

THE CARDINAL CONNECTION

Linking Community and School

Fort Ann Central School District

2019-20 Budget News

Inside this Issue

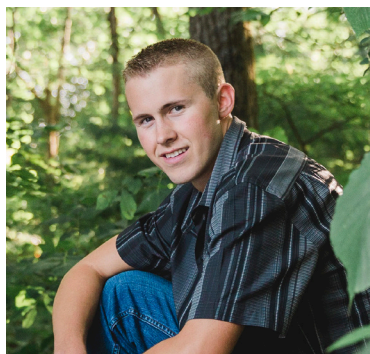
- Academic Opportunities
- Proposed Budget
- Expenditure & Revenue Summaries
- Board Candidate Information
- Voter Information
- District Goal: Innovative Instruction

Class of 2019 Award Winners

Kayla Bailey will be honored at the Capital Area School Development Association's Annual Scholars' Recognition Dinner at the Albany Marriott on May 16, 2019. The event celebrates students' outstanding scholastic achievement and the teachers who had a significant and beneficial influence on their education. Kayla plans to attend with her English teacher, Patty Sue Morrison. "Ms. Morrison has taught me key skills in order to be a successful student," said Kayla. Kayla plans to attend Siena College in the fall.



Kayla Bailey



Sawyer Lunt

Sawyer Lunt will be honored at the Adirondack Area School Boards Association's (AASBA) Spring Dinner on May 9, 2019. 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." Sawyer has volunteered at the Double H Ranch, Fort Ann Youth League, and Sugarloaf Farm. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council, Spanish Club, Math League, and Upward Bound.

Sawyer plans to attend Siena College for both undergraduate school and to ultimately study for his Master of Business Administration degree.

Fort Ann Central School

"Quality Education, Every Student, Every Day"

An Update On The Capital Project

The Fort Ann Central School District continually strives to provide our students with quality educational programs in a safe and healthy environment, while balancing its fiscal responsibilities to the community. With this in mind, I am pleased to share that the Fort Ann Central School District has begun construction on the Capital Improvement Project that was voter approved on September 19, 2017. From the very beginning, improving school safety, enhancing educational opportunities for students, and taking care of what we have has been the focus of this project.

Over the next six months, contractors will be busy making infrastructure and site work improvements throughout our campus. During this time, mechanical/HVAC, electrical systems, and the auditorium sound system will be updated. Drainage piping in the rear parking lot will be added, front and rear parking lots will be redesigned and repaved, and surveillance cameras and emergency lighting and door swipes will be upgraded or added. We will also create a Maker Space Lab, Fitness Center will be relocated, new bleachers will be installed in the old gym, the slate roof will be repaired, exterior brick will be repointed, and the bus garage will be receiving new doors and siding. These are just a few of the facility and program improvements that will be addressed over the next several months.

Please make note that public access to our school buildings will be limited throughout the summer of 2019 due to our internal and external reconstruction project. I strongly encourage that you call the district prior to arriving on campus.

Sincerely,

Kevin Froats, Superintendent of Schools

Budget-to-Budget Review

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 \$11,714,000, which is a budget-to-budget increase of \$540,397. The proposed budget results in a tax levy of \$5,088,635 or an estimated \$13.63 per \$1,000 assessed value. The proposed budget falls within the allowable tax levy limit of 2.35% for the Fort Ann Central School District.

In addition to keeping the tax levy at the allowable limit imposed by NYS, Fort Ann anticipates to use \$495,000 of fund balance to continue to provide access and opportunities for students while offsetting the burden on taxpayers. The district strives to maintain a healthy reserve and align expenses to anticipated revenue.

Fort Ann Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

NOON - 8 P.M. • Old Gym

A Quick Look at the Proposed Budget

Total Budget: \$11,714,000

Applied/Reserved Fund Balance: \$495,000

Tax Levy for School Budget: \$5,088,635

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 offers to vote.

