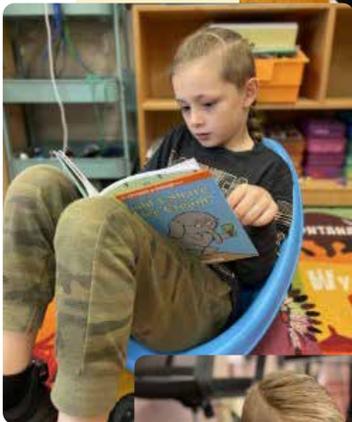


ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 54, Issue 6

Students Chosen for Wolfinger Grant



Mrs. Farnum's Decodable Readers for Young Learners and Mrs. Keller's Budding Artists projects were chosen as this year's recipients of the Wolfinger Grant. The Wolfinger Family Fund provides grants to benefit students in Coudersport, Smethport, Northern Potter and Ellicottville. Sandy and Connie, the benefactors of the grant, believe in creating meaningful learning opportunities for students whenever possible.

Grant funding for Mrs. Farnum's project allowed for classroom texts to be purchased that pique student interest in reading while also being decodable and accessible to all students in the classroom. The texts chosen for this collection will allow students to access a diverse and engaging collection of books that match their reading level and interest. Students will be able to develop a love of reading and improve their literacy skills while being exposed to a wide range of cultures, perspectives, and experiences through their reading adventures.

Grant funding for Mrs. Keller's project purchased art materials for Mrs. Keller's newly developed full day pre-k classroom. The materials will be used to help our youngest artists strengthen their fine motor skills as well as build creativity and imagination. The materials will be able to be used all throughout the year on classroom projects and crafts. Mrs. Keller's students are so excited to get crafty with their new materials!

Many thanks to the benefactors of the Wolfinger Grant for their continued support to our district and community!

IMPORTANT DATES

Please Note
BUDGET HEARING
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
at 6:00 pm in the
High School Cafeteria

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 21, 2024
1:00-8:00 PM
BUDGET VOTE &
BOARD MEMBER ELECTION
(Elementary Foyer)

8:00 PM
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
(High School Library)

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON
Friday, May 24, 2024
(pending no emergency days are
used prior to May 24, 2024)
AND
Monday, May 27, 2024
MEMORIAL DAY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS IN THE WARD!

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, 6:30 PM
GRADES 7 THROUGH 12
SPRING CONCERT

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH, 2:00 PM
PREK SPRING CONCERT

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 6:30 PM
GRADES 3 THROUGH 6
SPRING CONCERT

FRIDAY, MAY 31ST, 6:30 PM
KINDERGARTEN,
1ST, AND 2ND GRADES
SPRING CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 6:30 PM
CLUB IAZZ

The 2024-25 Budget... Exceeding the “Cap” will be necessary.

Over the past three weeks, school districts in New York State have been waiting for the State Budget so they could finalize school budgets. Finally, on April 21, we received word that the State had reached a deal on the budget. This passage came with good and bad news. The good news is that the State left the save-harmless process intact for the 2024-25 school year. Please recall, under save-harmless, a district will not receive less Foundation Aid than the previous year. The bad news... there were no guaranteed increases to Foundation aid; meaning a district could very well not see an increase in this aid category.

The big question I’m sure you are all asking is: “how did the passage of the State Budget affect ECS?” With save-harmless remaining in effect, the State had to restore the \$226,000 that the Governor was cutting. This is great news for the District. Unfortunately, ECS will not see the approximate increase of \$90,000 in Foundation Aid it has been experiencing in the recent past (and which we were planning on based on information out the State last year at this time). As a district that relies heavily on taxes to generate revenue, not receiving this additional increase in State Aid really hurts.

For the 2024-25 School Year, the District is proposing a budget of \$15,633,452 (the 2023-24 budget is \$14,906,437), or an increase of \$757,015. This figure includes substantial increases in areas such as employee wages, insurance costs, and the impact of inflation on purchasing. After all other sources of revenue (Foundation Aid, cost-expense based aids, BOCES aid, PILOTS, Medicaid, etc..) are accounted for, the District needs to raise an additional \$358,511 in taxes. While I would like to report that we can raise this money within the “tax cap,” the reality is that we can only raise \$164,633 with the parameters imposed by the “cap.” This means we will need to exceed the “cap” by an additional \$193,878 or an additional increase of 2.6%. In the end, the final increase in the overall

tax levy will be 4.6% which will require a supermajority approval rate of 60% or higher on May 21, 2024. I would also like to point out that, while the District enjoyed the ability to utilize Federal grants over the past three years, these funds are no longer being provided to schools.

This is all frustrating news to share, and, unfortunately, due to the tremendous property wealth of the District, NYS feels that ECS can raise more revenue than neighboring school districts in taxes. While this might seem to be a realistic expectation of the State, the District’s relatively low tax rate (compared to other schools in WNY), inhibits raising money within the formula imposed by the “tax cap.” As a result, the percent increase needed to generate the required funds is higher.

The Board of Education and Administration have worked diligently to put together a fiscally responsible budget that ensures the needs of students are being met. Some tough decisions had to be made (purchasing cuts, consolidation of bus runs, etc.), but the final budget not only maintains current programming covered by the general budget, but it also includes some additions. These additions are needed so that we can keep pace with the ever-increasing demands associated with providing an educational experience that challenges students while providing a breadth of opportunities in a safe environment with outstanding staff. Highlights of 2024-25 added and/or continued programming at ECS include (but are not limited to):

- The continuation of two (2) full day Pre-K classes with a full-time aide in each class.
- The continued practice of replacing banks of outdated and worn laptop computers each year to ensure the students and staff are using current technology.
- Lease of equipment to assist with maintenance of grounds and athletic fields.

- The ability to continue providing a comprehensive array of classes for MS/HS students, including dual enrollment college classes through JCC, Syracuse University, and ECC.
- Replacement of broken digital sign in front of the school to share important information about school events.
- Moving the SRO Program and part of a teaching position from federal grant funds to the general fund.

