

WYOMING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Gaslight Village School That Glows with Pride

Budget Newsletter

May 2020



NOTICE – WYOMING CSD 2020 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

This notice is sent pursuant to New York Governor Executive Order No. 202.26 to provide information regarding the Wyoming Central School District's (the "School District") 2020 Annual Meeting and General Election.

Date of the Election: June 9, 2020 (via absentee ballot only)

Ballots may be returned by mail or in person and must be received in the office of the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on this date in order to be counted.

Date of Budget Hearing: June 1, 2020

The Budget Hearing will be held virtually via a Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM. Please see the Wyoming CSD website at www.wyomingcsd.org for the link to participate in the meeting.

Definition of Qualified Voter:

A person shall be entitled to vote in the School District's 2020 Annual Meeting and Election, who is

1. A citizen of the United States;
2. At least eighteen years of age;
3. A resident of the School District for a period of thirty days prior to June 9, 2020; and
4. No person shall have the right to vote who would not be qualified to register for or vote at an election in accordance with the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law.

Absentee Ballot:

In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, absentee ballots will be mailed to qualified voters of the School District. If a household requires additional absentee ballots, please contact the District Clerk at 585-495-6222 ext 424, or by email at nnorton@wyomingcsd.org. The last day to request an absentee ballot from the District Clerk is Monday, June 8, 2020 by 3:00 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE: June 1, 2020

TIME: 7:00 pm via Zoom Meeting

LINK: Please see the Wyoming CSD website:
www.wyomingcsd.org

BUDGET VOTE:

DATE: June 9, 2020 (via absentee budget only)

Ballots may be returned by mail or in person and must be received in the office of the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on this date in order to be counted.

Message from Kathleen Schuessler, Superintendent of Schools

The Board of Education has approved a \$5,740,773.00 spending plan for the 2020-2021 school year that allows the tax levy to remain unchanged from the 2019-2020 school year.

What does this mean to you, our Wyoming Central School District?

We will be going out at a 0% tax levy increase to all of you. We will maintain our programs for our students which include extra-curricular clubs: Academic Challenge Bowl, Math Club (Grades 3 & 4), Math Competition, Page Turners, Drug Awareness Teams, Student Council, Student Assistance Team Jr. and National Junior Honor Society. We also offer soccer, volleyball, basketball and track.

What about State Aid?

Each year the District relies heavily on state aid to cover expenses needed to operate the school's programs. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year over half of the District's revenue has come from state aid. The amount of this source of revenue is uncertain for the 2020-21 fiscal year due to New York State's current revenue shortfalls as a result of the "New York State on PAUSE" executive order. In early April state aid runs projected a 0% increase in foundation aid for 2020-21, our largest source of state aid. Since then, we have been told to expect deep cuts in aid if the federal government does not step in to help. Some estimates project as much as a 20% cut, but we will not know the full extent of this for several months. The budget being presented this year gives the District the flexibility to reduce certain expenses as needed and to tap into specific reserve funds if necessary to fill in revenue gaps.

Then why are we continuing with construction?

In December of 2018 the residents of the District voted to move forward with what has been named the 2018 Capital Improvement Project (2018 CIP). This project, which addresses much needed repairs and upgrades identified in our state-mandated Building Condition Survey, includes replacement of boilers over 20 years old and inefficient windows, renovations to the bus loop, parking lot, and bathrooms and repairs to the roof on the main building. The project is being funded in part by capital reserves that were already approved by the voters to be used for this purpose. On June 9, 2020 we are asking the voters to approve the use of an additional \$850,000 in capital reserves to reduce the amount required to be financed. The remainder of the project will be financed with bond anticipation notes and serial bonds. Projected New York State Building Aid related to the project (which is separate from foundation aid) is expected to cover the annual principal and interest payments on the debt. If the use of additional \$850,000 in capital reserves is approved, the District stands to save a significant amount of money each year in financing costs, putting it into a position to receive more building aid each year than will be required for principal and interest payments on the debt.

Why is it starting now?

