Dear Onondaga Central School District Residents:

On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, Onondaga Central School District residents will vote on a $22,067,150 million proposed 2019-2020 school year budget. The budget calls for a 4.1% increase in spending from the 2018-2019 school year and carries a 1.95% tax levy increase. Under the NYS Tax cap law, the district had a levy threshold limit is 3.66%, making the proposed increase not exceed the tax cap threshold limit of 3.66%. The tax levy increase is an estimated increase for the costs to land owners by 51 cents per $1000.

Budget Priorities Include:

- Commitment to small class size
- School Safety and Security
  - 2 School Resource Officer SROs
- Maintaining all current programs
- Annual Computer Replacement Plan
- Maintaining STAR rebate for homeowners
- Budget aligned with Board Strategic Goals
- Maintaining Facilities
- Maintain ability to handle fiscal challenges
  - Planned fund balance and reserves allocation
- Account for annual school bus replacements
- Enrollment Trends
  - ELL/ENL staffing support
  - Special Education & Alternative Education Programs
- Academic Intervention Services (AIS)
- Federal/State Mandates

The $859,387 increase in the general fund budget is mostly due to increases for contractual obligations and resources to maintain our educational programs, and health insurance expenses. In summary, we are proposing a school budget in the amount of $22,067,150 to be voted upon on May 21, 2019. Voting will occur at the Jr./Sr. High School and Rockwell Elementary School from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. The 4.1% increase in the general fund budget will result in a projected tax rate increase of 1.95%.

The chart below is a comparison of our actual 2008-2009 through 2018-2019 school budget information, and the proposed 2019-2020 school budget data. In August, we will receive the updated property assessment figures from the four towns in our district. As evidenced by the chart below you can see there were many years with a zero percent increase to taxpayers making an overall average of .35% for the past twelve years.

On April 9th and April 11th, OCS and the New York State Police teamed up to conduct joint enforcement activities relating to passing stopped school buses in our District. Matt Dodge, head of transportation, selected two routes based upon the likelihood of violations. Each day an SRO rode the bus on its morning run, remaining in radio contact with a Trooper who followed at a distance.

There were no violations noted on either day, which is actually a GOOD thing! The assistance of the NYSP and the assigned Troopers from LaFayette was greatly appreciated! We are looking forward to additional opportunities with Troopers from the New York State Police at LaFayette post to continue to be observant on our bus routes in the morning and afternoons. Until our next enforcement activity, thank you to SRO Mr. Pristash and NYS Troopers for all their cooperation!

Thank you once again for your continued support of the Onondaga Central School District’s budget development process. We certainly appreciate the investment that each of you make in the education and future of all OCS students.

Sincerely,
Robin L. Price, Superintendent of Schools
District Wide:

- The Website Re-Design Committee has been meeting and working with OCM BOCES to create a customized, modern and user-friendly website that meets ADA compliance regulations. The new website will go live in late 2018-2019 or early 2019-2020.
- The Business Office transitioned from Finance Manager to nVision for payroll and accounting processing allowing for some streamlining of procedures, easier access to reporting information and now allowing staff to receive their paycheck stub via email.

Jr./Sr. High School:

- In July, German students traveled to Iceland and Germany. Two days were spent in Reykjavik, Iceland then five days in Berlin, Germany. The remaining ten days of their trip was in Uelzen, Germany where our students attended a partner school, Lessing Gymnasium, to obtain first-hand knowledge of life as a German student!
- Notable Award-winning Accomplishments: NYSSMA Solo Festival competitors: All-County – Lexi Johnson; Area All-State – Ricky Kopp. Students that performed NYSSMA solos: Lindsay Clos, Ricky Kopp, Julia Kopp, Natalie Price and Lexi Johnson. Students who participated in the NYSSMA Solo Festival Choral portion of the competition: Allee Mack, Camille Mason and Zach Johnson.
- Jr./Sr. High School students are utilizing new and improved areas in the Library and Family Consumer Science classroom. The implementation of a new “maker space” area in the Library.
- The Jr./Sr. High School opened the SECNY Federal Credit Union Tiger Branch run by students and overseen by SECNY staff and business teacher, Katie Smith.
- Athletic Accolades: The Varsity Football team won the Section 3 title; Girls’ Varsity Basketball and Girls’ Varsity Volleyball won their league championships; Dylan Price won the Section 3 wrestling championship at 132 lbs.; Zach Delaney, Nate Frye and Evan Carter who participate in a combination with the Syracuse City School District won the Division 1 State Championship.
- Fine Arts Accomplishments: Zahara Almaliki (grade 10) and Paul Adams (grade 9) exhibited artwork in the “Fall for Syracuse” art show hosted by the Public Arts Task Force at the Syracuse CoWorks Gallery in October; Natalie Board of Education:

