



## Eggert Elementary Hosts Annual International Night

Eggert Elementary hosted its third annual International Night on Thursday, April 18. The event offered opportunities for Eggert students and their families to learn about and celebrate different cultures, experience different foods, and participate in cultural crafts and activities. The event was attended by more than 400 students and families.



***Students and their families enjoyed the different activities offered at Eggert Elementary's International Night on April 18.***

throughout the year and the cultures of our Eggert students and families. The night would not have been possible without the help of many Eggert Elementary staff members and donations from the Eggert Elementary PTO and the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence.

Eggert Elementary houses Orchard Park Central School District's Elementary ENL or English as a New Language program. Elementary students in the district learning English as a new language attend classes at Eggert so they can have the support services needed to navigate school while learning a new language. The ENL teachers work diligently to ensure that all of the ENL students have the same opportunities for learning and success as their peers, and that grade-level curriculum and skills are accessible to them.

International Night has been a phenomenal way to create awareness of the diversity within our schools. Eggert Elementary alone has approximately 45 ENL students in attendance. This night is just one of the ways that our students and their families can feel proud to show off and share their cultures with the community. It is an exciting way for the students to learn about the world and each other.

Upon their arrival at International Night, families were able to view a school-wide art show featuring international-themed artwork created by Eggert students, participate in an international scavenger hunt and complete traditional crafts. Some of the crafts included creating Kente cloths from Ghana, Origami from Japan, Rangoli sand art from India, and more. In addition to crafts there were international foods to sample. The menu included chicken empanadas from Sabores de Mi Tierra, sushi, dumplings, and noodles from DAO Sushi & Grill, traditional Indian food from Taj of Orchard Park, and sausage with sauerkraut from Butcher Dave's. Families were able to visit countries around the world using virtual reality in the library, learn about Taekwondo from Master Chong's Taekwondo, check out the Slyboots Circus interactive drum ensemble in the gymnasium, and take pictures at a family photo booth. International Night offered so many fun and engaging activities!

The planning for this year's International Night began in the fall under the direction of Eggert Elementary ENL teachers, Stephanie Boundy and Susie Burns. The teachers worked with Eggert's International Club to provide a night that offered students and their families an opportunity to learn about countries that International Club had studied

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**2024-2025  
Annual School  
Vote and  
Election  
May 21, 2024**

# Superintendent of Schools

David Lilleck



I am pleased to present the 2024-25 school budget, which has been developed in collaboration with the Board of Education. After extensive planning and a strong focus on maximizing the potential of each student, while also being fiscally responsible, the budget was approved by the Board of Education during their meeting on March 26, 2024. This budget is the third lowest budget to budget increase in 18 years at 2.32%.

The well-being and safety of our students, staff, and faculty is always a priority as we create each budget. I am pleased to announce that the proposed operating budget includes the addition of two School Resource Officers (SROs). This means that each of our six school buildings will have a dedicated SRO. We are fortunate to have a close and collaborative relationship with the Orchard Park Police Department (OPPD), who play an integral role in our district's safety planning. This partnership would not be possible without the support of the Town and Village of Orchard Park.

The goals for the 2024-25 proposed budget are:

1. Align with the District's Comprehensive Improvement Plan and Board Goals.
2. Enhance safety by adding two additional School Resource Officers (SROs), with one assigned to each school building.
3. Continue to make progress in inclusive and academic programming from Pre-K to 12th grade.
4. Support existing programs.
5. Present a balanced operating budget to the community that adheres to the tax cap levy requirements.

The proposed budget of \$122,626,680 will help us achieve these goals.

In addition to the proposed operating budget, there will be two additional propositions on the May 21, ballot. Proposition II involves the purchase of 75 Bank Street, which is a key component of our long-term plan for the buildings and grounds department and our Family Solutions Center. This acquisition will serve as a permanent location for the District's Family Solutions Center, as well as allow the District the opportunity to eliminate the need for renting external storage facilities resulting in a yearly savings of \$204,000 in rental costs. The funds for this purchase, totaling \$1,500,000, will be sourced from capital project reserves, which can only be utilized for the purchase, repair, or building of property, and will have no new tax levy impact.

Proposition III outlines the District's cost-effective strategy to replace aging transportation vehicles on a 10-year schedule. If approved, eight buses will be purchased next year. This annual investment will have no new tax levy impact, as it will be funded through state aid reimbursements and previous bus purchase debt payoffs.

We appreciate your support as we strive to enhance our existing foundation of excellence, promote equity, embrace diversity, and eliminate barriers to ensure access and opportunities for all.

## May 21, 2024 Ballot

### Proposition # 1 - Proposed Operating Budget

The 2024-25 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District is \$122,626,680. This budget does not exceed the allowable tax cap (3.18%).



