



Budget Edition

CENTRAL SCHOOLS

May 2021

# 2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

**BUDGET VOTE:**  
**Tuesday, May 18**  
**1-9 pm**  
**Jr/Sr High School Lobby**

**Voter**

**Qualifications:**  
Must be a citizen of the United States. Must be eighteen (18) years of age. Must be a resident of the district for a minimum of thirty days prior to May 18, 2021.

**Absentee Ballots Available:**

Contact the District Clerk for an application at 315-677-9728.

**Detailed Budget:**

A detailed budget may be obtained by any district resident at school district offices beginning April 17, 2021 during weekday hours of 8 am - 4 pm.

*Dear LaFayette Central School District Residents:*

We are pleased to announce that our proposed 2021-2022 school district budget is maximizing school district tax dollars for the benefit of our students. Here are a few examples of your tax dollars at work in our schools:

- ◆ 95% graduation for June 2020 graduates
- ◆ Several students in grades 8-12 received awards from the CNY Scholastic Arts Awards
- ◆ The High School Musical in April was a stellar online performance that showcased the talent of our students
- ◆ Students participated in STEM robotics competitions
- ◆ Student athletes had the chance to experience a safe return to student athletics in all sports
- ◆ Grimshaw Elementary, LaFayette Jr/Sr High School, and LaFayette Big Picture School offered live instruction both in our classrooms or online, five days a week. Kudos to our staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of our students. The Onondaga Nation School educated students online only at the request of the Onondaga Nation Council. Kudos to students and staff for working hard online!

As a district, we have used our mission and vision statements, and core beliefs to guide our decision making process. Our district mission is to educate, honor, and develop students who have self-respect, a commitment to the community, and a passion for excellence. Our district vision is to inspire, empower, and prepare all students to achieve excellence. Our tagline captures the distinct identity of our school community aligned to our common goal for our students- "Four Schools, Three Buildings, Two Nations, One Goal: Excellence!" Our strategic plan goals focus on improving student attendance, advancing student academic performance, and addressing the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our school community.

In order to achieve our school improvement efforts, we need your continued engagement and input as a school community. The district budget committee provided valuable guidance and support during the development of the 2020-2021 budget. A thank you goes out to the following individuals: community mem-



ber Tonia Anderson, Trustee Amy Roe-Ryan, and our district administrators and supervisors who participated during our budget committee meetings. Here are some highlights of our 2020-2021 school district budget:

- ◆ Sustained support of the health and safety needs of our school building occupants
- ◆ Small class sizes
- ◆ Maintain instructional programs
- ◆ Support elective options
- ◆ Continue our 1:1 technology initiative providing all students with an electronic device to support learning
- ◆ Continue our maintenance equipment replacement plan
- ◆ Keep our tax levy under the allowable tax cap
- ◆ Maintain one of the lowest school tax rates in Onondaga County
- ◆ Maintain and improve the financial condition of the district in alignment with our long term financial plan

Thank you to our Board of Education for their service, leadership, and continued support for our students. I appreciate the continued encouragement from our school community, parents and caregivers, students, and staff. You continue to set a standard of excellence that shines with our Lancer Pride! We look forward to seeing you at the polls for our school district budget vote. The budget vote will be held on Tuesday May 18, 2021 from 1:00-9:00 pm at the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School Lobby.

*Sincerely,*  
*Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools*

## STAR School Tax Exemption

You may be eligible for the following tax exemptions resulting in a reduction of your 2021/22 school tax bill. Contact your Town Assessor's office for more information. Estimates are based on a home assessed at \$100,000.