It has taken time to have: construction plans approved by the NYS State Education Department, receive bids from construction companies on the various improvement jobs and, the Board of Education to review and approve final bids for construction. Once these steps were completed construction was able to begin. Also, most of the approved construction needs to be completed when students are not on the premises. Given the fact that on site education has been suspended for the remainder of the year, construction has been able to move forward well ahead of schedule, making it less likely to have parts of the project carrying into the fall when school resumes.

How will the face of education be affected by COVID-19?

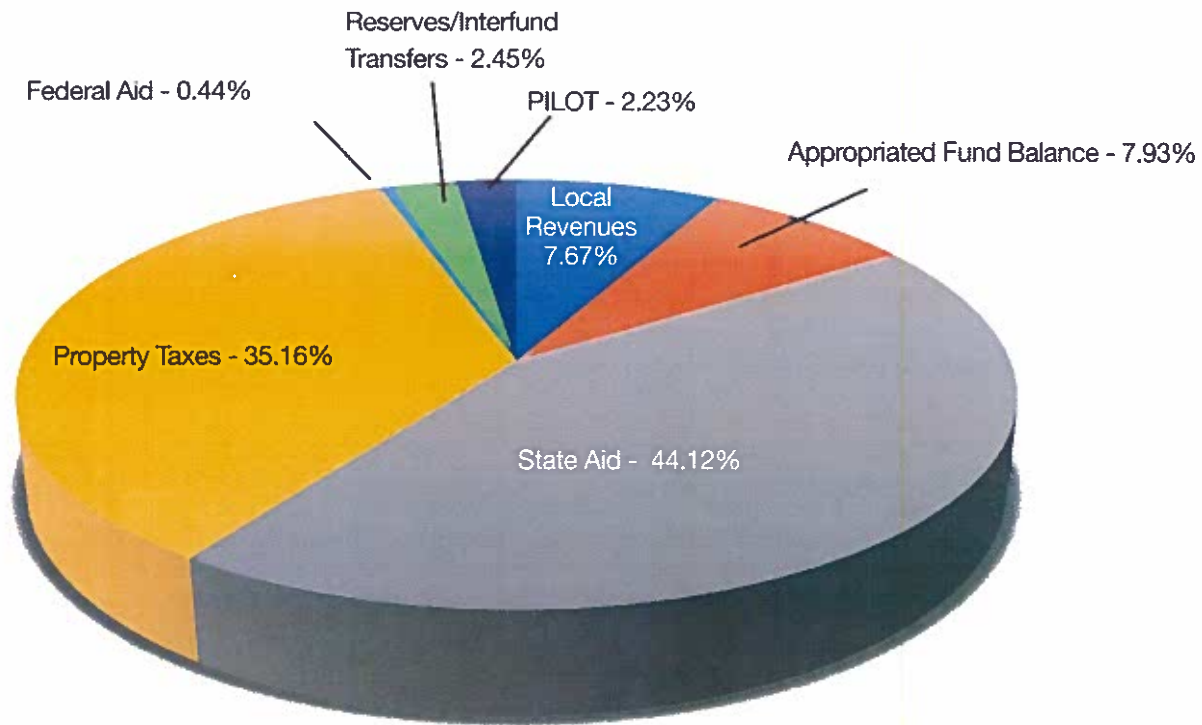
As the COVID-19 pandemic has placed us in a "new normal", technology has played a major role in our continuity of education. We will continue to educate both students and staff using the best technology available to us. We must ensure our students are prepared for high school, college and the world beyond and it is our mission to ensure their preparedness.

Why should you vote **ON** the Wyoming Central School District Budget and Propositions?

As presented, the 2020-2021 school budget will maintain all programs, faculty and staff. We will be able to continue to offer support and teach our young community members. Move forward with training and educating students and faculty with technology. Our special education program will be supported. Extracurricular activities, and mental health support will be available for students. We are a Wyoming Indian Family and we are united together to raise the children of our community.