In addition, as you consider the budget for the 2024-25 school year, **I would like to point out that this budget does not cut any teaching staff from the general budget.** (Federal grant funded positions were not intended to be continued past the lifespan of these grants). This is critical to the success of our students. As evidence, last year (2022-23) ECS proved that it was providing a quality education to students via NYS Assessment results. When considering the 3-8 Assessments, ECS finished 2nd in ELA and 1st in Mathematics in the CA BOCES Region based on the percentage of students that achieved a 3 or 4 on these assessments! In High School, students earned 100% pass rates on the Algebra and Geometry Regents Exams, a 97% pass rate on the Earth Science Regents Exam, and a 95% pass rate on the ELA Regents Exam! To maintain similar rates moving forward, we must strive to maintain our teaching staff.

The Board of Education and Administration have worked hard on this budget and, feel it is a responsible budget that is necessary to provide the best possible educational experiences to the students at ECS. Should you have any additional questions regarding the budget or the information in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller, Superintendent

2024-2025 District School Budget Summary

ECS Summary of Estimated Revenues

	2023-24	2024-25
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	8,000.00	10,000.00
Interest & Interest/Penalties on Real Property	12,000.00	12,000.00
Non-Resident Tuition	55,000.00	50,000.00
Other Student Related Fees/Charges	1,000.00	1,000.00
Rental of Real Property	94,500.00	94,500.00
Refund of Prior Year BOCES	138,000.00	138,000.00
Foundation Aid	3,142,785.00	3,142,785.00
Lottery Aid	186,000.00	190,000.00
Excess Aid Costs	165,425.00	170,000.00
Transportation Aid	200,000.00	200,000.00
Building Aid	502,922.00	800,000.00
GAP Elimination	0.00	0.00
BOCES & Special Services	489,719.00	505,262.00
Tuition for Students w/ Disabilities	0.00	0.00
Textbook, Library, & Software	37,769.00	38,096.00
Federal Medicaid Reimbursement	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Federal, State & Local Funding	5,133,120.00	5,451,643.00
Additional Funding		
Appropriated Fund Balance	607,694.00	625,000.00
Real Property Tax Levy	9,147,054.00	9,586,809.00
Total Projected Basic Budget Revenues	14,887,868.00	15,663,452.00
Appropriation for Public Library	75,000.00	75,000.00
Bus Lease	62,675.00	60,000.00
Total Budget Revenues	15,025,543.00	15,798,452.00
Total Tax Levy (including all propositions)	9,284,729.00	9,721,809.00

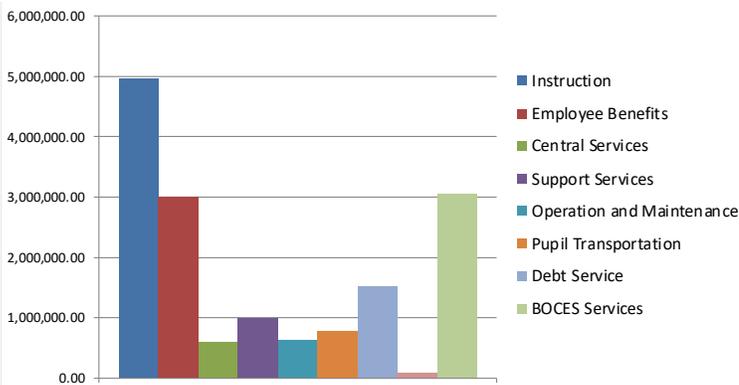
2024-2025 District School Budget Summary

ECS Summary of Estimated Expenditures

	2023-24	2024-25
Instruction	4,896,827.00	4,963,777.00
Employee Benefits	2,743,421.00	3,000,339.00
Central Services	602,032.00	605,977.00
Support Services	923,083.00	997,608.00
Operation and Maintenance	573,122.00	644,039.00
Pupil Transportation	698,460.00	786,197.00
Debt Service	1,522,750.00	1,518,800.00
Capital Outlay	75,000.00	100,000.00
BOCES Services	2,871,742.00	3,046,715.00
Total Proposed Expenditures	14,906,437.00	15,663,452.00

INSTRUCTION

Approximately 32% percent of the budget is directly related to the teaching and the learning process. Salaries for teachers and support staff, classroom equipment and supplies, textbooks and some special education costs are included in this section. This section includes two full day prekindergarten classrooms, along with the continuation of the new 12:1:1 special education classroom.



PROPOSITIONS (Voted as separate lines)	2023-24	2024-25
Basic Budget	14,906,437.00	15,663,452.00
Public Library (not asking for an increase)	75,000.00	75,000.00
Bus Lease (2- 66 passenger buses)	62,675.00	60,000.00
Total Budget Expenditures	15,044,112.00	15,798,452.00

BOCES EXPENSE

The total of budgeted services to be purchased from BOCES is \$3,046,715 (19.5%).

All BOCES costs have been shown in a separate table rather than interspersed throughout the budget. The main areas include: personnel services, public information, operation of plant, central services, instruction/special education, Career and Technical Education (CTE) services, library and technology. Most expenses in this area receive 36% in BOCES aid. Sharing costs through BOCES allows the District to obtain programs, learning opportunities and services in a more cost-effective manner.

BOCES EXPENSES	2023-24	2024-25
Personnel Services	223,194.00	285,821.00
Public Information	53,605.00	75,492.00
Operation of Plant	43,296.00	42,012.00
Central Services	402,282.00	440,247.00
Instructional incl Special Education	1,734,844.00	1,755,715.00
CTE Services	263,423.00	269,300.00
Library/Computers/Software	151,098.00	178,128.00
Total Budget Expenditures	2,871,742.00	3,046,715.00

EXPLANATION OF THREE PART BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 require public school boards of education to present the proposed budget in three parts. As a result, this presentation is organized around the following components; administrative, capital, and program:

Administrative Component: Includes expenses associated with the operation of the school board, superintendent's office, and business office. Includes salaries and benefits for all certified administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing administrative duties, consulting costs not directly related to instructional programs, and all other activities that are administrative in nature.