On The Ballot

Proposition 1:

2019-2020 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 \$11,714,000 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Proposition 2:

2019-20 Bus Proposition

SHALL the Board of Education of the Fort Ann Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire school buses at a maximum aggregate cost of approximately \$249,000; (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 \$249,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

Elect Two Board Members

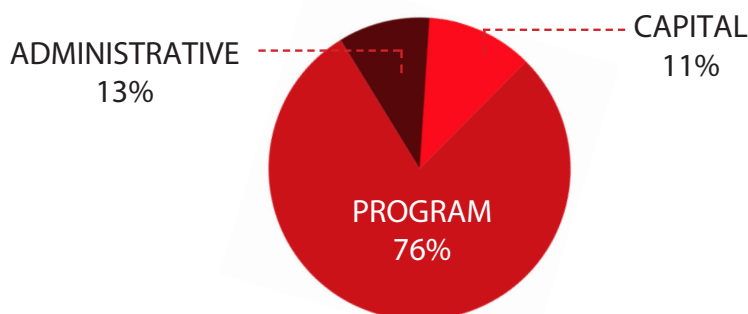
The Fort Ann Central School District has two vacancies on the Board of Education. Residents will vote to elect two (2) members of the Board of Education, each to a three (3) year term commencing on July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2022 to fill seats currently held by Paul Greene and James Seeley.

Expenditure Summary

Administrative	2018-19	2019-20	Change
Board of Education	\$12,540	\$8,750	(\$3,790)
Central Administration	\$207,099	\$204,569	(\$2,530)
Finance	\$206,084	\$231,731	\$25,647
Legal	\$75,013	\$98,550	\$23,537
Public Information	\$24,780	\$24,000	(\$780)
Central Services	\$115,986	\$92,604	(\$23,382)
Special Items	\$146,484	\$144,690	(\$1,794)
Instruction	\$253,225	\$338,534	\$85,309
Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$380,534	\$432,152	\$51,618
Subtotal	\$1,421,745	\$1,575,580	\$153,835

Program	2018-19	2019-20	Change
In-Service Training	\$44,200	\$45,000	\$800
Teaching	\$4,576,723	\$4,757,653	\$180,930
Instructional Media	\$482,513	\$510,205	\$27,692
Pupil Services	\$471,382	\$490,443	\$19,061
Pupil Transportation	\$564,131	\$614,606	\$50,475
Culture and Recreation	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Home and Community Services	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$2,457,920	\$2,445,244	(\$12,676)
Interfund Transfers	\$11,750	\$13,750	\$2,000
Subtotal	\$8,614,619	\$8,882,901	\$268,282

Capital	2018-19	2019-20	Change
Plant Operations	\$573,881	\$545,500	(\$28,381)
Plant Maintenance	\$123,000	\$105,500	(\$17,500)
Employee Benefits	\$141,413	\$114,582	(\$26,831)
Debt Service	\$208,945	\$389,938	\$180,993
Transfer to Other Funds	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Subtotal	\$1,147,239	\$1,255,520	\$108,281
Total Expenditures	\$11,173,603	\$11,714,000	\$538,397



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 Capital Improvements, district salaries and special education 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 76 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 11 percent of the total budget.

Revenue Summary

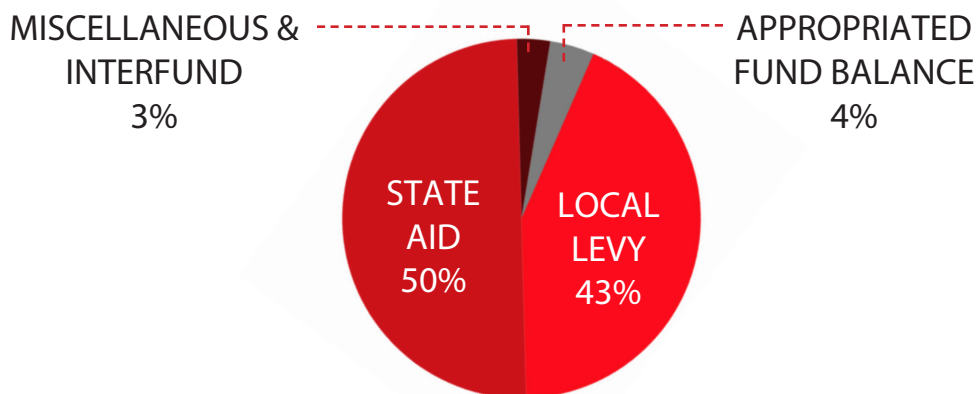
ESTIMATED REVENUES	2018-19	2019-20	Change
Real Property Taxes	\$4,971,798	\$5,088,635	\$116,837
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$16,688	\$16,938	\$250
Interest & Penalties	\$4,000	\$6,427	\$2,427
Charges for Services	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1,000
Other Districts & Government	\$25,000	\$0	(\$25,000)
Used of Money & Property	\$22,316	\$48,084	\$25,768
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$123,000	\$125,000	\$2,000
State Aid	\$5,626,992	\$5,830,916	\$203,924
Federal Aid	\$30,000	\$20,000	(\$10,000)
Reserves	\$0	\$79,000	\$79,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$319,626	\$495,000	\$175,374
Total Revenues	\$11,173,603	\$11,714,000	\$540,397

