

# THE CARDINAL CONNECTION

Linking School and Community

Fort Ann Central School District

2023-24 Budget News



The Fort Ann Central School District Board of Education is proposing a budget of \$13,777,731 for the 2023-24 school year.

This is an overall budget-to-budget increase of \$1,077,731, resulting in an estimated 2.22% increase in the tax levy.

## A Quick Look at the Proposed Budget

The proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year

- Maximizes educational opportunities for all students
- Updates curriculum and classroom technology

The proposed budget includes:

- 8.49% increase in expenses
- 7.67% increase in revenue
- A tax levy increase of 2.22% that is within the tax levy cap for the upcoming school year

## VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

The Fort Ann Central School District Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible budget that continues to offer a quality educational program while improving the curriculum and increasing safety measures.

The Board of Education is asking voters to consider a budget of \$13,777,731, which is a budget-to-budget increase of \$1,077,731. The proposed budget results in a tax levy increase of \$122,006 or an estimated \$27.40 per \$100,000 assessed value. This is equal to the allowable tax levy limit of 2.22% for the Fort Ann Central School District.

The proposed 2023-24 school year budget supports all existing academic programs and includes:

- Adding multiple special education classes
- Updating our elementary reading and phonics program
- Replacing chromebooks and updating our network

Included in the regular budget is a \$100,000 “capital outlay” project. NYS Education Law allows school districts to conduct one capital outlay project annually, which will be reimbursed in the form of NYS Building Aid the following fiscal year. The 2023-24 capital outlay project will install badge system hardware on classroom doors in a portion of the elementary school. The hardware will enhance our security measures.

Residents will also elect two members to the Board of Education and vote to purchase two new buses.

We encourage you to **vote on Tuesday, May 16, 2023** in the gym between the hours of noon and 8 pm. As a reminder, all absentee ballots must be returned to the district by 5 pm on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

### Students Noted for Teamwork During the Battle of the Books

Fort Ann fifth graders competed in this year's WSWHE B O C E S Battle of the Books. The team, led by Mrs. Hamm, read ten fiction and non-fiction books and studied every kind of detail imaginable, from the plot to the dedication. During the competition, they had a set time to answer a recall question, responding in the form of author and title.



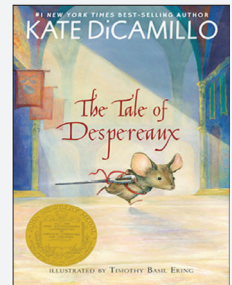
The students received comments from other schools that they worked great as a team, even if they didn't win the "battle"! We are proud of their hard work!

#### 2023 Battle of the Books team

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sara Beausoleil   | Zoey Michael       |
| Jacob Green       | Zoey Paddock       |
| Cambria Londrigan | Mackenzie Sullivan |

### Fort Ann Reads Brings Everyone Together Through Reading

There was nothing mousy about this year's Fort Ann Reads! The entire elementary school and their families read this year's book, *The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DeCamillo.



"Our elementary students and their families read one chapter a night and worked on projects and activities during their classes that related to the book," said Librarian Leann Hamm.

Students created a coat of arms based on the book, wrote a poem about one of the characters, designed a tapestry, and created a soup recipe or comic strip of Despereaux's adventure!

"Reading one book together as a family, school, and town generates excitement for reading and fosters a strong sense of community," remarked Hamm.



Mrs Pape's second grade class celebrated after reading 150 books!

### Capital Project Update

The Fort Ann Central School District is working closely with architects from CSArch on prioritizing safety and program needs, along with finalizing schematic site plans and updating cost estimates for the Capital Project that voters approved in December 2022. 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 the project proposal to NYSED Facilities Planning by the end of September 2023 and hopes to obtain approval from them by December 2023.

## 2023-24 Budget Priorities



The Fort Ann Central School District believes our highest priority is to ensure that all students succeed in learning. We believe in providing an engaging and innovative learning environment that emphasizes the development of our students to become productive members of a multifaceted, diverse, global society.

With this in mind, we have thoughtfully created a school budget that has a conservative approach but also allows us to meet district needs.

**To maintain the Fort Ann community's investment in our schools, the district is planning to:**

- Maximize educational opportunities for all students
- Update curriculum
- Improve classroom technology
- Provide comprehensive professional development for teachers
- Support student social and emotional wellness
- Budget conservatively
- Use fund balance as necessary

## On The Ballot

### Proposition 1: 2023-2024 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 \$13,771,731 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

### Proposition 2: 2023-2024 Bus Proposition:

SHALL the Board of Education of the Fort Ann Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire school buses at an estimated maximum cost of approximately \$152,990.78 each (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 in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, taking into account state aid; 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 \$306,000 and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

## Board Member Elections

**At Large Election** – To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education, each to a three (3) year term commencing on July 1, 2023 and expiring on June 30, 2026, to fill seats currently held by Alison West and Cathy Graham.

