Tax levy increase less than 1% in proposed 2022-23 budget

On Tuesday, May 17, residents of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District will vote on a proposed $39,730,000 budget for the 2022-23 school year.

The proposed budget represents a 2.5% spending increase. Although at the time this publication went to print, the Board of Education has not yet settled on a tax levy for the 2022-23 school year, board members have committed to a year-to-year increase of less than 1%, which is below the district’s calculated tax levy “cap.” Once board members have decided on a tax levy, the district will balance its budget by using its existing fund balance.

The proposed spending plan enhances programs and expands opportunities for students. For the 2022-23 school year, Broadalbin-Perth will be adding a social worker, business teacher, speech pathologist, two special education teachers, and two teaching assistants. Some of the additional staff are for a new self-contained classroom at the elementary school, which will serve students in kindergarten through second grade who require a more intense service model to meet their unique academic, social, and emotional needs.

The budget also calls for the addition of 14 “seats” for B-P students to attend programs at the HFM BOCES Career & Technical Education Center (CTE). During the 2021-22 school year, 67 B-P students attended 15 different programs at CTE.

A simple majority of voters (more than 50%) is required for budget approval.

All in-person voting will take place at the Robert C. Munn Gymnasium at B-P Senior High School, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. Absentee ballots are available. See page 8 for more information on voting.

Look inside or visit bpcsd.org to learn more

Broadalbin-Perth uses the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program district-wide to help students understand and follow behavior expectations. At the elementary school, faculty and staff celebrate positive behavior with such incentives as sledding parties.

KEY BUDGET NUMBERS

- Proposed 2022-23 budget: $39,730,000
- Year-to-year budget change: $969,250 / 2.50%
- Year-to-year tax levy change: less than $162,300 / 1.00%
- Projected true-value tax rate: $14.25 per $1,000 equalized value (–$1.73)
Where the money comes from

State and federal aid: **51.4%**
More than half of B-P’s revenue comes from state aid. State aid includes foundation aid, which is distributed to school districts based on a formula; cost-based aids; and building aid, which is used to pay debt on capital expenditures. B-P is seeing an increase in state building aid because of the 2016 capital project, which the district began paying for during the 2021-22 school year. Federal aid provides some money for special education, academic intervention services, and prekindergarten.

Local property taxes: **41.3%**
The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district collects in taxes each year from all property owners in the district.

Fund balance: **4.8%**
Fund balance is unspent money from the 2021-22 budget applied to the 2022-23 budget.

Other local revenue: **2.5%**
Other local revenue includes tuition and facility use fees, as well as revenue from agreements B-P has in place with some local municipalities and neighboring districts.

Projected revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Actual 2021-22</th>
<th>Projected 2022-23</th>
<th>Dollar Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State &amp; Federal Aid</td>
<td>$19,254,928</td>
<td>$20,435,781</td>
<td>$1,180,853</td>
<td>6.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Property Taxes</td>
<td>$16,230,000</td>
<td>$16,392,300</td>
<td>$162,300</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$2,281,319</td>
<td>$1,906,824</td>
<td>$374,495</td>
<td>-16.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Local Revenue</td>
<td>$994,503</td>
<td>$995,095</td>
<td>$592</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$38,760,750</td>
<td>$39,730,000</td>
<td>$969,250</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Broadalbin-Perth PTO has partnered the district’s food services department to give B-P students a chance to have their voices heard during this year’s school budget vote and board elections.

Students will have the opportunity to vote on a new lunch menu meal, and the winning choice will be added to the lunch menu rotation next school year.

Balloting for “Kids Vote Too!” will be open 3-8 p.m. in the lobby of the Robert C. Munn Gymnasium. The PTO will host its annual ice cream social 4-7 p.m. outside the vote.
Where the money is spent

Instruction: 61.4%
This category includes salaries and benefits for all teaching faculty and staff, as well as classroom supplies and equipment.

Operations: 21.2%
This category includes maintenance of school buildings and grounds, utilities, debt service, and business office functions.

Extracurriculars & Athletics: 1.9%

Transportation: 6.6%

Instructional Support: 6.6%

Administration: 2.5%

Proposed expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Actual 2021-22</th>
<th>Proposed 2022-23</th>
<th>Dollar Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$23,712,632</td>
<td>$24,411,695</td>
<td>$699,063</td>
<td>2.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>8,483,608</td>
<td>8,404,295</td>
<td>– 79,313</td>
<td>– 0.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Support</td>
<td>2,277,501</td>
<td>2,523,093</td>
<td>245,592</td>
<td>10.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>2,585,848</td>
<td>2,634,495</td>
<td>48,647</td>
<td>1.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>974,661</td>
<td>1,009,422</td>
<td>34,761</td>
<td>3.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurriculars &amp; Athletics</td>
<td>726,500</td>
<td>747,000</td>
<td>20,500</td>
<td>2.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$38,760,750</td>
<td>$39,730,000</td>
<td>$969,250</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What would happen if the proposed budget is voted down?