Projected Revenues

	Budgeted 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	2020-21 Increase/ (Decrease)	2020-21 Percent Change	2020-21 Percent of Budget
Local Revenues (tuition, fees, rentals, interest, miscellaneous)	91,000	440,339	349,339	383.89%	7.67%
Property Taxes	2,018,690	2,018,690	0	0.00%	35.16%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	120,758	128,000	7,242	N/A	2.23%
State Aid	2,555,248	2,533,269	(21,979)	(0.86)%	44.12%
Federal Aid	20,000	25,000	5,000	25.00%	0.44%
Reserves/Interfund Transfers	137,300	140,475	3,175	2.31%	2.45%
Appropriated Fund Balance	455,000	455,000	0	0.00%	7.93%
Total Projected Revenues	5,397,996	5,740,773	342,777	6.35%	100.00%



Wyoming Central School District Proposed 2020-2021 Three Part Budget Summary

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Percent of Change	Percent of Category	Percent of Budget
PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET					
PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET	69.7%				
General Education	1,400,514	1,387,858	(0.90)%	37.13%	24.17%
Programs for Students with Disabilities	795,067	836,172	5.17%	21.08%	14.57%
Career and Technical Education (1)	27,078	73,872	172.81%	0.72%	1.29%
Teaching Special Schools	2,940	1,815	(38.27)%	0.08%	0.03%
Library and Computer Technology	23,902	25,679	7.43%	0.63%	0.45%
Pupil Services	260,239	237,648	(8.68)%	6.90%	4.14%
Interscholastic Athletics	16,500	16,500	0.00%	0.44%	0.29%
Transportation Services (2)	426,626	552,311	29.46%	11.31%	9.62%
Community Programs	3,500	3,500	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%
Employee Benefits	792,703	836,163	5.48%	21.02%	14.57%
Transfers	22,500	27,500	22.22%	0.60%	0.48%
TOTAL	3,771,569	3,999,018	6.03%	100.00%	69.67%

- (1) Increased enrollment in career and technical education programs at BOCES
 (2) Additional bus driver and contracted services needed for special runs to programs outside of the district

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Percent of Change	Percent of Category	Percent of Budget
PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET					
PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET	17.14%				
Operations and Buildings	262,510	242,527	(7.61)%	24.63%	4.22%
Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds (1)	150,191	95,211	(36.61)%	9.67%	1.66%
Refund of Property Taxes	2,000	2,000	0.00%	0.20%	0.03%
Bus Purchases (2)	105,858	71,900	(32.08)%	7.30%	1.25%
Debt Service	122,219	119,470	(2.25)%	12.13%	2.08%
Employee Benefits (3)	99,119	78,355	(20.95)%	7.96%	1.36%
Transfers (4)	100,000	375,339	275.34%	38.11%	6.54%
TOTAL	841,897	984,802	16.97%	100.00%	17.14%

- (1) Decrease in equipment and computer systems upgrades needed for 2020-21
 (2) Purchasing a small bus, rather than a small bus and a van for the 2020-21 school year
 (3) Decrease in district contributions to health insurance and benefits for new employees; benefits savings related to elimination of summer cleaners
 (4) Transfer to Capital Fund: \$100,000 for 2020-21 \$100K capital outlay project; \$275,339 to reduce debt service required for 2018 Capital Improvement Project

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Proposed	Percent of Change	Percent of Category	Percent of Budget
PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET					
PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET	13.19%				
Board of Education	18,786	18,848	0.33%	2.49%	0.33%
Central Administration	178,249	178,250	0.00%	23.55%	3.10%
Finance and Central Services	386,251	382,245	(1.04)%	50.49%	6.66%
School Administration (1)	78,521	54,407	(30.71)%	7.19%	0.95%
Employee Benefits	122,723	123,203	0.39%	16.28%	2.15%
TOTAL	784,530	756,953	(3.52)%	100.00%	13.19%

- (1) Reduction in outside consultant services

Total Proposed Budget 2020-2021

PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET, PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET	70%
PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET, PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET	17%
PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET, PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET	13%

Property Tax Report Card

	Budgeted 2019-20 (A)	Proposed 2020-21 (B)	Percent Change (C)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	5,397,996	5,740,773	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount (1)	2,018,690	2,018,690	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable (2)	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)	2,018,690	2,018,690	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	0	0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions (3)	2,139,598	2,070,446	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	2,018,690	2,018,690	
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) (2)	120,908	51,756	
Public School Enrollment	120	128	
Consumer Price Index			1.81%

(1) Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

(2) tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may effect voter approval requirements.