Erik Toth, President
Maggie Mahoney, Vice President
Michael Kobasa
Heather Luchsinger
Noelle Relles
Melissa Troch
Tamara Volles

Administration:
Robin L. Price, Superintendent
Jennifer Woody,
School Business Official &
District Clerk

School Building Leadership:

Jr./Sr. High School
Timothy Mumford, Principal
Russ Stanton, Vice Principal

Wheeler School
Warren Smith, Principal

Rockwell School
Margaret Hart, Principal

Transportation/Maintenance
Michael Aiken, Director of Facilities
Matt Dodge, Bus Dispatcher
Paul Abend, Head Mechanic

New experiences, accomplishments, and endeavors...
Maiorano (grade 11), Sierra Trotman (grade 11), Maia McIntosh (grade 11), and Emily Cutri (grade 12) displayed artwork with Mrs. Passetti at the ReVolutions Fall Art Show at The Gear Factory in November; Jessica Casolare (Grade 12) was chosen to be a member of the Everson Museum Teen Arts Council for the 2018-19 school year.

**Wheeler Elementary School:**
- A Part-time 3rd grade position was created to reduce class size in ELA and math classes.
- New STEM Lab at Wheeler Elementary which includes items like Chromebooks, robots, green screen, stop motion animation, 3-D pens, modular seating, and room for science lab activities.
- Building-wide implementation of the Wonders Reading Program.
- Soft pilot of Positivity Project
- School trip to SU Women’s Basketball “School Day” at the Dome.
- 5th and 6th grade STEM Club spent the year learning all the new STEM Lab equipment and then taught their fellow students how to use it in student led lessons.
- Two visiting authors inspired students to get creative: Ken Nesbitt and Ben Mikaelsen.
- Stay & Play Days, where grade levels spent time after school playing their favorite games and raising money for a classmate in need.
- Veteran’s Day assembly honoring our District employees that have served our country.