Scan the QR code to learn more.

### Proposition # 2 - Purchase of Property - 75 Bank Street, Orchard Park

\$1,500,000 (Use of capital reserve funding to purchase the property)

This purchase is a solution to our long-range plan for the buildings and grounds department. This property purchase will come from the capital project reserve fund which can only be used for capital purchases or repairs. If approved, Proposition II will have no new tax levy impact.

### Proposition # 3 - Purchase and Financing of Buses, Related Equipment and Supplies

Voters will decide on the purchases four (4) seventy-seven (77)-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$186,000 each; four (4) thirty-three (33)-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$117,000 each. These buses will be funded through state education department reimbursements and contractual agreements. This proposition is similar to propositions over the last 19 years; and, if approved, will have no new tax levy impact.

### Election of Two Candidates to the Board of Education

Scan the QR code to the right or see page 7 for Candidate Profiles.



Scan the QR code to learn more.

## Total Budget Expenditures

Components	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Program	\$89,181,989	\$92,018,730	\$2,836,741
Capital	\$19,162,249	\$18,399,670	-\$762,579
Administration	\$11,496,871	\$12,208,280	\$711,409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,841,109</b>	<b>\$122,626,680</b>	<b>\$2,785,571</b>

## Program Expenditures

### Proposed Operating Budget - Program Component

The program or instructional component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for the district's over 5,026 students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies, textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for employees assigned to this category are reported here.

Program	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Regular Education	\$47,750,600	\$48,074,614	\$324,014
Special Education	\$15,521,000	\$15,109,000	-\$412,000
Transportation	\$5,302,889	\$5,691,116	\$388,227
Benefits	\$20,607,500	\$23,144,000	\$2,536,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,181,989</b>	<b>\$92,018,730</b>	<b>\$2,836,741</b>

## Capital Expenses

### Proposed Operating Budget - Capital Component

The capital component of the budget includes maintenance and upkeep of the district's facilities and property including electricity, gas, water, sewer, and telephone services. It also includes principal and interest payments on capital projects and salaries and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

Program	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Operations & Maintenance	\$7,931,510	\$7,731,890	-\$199,620
Debt Service	\$8,359,239	\$7,472,780	-\$886,459
Benefits	\$2,871,500	\$3,195,000	\$323,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,162,249</b>	<b>\$18,399,670</b>	<b>-\$762,579</b>

## Administrative Expenses

### Proposed Operating Budget - Administrative Component

The administrative component of the budget provides for overall general support and management activities including the Board of Education, the superintendent's office, business and personnel departments, curriculum and staff development, and supervision and support in each of the six schools. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance, BOCES administrative costs, and salaries and benefits for all staff in the administrative offices.

Program	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Board & District Office	\$6,019,252	\$6,324,780	\$305,528
Building Supervision	\$2,522,619	\$2,597,000	\$74,381
Benefits	\$2,955,000	\$3,286,500	\$331,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,496,871</b>	<b>\$12,208,280</b>	<b>\$711,409</b>

## Estimated Revenue

School Districts are funded through State Aid, property tax, and other revenue sources including sales tax and fund balance.

Source	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$69,826,734	\$72,048,709	\$2,221,975
PILOTS	\$575,000	\$600,000	\$25,000
State & Federal Aid	\$35,125,535	\$33,814,971	-\$1,310,564
Erie County Sales Tax	\$7,000,000	\$7,300,000	\$300,000
Other Revenues	\$808,000	\$1,263,000	\$455,000
Fund Balance & Reserves	\$6,505,840	\$7,600,000	\$1,094,160
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$119,841,109</b>	<b>\$122,626,680</b>	<b>\$2,785,571</b>

## A Word From the Board President

Dr. Jennifer Rogers



It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of another school year! This year OP has seen much success both in and out of the classroom. The district has benefited from the steadfast and thoughtful leadership of Superintendent Lilleck and the administration team, as well as the dedicated teachers and staff who give so much to their students every day.

The Board of Education recently voted to adopt the 2024-2025 budget, which will be Proposition I on the ballot at the upcoming vote on May 21. Despite ongoing uncertainties in state funding, and the cessation of additional pandemic funding, we feel strongly that this budget will keep the district in a financially sound position while continuing to provide the high quality academic and extracurricular experiences Orchard Park is known for. Committing to the safety of our schools and students, this budget includes two (2) additional School Resource Officers (SROs) in partnership with the OPPD, so that each Elementary school will have a dedicated SRO. Over the past few years, district leadership has strategically applied the pandemic funding primarily to one-time costs or to start-up investments such as the creation of the Family Solutions

Center. The additional pandemic funding allowed the district to have a 0% tax levy increase the past few years. This year, the Board unanimously supported the proposal to keep the tax levy increase below the tax levy cap.