Capital Component: Includes debt service for all facilities financed by bonds and notes of the district, lease expenditures, costs resulting from judgments in tax certiorari proceedings, awards from court judgments, administrative orders and settled claims, cost of construction, acquisition reconstruction, rehabilitation, and improvements of school buildings, all expenses associated with custodial and maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, and repair of school facilities.

Program Component: Includes salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrator or supervisor who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties, and all transportation operating expenses.

2024-2025 District School Budget Summary

Proposed Budget

	Budget Components			2023-2024	2024-2025	Increase/ (Decrease) \$
	Administrative	Capital	Instructional	Total	Total	
GENERAL SUPPORT						
*includes BOCES services						
Board of Education	34,125			31,950	34,125	2,175
Central Administration	224,349			235,702	224,349	(11,353)
Finance	216,701			207,030	216,701	9,671
Legal/Personnel/Public Info	305,821			298,678	305,821	7,143
Central Services-Operation of Plant	272,505	686,051		853,676	958,556	104,880
Central Printing	30,500			29,550	30,500	950
Insurance/Refunds/Dues/Unclassified	77,072	3,500		77,800	80,572	2,772
BOCES Central Data/Admin/Capital	167,742			165,024	167,742	2,718
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	1,328,815	689,551		1,899,410	2,018,366	118,956
INSTRUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT						
*includes BOCES services						
Curriculum/Supervision/In-service/SRO	548,958			423,752	548,958	125,206
Staff Development			110,543	102,138	110,543	8,405
Instructional Program-Teaching			6,381,627	6,352,848	6,381,627	28,779
Instructional Program - Media/Tech			433,968	368,009	433,968	65,959
Guidance/Health/Psychological			424,113	393,909	424,113	30,204
Co-Curricular/Interscholastic Activities			353,615	312,263	353,615	41,352
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT	548,958		7,703,866	7,952,919	8,252,824	299,905
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION						
District Transportation			791,373	712,937	791,373	78,436
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION			791,373	712,937	791,373	78,436
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS						
NYS Teacher Retirement System	63,712		467,218	527,593	530,930	3,337
NYS Employee Retirement System	26,838	4,473	192,340	206,130	223,651	17,521
Social Security	62,920	10,487	450,923	480,480	524,330	43,850
Worker's Compensation	5,406	900	38,741	42,118	45,047	2,929
Unemployment Insurance	5,000			5,000	5,000	0
Health Benefits	198,376	33,063	1,421,692	1,482,100	1,653,131	171,031
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	362,252	48,923	2,570,914	2,743,421	2,982,089	238,668
CAPITAL OUTLAY						
		100,000		75,000	100,000	25,000
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		100,000		75,000	100,000	25,000
DEBT SERVICE						
Multipurpose Gym		759,025		756,925	759,025	2,100
New Capital Project- General Renovations, Parking Lot and Athletic Fields		759,775		765,825	759,775	(6,050)
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		1,518,800		1,522,750	1,518,800	(3,950)
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	2,240,025	2,357,274	11,066,153	14,906,437	15,663,452	757,015

2024-2025 District School Budget Summary

The following propositions will be voted on:

PROPOSITION #1 - BASIC BUDGET

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND THE SUM OF \$15,663,452 for the 2024/2025 school year budget.

The Basic Budget will provide funds for all of the educationally related services and the maintenance of our school building.

PROPOSITION #2 – SCHOOL BUS LEASE

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, is authorized to levy an additional (not to exceed) \$60,000 to lease two (2) 66 passenger IC Bus CE school buses for each of the next five years (five annual payments) commencing with the 2024/2025 school year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER ELECTION

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be assigned an unexpired term seat immediately following the election on May 21, 2024, and a five-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2029. The candidate with the second-highest number of votes will be assigned a five-year term seat beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2029. The candidate with the third-highest number of votes will be assigned an unexpired term seat immediately following the election on May 21, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2026.

Vote for **THREE (3)** (Please check or):

- David Scott (Scotty) McGee
- Gary Abraham
- John Luzier
- Carla Kruszynski

- Nathan (Nate) Dahlman
- Brittany Czamara
- Tiffany Frentz

- _____
(Write-in Candidate - Please Print)
- _____
(Write-in Candidate - Please Print)
- _____
(Write-in Candidate - Please Print)

Meet the Board of Education Candidates



My name is **David (Scotty) McGee**. I'm a Texan who moved to New York 8 years ago after meeting my now wife Rachel Northrup whose family has a long and storied history in Ellicottville. We have two kids Easton (7) and Seely (2). Together we own the Purple Doorknob on Main Street.

During college I studied Biochemistry at Lamar University in Texas. Straight out of college I moved to Asia and lived there for over two years helping launch a company into multiple new countries. I've owned and operated multiple businesses over the last 17 years. During that time, I've advised many businesses and served on multiple boards and councils.

While I don't have previous experience in education specifically, I do have extensive experience working with a team, public

relations, overseeing a budget, and organizing priorities and schedules.

With my kid's attending Ellicottville Central School, I am very motivated to serve. I'm running for school board to help provide the students here as many opportunities as possible, so they get the most out of their time at ECS, both in the classroom and with the extracurricular activities available to them. Additionally, to help provide the teachers with the tools they need to do their job effectively.

I run with no political agenda, but instead come to listen to the concerns of the parents and teachers in the district and use my skills to help make decisions and implement policies that will unite and support students, faculty, and the residents of Ellicottville.

If given the opportunity I look forward to serving. Thanks for your consideration.