(3) For 2020-21, includes any carry over from 2019-20 and excludes any tax levy, for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy including interest.

	Actual 2019-20 (D)	Estimated 2020-21 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	2,615,465	1,724,738
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	465,916	460,000
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	602,790	229,630
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	11.17%	4.00%

Annual Budget Referendum 2020-2021

PROPOSITION #1

ANNUAL BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wyoming Central School District shall be authorized to expend the amount of \$5,740,773.00, to meet the expenditures for the fiscal year 2020-2021, AND FURTHER that said Board of Education shall be authorized to levy and collect a tax upon taxable property of the School District in an amount necessary therefore.

PROPOSITION #2

BOARD ELECTIONS

RESOLVED, to elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for one (1) five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2025 to succeed Barry True, whose term expires on June 30, 2020, and one (1) three (3) year term to fill the unexpired term of Anne C. Evans, commencing on July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2023. All board positions are at-large. The person with the highest number of votes will fulfill the five (5) year term and the person with the second highest number of votes will fulfill the three (3) year term. The candidates running are: Benjamin G. Chamberlain, Barry L. True and Nicole M. White.

PROPOSITION #3

AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH 2020 VEHICLE, MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT PURCHASE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wyoming Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund in accordance with New York State Education Law Section 3651 to be known as the "2020 Vehicle, Machinery & Equipment Purchase Capital Reserve Fund."

The purpose of such fund being to finance, in whole or in part, the purchase and installation of vehicles, equipment, machinery or apparatus, furnishings, and costs incidental thereto, including transportation vehicles (buses and vans), technology equipment (educational and office), buildings and grounds equipment, furnishings, and other equipment, machinery or apparatus incidental thereto or separately; provided that such capital costs are an object or purpose that would be eligible for financing under the Local Finance Law.

The ultimate amount of such fund shall not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) plus earnings thereon. The probable term of such reserve fund shall be 10 years, but said

continued in next column...

Proposition 3 continued...

fund shall continue in existence for its stated purpose until the fund is exhausted or otherwise liquidated in accordance with the Education Law.

The source of monies to be paid into such reserve fund shall include: (a) current and future unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time; (b) any appropriations authorized by the voters from time to time; (c)

PROPOSITION #4

AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FROM 2019 BUILDING CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wyoming Central School District is hereby authorized to withdraw from the existing "2019 Building Capital Reserve Fund" a sum of money up to Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000) and to expend such funds for certain work to be completed for the 2018 Capital Improvement Project including site improvements, interior alterations and renovations, roof restoration, building envelope restoration fenestration (window replacement) and mechanical system upgrades.

PROPOSITION #5

WYOMING FREE CIRCULATING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED, that the sum raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Wyoming Central School District for the purpose of funding a portion of the operating expenses of the Wyoming Free Library Association shall be increased by Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) from the annual amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$35,495.00) to the annual amount of Thirty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$37,495.00) commencing with the 2020-2021 school year?

Wyoming Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget adopted for the 2019-2020 school year	Budget proposed for the 2020-2021 school year	Contingency budget for the 2020-2021 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$5,397,996	\$5,740,773	\$5,220,584
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-2021 school year		342,777	(\$177,412)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.35%	(3.29)%
Change in Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$2,018,690	\$2,018,690	
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)	\$2,018,690	\$2,018,690	\$2,018,690
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$2,139,598	\$2,070,446	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$2,018,690	\$2,018,690	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$120,908	\$51,756	
Administrative Component	\$784,530	\$756,953	\$739,403
Program Component	\$3,771,569	\$3,999,018	\$3,958,118
Capital Component	\$841,897	\$984,802	\$523,063

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

In the event the proposed budget is defeated and a contingency budget is adopted, the District would be prohibited from making expenditures for equipment (including buses), certain supplies, as well as any costs associated with the community use of school facilities.