**Rockwell Elementary School:**
- A successful year two of the Lucy Caulkin’s Writing Program in Grades Kindergarten to Second Grade.
- We celebrated Earth Day with a community cleanup in April.
- Introduction of the Positivity Project for Character Education.
- Held Math and Reading Literacy Nights that were well attended with fun had by all.
- Many educational fieldtrips to the Civic Center, the Landmark Theater, The Discovery Center, Baltimore Woods, the Zoo and in house visits from the Merry Go Round Theater for each grade level.
- Our Holiday Door Decorating Contest again was exciting this year with so many fun doors to spread the holiday joy throughout the building.
### 2019-2020 Proposed Budget: Where the Money Goes...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Education - Board of Education, District Clerk, Budget Meeting</th>
<th>2018-2019 BUDGET</th>
<th>2019-2020 PROPOSED</th>
<th>Increase/ (Decrease)</th>
<th>Percent Inc/Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$23,565</td>
<td>$23,943</td>
<td>$378</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration - District Office</td>
<td>$312,100</td>
<td>$312,738</td>
<td>$638</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance - Business Office, Independent Auditor, Tax Collection, Fiscal Agent Fee, Treasurer</td>
<td>$278,865</td>
<td>$284,800</td>
<td>$5,934</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff - Legal Services, Personnel and Public Relations</td>
<td>$70,758</td>
<td>$71,788</td>
<td>$1,030</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$1,753,673</td>
<td>$1,798,089</td>
<td>$44,417</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Services - Printing Operations and Administrative Computers</td>
<td>$160,800</td>
<td>$164,500</td>
<td>$3,700</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Items - Liability Insurance, BOCES Rent and Administration, Unclassified</td>
<td>$181,771</td>
<td>$187,331</td>
<td>$5,560</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin. Improvement - Principals, Clerical Staff, BOCES Services, SRO In-Service Training</td>
<td>$711,388</td>
<td>$761,240</td>
<td>$49,852</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>$7,548,591</td>
<td>$7,949,629</td>
<td>$401,038</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Media</td>
<td>$1,806,338</td>
<td>$446,800</td>
<td>$2,253,138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Services - Guidance, Health &amp; Psychological Services, Co-curricular Activities, Athletics</td>
<td>$711,388</td>
<td>$761,240</td>
<td>$49,852</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation - Student local and out-of-district transportation and Bus Garage</td>
<td>$1,324,538</td>
<td>$1,303,194</td>
<td>($21,344)</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$4,460,855</td>
<td>$4,468,001</td>
<td>$7,146</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service - 10-Year Bonds, 5-Year Bonds, Tax Anticipation</td>
<td>$1,906,300</td>
<td>$2,265,050</td>
<td>$359,205</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018-2019</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>Increase/ (Decrease)</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Support</td>
<td>$2,781,531</td>
<td>$2,843,188</td>
<td>$61,657</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$12,059,077</td>
<td>$12,490,456</td>
<td>$431,379</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undistributed</td>
<td>$6,367,155</td>
<td>$6,733,506</td>
<td>$366,351</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Budget: $21,207,763

#### 2018-2019: $21,207,763

#### 2019-2020: $22,067,150

#### Increase: $859,387 (4.1%)$

### The 3 Part Budget:

1. **Administrative costs** include the salaries and benefits of all certified staff who spend 50% or more of their time in administration, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also, school board costs, curriculum development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing and BOCES administrative costs.

2. **Program costs** include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library, and athletics). Also, textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular student activities, BOCES program costs, and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

3. **Capital costs** include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, utilities, and general insurance.

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**2019-2020 THREE PART BUDGET**

- Administration: 19.43%
- Program: 10.21%
- Capital: 70.36%
## Tax Rate Information by Town

### Tax Rate Information By Town/ Proposition I (Budget)
The chart below is intended to provide you with the information on school taxes to be paid at various levels of assessed value. Our district will not have up to date assessment information until August.

NOTE: This chart assumes property owners have applied for and received a basic STAR Exemption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN</th>
<th>ASSESSED VALUE</th>
<th>TAX RATE PER $1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE</th>
<th>TAX RATE INCREASE</th>
<th>ESTIMATED SCHOOL TAX AFTER STAR</th>
<th>ESTIMATED INCREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONONDAGA</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td>$ 27.861273</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 557.23</td>
<td>$ 10.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>$ 27.861273</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 1,950.29</td>
<td>$ 37.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 150,000</td>
<td>$ 27.861273</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 3,343.35</td>
<td>$ 63.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAFAYETTE</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td>$ 28.460199</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 654.58</td>
<td>$ 12.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>$ 28.460199</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 2,077.59</td>
<td>$ 39.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 150,000</td>
<td>$ 28.460199</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 3,500.60</td>
<td>$ 66.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCELLUS</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td>$ 27.286583</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 545.73</td>
<td>$ 10.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>$ 27.286583</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 1,910.06</td>
<td>$ 36.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 150,000</td>
<td>$ 27.286583</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 3,274.39</td>
<td>$ 62.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTISCO¹</td>
<td>$ 1,130</td>
<td>$ 1,323.399272</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 622.00</td>
<td>$ 11.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 2,260</td>
<td>$ 1,323.399272</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 2,117.44</td>
<td>$ 40.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 3,390</td>
<td>$ 1,323.399272</td>
<td>1.95%</td>
<td>$ 3,612.88</td>
<td>$ 69.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹As of 2010, the town of Otisco has not been re-assessed to full value.