Dr. Gary Abraham has been a resident of the Town of Humphrey, within the Ellicottville School District for the past 10 years. He resides

with his wife Mary and takes pride in his role of a grandfather and is known as "GG," to 3 of his grandchildren that attend the district. When Gary is not working, he enjoys spending time in nature, kayaking, camping, splitting his own firewood, swimming in his pond, playing his harmonica and listening to music. He has always been an advocate for excellence in education and it would be an honor for Dr. Abraham to earn a seat on the Ellicottville School Board and serve his fellow neighbors and his community. Dr. Abraham has been a public interest attorney specializing in municipal land use and environmental law since the year 2000. Additionally, he has also recently returned

Continued on next page

2024-2025 District School Budget Summary

to St. Bonaventure as an adjunct professor. Prior to practicing law, he was on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, St. Bonaventure University, Buffalo State College, and Lewis & Clark College's Northwestern School of Law.



Mr. Luzier was born in Salamanca, raised in Great Valley, and is an alumnus of ECS. Mr. Luzier has lived in the Ellicottville School District for 20 years, and in Humphrey for the past 14 years.

Mr. Luzier was a special education teacher for over four years and is permanently certified in Special Education. He was also an Assistant District Attorney in Erie and Cattaraugus Counties for 20 years, Assistant NYS Attorney General, Assistant Cattaraugus County Public Defender and served five years as Humphrey Town Justice.

Mr. Luzier has also been the Chairman of the Board of the Delaware YMCA in Buffalo, Vice President of the Wildflower Homeowners Association in Ellicottville, and the President of the Ellicottville Rotary Club.



Carla Kruszynski is running for a seat on the Ellicottville Central School District's Board of Education and appreciates your vote on Tuesday May 21, 2024.

Carla is a parent and an educator that is excited for the opportunity to work on a team that is focused on supporting our students and the community.

Carla has been a resident in the Ellicottville Central School District for over twenty years. Carla's husband Dan Kruszynski is a graduate of Ellicottville Central School District. Carla and Dan's three children all attend ECS; Jackson (16) is a sophomore, Daniel (14) is an eighth grader and Cayda (13) is a seventh grader. The Kruszynski family embraces being an active member of our community through

volunteerism and participation in local events. As a member of the Board of Education, Carla will continue to foster the strong relationship between the school and community.

Carla is a Special Education teacher and has been an educator for twenty-four years. Carla has the following degrees; Bachelor of Science in Special Education and Elementary Education from the State University at Buffalo, Masters of Education in Secondary Social Studies from the State University of Buffalo and School District Administration Certification from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Carla has the following educational certifications; elementary education pre-k-6, special education k-12 and social studies education 7-12 along with school district administrator. Throughout her career, Carla has served in a variety of educator and leadership roles that have given her knowledge and experiences that she will bring to her role as a member of the Board of Education.

As a parent of three children in the district, Carla has been able to witness first hand the wonderful school system that we have in place. The opportunities available for the children of Ellicottville Central School are top notch and that is due to the excellent educators, support staff and school administration along with community support. She is a strong advocate for access for all students to education and the opportunities created in a public school setting to prepare our students to be contributing members of our community.

As a member of the Board of Education, Carla will focus on incorporating the same goals that she works on with students in her classroom.

- To be Respectful - to the students, our educational professionals and to our community. Working collaboratively to understand the needs of our district and the best approach to meet these.
- To be Responsible - fiscally in working in collaboration to produce and implement the budget and in alignment with the needs of the district for resources, curriculum and programming.

- To be Resourceful - in meeting the vision and goals of the district along with supporting the needs of our students, educational staff and community.

Carla will work as a part of the Board of Education to support the Ellicottville Central School district and the community in meeting their mission of Embracing Change, Celebrating Success, Surpassing Expectations.



Nate Dahlman

My purpose in writing is to share my commitment to the success of our children, school staff, and community as a

candidate for the School Board.

After growing up in West Valley, being fortunate to marry an extremely supportive wife, and having the opportunity to live in several places due to my career, my family and I have returned to our roots and are committed to Ellicottville. Roughly seven years ago, we relocated to raise our children in our wonderful town based on our family and community values.

As a parent of two children (eleven and seven) and a proud community member, I want to help in any way I can. I graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a degree in Finance and have professional experience leading large teams, successfully developing and managing multimillion-dollar budgets, and delivering growth. Throughout my career, I have also realized the significance of inclusion, teamwork, and positivity. I am passionate about ensuring all types of learners, including those who have varying abilities, are able to reach their full potential. Additionally, I believe in supporting every school staff member with the necessary resources required to excel in their roles.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the School Board. By working together, I feel we can build an outstanding future for our children, staff, and community.

Continued on next page

Meet the Board of Education Candidates

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I would like to introduce myself to the Ellicottville School District. My name is **Tiffany Frentz** and I am running for a seat on the School

Board. My husband Derek and I have two children; Kaine is 9 and in 3rd grade and Lola is 6 and in kindergarten. We have been Ellicottville residents for last 6 years. In addition, I am the owner of Tim & Bonnie's Pizza, a local business.

I feel that I bring a variety of values to the table that are very beneficial to a school board seat. I have a Master's Degree in School Counseling and worked at Eden Central Schools for a short time in this capacity. This experience allowed me to see the needs of a district at the level of the students themselves. I was also employed at Erie 1 BOCES for 5 years. During my tenure there, I worked with high school aged students, as well as training teachers from multiple districts to be compliant in state education regulations regarding special education requirements. Both jobs have allowed me to be a unique part of the inner workings of a school district. As a business owner, I am familiar with the finer functions that keep a business (or a school district) running such as payroll, budgeting, and taxes. This has allowed me to get to know a large portion of our community as well.

I love our school district and our community. I am very passionate about public education and I have a particular interest in Special Education as my daughter has a rare genetic condition and receives special education services. I am excited and hopeful to earn your vote to be able to be a part of leading our district to the standard we all envision for our children and our community.