If a majority of residents vote no on May 17, the Board of Education would have three options:

- Put the same budget before the voters a second time;
- Put a revised budget before the voters; or
- Adopt a contingent budget.

After a second defeat, the board has no choice but to adopt a contingent budget. Under the property tax cap law, a school district that adopts a contingent budget cannot increase its tax levy. To meet these requirements, the district would cut all non-essential equipment and district-provided school supplies.

Operating under a contingent budget also means the district would have to charge all outside organizations, including the Broadalbin and Perth youth commissions, for any costs incurred while they use school facilities (e.g., overtime for custodial staff).

Exit survey

At the polls, voters will be given the opportunity to fill out an optional, anonymous exit survey. District leaders use the information from exit surveys to make future decisions, including about the next year’s budget.

The Broadalbin-Perth Central School District is an equal-opportunity employer and does not discriminate against employees, students, or others, with regard to employment, admission, or access to its programs and activities, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, disability, or age, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Further, the District does not discriminate on the basis of religion or creed, sexual orientation, military status, genetic status, marital status, domestic violence victim status, criminal arrest or conviction record, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal non-discrimination laws.

Inquiries or concerns regarding civil rights compliance by the District, may be referred to the District’s Superintendent of Schools as its designated Civil Rights Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator by mail at 20 Pine Street, Broadalbin, New York 12025; by telephone at (518) 954-2500; and/or by email at tomlinsons@bpcsd.org. Inquiries and complaints may also be directed to the U.S. Department of Education, New York Office for Civil Rights, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10005; telephone: (646) 428-3800; electronic mail: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.
How would the proposed budget affect my property taxes?

It’s impossible to say with certainty what each town’s tax rate will be in September. Factors outside the school district’s control — assessments (provided by towns) and equalization rates (provided by the state Office of Real Property Tax Services) — affect tax rates in each of the district’s nine towns, and changes in one town’s tax rate affect the tax rates in each of the other eight towns. Actual tax rates are set in August.

That being said, preliminary data indicates that some B-P residents will see their tax rate decrease in 2022. Assistant Superintendent Marco Zumbolo has used preliminary data from towns to project the true-value tax rate for the 2022-23 school year to be $14.25 per $1,000 of equalized value — down from $15.98 in 2021-22 and the lowest true-value tax rate in 11 years (see graphic above). Note, the true-value tax rate is the rate that could be applied to all properties in the district if every equalization rate was 100%.

Zumbolo says that while equalization rates in the towns in the district are decreasing, the total assessed value of properties in the district is rising as new homes and businesses are built and improvements are made to existing structures. As more properties come on the tax rolls, the total tax levy is divided among a greater number of properties, resulting in a lower tax bill for some property owners.

Broadalbin-Perth Elementary hosts free school-based dental clinic

B-P recently partnered with Hudson Headwaters Health Network to provide school-based access to free dental services and education for elementary students. A total of 121 students participated in the first clinic, which was held over a nine-day period in March.

Head nurse Lori Nellis was a driving force in bringing the clinic to fruition, which was paid for by a grant and was provided at no cost to district taxpayers.

“Many people don’t have the time to bring their kids to the dentist or insurance to cover the visit, and with regular checkups not required by New York state, this gives an opportunity for those students to be seen,” Nellis said.

Families are not charged for services and are not required to have dental insurance for their children. However, Hudson Headwaters takes care of billing for those families who do have dental insurance.

Participating students received a dental screening, cleaning, sealants, fluoride treatment and, if needed, a referral to a local participating dentist for additional treatment including filling cavities and other restorative work. After each cleaning, students received a goody bag to take home that included a new toothbrush, toothpaste, floss wands, and lip balm.

Nellis hopes that the clinic will be held at least once a year moving forward.

“Preventative care is crucial to long-term dental health,” Nellis said. “Bringing the service into our schools can help make kids more comfortable with visiting the dentist, and they learn proper dental care in the process.”
Innovative, hands-on learning ‘pathway’ launches at BPHS this fall

Broadalbin Perth Jr./Sr. High School students entering ninth grade will have access to a new pathway to graduation starting in September with the creation of Patriot Academy, a plan of study that incorporates hands-on learning with classroom experience to help students gain the skills they need to succeed after graduation.

“The Patriot Academy is a co-learning community with the mission to redefine and re-imagine education for the 21st century,” said high school principal Mark Brooks. “The world has changed drastically, and it’s important that education follows suit.”