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Contingent Budgets
If residents vote down the proposed budget, the Board of Education has two options:
1. Resubmit the same budget or a revised budget for a revote on June 18th.
2. Adopt a contingent budget, which state law now dictates cannot exceed the current year’s tax levy. (If residents vote down a re-submitted budget, the district MUST adopt a contingent budget.)

What’s a contingent budget? Unlike in years past, the new statute requires contingent budgets to carry a ZERO percent increase over the current year’s levy. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less – without any adjustment for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not. It also means all “non-contingent expenses” would have to be cut from the budget. These include field trips for social or entertainment purposes, new equipment, non-essential maintenance spending and some student supplies.
Board of Education Candidates: (Vote for Three(3))

The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes each will be elected to three-year terms commencing July 1, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2022.

Maggie Mahoney

Maggie Mahoney currently resides at 111 Macon Street in Nedrow, just a block from Rockwell School, with her daughter Grace who is a 5th grader at Wheeler. She grew up on Abbey Road, Onondaga Hill and graduated from Onondaga Central in 1987. Maggie began working for New York Telephone Company, now Verizon, shortly after graduating and remained there until 2001. She worked for a few local unions after that and is currently the office manager for Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 267. Outside of work, she served on the Executive Board of PEACE, Inc. for several years, along with many other groups and committees.

Maggie is a single-mom and believes that elected representatives should come from all walks of life to best represent the interests of a diverse community such as ours. She understands the value of collaboration and will strongly advocate for our children and district. Maggie will continue to balance the needs of the district as a whole (students, faculty/staff, community) to ensure everyone’s needs are being met to the best of our ability. She would like the opportunity to continue to serve our community as a Board of Education member with your support.

You may contact Maggie via email at mmahoney@ocs.cnyrinc.org or 315-727-7707.

Jacqueline Cappello

I was born in Missouri, raised in Champaign, IL and when I was a senior in high school, my family moved to Oswego, NY. I loved winters enough to stick around, so I went to SUNY Oswego and received a BA in Literacy Studies and a husband: lan Cappello (OCS Class of ’02). When Ian brought me here in 2005, it felt like home. The people I met felt like the folks I’d left behind in the prairie lands, but the beauty of this area was completely new to me: the hollows filled with fog and frogs, the fields with blizzards on one end, sparkly sunlight on the other. There was no doubt that I wanted to start a family in this idyllic valley.

Our son will start Kindergarten at Rockwell in 2020. We teach him that participation is essential, and you’ll learn I aim true to that value. In the evenings, you’ll often find us walking along South Onondaga Road and down by Red Mill picking up litter with our wagon. During the day, I work as a Care Manager for developmentally disabled children and adults: this involves coordinating multiple services to souls with varying needs, perspectives, and budgets, and acting as a liaison between schools and families.

I have sat in schools all over this county, acted on the behalf of many children, and would love to assist ours as we strive toward excellence.

Steve Vonderweidt

Greetings OCS Community! My name is Steve Vonderweidt. I am originally from Trumansburg NY (30 Minutes NW of Ithaca NY). My wife Yvonne Vonderweidt, who grew up in Ithaca, and I live on Curtis Road and we have four children in the OCS district. We have lived in Upstate NY for all but 10 years. We have moved back here having moved five years ago because we still have a lot of family in this area and we could think of nowhere better to continue raising our children.

I have been in not for profit administration for almost 20 years. Currently I work for The Salvation Army, as the Director of Social Services for Central New York. Just before accepting my current position, I was the Executive Director of Junior Achievement for CNY, where I helped bring entrepreneurial educational programs to Wheeler and Rockwell. I received my bachelor’s degree in human services through the SUNY system, and I also have an entrepreneurial MBA from the University of Louisville.