2024-25 Capital Outlay Project

This year Ellicottville Central School is once again seeking approval for a capital outlay project. Please recall that schools in New York State have been using them for years as a way to continually make improvements to their facilities. Capital outlays are really mini-capital projects with a maximum cost limit of \$100,000 that have to be completed within one year.

These types of projects allow a district to maximize state aid in order to make the most of the district's tax dollars, as they take advantage of capital project aid from the state. If this work was not performed as part of a capital project, the district would incur the full cost of the work. In this case, the district receives its building aid the year after the project is completed. The district will then use that aid to offset the costs of a new capital outlay. Some districts simply plan a capital outlay every year. This is one of the many processes that allow a district to keep their facilities in good shape.

This year, the ECS budget proposal includes a capital outlay project that will provide replacement of the lighting in the Ward (the high school gym). The number of light bulbs that are not working is only getting worse and is severely limiting the amount of light that is needed for sporting events and classes. In researching the replacement cost for the lights, we found out that it is fiscally more responsible to replace the entire fixture with newer, more efficient LED lighting in the long run.

The capital outlay for the lighting replacement will cost \$100,000 and it is included within the proposed annual budget. The District estimates that it will realize a return of approximately \$65,100 in aid during the 2025-26 school year. This is part of a long-range strategy in which the building aid returned in the following year will continue to fund additional capital outlay projects as a regular part of the District's budget moving forward. Such future work will be determined annually based on the most current Building Condition Survey. When it is time to plan subsequent capital outlays, we will have recent and relevant data that will assist in making decisions about work that is needed to best maintain our facilities and campus.



2024-2025 District School Budget Summary

Detailed Budget Statement

The Board of Education of this District will have prepared and completed a detailed statement in writing of the amount of money which will be required during the ensuing 2024-2025 fiscal year for school purposes, specifying the several purposes and the amount for each. The amount of each purpose estimated necessary for payments to boards of cooperative education services shall be set forth in full with no deduction of estimated state aid. The amount of state aid provided and its percentage relationship to the total expenditures shall also be shown. Such statement shall be completed at least seven days before the budget hearing at which it is to be presented and copies thereof shall be prepared and made available, upon request, to residents within the District during the period of seven days before the budget hearing and/or fourteen days immediately preceding the Annual District Vote, and may be obtained by any resident of the District in the Business Office or District Office during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. prevailing time on or after May 7, 2023, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Absentee Ballots

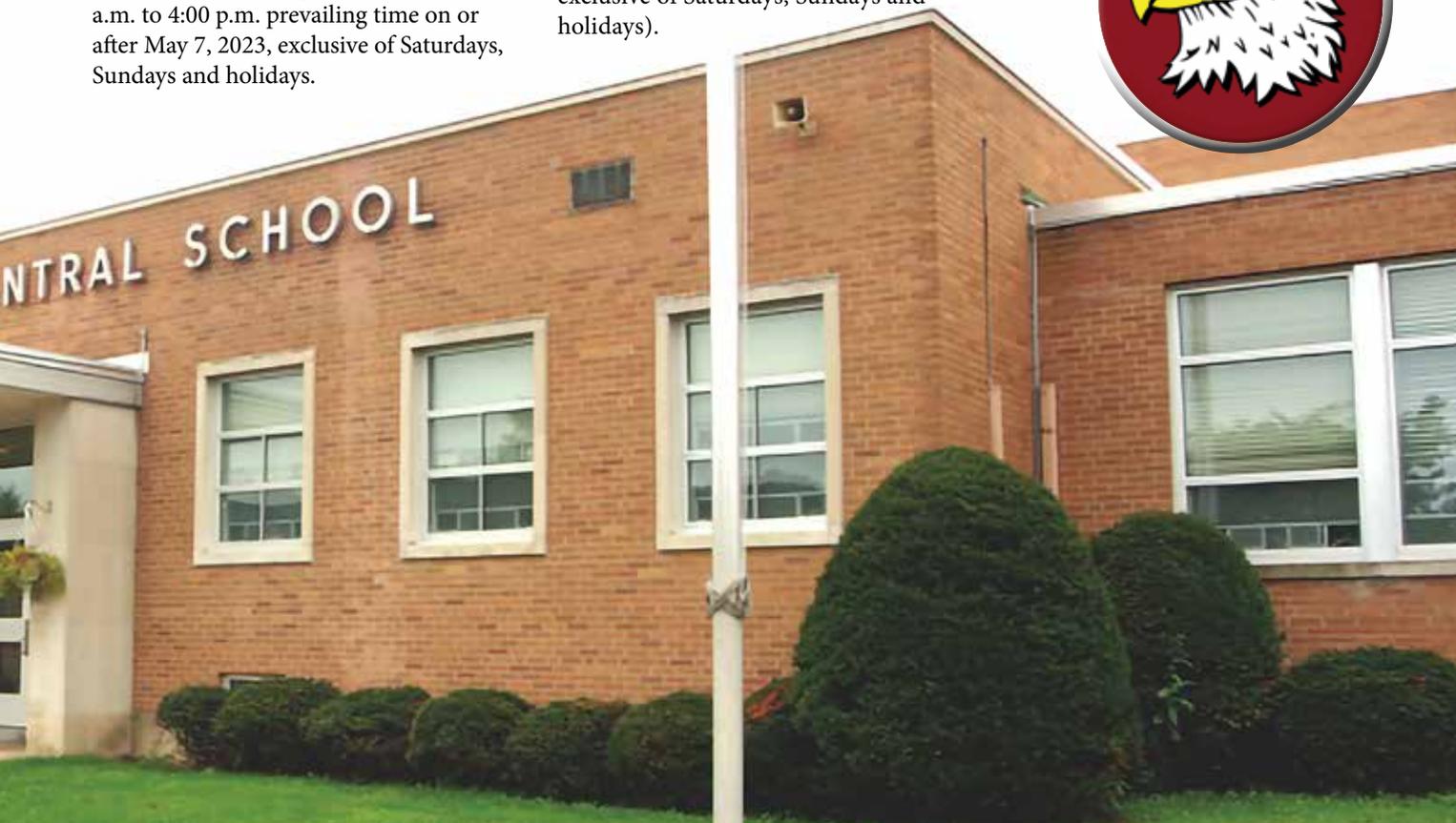
Applications for absentee ballots for the Annual District Vote may be applied for during school business hours (7:30 am – 4:00 pm) at the Office of the Clerk of the District except for Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. Complete applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk on each of the five business days prior to the Annual District Vote (except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays), and such list will also be posted at the polling places for the Annual District Vote.

