

LYME

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Budget Newsletter 2024

VOTE

Tuesday, May 21
7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Lyme Central School
Room 104

2024-25 BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

Proposed Budget:
\$9,258,980

Budget-to-budget increase:
3.05% or \$274,028

Proposed Tax Levy:
\$4,491,085

Tax Levy Increase:
3.87% or \$167,329

Elections to fill:
Three five (5) year terms

Dear Residents and Stakeholders of the Lyme Central School District:

As we anticipate the current school year coming to a close, and eagerly plan for the year ahead, we do so with much confidence and optimism for the future of our district. Our mission, *"Preparing Today's Students to be Tomorrow's Citizens,"* continues to be at the forefront of our planning, conversations, and decision making to ensure we are offering the very best educational, athletic, and extracurricular experiences for all of our students.

The goals we have set for the budget have not wavered. We continue to strive to:

- 1) Expand and/or maintain as many of the academic and extracurricular opportunities for students as financially possible
- 2) Consider necessary facility updates and staffing needs as part of our obligation to provide our



11th grader, Jayde Thruston, completing her CTE internship in Kindergarten with Mrs. Stumpf

- 3) Respond to our financial requirements and responsibilities in ways which create the least amount of impact on our taxpayers.

We are optimistic that our community will appreciate and fully support the direction we are taking in order to meet these important goals. The

2024-2025 spending plan will see an increase over last year. This is mainly due to increases in required student services, general operating costs, and contractual obligations. Additionally, the federal grants given to schools three years ago have ceased. Salaries that were once covered through these grants are back in the general fund budget. Therefore, we are planning for a 3.05% budget increase, totaling \$274,028.

Despite chatter of foundation aid being restored, the district did not receive an increase in foundation aid. Therefore, we anticipate receiving the same amount of foundation aid that we received in the 2023-24 school year, regardless of increasing costs. As such, we have continued with our priority of identifying and applying efficient strategies, and implementing cost-saving measures. We have successfully utilized all available resources and the Board of Education's long range strategic planning and conservative budgeting practices have been beneficial in supporting our academic and extracurricular offerings for students, in addition to updating and improving many areas throughout our facilities. The Board of Education continues to evaluate all areas of the budget regularly as the long-term sustainability of the Lyme Central School District, for our students and their families, remains a priority.

Budget Facts:

- ~ Public schools operate primarily on money (revenue) they receive from two sources, state aid and school taxes.
- ~ Overall spending increase of 3.05% (\$274,028)
- ~ Projected tax levy increase of 3.87% (\$100,000 home = approximately \$38.33 increase)

Continuing Cost-Saving Measures:

During the 2023-24 school year, the Board of Education, Administration, and Staff have continued their intentional focus of ensuring that

What's Inside

1 Budget Q&A

2 Budget Notice

3 Board Candidates

School Budget ▶ continued from page 1

LCS operated in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. The following measures have been implemented and/or continued:

- ~ Shared Food Service Director: SLL BOCES Shared Service
- ~ Shared Fuel Facility with the Town of Lyme, Village of Chaumont, Three Mile Bay Fire Department, Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department, and Cape Vincent Ambulance
- ~ Identification and utilization of grant funds to pay for staff development opportunities and staffing
- ~ Staffing adjusted for enrollment

We remain grateful for the many community partnerships



we have formed over the years and are excited to once again be able to open our facility for community use in collaboration with local agencies, businesses, instructors, and so on. We look forward to building upon and

enhancing those opportunities as we head into the 2024-2025 school year.

Ways in which our community utilizes our School:

- ~ North Country Family Health School-based Dental Services for Students
- ~ Fully Equipped fitness/exercise room with morning, evening, and weekend hours
- ~ Lyme Youth Commission - Athletic Practices & Events
- ~ Summer Theater Camp
- ~ Soccer Camp
- ~ Veteran's Day Celebration
- ~ Fort Drum Holiday Concert
- ~ Tri-Board Meetings (Village, Town, and School District)

We are hopeful that Lyme's tradition of strong community support for our district's academic excellence and a safe, student-centered environment will continue into the year ahead. With your continued support, we will work diligently to ensure the longstanding tradition for providing strong educational programs and extracurricular activities for our students and community to participate in and enjoy. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the entire LCS Community for your unwavering support.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience should you have any questions prior to our Budget Vote on May 21st, 2024. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,
Patricia Gibbons, Superintendent

Budget Q & A

What exactly am I voting on?

District residents will vote on a proposed \$9,258,980 budget for the 2024-25 school year which calls for a 3.05% increase in spending compared to the 2023-24 school year.

District residents will vote on a \$500,000 capital reserve fund. This reserve fund can be used for but not limited to future technology and equipment purchases, infrastructure needs, safety and security improvements, and parking lots.