### Candidates

- Timothy Webb
- Cathy Graham

**Write-in Candidates** – Education Law requires schools to provide residents with an opportunity to write an individual's name for each vacancy on the Board. You may vote for a candidate who submitted a nominating petition, or you may write-in a person's name. Please note that if you wish to vote for a write-in candidate, you can only vote for that person once. You may ask the poll clerks for assistance if you have any questions.

## Expenditure Summary

### EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

| ADMINISTRATIVE            | Budget<br>2022-23   | Proposed<br>2023-24 | \$ Change          |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Board of Education        | \$6,309             | \$6,309             | \$0                |
| Central Administration    | \$195,655           | \$202,521           | \$6,866            |
| Finance                   | \$266,948           | \$260,552           | (\$6,396)          |
| Legal                     | \$43,550            | \$95,550            | \$52,000           |
| Public Information        | \$24,000            | \$24,000            | \$0                |
| Maintenance of Plant      | \$0                 | \$55,435            | \$55,435           |
| Central Services          | \$64,330            | \$64,330            | \$0                |
| Special Items             | \$154,041           | \$154,041           | \$0                |
| Instruction               | \$358,032           | \$366,086           | \$8,054            |
| Employee Benefits         | \$453,312           | \$480,838           | \$27,526           |
| <b>Subtotal</b>           | <b>\$1,566,177</b>  | <b>\$1,709,662</b>  | <b>\$143,485</b>   |
| PROGRAM                   | 2022-23             | 2023-24             | \$ Change          |
| Curriculum & Development  | \$63,112            | \$63,112            | 0                  |
| Teaching                  | \$4,920,782         | \$5,520,635         | \$599,853          |
| Instructional Media       | \$470,134           | \$481,972           | \$11,838           |
| Pupil Services            | \$602,492           | \$589,368           | (\$13,124)         |
| Pupil Transportation      | \$794,907           | \$876,550           | \$81,643           |
| Culture and Recreation    | \$0                 | \$0                 | \$0                |
| Community Service         | \$2,000             | \$2,000             | \$0                |
| Employee Benefits         | \$2,788,940         | \$2,847,217         | \$58,277           |
| Interfund Transfers       | \$23,000            | \$20,000            | (\$3,000)          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>           | <b>\$9,665,366</b>  | <b>\$10,400,854</b> | <b>\$735,488</b>   |
| CAPITAL                   | 2022-23             | 2023-24             | \$ Change          |
| Plant Operations          | \$579,110           | \$729,488           | \$150,378          |
| Plant Maintenance         | \$132,000           | \$102,000           | (\$30,000)         |
| Employee Benefits         | \$152,810           | \$153,547           | \$737              |
| Debt Service              | \$504,538           | \$582,180           | \$77,642           |
| Transfer to Other Funds   | \$100,000           | \$100,000           | \$0                |
| <b>Subtotal</b>           | <b>\$1,468,457</b>  | <b>\$1,667,215</b>  | <b>\$198,757</b>   |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b> | <b>\$12,700,000</b> | <b>\$13,777,731</b> | <b>\$1,077,731</b> |

State law requires school districts to present their budgets in three component parts; Administrative, Program and Capital. As with any budget, the district has revenues and expenditures. Here's a summary of our proposed expenditures for the 2023-24 school year:

#### Administrative Expenditures

cover expenses related to district management and central services including legal audits and BOCES administration. Administrative expenses are **12.4 percent of the overall budget**.

#### Program Expenditures

include items directly related to instruction. These include salaries, benefits, and transportation. The program budget is proposed to be **75.5 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 expenses are **12.1 percent of the total budget**.

## Revenue Summary

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
- Adopt 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, there can be no increase in the contingent budget.

The contingent budget would be \$13,661,731. 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.

## REVENUE SUMMARY

| ESTIMATED REVENUES        | Budget<br>2022-23   | Proposed<br>2023-24 | \$ Change          |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Real Property Taxes       | \$5,495,767         | \$5,617,773         | \$122,006          |
| Payments in Lieu of Taxes | \$30,048            | \$30,000            | (\$48)             |
| Miscellaneous Revenues    | \$132,356           | \$245,500           | \$113,144          |
| State Aid                 | \$6,421,829         | \$7,049,543         | \$627,714          |
| Federal–Medicaid          | \$20,000            | \$25,000            | \$5,000            |
| Interfund                 | ----                | \$59,915            | \$59,915           |
| <b>Revenue Subtotal</b>   | <b>\$12,100,000</b> | <b>\$13,027,731</b> | <b>\$927,731</b>   |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$600,000           | \$750,000           | \$150,000          |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>     | <b>\$12,700,000</b> | <b>\$13,777,731</b> | <b>\$1,077,731</b> |

## Where Does the Revenue Come From?

School districts receive revenue from two principal sources: New York State Aid and local property taxes. New York State Aid includes Foundation Aid, Building Aid, Transportation Aid, and other categories determined by the State budget. The local tax revenue comes from property taxes and the (NY State-funded) STAR program. Schools can also collect revenues from tuition-paying students, sales of school buses, and interest.