Budget Copies

Copies of the budget will be available for review in the District's Business Office and the Superintendent's Office after the May 21, 2024 vote. Office hours are Monday-Friday (8:00 am – 4:00 pm exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays).

Early Mail Ballot

Early Mail ballots may be applied for at the Office of the District Clerk. Applications for early mail ballots may be accepted beginning April 22, 2024, through May 15, 2024, to receive the ballot by regular mail and no later than May 20, 2024, to have the ballot delivered in person. A list of all persons to whom early mail ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection in the Office of the School District Clerk on each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the election (except Saturday, Sunday and holidays), and such list shall also be posted at the voting place during the election, and any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the early voter's ballot of any such person on such list, by making his challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.



ECS MUSICIANS

On Friday and Saturday, March 1st & 2nd Mrs. Wilder & Mrs. Burch prepared students for a 2 day All County Music Festival held at Allegany – Limestone School.

On Friday and Saturday, March 15th & 16th Mrs. Wilder & Mrs. Burch prepared students for a 2 day All County Music Festival held at Olean School.



Senior High Choir: Abby Chudy, Adelaide Weber, Emma Lafferty and Grace Privitera



Elementary Band: Andrew Mix, Myla Brennan, Allyana Andrews, Oliver Daniels, Mason LaCroix, Carter Milks and Liam Dahlman



Elementary Choir: Oliver Daniels, Rowan Decker, Mason LaCroix, Reagan Pawlowski and Emma Wallace



Junior High Band: Whitney Powers, Cayda Kruszynski, Nicholas Wedvik, Ricky Howard, Marjorie Brown, Alison Antholzner, Elliott LoGiudice and Collin Weber

REMINDER: UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 10** NYSSMA SOLO FESTIVAL @ SALAMANCA
- MAY 16** 7-12 GRADE BAND/CHORUS CONCERT
- MAY 20** HS BAND/CHORUS – DARIEN LAKE COMPETITION
- MAY 23** 3-6 GRADE SPRING CONCERT
- MAY 27** 9-12 GRADE BAND MEMORIAL DAY PERFORMANCE
- JUNE 5** CLUB JAZZ (9-12) \$5 DONATION AT THE DOOR

From Melissa Dahlman

CSE/CPSE/504 Chair -

CSE Department

Some parents may have received a survey in the mail required by New York State working with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) on how we help you and other parents of students with disabilities to be involved in their children's education. NYSED is working with the Potsdam Institute for Applied Research (PIAR) at SUNY Potsdam to collect the information.

Your answers to the survey are important to us! They will help us identify how well we work with parents to improve services and results for all our students with disabilities.

If you have not already done so, you can complete the survey on the Internet by going to <http://parentsurvey.potsdam.edu> (your username is the six-digit number at the bottom of the paper survey) OR you may fill out the paper copy that was mailed mailing it to PIAR in the postage-paid envelope that was also provided. We also kindly request that you call or email Michelle O'Donnell (CSE Secretary) to let her know that you have completed the survey so we can cross you off the list. Michelle can be reached by phone at (716) 699-2904 or by email @ modonnell@ecsny.org.

Ellicottville Central must have a certain number of surveys completed. Please help us help you and other parents of students with disabilities!

Families with more than one student with a disability will have a survey for each student in their household that is under an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Please complete a survey for each student.

Thank you for your assistance. We appreciate your help in collecting this data to help us to better serve you and your children.



Junior High Choir: Kelsey Feldbauer, Cayda Kruszynski, Nicholas Wedvik, Abigail Rust, Alison Antholzner, Jadyn Nevins, McKenzie Green and Grace Griffith



Senior High Band: Isabella Wilder, Jayden Doutt, Shelby Colburn, Alarice Krause, Jonah Mann, Gwen DeChane, Cameron Kaleta, Keira Baldwin, Emma Lafferty, Aaron LoGiudice, William Benatovich, Keelin Finn, Juliana O'Connell, Abby Chudy, Michael Kerns, Adelaide Weber, Jacob Atwater and Courtney Marsh

Boys Varsity Basketball

The Boys Varsity Basketball team recently finished another successful season. The team finished the season with a 14-7 record. The Eagles finished in 2nd place in the CCAA East 2 league with a 10-2 record. Unfortunately the Eagles season came to an end in the Sectional Playoffs to Chautauqua Lake in overtime.

The Eagles roster consisted of three seniors, Owen Chudy, Christopher Calarco, and William Benatovich. Juniors on the team included Ryan Metzger, Ryan Norton, Carter Smith and Christopher Polino. The team included 2 sophomores, Parker John and Cameron Mendell and one freshman, Blake Smith.

Several Eagles were recognized as CCAA East 2 League All-Stars this past season. Senior Owen Chudy and Freshman Blake Smith were named 1st Team All-Stars. William Benatovich and Carter Smith were both recognized as 2nd Team All-Stars. This team played with great passion and energy for the season. As a young team with limited Varsity experience, they learned and grew in each game. They played together as a unit and achieved a lot of success. We will miss all 3 seniors who have been with the basketball program for 6 years. Their leadership and work ethic were very highly valued. To our returning players: we will look to work hard this off-season and build on the successes of this season.

– Coach McCann

Boys JV Basketball

The Ellicottville JV Boys' Basketball team played a total of 20 games this season, finishing with a record of 13-7, and 9-2 in league games. As with any basketball season, it was filled with ups and downs, but we were fortunate enough that it was mostly ups for us this season.