District residents will vote to fill positions one, two, and three on the Lyme Central School Board of Education with Mrs. Deanna Lothrop, Ms. Carrie Mitchell, and Mrs. Kathy Gardner running unopposed for each respective seat. Each position holds a term of five years.

Residents will also vote to authorize Lyme CSD to levy and collect an annual tax in the amount of \$97,441, that will be paid to the Lyme Free Library.

Does the percentage of increase in the tax levy equal the percentage of increase in the tax rate?

No. Typically, the tax rate increase is lower than the tax levy increase. New home construction and businesses added to the tax roll lowers the tax rate. The proposed budget stays within the calculated tax levy limit. The district's calculated tax levy limit for 2024-25 is 5.03%.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes, if you are unable to vote in-person on May 21, you may apply for an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballot applications can be obtained from the District Clerk, Mrs. Sherri Wilson in person or by calling (315) 649-2417 option 6. Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on May 21, 2024.



Lyme Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$8,984,952	\$9,258,980	\$9,013,184
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$274,028	\$28,232
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.05%	0.31%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.1%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$4,323,756	\$4,491,085	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$4,323,756	\$4,491,085	\$4,323,756
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$171,216	\$185,643	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,419,293	\$4,355,685	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$4,152,540	\$4,305,442	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$266,753	\$50,243	
Administrative Component	\$989,455	\$1,049,683	\$1,043,470
Program Component	\$6,674,898	\$6,849,177	\$6,813,134
Capital Component	\$1,320,599	\$1,360,120	\$1,156,580

*If the proposed budget is defeated and a contingency budget is adopted, certain non-contingent items must be removed pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law. A list of items that would need to be removed are listed below.

Contingent budget ramifications include:

- No equipment purchases including athletics, transportation, or operations
- Certain field trips and student supplies must be eliminated
- No free facility use by non-school organizations - fees would be charged for building use
- Expenses attributed to one (1) new school bus
- Non-contractual salaries will be frozen at 2023-24 levels
- Staff reductions will be necessary to decrease expenditures

Description	Amount
Proposition II: Capital Reserve Fund	\$500,000

** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$298.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Lyme Central school district, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at Lyme Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in room 104, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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



Lyme Central School District

PO BOX 219, Chaumont, NY 13622

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Chaumont, NY
13622
PERMIT #3

Board of Education

Deanna Lothrop,
President

Kathy Gardner,
Vice-President

Shauna Dupee
Darrell DeMotta
Ray McIntosh
Jon LaFontaine
Lynn Reichert

School District Resident

Superintendent

Patricia Gibbons

Created by Ariana Morrison, District Treasurer

Published by the Lyme Central School District.

Meet the Board of Education Candidates



Position #1

Mrs. Deanna Lothrop

Deanna has been a resident of Chaumont since 1996 and a school board member since 2006. Deanna lives

with her husband, Jerri and they have three children, Ashley (CO '07), Joshua (CO '09) and Cody (CO '16). She also has three grandchildren whom will all be attending Lyme Central.

Deanna holds a Bachelor's degree from Empire State College, a Master's degree from SUNY Potsdam and a CAS in Educational Leadership from SUNY Oswego. Deanna has 40+ years of experience working in early childhood education and is currently employed at JCC as the CSTEP Director. Deanna is a founding member of the Lyme Community Foundation, a member of the Jeff-Lewis Teacher Center Board and New Day Children's Center Board. Deanna's interest in running for the school board is to ensure that Lyme Central provides the best educational experience for all children.



Position #2

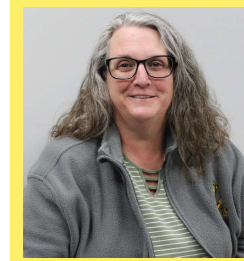
Ms. Carrie Mitchell

Carrie lived most of her life in the Town of Lyme and graduated from LCS in 1979.

Carrie has been a hairstylist for 45 years, working at various salons in Watertown. Carrie raised two daughters, both graduates of LCS. Carrie's eldest daughter resides in California with her military spouse and three daughters and her youngest daughter is a pet groomer and business owner in Watertown.

Carrie has been a member of the Lyme PTSO for several years and is a former member of the Board of Education serving from 2005-2007. Currently, Carrie is co-president of the LCS Alumni Association and co-president of the Caring for Cats sanctuary in the Town of Lyme.

Carrie feels that she has much to contribute and if elected, would be an asset to the Board of Education.



Position #3

Mrs. Kathy Gardner

In 2008, Kathy and her family relocated to Chaumont following her husband's retirement from the Air Force.

With family roots in the area, having spent time visiting Chaumont and Three Mile Bay during her youth, Kathy's fondness for the community influenced her decision to make it her family's home.

Kathy's daughters are proud graduates of LCS, having gone on to achieve success in their college endeavors and subsequent careers.

As an incumbent, Kathy has learned much during her term on the Board of Education. She is excited to continue working with the LCS Administration in providing the best education and opportunities for students at Lyme Central.