Capital Outlay Exception Project

New York State allows school districts to include small capital projects in their general fund budget each year in order to assist with keeping facilities safe and up to date. These projects must be designed, reviewed and approved by NYSED. With approval, all expenses related to a particular project qualify for building aid. These projects must cost less than \$100,000 and must be completed within the same school year in which they start.

During the past several fiscal years, the Wyoming Central School District has used these projects to upgrade security and electrical systems, and to make necessary repairs to pavement, the roof, masonry, and most recently to connect to the village water system. All of these projects have generated New York State building aid. In the proposed 2020-2021 budget, there is \$100,000 included as a transfer to the capital fund to cover the cost of a capital outlay exception project for fenestration improvements, gymnasium renovation and enhancements, and classroom flooring improvements.

Wyoming Central School District

1225 Route 19
PO Box 244
Wyoming NY 14591-0244

Board of Education

Barry True, President
Danyle Raines, Vice President
Kaitlyn Bush
Ben Chamberlain
Jessica Merrill
Kelly Washburn
Rudd Weatherwax

Superintendent of Schools

Kathleen Schuessler

District Treasurer

Joelle Stroud

www.wyomingcsd.org

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Board of Education Candidates

Benjamin Chamberlain

Hello! My name is Benjamin Chamberlain. I was appointed to the Wyoming Central School Board of Education last fall when an existing member resigned. My wife Emily and I have three daughters we raise on our dairy farm on Fox Rd. I am a WCS graduate who later attended high school in Pavilion. I then went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 2011.

My four main goals as a board member are: to open rapid, efficient lines of communication between parents and educators when important issues arise; to start a 1/2 day pre-K program for 4 year olds held at the school and free for any child in the district; to establish accountability with students and school leaders, making sure consequences for code of conduct violations are in line with the written code of conduct; to focus on school spending with district accountants, reeling in extra expenses and maintaining a responsible budget.

Since being appointed last fall, I haven't missed a single board meeting. I've spearheaded things like keeping talks about the Pre-K moving and getting lines of communication opened from parents/community members directly to the board of education.

The continual improvement of the education system here at WCS is one of my absolute top priorities. I am always happy to hear from any parents or residents of the town of Middlebury! I have really enjoyed my time on the board so far and if elected, I look forward to continuing to serve our community to the best of my ability.

Barry True

My Name is Barry True I have been on the Wyoming Central School Board for 10 years, I am re-running for a Board position to continue my involvement in this school and community. I have lived in the school district for 20 years, four of my kids have attended Wyoming School and have gone on to graduate, three are currently attending Wyoming Central School. I was a part of the merger study several years back, I have been a Board Member for three different Superintendents.

My involvement extends beyond the School Board, I was a coach for the Modified Boys soccer program for several years and currently coach summer soccer, I have chaperoned two 8th grade class trips. I love being involved with the school, the kids and the community, re-running for a Board position will help me continue with these goals.

The community should be proud to have such a great school for their kids to attend and I would like to remain a part of this great school.

Nicole White

Hi! My name is Nicole White, I live in Wyoming with my husband, of 11 years, and our 2 young boys. I am a CPA and work for Freed Maxick CPAs, as a senior manager in the tax department specializing in non-profits and agricultural industries. I also help manage my husband's, family-owned maple syrup business, Sweet Time Maple on Webster Road. You may recognize us from Maple Weekend and serving our famous pancake breakfast. I have been serving as Treasurer on the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce since 2014 and really enjoy volunteering my time working with the children in the Preschool Room at Northgate Church. I care a lot about the community we live in and the direction it is going. My children will very shortly be attending Wyoming Central School and it's very important to me to be involved. The future is unknown, and I think it's more important than ever to help the community and school district navigate and adapt to these changing times.