



SPRING 2023

Hamilton Central School

Budget Newsletter

Dear District Community,

We are extremely proud of our school district's programs, and we appreciate our community's support as we continue to do our best we can to provide meaningful learning opportunities and support to all of our students.

The administrative team has worked with our faculty and staff to ensure the programming and enrollment trends were accounted for, as well as the many other factors that impact the budget process. This year we present to you a responsible budget, while still preserving the wonderful programs and academics that we have grown fond of here at Hamilton Central School. In order to minimize the impact on District residents, the administrative team has found creative ways to make the proposed budget of \$15,023,304 tax cap compliant (a 3.98% tax levy increase). The allowable levy increase for the 2023-2024 school year is higher than usual due to additions to the tax base and the continued addition of debt service associated with our ongoing capital project. This keeps our academic and extra-curricular programs intact, achieving savings through efficiencies in the delivery of instructional programs.

With your commitment and support, we will be able to continue providing our students with a wealth of opportunities to develop and nurture a wide range of talents and interests.

We invite you to participate in the in-person Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 9th, at 6:00 p.m.

Two board members' terms are expiring this year. Petitions to run for a three-year term have been submitted by the following: Thomas Furner, Sunghwan Choe, and Travis Ames (incumbent). The candidates have included their biographies in this newsletter for your review and will be a part of our Meet the Candidates night on May 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the HCS Auditorium. We hope you find both of these informative.

This year District voters will have the opportunity to authorize the appointment of a non-voting student representative on the Board of Education. If approved by voters, the Superintendent will select a member of the rising Senior class to serve in this role. We believe this student will provide important insight and perspective as the Board of Education deliberates District matters.

Voting for the 2023-24 school budget, Board of Education positions, the school bus proposition, Ex Officio Student Member, and the Hamilton Public Library proposition will take place on Tuesday, May 16th from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Central School Bus Garage.

Voter requirements: U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older and have been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days before the vote. Absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting Jodi Shantal, District Clerk, at (315) 824-6310 or by email at jshantal@hamiltoncentral.org. We thank you for supporting our mission, to educate every student, every day.

Sincerely,

The Hamilton Central School Board of Education



PROPOSITION #1 - SCHOOL BUDGET

“Shall the Board of Education of the Hamilton Central School District, County of Madison, New York, be hereby authorized to expend the sum set forth in its proposed budget for 2023-24 in the total amount of \$15,023,304 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?”

PROPOSITION #2 - SCHOOL BUS

“Shall the Board of Education of the Hamilton Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance one (1) student transport vehicle, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$180,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$180,000, shall be issued.”

PROPOSITION #3 - EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

“Should a high school senior student be designated to serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Education, and thereby be entitled to sit with Board Members at all its public meetings, and participate therein, but without the authority to vote on matters before the Board or to attend executive sessions?”

PROPOSITION #4 - HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

“Shall the Hamilton Central School District be authorized to levy a tax in the amount of \$156,828 and pay such monies to the Trustees of the Hamilton Public Library for the support and maintenance of the Library with such support continuing on an annual basis unless or until a different amount is authorized by the qualified voters of the school district?”

BOARD SEAT ELECTION

Vote for UP TO two. Three-year term July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026

- **Thomas Furner**
- **Sunghwan Choe**
- **Travis Ames**

OurMission...

To Educate Every Student, Every Day!





Meet The Candidates!



Thomas Furner

My name is Tom Furner and I am asking for your vote to serve on the HCS Board of Education. I am a parent to two young daughters and an uncle to many nieces and nephews that attend or will be attending in the near future. Many of the tax-paying residents may recognize me from my family's small business in Hubbardsville that I have helped run for the last four years.

As a parent and active member of our rural community, I am deeply disturbed by the increasingly evident divide in our district. During my time helping run the family business, I have engaged in countless conversations with other parents and residents from all walks of life. One of the most common complaints is the blatant disregard and understanding of the issues by the current board members. Many residents have encouraged me to run as we share a vast amount of the same ideas, concerns, and solutions that may differ from what is presently happening in our school.

If elected I pledge my undivided attention to all taxpayers, parents, staff, and students. I will strive to bring an unmatched amount of transparency on budget and social issues as well as encourage accountability overall. I look forward to the opportunity to serve my school and community.