Proposition II on the ballot is for the Purchase of Property on Bank Street to provide much needed additional space for the Family Solutions Center (FSC), which has blossomed and outgrown its original location. The number of families served and the programs offered through the FSC have significantly increased. The district currently rents this unique property which also provides warehouse and office space for the buildings and grounds department. The purchase of the property would allow for the district to save an estimated \$200,000 per year in consolidation of rental fees, while earning the equity that comes with property investment. The district has the funds for this purchase in an existing capital reserve fund that can only be used for capital purchases or repairs. This means the district has an opportunity to save annual costs with the property purchase without adding an additional cost or tax impact to residents!

Proposition III on the ballot is for the Purchase and Financing of Buses. This is an annual proposition as part of the district's long-range plan to systematically update the bus fleet, keeping maintenance costs in check and our students safe during transport. NYS Transportation aid will be applied for the purchase of these 8 buses, therefore there will also be no new tax levy impact required for this purchase.

The final item on the ballot is the election of two (2) Trustees to the Board of Education. Effective school boards are essential to the success of a school district. Trustees are volunteers who have chosen to dedicate their time, energy, and expertise from a variety of backgrounds to support our students, schools, and community. This year there will be (two) 2 candidates on the ballot for the two (2) open positions.

The Board encourages everyone to become as informed as possible about the proposed budget, and all of the aforementioned propositions. Please mark your calendars to come out and vote on Tuesday, May 21!

## 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	\$ 119,841,109	\$ 122,626,680	\$ 120,404,705
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$ 2,785,571	\$ 563,596
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.32 %	0.47 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 69,826,734	\$ 72,048,709	
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)	\$ 69,826,734	\$ 72,048,709	\$ 69,826,734
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 3,604,137	\$ 3,603,204	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 66,222,597	\$ 68,445,505	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 66,222,597	\$ 68,445,505	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 11,496,871	\$ 12,208,280	\$ 11,546,811
Program Component	\$ 89,181,989	\$ 92,018,730	\$ 90,458,224
Capital Component	\$ 19,162,249	\$ 18,399,670	\$ 18,399,670

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The exact change to the 2024-25 budget would still need to be determined, however, there would be employee positions eliminated and all equipment purchases would be eliminated, with the exception of state aided computer hardware and equipment essential to assist children with special needs.

\*\* 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)

Description	Amount
Purchase of Improved Real Property (No 2024 Tax Impact)	\$ 1,500,000
Purchase & Financing of Vehicles, Related Equipment & Supplies (Bus Purchase) (No 2024 Tax Impact)	\$ 1,212,000
	\$
	\$

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

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 433
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Orchard Park Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Orchard Park High School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Orchard Park High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

# A Peek into Orchard Park Schools



- 1 STAP Comm organized and ran a pop-up thrift shop in April with help from both Mrs. Grossman's and Mrs. Chavanne's students. OPHS students and staff were able to purchase the donated, gently used clothing items for \$1.00, or one canned food item. The money and donations collected were then donated to the Windom Community Church Food Pantry, Hearts for the Homeless, and the Orchard Park Family Solutions Center.
- 2 Students in Mr. Dovey's Third Grade Boys' Club at Windom Elementary have enjoyed coming together each week to learn, build friendships and have fun. Earlier this spring the students proudly mastered the skill of tying their very own ties!
- 3 March 21 was World Puppetry Day. Students at South Davis Elementary created their very own puppets in art class to celebrate! South Davis hosted a school-wide puppet parade and celebration to showcase all of the incredible puppets that students created. This event was inspired by South Davis art teacher, Mr. Adam Kreutinger.
- 4 OPMS Art Club students responded to a request from Buffalo General Hospital's Emergency Room to paint ceiling tiles in order to lift the patients' spirits. The students got to work designing and painting ceiling tiles for the Emergency Room. Drawing inspiration from joyful art, students sketched, selected designs and colors, and painted the tiles to bring cheer to patients.
- 5 The Kids Heart Challenge turned out to be a tremendous success in it's first year at Ellicott. Ellicott was able to raise over \$19,000 for the American Heart Association! As an incentive to students, Mrs. Nigro and Mrs. George agreed to be taped to a wall (Mrs. Nigro) and get a pie to the face (Mrs. George) if Ellicott raised \$1,000. They raised well over their goal and everyone had a blast following through!



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# The Role of a Board of Education Member

The Board of Education is elected by District voters to govern schools and determine educational policies. Technically, Board of Education members are Local Officials, their authority and duties are defined by the state and federal constitutions and laws, as well as by rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Regents and commissioner of education and other regulatory agencies. Members of the Board of Education are volunteers and receive no salary for their work. They do not have the day-to-day duties of running a school district, rather their role is oversight and setting policy; the Superintendent is responsible for all aspects of the district and he reports to the Board. Information regarding the Board of Education candidates is available below.