Patriot Academy is one of several “pathways” B-P students can choose as they chart their way through high school. Other pathways include accelerated (honors); traditional diploma; and BOCES options through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) or Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs. Each pathway allows students to explore career fields they might be interested in and engage in work-based learning experiences.

“Patriot Academy is just the latest example of the kind of innovative educational options we can offer our students with our existing faculty and staff,” said Superintendent of Schools Stephen Tomlinson. “Reorganizing our schools so that all of our grades 7-12 faculty are in the same building was truly a game-changer, providing us the flexibility to fully serve all of our students’ different academic needs.”

According to Brooks, the Academy is designed to inspire, equip and connect learners while developing each student’s unique talents, passion and purpose. Through the Academy, students’ learning shifts from a content-based focus to a skills-based focus built around project-based learning.

“The goal of Patriot Academy is to create an inspiring and exploratory learning environment where every student has the opportunity to discover their passions or foster ones they might already have by working in an interdisciplinary project-based learning setting,” Brooks said.

Students enrolled in Patriot Academy will take courses in subjects such as robotics, computer programming, visual arts, engineering and computer-aided design (CAD), as well as sustainable energy and coding. English language arts and business courses are intertwined to provide real-world connections to the content and standards at hand. The Academy also provides students with core skills essential to future success, such as communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Brooks says that Patriot Academy is designed for students who struggle to feel connected in a traditional classroom setting, and who are willing to take a risk in trying something new. Students engage in learning both independently and as part of a team.

“Patriot Academy offers students an opportunity to challenge themselves in new ways,” Brooks said. “Along the way, we expect students may discover a passion they didn’t even know existed.”

Parents of eighth graders who are interested in Patriot Academy should contact their child’s school counselor to discuss the application process.

As part of the 2016 capital project, the former high school cafeteria was transformed into a state-of-the-art lecture hall with tiered seating for as many as 60 people.
This spring, voters will elect two people to the Board of Education. Incumbents Robert Becker and Stephen Syzdek are not seeking re-election. The two candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to serve five-year terms beginning July 1, 2022. The candidates are listed here in the order they will appear on the ballot.

**Board Elections**

**Vincent Arcuri** is seeking his first term on the board. He and his wife, Carrie, have three children — Josie, Ella, and Grace — all of whom attend Broadalbin-Perth schools. He has lived in the district for six years.

Arcuri holds an associates degree in civil engineering from Mohawk Valley Community College and bachelor’s degrees in industrial and mechanical engineering from SUNY IT. He currently works as a program developer for National Grid.

Arcuri is an active volunteer and supporter of Broadalbin-Perth's girls modified basketball and track and field teams, as well as the elementary school band.

**Lori Harlan** is seeking her first term on the board. She and her husband, Gary, have two adult children, and a 10-year-old grandson who is home-schooled. She has lived in the Broadalbin-Perth school district for the past 40 years.

After graduating from the former Perth Central School District, Harlan earned her associates degree in physical therapy from Maria College. For the past 30 years, she has worked as a physical therapy assistant at the Greater Amsterdam School District (GASD), where she works with children who have delays in their gross motor skills to help improve their skills, balance, and strength so they can be functional in the school environment.

Harlan serves on a number of GASD committees, including as president of the district's Relay for Life team.

**Emily Behnke** is seeking her first term on the board. She has two children, Hazel and Lucy, who attend B-P Elementary School. She has lived in the district for nearly five years.

Behnke earned both a bachelor’s degree in English and an MBA in information technology management from the University at Albany. She is currently the director of sponsored programs for SUNY Empire State College. In that role, Behnke manages the college's grant portfolio, and she has been in charge of the disbursement and reporting for all $28 million of SUNY Empire's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funding.

Behnke is an active volunteer with Broadalbin-Perth's PTO, assisting with nearly every PTO event and serving as a classroom representative for both of her daughters’ classes. She and her family are also active members of the Broadalbin First Presbyterian Church.

**Jacob Dutcher** is seeking his first term on the board. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children — Roman, Arianna, and Maria — all of whom attend Broadalbin-Perth schools. He has lived in the district for six years.

Dutcher attended Hudson Valley Community College and Excelsior College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in nursing, and he earned a master’s degree in anesthesia from Albany Medical College. He currently works at St. Mary's Hospital where he administers anesthesia as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA).

**Also on the ballot: Bus purchase proposition**

This year, residents are also voting on a proposition to purchase four 66-passenger buses at a cost not to exceed $552,244. The state will pay for approximately 80% of that cost, and the district will trade in old vehicles being replaced to reduce the purchase price of the new vehicles.