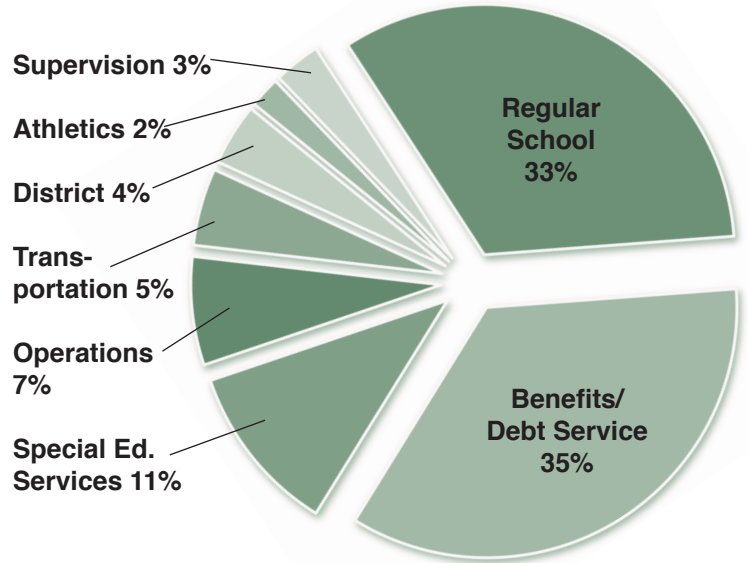
### Basic Exemption: \$556 Est. Tax Savings

- Available on all owner occupied primary residences
- No age or income requirements
- Must have applied to Town Assessor (One time only; renewal is automatic)

### Enhanced Senior Exemption: \$1,202 Est. Tax Savings

- Available on primary residence for 65+ years of age
- Household income of less than \$90,550 per year
- Must reapply annually to Town Assessor by March 1st

## Where the Money Goes



## Budget Analysis

SCHOOL YEAR	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>Budget Appropriations</b>	\$16,844,356	\$17,042,640	\$18,162,146	\$18,735,315	\$18,964,918	\$19,567,132	\$20,324,251	\$20,631,885
<b>\$ Budget Increase</b>	\$117,546	\$198,284	\$1,119,506	\$573,169	\$229,603	\$602,214	\$757,119	\$ 307,634
<b>% Budget Increase</b>	0.70%	1.18%	6.57%	3.16%	1.23%	3.18%	3.87%	1.51%
<b>Budgeted State Aid</b>	\$8,217,065	\$8,359,529	\$9,475,896	\$9,672,816	\$9,448,217	\$9,510,217	\$9,656,458	\$9,751,904
<b>\$ State Aid Increase</b>	(109)	\$142,464	\$1,116,367	\$196,920	(\$224,599)	\$62,000	\$146,241	\$95,446
<b>% State Aid Increase</b>	0.00%	1.73%	13.35%	2.08%	(2.32%)*	0.66%	1.54%	0.99%
<b>Tax Levy</b>	\$5,673,715	\$5,729,535	\$5,736,320	\$5,849,176	\$5,994,765	\$6,145,312	\$6,327,190	\$6,466,481
<b>\$ Tax Levy Increase</b>	\$110,155	\$55,820	\$6,785	\$112,856	\$145,589	\$150,547	\$181,878	\$139,291
<b>% Tax Levy Increase</b>	1.98%	0.98%	0.12%	1.97%	2.49%	2.51%	2.96%	2.20%

\*Offsetting Native American aid increase for State Aid decrease

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### GRIMSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ We have enjoyed in-person instruction 5 days a week all year. We currently have 87% of students learning in-person at Grimshaw.
- ◆ Students, parents and staff once again participated in the One School, One Book program aiming to build a community group of readers. Grades Pre-K to 2 all read the book *The Chocolate Touch* with their families, while Grades 3 through 6 read *No Talking*.
- ◆ Battle of the Books is popular again this year. This is where Grades 3-4 and 5-6 took part in the competition. Each grade had to read 10 different book titles and be quizzed against other schools in the County about those books.





## Board of Education Candidates

The terms of office for current board members, Ronald Shawn Reyburn, Mark Whitney and Amy Roe-Ryan will expire on June 30, 2021. There will be two 3 year terms (7/1/21-6/30/24) and one 1 year term (5/19/21-6/30/22). The two candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to the 3 year terms and the candidate receiving the third most votes will be elected to the 1 year term.

**Please note: the Candidate Biographies which follow, have been abbreviated to fit the available space. Please go to [www.lafayetteschools.org](http://www.lafayetteschools.org) or use the QR code to see the complete Bio for each candidate.**



### AMY ROE-RYAN



Most recently, I have been appointed to complete the remaining 2020-21 term of a mid-year vacancy on the LaFayette Board of Education. My goal in serving on the

board is to advocate for our children wherever and however I can. As a new board member, my initial plan to support and advocate for the students is to listen and learn from current board members, our Superintendent, Principals, Teachers, Staff, Parents, and Students, keeping in mind that each child is someone else's dear child. I want the best for each child and to nurture, challenge and inspire. My overall plan is to be an advocate for a solid educational foundation for all our children.