For the past three years, school districts in NYS received additional funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 to address learning loss and other items due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At least 20% of the funds were to be used to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as extended day or summer programs. The remainder of the funds could be used for other items including school facility repairs/improvements to reduce the risk of virus transmission and repair/replacement projects to improve indoor air quality.

Fort Ann CSD has spent over \$700,000 in ARP/ESSER federal funds since the start of the pandemic. These funds were or will be used for:

- Additional first grade teacher
- Additional reading specialist
- Additional school counselor
- Additional nurse
- Additional staff in facilities department
- Tutors
- Summer enrichment classes
- WiFi hotspots for student homes
- Filters/cleaning supplies

## Property Tax Report Card

### PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

|  | 2022-23<br>Budget | 2023-24<br>Budget | %     |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions   | \$12,700,000      | \$13,771,731      | 8.49% |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount  | \$5,495,767       | \$5,617,773       |       |
| 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)   | \$5,495,767       | \$5,617,773       | 2.22% |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit   | \$248,721         | \$257,338         |       |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions   | \$5,247,046       | \$5,360,435       |       |
| 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) | \$5,247,046       | \$5,360,435       |       |
| I. Difference (G – H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)  | \$0               | \$0               |       |
| Public School Enrollment   | 480               | 480               | 0%    |
| Consumer Price Index   |                   |                   | 8.00% |
| Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance   | \$1,375,000       | \$1,775,000       |       |
| Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance   | \$600,000         | \$750,000         |       |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance   | \$1,253,385       | \$2,136,153       |       |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget  | 9.87%             | 15.50%            |       |

### 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.

### 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, NY. 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.

### Tax Levy

The 2023-2024 levy limit is a 2.22% (\$122,006) increase from the current school year. The Town of Fort Ann estimates on **a home value assessed at \$100k, residents can expect a tax increase of \$27.40.**

## School District Budget Notice

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL   | Budget Adopted for 2022-23 School Year | Budget Proposed for 2023-24 School Year | Contingency Budget 2023-24 School Year* |
|---|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions  | \$12,700,000                           | \$13,777,731                            | \$13,661,731                            |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year   |  | \$1,077,731                             | (116,000)                               |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget   |  | 8.49%                                   | 7.57%                                   |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)  |  | 8.00%                                   |   |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, net of reserve   | \$ 5,495,767                           | \$5,617,773                             |   |
| 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)  | \$5,495,767                            | \$5,617,773                             |   |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions   | \$248,721                              | \$257,388                               |   |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions  | \$5,247,046                            | \$5,360,435                             |   |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Library to Support Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)   | \$5,247,046                            | \$5,360,435                             |   |
| I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**   | \$0                                    | \$0                                     |   |
| Administrative component  | \$1,566,177                            | \$1,709,662                             | \$1,690,662                             |
| Program component   | \$9,665,366                            | \$10,400,854                            | \$10,335,854                            |
| Capital component   | \$1,468,457                            | \$1,667,215                             | \$1,635,215                             |
| <p><i>* 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.</i></p> <p><i>**Separate proposition that is not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: Purchase of two school buses at a total not to exceed \$306,000.</i></p> |  |   |   |

|   | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-2024 School Year |
|---|---|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup> | \$400   |

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-2024 by the qualified voters of the Fort Ann Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held in the gymnasium of the school on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 8:00 pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

**FORT ANN BUDGET VOTE**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2023 • Noon - 8 pm**

# FORT ANN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## Superintendent of Schools

Justin Hoskins

## Business Official

Alexander Bodensieck, CPA

## Board of Education

Pamela White, *President*  
Alison West, *Vice President*  
James Allen  
Cathy Graham  
Paul Greene  
Tyler Whitney  
Richard Winchell

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## WILD WEST NIGHT!

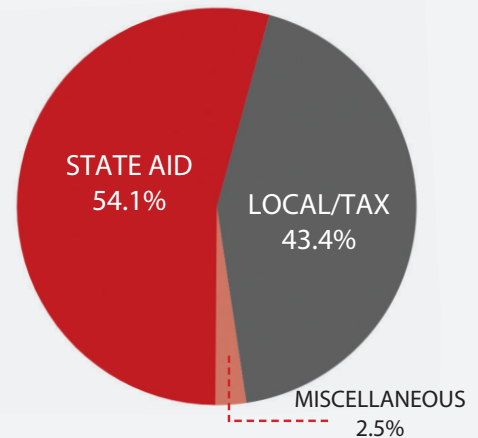


Yeehaw!! Our elementary wild west concert was a ton of fun!



## The Budget at a Glance

### REVENUE SUMMARY



### EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