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 an increase of \$203,924 in state aid compared to the state aid budgeted in 2018-19. 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 \$11,527,932. 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.

2019-20 STAR Impact & Property Tax Report Card

★ Basic STAR Exemption Impact

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) and a Basic Star exemption of \$30,000.
*The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year

Basic STAR tax savings

\$400

	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Budget
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$11,173,603	11,714,000
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$4,995,486	\$5,088,635
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)	\$4,995,486	\$5,088,635
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$133,106	\$166,776
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,862,380	\$4,921,859
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)	\$4,862,380	\$4,921,859
I. Difference (G – H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	\$0	\$0
Public School Enrollment	493	500
Consumer Price Index		2.44%

	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Estimated
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$1,888,350	\$1,728,524
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$319,625	\$495,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$548,234	\$257,545
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	4.91%	2.20%
*Please note that this Property Tax Report Card presentation is in accordance with NYS Education Law sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3).		

In accordance with Chapter 258 of the Laws of 2008 added to Section 495 of the Real Property Tax Law, a report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value on the final assessment rolls used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, will be annexed to the budget document and posted on the district website.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget 2019-20 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$11,173,603	\$11,714,000	\$ 11,527,932
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$540,397	\$354,329
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.84%	3.17%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, net of reserve	\$4,971,798	\$5,088,635	
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)	\$4,971,798	\$5,088,635	\$4,995,486
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$133,106	\$166,776	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,862,380	\$4,921,859	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Library to Support Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$4,838,692	\$4,921,859	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$1,411,745	\$1,575,580	\$1,475,712
Program component	\$8,614,619	\$8,882,900	\$8,882,900
Capital component	\$1,147,239	\$1,255,520	\$1,169,320

* 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: acquire school buses at a maximum aggregate cost not to exceed \$249,000.

A Culture of Kindness

Recently, the “Sweethearts and Heroes” team visited our school to deliver a presentation on bullying prevention and the powerful impact of bystander empowerment, kindness, and empathy. Students gathered in the auditorium to learn about the effects that bullying has on our school, our community, and to us as individuals.

We thank the “Sweethearts and Heroes” team for reminding our students at Fort Ann Central School District about the importance of sharing hope to those who need it the most.



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

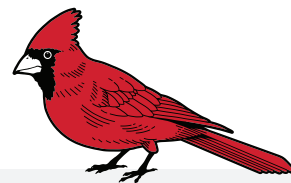
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Commitment to District

The Fort Ann Central School District consistently works to improve classroom experiences and align curriculum with district goals. For the current 2018-19 school year, this has included advancement of innovative instruction:

Innovative Instruction

All students will have access to high quality, rigorous, authentic, innovative, standards based learning experiences.

Ongoing professional development provided to faculty to ensure rigorous, innovative, standard-based learning environments. Students will demonstrate ingenuity and critical thinking skills using a variety of technology tools, summative and formative assessments. A PK-12 vision of quality innovative instruction shall be collaboratively researched, developed and implemented.



Classroom Highlight

Classes have participated in “Skype in the Classroom” broadcasts. This is a free program that offers live transformative educational experiences for students including Virtual Field Trips, talks from Guest Speakers, classroom to classroom connections, and live collaboration projects. For example, our third grade classes recently Skyped with the famous scientist, Dr. Jane Goodall. They learned about her life-long work with chimpanzees as well as her mission to inspire and empower young people to take care of our environment for humans and animals alike.