Sunghwan Choe

I am a proud parent of two young children, with one in kindergarten in the Hamilton Central Schools. I am running for HCS's Board of Education to represent this great community and contribute to the incredible work that goes into our schools.

I grew up attending public schools in central Ohio and I went on to be the first in my family to attend college. Today I am an independent IT consultant specializing in state policy implementations. I began my career in IT as a constituent relations manager for the American Friends Service Committee, a non-profit social justice organization in Philadelphia. Then I shifted to public sector work to build IT solutions for state social programs in Georgia, Michigan, Maine, and New York, and tax revenue management in Ohio and North Carolina.

I would be honored to serve on the school board and to have the opportunity to give back to the public education system. I believe in continuing the work at HCS toward building an equitable and inclusive environment for our students. I also believe that improving education is an ongoing endeavor that requires strong leadership, teacher support, good communication, and family engagement.

Thank you.



Travis Ames

I'm Travis Ames, father of two and husband of an elementary teacher. I grew up nearby and moved into the District twenty years ago. I attended SUNY Morrisville, obtaining a woodworking/ business degree. I've worked locally since then for a family owned architectural millwork company.

I began being actively involved with HCS ten years ago and I've attended almost all Board meetings in that time. I've established respectful, working relationships with the other Board members and administrative team. I'm proud of the work we've accomplished together. I'm also proud of our amazing faculty, staff and students.

HCS consists of parts of five townships, each unique in their own ways. Likewise, my background has provided the Board with a diversity of thought and experiences. This has allowed me to initiate meaningful conversations, leading to awareness, and equitable decision making.

My priorities have been:

- fiscal responsibility;
- the safety, physical and mental health of students and employees;
- student achievement, opportunities and inclusion;
- policy development.

Together as a Board, we've made great progress in these areas of focus, in very difficult times. If re-elected, I'll gladly continue to volunteer my time and work hard to further achieve these priorities and more. Thank you.



Dear HCS Families and Community Members:

We hope that you find this budget newsletter to be informative. This newsletter provides an overview of the proposed budget that will come before voters on May 16th, as well as voting requirements, location and times, and Board of Education candidates. Our website, www.hamiltoncentral.org, also includes information and details about the proposed 2023-2024 school budget.

We are extremely proud of our school district's programs and appreciate our community's support as we continue to provide meaningful learning and support to all of our students while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our community partners. As we navigate through our budget development process for the 2023-2024 school year, we remain incredibly grateful to our learning community—individually and collectively—for the extraordinary support of our District.

This budget season, we focused on developing a budget that would supply the District with the resources necessary to continue providing support for student learning and social-emotional health, while maintaining all other essential operations. Within this budget, we will be able to continue providing our students with robust learning opportunities, social-emotional support and a variety of curricular and extra-curricular offerings. With the support of Federal Relief funds, our proposed 2023-2024 budget of \$15,023,304 is tax cap compliant (a 3.98% tax levy increase) and provides the necessary funds to build upon our success and focus on our future, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

We recognize that Hamilton residents value a strong school system which continually strives for excellence. I'm proud to inform our community that HCS has, once again, been recognized by the U.S. News & World Report and by Niche, Inc., as one of the top Districts, not only in New York State, but nationally.

Remember, your vote is important and every vote counts. Thank you for your support of our District and your continued partnership as we work together to support our mission of "educating every student, every day."

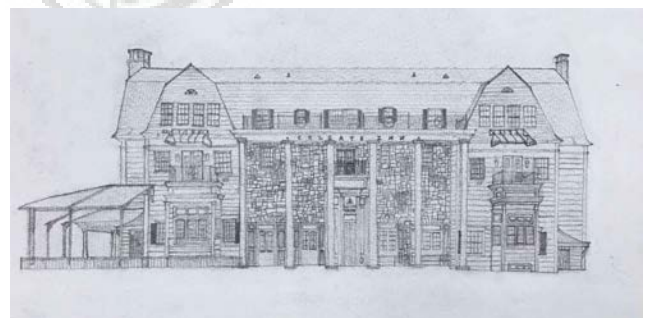
Together we are #HCSstrong!
Sincerely,

William Dowland

Superintendent of Schools

Our Mission...