Bowling

The Boys Bowling team was made up of returning 8th graders Coleman Milks and Blake Simons along with new teammates Paul Hurlburt, Carson Mendell, Grayson Neal, and Payton Quinn. There were only two returning bowlers this year so it was a new team and very young. These boys worked hard throughout the season and set personal high scores. Carson Mendell had the highest average with a 120 and his highest score of the season was a 175. Most Improved returning bowler is Blake Simons. He had a 60 average last year and finished this year with a 93; that is 33 pins higher than last year. Blake also bowled a career high game of 164 this season. Most Improved first year bowler was Payton Quinn, he worked hard to improve throughout the season. He started the season with an 81 average and finished the season with a 103 average; a 22 pin improvement. He had a career high game of 135 during the season. I'm excited to see this group of boys accomplish great things over the next few years!

The Girls Bowling team had five returning bowlers and two new bowlers. The team consisted of senior, Emma Lafferty; junior, Siying Sun; sophomore, Keira Baldwin; freshmen, McKenzie Green, and Ava Weber; and 8th graders Alison Antholzner and Ella Weber. This year, the girls team qualified for sectionals and it was the first time they have went as a team in over 10 years! At sectionals, the team placed 19 out of 22 teams in Division 2 and 9 out of 11 teams in Class D. Keira Baldwin led the morning games with

games of 146, 143, and 138 for a 427 series. Emma Lafferty was close behind with games of 123, 158, and 138 for a 419 series. Alison Antholzner bowled a career high game of a 122. Emma led the way in the afternoon with games of 158, 176, and a 153 for a season high series of 487. Keira had games of 168, 127, and 153 for a 448 series. Emma and Keira were the only two Eagles to play all 6 games for the day, and out of 251 bowlers Emma placed 101 and Keira 116. Way to go girls!!! These girls did an amazing job and made ECS proud!!! Keira Baldwin had the highest average for the season with a 136; her highest game this season was a 193. Most Improved returning bowler is Ava Weber, she went from a 81 last year to a 105 this year, (that's 24 points higher)! Ava had a career high game of 145 this season. Most improved first year bowler is Alison Antholzner. Alison worked hard throughout the season and she showed great improvement. She started the season with a 71 average and finished the season with a 78 average; her career high game was 103. Emma Lafferty received the coaches award. Emma bowled with the Varsity Bowling team since 7th grade, and she went to sectionals as an individual two years in a row. Emma has been a great team leader and often gave the younger team members advice and encouraged them. Emma is going to be greatly missed next year. This group of girls was a lot of fun and I'm excited to see them improve over the next few seasons.

–Coach Olson

The team really started to play its' best basketball right around mid-season and continued to play well through the last game. We were a young team that struggled with numbers throughout the season, but the boys battled through adversity and continued to improve not only individually, but also as a team right up until the end of the season. It was a great season for this team and we

should be excited to see what they will do in the coming years! The boys that were on the JV Boys' Basketball team this year are listed below:

Dakari Adams, Rylan Benjamin, Aiddan Gascon, Sawyer Miller, AJ Myers, Camden Palmatier, Dominic Polino, Dominic Tirado, Raiddan Wilson

–Coach Gelen

Boys Modified Basketball

The boys modified basketball team had a very successful Winter season. The team was led by strong 8th grade leadership, and the boys were always ready to learn and improve. The team had big wins against schools such as Olean, Allegany, Randolph, West Valley, Franklinville and Portville.

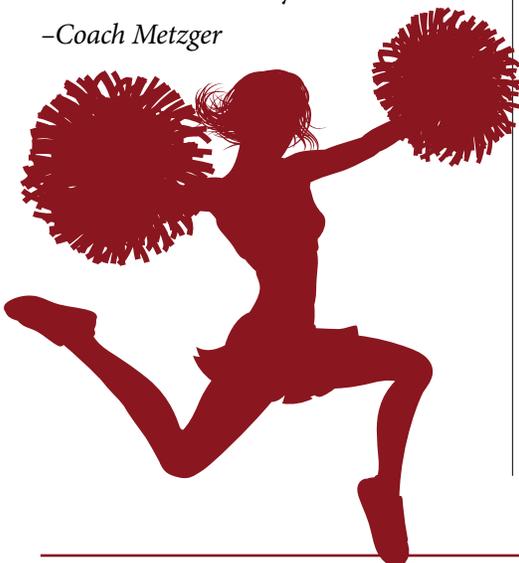
The boys played together as one Modified team, but truly exceeded expectations when split into a 7th and 8th grade team. When split, the boys were able to excel as a team and individually. This group has a lot of potential in the future if they stick together!

–Coach Chudy

Basketball Cheerleading

This year the Basketball Sideline Cheer was led by Senior Allison Pfeffer and junior Alivia Fisher. Returning for their second year of cheerleading were sophomore Jordan O’Connell and Delaney Myers. New to the squad was senior Emma Lafferty, sophomore Lanie Wilson, and freshman Breanna Byroads, Trinity DeChane, Ryha Blalock, and Ellen Quinn. With new uniforms and megaphones, this year’s cheer squad had a fantastic season and I look forward to next year.

–Coach Metzger



Girls Varsity Basketball

The Lady Eagles girls basketball team had a great season. Our league record was 8-2 and our overall record was 14-9. The Lady Eagles had a historical season, making it to Sectionals for the first time in 23 years. This was also our first time in Class C.

Towards the end of regular season play our team was battling illness and we lost two important league games, however, we went into playoffs seeded #4. We beat Franklinville in the Quarterfinals, 51-44. We moved on to Semifinals at JCC on February 28th where we played #1 Holland. We won 42-39 and knocked off the #1 seed. On March 2nd, we played #3 Frewsburg (an exceptional team who made it to the final four). We lost 36-71. Despite the score, the girls fought until the end.