Since moving to this district five years ago, my wife and I have tried to support the OCS community and district. I currently coach the 5th and 6th grade girls basketball team, serve as a coach for OCS’s robotics club, and help support OCS’s soccer program in any way I can. Many of you know my wife from her work on the PTO, and as a substitute teacher at Rockwell. Yvonne is active in helping with the Girls Scouts, and raising money for different clubs and sports teams at OCS. She has probably served you a hotdog or some nachos from the concession stand at some point. We make a great team and together we direct and encourage our children to be their best and help their fellow man.

Our children are actively engaged in OCS clubs and activities. André, our oldest child, attends the JR/SR High School. He is involved in soccer, track, basketball and robotics. His robotics teams have won the Northern NY VEX robotics championships the last two years. At the writing of this letter, we are preparing to head to Louisville KY to compete in the Vex World Championships for the second year in a row. Our oldest daughter, Callisthène is in her last year at Wheeler. She is involved in basketball, soccer, band and drama. You can see her as The Wicked Step Mother in the upcoming OCS play “Big Bad”. Arielle, our middle daughter who also attends Wheeler, is involved in softball, basketball, soccer as well as student council, character club, Girls Scouts, band and drama. She will play the part of Little Red Riding Hood in “Big Bad” in June. Our youngest daughter, Jeannette who is at Rockwell, is still figuring out what her interests are, but currently enjoys Girl Scouts and participating in basketball, soccer and softball opportunities.

I look forward to serving on the Onondaga Central School Board. I believe that every student is important, and not every child will fit into the same educational or sports mold. I believe that as a district, we need to create an environment where our kids not only thrive today but are prepared for an ever-changing job market. Things like robotics and coding and computer engineering will fill the majority of careers going forward. We need to have programs, clubs and community support to help make our kids, not only successful but marketable to the best hiring companies. We need to nurture and support entrepreneurial thinking and be intentional in teaching those concepts to our kids. I for one, want my kids to want to settle in upstate NY as they get older. Maybe they start the next SRC, or maybe they create a disruptive technology that revolutionizes the way our local farms bring food and milk to our tables! Whatever our children achieve one day, OCS will be a part of their success story.

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## Public Information Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 14</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jr./Sr. HS Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUDGET VOTE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 21</td>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jr/Sr High School Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rockwell Elementary Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Absentee Ballots

- Individuals interested in obtaining an absentee ballot for the upcoming budget vote on May 21, 2019 may do so at the Business Office during business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Qualified district voters must request in advance, an application for an absentee ballot. The voter must complete the application and state the reason he/she will not be able to appear the day of the election. Requirements in order to obtain an absentee ballot are those involving an illness or physical disability, business responsibilities which require travel on the day of the vote, vacation, or students away at college.
- If mailed, all applications must reach the District Clerk in the District Office no later than 4:00 p.m. May 14, 2019. If your completed application is received after 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, you will be required to pick up your Absentee Ballot in person at the district office. Your completed Absentee Ballot must be received in the Onondaga Central School District’s district office by 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2019. If you have any questions, you may contact the District Clerk at 552-5001.

## Voter Qualifications

- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must be eighteen (18) years of age
- Must be a resident of the Onondaga Central School District for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to May 21, 2019

## Proposition 1

Shall the proposed budget for the 2019-2020 school year for the Onondaga Central School District in the amount of $22,067,150, approved by the Board of Education at a meeting on April 22, 2019, be adopted and such sum raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District?

## Proposition 2

Shall the Board of Education purchase and, at the option of the Board, finance four (4) student transportation vehicles at an estimated cost not to exceed $399,960.65, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other necessary costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed $399,960.65, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and shall the Board be authorized, at its option, to finance such purchase or so much thereof as may be necessary by levying a tax upon the taxable property of the District, which is hereby voted for the foregoing in the amount of $399,960.65, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, shall bonds, notes or installment purchase contracts be authorized to be issued or executed at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed $399,960.65 and shall a tax be authorized to pay the interest on said obligations when due?