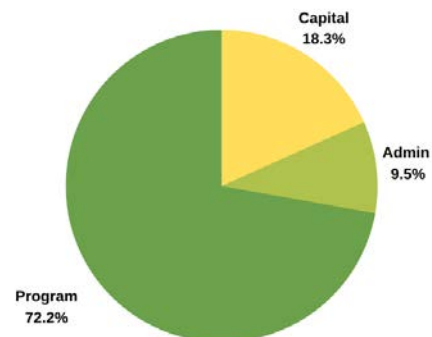
To Educate Every Student, Every Day!





PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
INSTRUCTION	\$3,464,295	\$3,569,380	\$105,085	3.03%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$1,815,036	\$1,931,740	\$116,704	6.43%
PUPIL SERVICES	\$516,670	\$534,528	\$17,858	3.46%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$484,340	\$492,831	\$8,491	1.75%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	\$367,415	\$380,846	\$13,431	3.66%
INTERFUND TRANSFER - CAFETERIA	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	0.00%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$3,832,011	\$3,907,073	\$75,062	1.96%
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$10,509,767	\$10,846,398	\$336,631	3.20%
ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$17,824	\$19,640	\$1,816	10.19%
CENTRAL ADMIN. AND FINANCE	\$489,483	\$509,745	\$20,262	4.14%
STAFF	\$49,575	\$50,186	\$611	1.23%
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$205,273	\$215,484	\$10,211	4.97%
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$338,605	\$338,258	\$(347)	-0.10%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$286,300	\$291,908	\$5,608	1.96%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1,387,060	\$1,425,221	\$38,161	2.75%
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2022-2023 BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
CENTRAL SERVICE	\$816,725	\$843,976	\$27,251	3.34%
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,428,012	\$1,615,801	\$187,789	13.15%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$286,300	\$291,908	\$5,608	1.96%
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$2,531,037	\$2,751,685	\$220,648	8.72%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE	\$14,427,864	\$15,023,304	\$595,440	4.13%

Where The Money Is Spent:
 Admin: \$1,425,221 - 9.5%
 Program: \$10,846,398 - 72.2%
 Capital: \$2,751,685 - 18.3%



Our Mission...
 To Educate Every Student, Every Day!



2023-2024 Proposed School Budget

Program Budget

The program budget includes all services provided directly to our students and represents approximately 72% of the expenditures in the budget. Programs budgeted in this category include the following: elementary and secondary education, occupational education, remedial and special educational programs, library and media services, inter-scholastic athletics, extra-curricular, and other direct services to students.

Instruction – This category includes the salaries for teachers, teacher assistants, and substitutes along with monies for the necessary supplies, textbooks, and equipment to support the instructional program. Funds have also been provided to support the performing arts, enrichment programs and field trips.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$3,464,295	\$3,569,380	3.03%

Special Programs – This category includes the salaries of teachers and support staff who work with children with special education needs. Also included are the expenses associated with BOCES special education programs and occupational education programs.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$1,815,036	\$1,931,740	6.43%

Interfund Transfer – Cafeteria – Funds have been provided in the budget to support the food service program. The transfer of funds will ensure the necessary revenues to offset the increase in fixed costs in this program. The general fund support is needed to offset increases in food costs, and rising employee benefit costs. It is important to us that our students have nutritious food as a mainstay of their meal.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$30,000	\$30,000	0%

Pupil Services – Included in this category are the costs associated with attendance, guidance, health and psychological services, and extra-curricular programs.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$516,670	\$534,528	3.46%

Transportation – This section includes all the expenses related to student transportation.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$484,340	\$492,831	1.75%

Instructional Media – This category includes all expenses associated with the operation of the elementary and secondary Media Centers, computer classrooms, and district technology.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$367,415	\$380,846	3.66%

Employee Benefits – This section of the budget includes all the employee benefits for most of the instructional and non-instructional staff as required by law or included in the negotiated employee agreements.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$3,832,011	\$3,907,073	1.96%

Total Program	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$10,509,767	\$10,846,398	3.20%



Administration Budget

This category of the budget includes administrative, financial, legal and instructional support services for the operation of the school system, as well as insurance and school board expenditures. Staff and curriculum development are also part of this budget.

Board of Education – This item of the budget includes all the expenditures incurred by members of the Board of Education and the District Clerk in the performance of their duties. Included are supplies, meeting expenses, training for new board members and expenditures such as printing, legal notices, and dues. Also, expenses for conducting district votes and elections are included.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$17,824	\$19,640	10.19%

Central Administration & Finance – This item includes expenses of the District and Business Offices, which include the superintendent, business official, secretaries, auditor, treasurer and tax collector. Other expenditures include supplies, postage, rental and repair of equipment.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$489,483	\$509,745	4.14%

Staff – Included in this category are the expenses for legal consultation, labor relations policy development and our Employees Assistance Program.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$49,575	\$50,186	1.23%

Special Items – This account includes expenses for the district’s share of the BOCES administrative and capital (building) budget and for the school’s insurance (liability, fire, theft, etc.).