We have 5 sophomores: Kalyn Crowley, Daliana Velazquez- Garcia, Teaghan Finn, Drew Ficek, and Ande Northrup. Ande Northrup was voted to the 2nd Team All-stars.

We have 3 juniors: Courtney Marsh, Natalee Leiper, and Addison John. Natalee Leiper was voted to the 1st Team All-stars.

We have 3 seniors that will be missed; they are Audrey Hurlburt, Keelin Finn, and Dalayla Alexander. Keelin Finn was voted Honorable Mention. Dalayla Alexander was voted to the 1st Team All-stars and to the Big 30 2nd Team All-stars. She also played in the Big 30 basketball game.

Thank you for a great season!

– Coach Rozler

Girls JV Basketball

The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team finished their 23-24 season with a 16-3 record. The Eagles were League Champions with a 10-0 League Record. The Lady Eagles avenged their early season loss to Cassadaga Valley in the last game of the year with a 20-point victory. They ended the season with a 13-game winning streak!

The Team was made up of two sophomores; Makayla Potter and Olivia Tighe, and eight freshmen; Ady Andrews, Ainsley Edwards, Jailah John, Abby Krause, McKenzie Newark, Juliana O’Connell, Riley Whitmer, and Yani Velazquez.

Thank you Ladies for representing ECS with pride at every game!

–Coach Finn



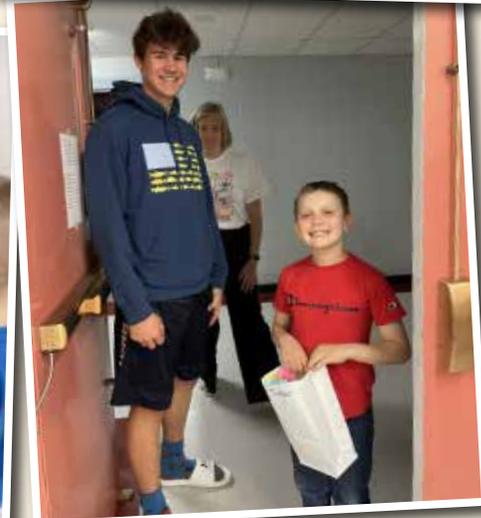
Girls Modified Basketball

The Girl’s Modified Basketball team had a great season of learning and improving their basketball skills. We had a combined 7th & 8th grade team who worked really well together. For some, this was their first experience playing basketball and for others it was an opportunity to continue to improve their basketball skills. The team averaged 23 points per game and showed great improvement in their defensive abilities throughout the season. Members of this year’s team included: 8th graders-Karle Northrup, Riley Northrup, Rylie Button, Kelsey Feldbauer, and Abby Rust. 7th graders-McKenna Mendell, Rylynn Oakes, Grace Griffith, Lilly Pearl, Whitney Powers, and Graceland Calkins. Thanks for a fun basketball season ladies!

– Coach Eddy

IMMIGRATION SIMULATION

In April, students in the Second Grade were treated to an in-house experience. The ECS Immigration Simulation offers a unique experience for our second-grade students. After learning about push and pull factors that led to the immigration boom of the 1900s, students participated in this hands-on play-based simulation. Made possible by the support of our High-School Language classes, students moved through stations meant to replicate different areas of the Ellis Island Immigration Center. Students boarded a “boat” with their required documents and headed for America. Upon arrival, they were met by strangers that did not speak their language and shuffled along through Medical Exams, the Great Hall and The Registration Room. This project strengthens students’ understanding of the learning concept while also promoting cooperation and problem-solving skills. A big “thank you” to Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Emborsky and all of our bilingual high school students who gave their time to mentor and play with our adventurous second grade students!



Second Graders attend the Theatre



Dressed in their fanciest attire, students in the 2nd grade were treated to a live performance of *The Magic Closet Mystery* at Sheas 710 Theatre in Buffalo. Thanks to funding provided by the Cassetta fund, students sat in the very front row and even interacted with the actors and director after the performance. The Cassetta fund was established to provide opportunities for ECS Students to experience various types of Art that they are not always exposed to living in a rural community. A magical day was had by all!



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ECRWSS

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Or CURRENT RESIDENT**

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Robert Miller
Superintendent
Mr. Karl Gesing
K-12 Assistant Principal
Mrs. Kathryn Mendell
Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum
Mr. Erich Ploetz
6-12 Principal

LOOKING AHEAD...

**PreK - 6th Grade students will be dismissed
at noon on 6/18, 6/20, 6/21, 6/24, & 6/25
School will be closed on 6/19**

E Embracing
Change

C Celebrating
Success

S Surpassing
Expectations



Tax Rate Information

There are two important terms at play in this discussion: tax levy and tax rate.

The proposed budget is the figure district residents vote on in May at the budget vote. Within the overall budget is the tax levy, this is the amount of property taxes the district needs to collect after all other revenue sources are used. The District needs to raise \$358,511 through the tax levy for next year, however working within the "Cap" only yields \$164,633. As a result, the District needs to raise an additional \$193,878.

The tax rate determines how much property owners must pay to meet the tax levy. The

tax rate is not set until August after the Office of Real Property has compiled all assessments for the year. Property owners pay the tax rate per every \$1,000 of value in their property. Properties that have higher value pay more.

Unfortunately, the 2024-25 rates will not be available until this summer. In the past, we have tried to provide estimates on what taxes may be based on current assessed value and equalization rates. However, this has become somewhat unreliable for predicting tax rates for some municipalities within the District. Factors that make this process somewhat unreliable include the fact that some areas may experience a

tremendous increase in property value due to new construction, and, at the same time, the equalization rates can change. Given all these possible changes, the District is not going to try and predict increases / decreases in school tax rates at this time. Now, before you get too worried about what the increases in your tax rate may look like, please remember that, due to the tremendous property wealth in the District, ECS currently has one of the lowest average tax rates on full value in all of WNY.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Robert Miller, Superintendent