## Board of Education Candidates – Elect Two

Below are the candidates running for the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education. They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot. District residents will elect two candidates to the Board. This information was provided by the candidates.

### 1A On The Ballot – Karen Sreniawski



**Candidate Address:** 4753 Mosey Lane, Blasdell, NY 14219

**Family Information:**

- Joe Sreniawski, Husband
- Three Children all OPCSD graduates: Jennifer, Megan and Kyle
- Eight Grandchildren, all currently enrolled in OP Schools.

**Career:**

- B.S. in Education, SUNY Fredonia
- M.S. in Education, University at Buffalo
- OPCSD Elementary Education Teacher
- Eggert Elementary and Orchard Park Middle School
- 22 years of service - retired July 2020

**Reasons for Running:**

For the past three years, I have had the privilege to serve as a Trustee of the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education. This time has been very rewarding, yet there is still meaningful work to be done.

During my 22 year teaching career, I strongly advocated for children. I regularly attended BOE meetings and spoke on behalf of students, parents and teachers. I have dedicated over 35 years of service to various community organizations in Orchard Park.

I have great respect for public education. I believe my experience will benefit the district as it navigates significant curriculum shifts and decisions. I support the implementation and expansion of diverse and inclusive educational experiences.

I understand the importance of fiscal responsibility, while keeping the best interests of all students at the forefront of my decisions. I appreciate your support in my re-election efforts to continue serving our students, schools, and community.

Learn more at [www.togetherforopschools.com](http://www.togetherforopschools.com)

### 2A On The Ballot – Ty Romanello



**Candidate Address:** 6907 Cole Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

**Family Information:** My wife's name is Melissa, and I have three children Giovanna, Isabella, and George.

**Career:** I work for M&T Bank.

**Reasons for Running:**

As a school board member I will work to make informed decisions driven by feedback and data from all of the stakeholders in our community, while staying fiscally responsible. I grew up in WNY and was enriched by family, teachers, and the education I received. Many of these teachers left an indelible impression in my life, helping mold me into the person I am today. I hope to bring that same passion advocating for students, teachers, staff, as well as parents of our community. I am honored to have received the endorsement of the Orchard Park Teachers Association (OPTA).

## Resident

### Date, Time and Location of Public Vote

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Orchard Park High School Gymnasium,  
4040 Baker Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127  
(Use Freeman Road Entrance)

### Voter Eligibility

- At least 18 years of age.
- A United States citizen.
- A District resident for at least 30 days before the date of the vote.

*\*Please bring proof of residency. (i.e. drivers license)*

### On The Ballot

#### Proposition I: Operating Budget

• The 2024-25 School District Budget for the Orchard Park Central School District is \$122,626,680. This budget does not exceed the allowable tax cap. (3.18%)

#### Proposition II: Purchase of Property, 75 Bank Street, Orchard Park

- Solution to long-range plan for buildings and grounds department - property purchase will come from the capital project reserve fund which can only be used for capital purchase or repairs. (no new tax levy impact)

#### Proposition III: School Bus Purchase

- Continues the 19 year Bus Replacement Program (no new tax levy impact)

#### Election of Two Board Members

(They are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot)

- 1A On The Ballot – Karen Sreniawski
- 2A On The Ballot – Ty Romanello

### Absentee Ballots and Early Mail Voter Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots or early mail voter ballots for the 2024-25 Annual School Vote may be obtained at the District Clerk's Office, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or no later than the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered by the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on May 21, 2024. Absentee Ballot and early mail voter ballot applications are also available on our District website: [www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org). For more information on absentee ballots or early mail voting, please contact the District Clerk at 716-209-6280.



*The Orchard Park Central School District has earned the Best Communities for Music Education title from The NAMM Foundation for its unwavering commitment to music education for the 8th consecutive year!*



*On Wednesday, April 17, eleven Orchard Park High School seniors committed to college athletic teams during the spring signing. Congratulations athletes!*

### Election Night Dinner and Donuts

The Orchard Park High School Post Prom is hosting a BW's Barbecue Dinner at the Vote. All proceeds benefit Post Prom, a PTO-sponsored drug and alcohol free party for seniors and their dates following the Prom. Order at the door or place your pre-sale order using the QR code below.

- Chicken Dinners are \$14 and include a 1/2 chicken, potato salad, coleslaw and a roll.
- Rib Dinners are \$15 and include a 1/4 rack ribs, potato salad, coleslaw, and a roll
- Dozen Krispy Kreme Donuts \$13

### Community Education



Explore, Sign Up, and Make Payments for Community Education Courses Effortlessly Online! Scan the QR code or visit [www.opschools.org/communityed](http://www.opschools.org/communityed)