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$205,273	\$215,484	4.97%

Administration & Improvement – Included in this category are the expenses related to teacher in-service, curriculum development and the supervision of the instructional program. Funding for staff development, pre-K – 12, classroom libraries and enrichment opportunities for our students are included.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$338,605	\$338,258	(-.10%)

Employee Benefits – This section of the budget includes all the employee benefits for the administration and clerical staff as required by law or included in the negotiated employee agreements.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$286,300	\$291,908	1.96%

Total Administration	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$1,387,060	\$1,425,221	2.75%

Our Mission...

To Educate Every Student, Every Day!



Capital Budget

Capital Services - This section of the budget includes the maintenance and operation of the school's buildings and grounds, including the custodial staff, supplies, service contracts, utility charges and maintenance equipment. It also includes debt service on our capital equipment (buses and buildings) and the benefits for employees in this category.

Central Service - Operation and maintenance of all district buildings & grounds.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$816,725	\$843,976	3.34%

Debt Service - All principal and interest payments from building projects and bus purchases. The large increase is due to new principal and interest payments for our recently completed and continuing capital improvements.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$1,428,012	\$1,615,801	13.15%

Employee Benefits - This section of the budget includes all the employee benefits for the maintenance department as required by law or included in the negotiated employee agreements.

Total	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$286,300	\$291,908	1.96%

Total Capital	2022-23	2023-24	% Change
	\$2,531,037	\$2,751,685	8.72%





School Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$14,427,864	\$15,023,304	\$14,702,720
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$595,440	\$274,856
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.13%	1.91%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount			
	\$8,049,112	\$8,369,696	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
	\$149,360	\$156,828	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
	N/A	N/A	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
	N/A	N/A	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)			
	\$8,198,472	\$8,526,524	\$8,205,940
F. Total Permissible Exclusions			
	\$309,201	\$360,371	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions			
	\$7,739,911	\$8,009,325	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)			
	\$7,739,911	\$8,009,325	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **			
	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component			
	\$1,387,060	\$1,425,221	\$1,393,491
Program Component			
	\$10,509,767	\$10,846,398	\$10,557,544
Capital Component			
	\$2,531,037	\$2,751,685	\$2,751,685

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2023-24 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to section 2023 of the Educational Law

- Administrative Component at the maximum allowable
- Remaining difference eliminated from the program component

Description: Amount:
Library Proposition \$156,828

** List 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)

** NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

***Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings.**

Under the Budget Proposed for
the 2023-24 School Year
\$542.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Hamilton Central School District, Madison County, New York, will be held at Hamilton Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the district Bus Garage, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

***Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings.**

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



SPRING 2023

Hamilton Central School
47 West Kendrick Avenue
Hamilton, NY 13346

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Hamilton, NY 13346
Permit NO 53
ECRWSS

Postal Customer Rural Route or Box Holder

Board of Education:

Michelle Jacobsen, President
Jennifer Jones, Vice President
Ellen Larson
G. Cory Duclos
Travis Ames

Absentee Ballots:

Qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications must be received at least 7 days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the absentee voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the absentee voter. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the office of the Clerk of the District, during regular business hours, during each of the five days prior to the election, except Sundays.



Hamilton Central School District

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

Moderated by Patrick Longo of NYSSBA

To send in questions for the
candidates please visit our website!

Questions are due by Monday, May 8, 2023

 Wednesday, May 10, 2023	 HCS Auditorium	 6:00 - 7:30 PM
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Tom Furner



Sunghwan Choe



Travis Ames

There are two (2) seats available and both are for a three (3) year term.

Hamilton Central School District residents are welcome to attend.

BUDGET HEARING

- May 9th at 6:00 p.m.
- Dave McKay Board of Education Room

Vote/Election

- May 16th
- 12:00-8:00 p.m.
- Bus Garage

VOTER REQUIREMENTS

- 18 or older
- U.S. Citizen
- A Resident Of HCS For At Least 30 Days Before Voting