



P.O. BOX 219, 11868 ACADEMY STREET, CHAUMONT, NY 13622

phone: 315-649-2417 ♦ fax: 315-649-2663 ♦ website: www.lymecsd.org

CAMMY J. MORRISON, SUPERINTENDENT

A Message from the Superintendent
Cammy J. Morrison
May 7, 2021

Dear Residents and Stakeholders of Lyme Central School District,

I trust this letter finds you healthy, happy, and *hopefully* enjoying some of the freedoms associated with the availability of COVID vaccinations and the diminishing restrictions in New York State and areas across the county. I am finding that our return to at least a semblance of normalcy in our everyday lives is creating an excitement and optimism for the future, perhaps like never before!

It was my pleasure to share the Board of Education's proposed 2021-2022 Lyme Central School Budget last evening, May 6, 2021. Having the opportunity to discuss the many highpoints from our current school year, while eagerly anticipating the year ahead, is something I always look forward to sharing. This year was no different, in spite of the challenges we have been forced to first face *and then overcome* together. The unprecedented hardships associated with the pandemic have been, and remain, enduring and difficult for our community and district stakeholders. It is during times such as these that we will hopefully pull together and even more diligently than ever, support one another. Cultivating meaningful connections and encouraging productive communication with our Lyme Central School community stakeholders and friends has always been the foundation of our success. The ongoing realities of the past year only strengthen our determination to work harder in service to our students.

While I remain very proud of our staff members and their boundless determination, dedication and resilience regarding their prompt responsiveness to *reinventing* how we approach daily operations; health and wellness; teaching/learning opportunities, and transporting students. I am also grateful for our families who have remained our true partners in education for the benefit of all students. Along with your *at home* assistance with teaching, technology usage and student health and wellness, I wish to express our sincere gratitude for our families who have voluntarily transported their children to and from school throughout the past year. We want all our families to know and understand that without the sacrifices of those families, *even with doubling our transportation for the entire year*, we would not have been able to provide in-person instruction to all students (K-12), five days a week. We realize this has been a hardship for several families and wish to say how much your help has been appreciated! We remain hopeful that next year will be a normal year for, *among other things*, transportation services.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Administrative Team, and the entire LCS Staff, I'm pleased to share the proposed 2021-22 Lyme Central School District Spending Plan. The district *once again* approached the budget season with some very specific goals in mind: (1) Deliver as many of the academic and extracurricular opportunities for students as health and safety restrictions allow, and as financially possible. (2) Consider staffing needs and facility enhancements in order to improve security, safety, and

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programmatic offerings. (3) Respond to our financial obligations in ways which create the least amount of impact on our taxpayers.

We remain optimistic that our community will value and abundantly show support for our current direction. Responsible fiscal planning remains a priority for both the Board of Education and the Administrative Team. As such, the proposed budget utilizes \$600,000 of unassigned fund balance (savings) to allow the district to ease taxpayer burden, keeping our **tax levy flat** with a **0% tax increase for district residents**.

This year, there are two propositions on the ballot. **Proposition #1 is seeking approval for the Lyme Central School District 2021-2022 annual budget of \$8,825,479** which will ensure the continuation of excellent instructional programs and required student services; fund extracurricular activities and sports programs; purchase/replace necessary equipment; and allows the district to meet all contractual obligations. **Proposition #2 is seeking approval for funding of \$80,711, to support the Lyme Free Library.** The Lyme Free Library provides many quality resources and programs for children and adults in our district. Since the library has no taxing authority it must rely upon the school district to collect taxes on their behalf each year. The Lyme Central School District is proud to support such partnerships that truly enhance our community. There is one **Board of Education** vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of the incumbent, **Ray McIntosh**. Mr. McIntosh is **seeking re-election** and is running unopposed.

Continuing Cost-Saving Measures: During the 2020-2021 school year, the Board of Education, Administration, and Staff have continued their intentional focus of ensuring that LCS operates in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. The following measures have been implemented and/or continued:

- Cafeteria Manager Share with Carthage CSD—BOCES Service
- Transportation Supervisor and Mechanic share between Lyme and Thousand Islands
- Shared Fuel Facility with Town of Lyme, Village of Chaumont, Three Mile Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department
- Identification and utilization of grant funds to pay for staff development opportunities, materials, and student and staff needs
- Automatic shut-down of all district computers at 6:30 p.m. nightly
- Monitoring of day to day operating expenses
- Adjusting staffing for enrollment (as possible) while considering upcoming teacher/staff retirements
- Utilization of district vehicle for transportation eliminating mileage reimbursements

We remain grateful for the many community partnerships we have formed over the years and look forward to the day we can, again, safely open our doors to partner with local agencies, businesses,

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instructors and so on. As social distancing and grouping expectations allow, we look forward to building upon and enhancing those district/community opportunities as we head into the 2021-2022 school year!

To view the proposed 2021-2022 Lyme Central School District Proposed Budget Booklet please visit our website at www.lymecsd.org, click on the Board of Education tab—budget information. The annual Budget Hearing was held on May 6, 2021 via a ZOOM meeting. To view the recorded presentation please click on the Board of Education tab—Board Minutes—Minutes 2020-2021. You may also contact the District Clerk, Mrs. Sherri Wilson, at 315-649-2417 ex. 238 to request a hard copy of the LCS Proposed Budget Booklet. Please call or email any questions regarding the proposed budget to cmorrison@lymecsd.org or swilson@lymecsd.org and we will be happy to answer your questions as soon as possible!

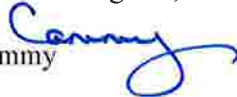
**We look forward to seeing you at the
2021-2022 Lyme Central School Budget Vote!**

**Voting will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.
Polls are open (in-person) from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Room 140
(Welcome Center Entrance).**

At LCS we remain committed to our mission of *Preparing Today's Students to Be Tomorrow's Citizens*. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the entire LCS Community for your unwavering support of our students and district, and hope the tradition of strong community support for academic excellence and a safe, student-centered environment will continue into the 2021-22 school year. With your support, we will continue to work diligently serving our taxpayers, our students, and staff, ensuring we are able to recognize sustainable growth both in the short term and also for years to come!

On behalf of the Board of Education, Faculty and Administration of Lyme Central School, it remains our pleasure to serve our community and students. Wishing you all strength, perseverance, *health and wellness* in the days ahead!

Warmest Regards,


Cammy

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