### RONALD (SHAWN) REYBURN



I was elected President of the BOE for this current year and have been a trustee for the last four years. I serve on the Health and Safety committee and on the OCM BO-

CES BOE. Sometimes this aspect of local small community politics is hard because we are limited in our ability to affect real change. Much of what we do is guided by the state and federal mandates, but I believe the BOE for LaFayette has tried to look after the needs and desires of our staff and students, while making the schools a central hub of knowledge and activity. I really enjoy the small and rural com-

## PLEASE VOTE

munities where I have served and feel I bring a unique perspective to the table with two children in the system who are not typical students.

### NICHOLAAS MOLTION



I wish to be a member of the school board because I feel it's important to take an active role in the way in which not only my own, but my children's peers

are taught, and to make sure that the curriculum accurately represents the values of our community. By achieving these goals, I feel that I, along with the other board members, will be able to adequately prepare the students for their futures.

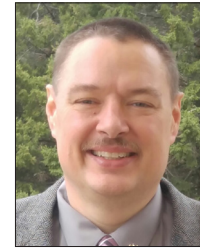
### JENNIFER MORGAN ORTLIEB



This school district is facing challenges now that didn't even exist when I attended. I curiously watched how the school weathered the pandemic and is still

functioning at a high level while other schools cannot seem to get it together. I am proud to be in this school district. I wish to serve the district and help overcome the inevitable new challenges that are yet to come. I am committed to the success of our school - and our town.

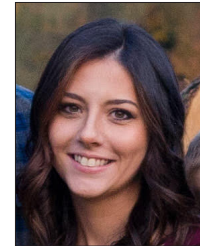
### RUSTY J. HAAS



I am interested in serving on the board partially because I have a daughter in the high school. I want to bring my knowledge of the traditions of our

community to the mix on the board. I want to know more about how our education system works, and to help in any way that I can to keep quality in the education, support our students in their endeavors, and to look for opportunities for them to excel in life. As the board motto states, "I want to foster self-respect and a sense of community with the students."

### SARAH STANTON



I would like to serve on the school board for many reasons. First and foremost being that I have young children in the district. I want to have a say in changes that

will directly affect, not only my own children, but those that I coach or have coached, and those I care for during the day. With new generations come new challenges. We are key adults in their lives; it is important that we address issues with each other with the same thoughtfulness as if it were our own child we were talking about every time. I will advocate for the teachers, I will advocate for the parents and I will advocate for your child.

## Program Component

This budget category is the largest of the three budget components, representing 70.9% of the total components. It includes all expenditures directly related to the student educational program. Included are monies for all instructional personnel and programs including regular instruction, occupational education, special education, technology, staff development and summer school. Also included are student services such as health, guidance, library, co-curricular, athletics, transportation, census and the employee benefits for those programs.

	2020/21 Adopted Budget	2021/22 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
<b>Regular Instruction K-12</b> Salaries, textbooks, supplies, equipment, BOCES, tuition, contractual expense, occ ed	\$5,652,753	\$5,541,301	(\$111,452)
<b>Special Education</b> Salaries, supplies, equipment, textbooks, tuition, contractual services, BOCES	\$2,202,037	\$2,168,373	(\$33,664)
<b>Technology</b> Staff stipends, computer equipment, BOCES support, software	\$520,549	\$507,184	(\$13,365)
<b>Prevention</b> Summer School, BOCES Services	\$6,989	\$50,000	\$43,011
<b>Student Support Services</b> Books, BOCES, computer equipment, contractual services, periodicals, salaries, software, and supplies	\$704,044	\$702,538	(\$1,506)
<b>Co-Curricular</b> Advisors, supplies, equipment	\$88,751	\$91,499	\$2,748
<b>Athletics</b> Coaches, equipment, officials, uniforms	\$342,782	\$344,087	\$1,305
<b>Pupil Transportation</b> Salaries, bus maintenance, supplies, repairs, fuel	\$1,039,407	\$1,082,801	\$43,394
<b>Employee Benefits</b> NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp	\$4,002,440	\$4,132,302	\$129,862
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$14,559,752</b>	<b>\$14,620,086</b>	<b>\$60,334</b>