The New York State Department of Transportation regulates school buses much more strictly than it does passenger vehicles. For instance, while a family's car must pass a New York state inspection once a year, school buses must pass more rigorous inspections twice a year. If a school bus fails one of these inspections, it must be taken off the road immediately and cannot be put back into service until it meets the state's standards.

It costs much more to maintain an older bus to the state's standards than it costs to maintain a new bus. By the time an old bus is retired from Broadalbin-Perth's fleet, it will have accumulated more than 150,000 miles. District officials estimate these high-mileage buses cost B-P at least twice as much to maintain as new buses.

Between the trade-in value of the old buses and the projected savings on maintenance costs, purchasing the new buses would result in no tax increases.
Samantha Gallup is seeking her first term on the board. She and her husband, Adam, have three children — Camden, Roman, and Palmer — all of whom attend B-P Elementary School. She has lived in the school district for the past 10 years.

A graduate of Fonda-Fultonville High School, Gallup earned a bachelor’s degree in health science and a doctorate in physical therapy from Utica College of Syracuse University. Gallup is self-employed as a pediatric physical therapist. In that role, she treats patients with various diagnoses with goals of rehabilitation and gross-motor milestones to achieve optimal function and independence.

Gallup is a member of the Broadalbin-Perth PTO, and has served as a classroom volunteer. She has also volunteered as a coach with the Broadalbin Youth Commission.

Allison Goodspeed is seeking her first term on the board. She and her husband, Ryan Sinness, have two children: Christopher is currently in kindergarten at B-P Elementary School, and Julia will start pre-K in the fall. She moved back to Broadalbin last year after growing up in the community and graduating from B-P.

A recently retired veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Goodspeed earned a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University at Albany, an MBA from Touro University, and a master’s degree in engineering physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Goodspeed currently works as a senior scientist for Applied Research Associates, where she leads weapons effect test programs supporting the U.S. Department of Defense to counter and deter weapons of mass destruction and emerging threats.

Goodspeed is a member of the Broadalbin-Perth PTO and has served on the PTO’s mini-grants committee. She is also a member of the American Legion.

BPHS Odyssey of the Mind team earns second straight trip to World Finals

An Odyssey of the Mind team from Broadalbin-Perth Jr./Sr. High School will compete at the World Finals for the second year in a row after earning a second-place trophy at the New York state championships earlier this spring.

The team, which includes freshman Ryan Michalski and sophomores Jacob Hughes, Lauryn Donahue, Logan Aery, Blaine Herrick, and Jaciano Carrero, competed in two long-term problems at the state championship. B-P will compete in problem 2, “Odyssey ReOMvention,” at the World Finals. According to the Odyssey of the Mind website, problem 2 requires the team to “present a performance that identifies an original threat to the environment that self-replicates until a team-created technical reOMvention removes the threat.”

The team, along with coaches Alison and Carl Aery, are planning a number of fundraisers to help them get to Ames, Iowa, where the World Finals will take place at Iowa State University, May 24-28. A portion of all purchases made at the Amsterdam McDonald’s from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 11 will be donated to the team. Elementary students will participate in a coin drive May 9-13, with the winning classes earning make-your-own sundae parties. Donations are also gratefully accepted; checks made payable to BPCSD with “OOTM” in the memo can be mailed to 20 Pine Street, Broadalbin, NY 12025.
**Board of Education**

Ed Szumowski, President
Robert Becker, Vice President
Keith Buchanan
Paul Chizek
Ryan Crane
Chad Egan
Steve Syzdek

**Superintendent**

Stephen Tomlinson

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service. Some graphics courtesy of Vecteezy.com.

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**Who can vote?**

In order to vote, a person must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, registered to vote, and a resident of the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the May 17 vote.

**How do I register to vote?**

Residents who have registered to vote in general elections are automatically registered to vote on the budget proposal. District residents who have not registered to vote in general elections may register to vote on the proposed budget 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays in the district office, or by calling the district clerk at 518-954-2501 to make other arrangements.

**Can I vote by absentee ballot?**

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Contact the district office at 518-954-2501 to obtain an application. If you want your ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by May 10. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by May 16. Absentee ballots must be returned to the district office by 5 p.m. on May 17.

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**Polls are open**

6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17

**ONE POLLING LOCATION**

ALL qualified residents will vote in the

Robert C. Munn Gymnasium at B-P Senior High School

100 Bridge Street, Broadalbin

Under the direction of B-P teaching assistant and mosaic artist Linda Biggers, members of the BPES Mosaic Club are hard at work on the school’s fifth custom mosaic. The finished product will hang in the school.

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**Budget Hearing & Candidates’ Forum**

★ Monday, May 9  ★ 7 p.m. ★ BPHS Auditorium

**BPHS Gymnasium**

★ Tuesday, May 17  ★ 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.