students became the teachers as they explained science concepts through experiments to first grade students.