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### BIG PICTURE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ We are so proud to have our students in-person every day all school year. This accomplishment has been so beneficial socially, emotionally and academically!
- ◆ Our seniors have been working on their year-long Senior Thesis Projects which include making improvements to our school garden and greenhouse, building bed frames and donating them to children in need, and creating a Sensory Pathway at Grimshaw.
- ◆ Even during the pandemic, our students are interning at Grimshaw, our in-house coffee shop, the IT department at Morrisville, K. H Motorsports, Photography, and our in- house garden.

- ◆ We are a partner with the Onondaga Community College Early College Program and currently have 14 students earning college credits for free from OCC!



# Administrative Component

As defined by NYS Education Department, this budget category includes monies for the majority of the instruction support services in the District. It is comprised of a general support section, an instructional supervision section and a section for employee benefits for personnel in associated areas. This component represents 8.9% of the components. The categories marked with \* and \*\* represent 78% and 65%, respectively, of the amount needed to operate these services; the balance is charged to the State for administering and maintaining financial records for the Onondaga Nation School.

	2020/21 Adopted Budget	2021/22 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
<b>Board of Education*</b> Membership, District Clerk, district meetings	\$23,302	\$23,899	\$597
<b>Central Administration*</b> Chief school administration, salaries, supplies, contractual services	\$165,036	\$168,526	\$3,490
<b>Finance**</b> Salaries - payroll, accounts payable, tax collection, auditing, purchasing, business administration, supplies, contractual services	\$251,033	\$256,827	\$5,794
<b>Legal / Personnel / Public Information*</b> Contractual services, negotiations, employee assistance program, public information	\$85,861	\$87,648	\$1,787
<b>Central Services</b> Paper, copying supplies, contractual services	\$67,246	\$70,000	\$2,754
<b>Special Items</b> Insurance, appraisals, BOCES administrative charges	\$126,186	\$143,265	\$17,079
<b>Curriculum Development / Planning</b> Staff stipends, supplies, BOCES, contractual services	\$102,287	\$134,596	\$32,309
<b>Supervision of Instruction</b> Salaries, supplies, equipment, materials	\$534,981	\$549,754	\$14,773
<b>Employee Benefits</b> NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp.	\$381,185	\$393,553	\$12,368
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$1,737,117</b>	<b>\$1,828,067</b>	<b>\$90,950</b>

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ We have been able to offer in-person learning 5 days a week since the beginning of the school year and each marking period, the High School has been able to accommodate those wishing to return to in-person learning when requested.
- ◆ The Music Department has held music lessons all year and also offered Jazz Band, Vocal Ensemble and began a Ukulele Club which meets weekly.
- ◆ The Robotics Team still competed in competitions, only 1 of 4 schools with LIVE robotics.

...Continued on page 6





## Capital Component

The Capital budget category, as defined by NYS Education Department, consists primarily of monies for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Also included are related employee benefits, refund of property taxes and debt services payments on long-term obligations. This component represents approximately 20.3% of the components.

	2020/21 Adopted Budget	2021/22 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
<b>Operation of Plant</b> (Custodial) Salaries, supplies, equipment, utilities, contractual services	\$1,086,531	\$1,056,031	\$(30,500)
<b>Maintenance of Plant</b> (Buildings) Salaries, supplies, equipment, repairs, contractual services, special projects	\$421,144	\$409,444	\$(11,700)
<b>Refund of Real Property Taxes</b>	\$9,500	-	\$(9,500)
<b>Employee Benefits</b> NYS Retirement, Health/Dental Insurance, FICA, Unemployment, Worker's Comp.	\$381,185	\$393,553	\$12,368
<b>Debt Service</b> Bonds & Notes, Principal and Interest, Bus Debt	\$2,129,023	\$2,324,705	\$195,682
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$4,027,383</b>	<b>\$4,183,733</b>	<b>\$156,350</b>

**TOTAL: THREE PART COMPONENT BUDGET      \$20,324,251      \$20,631,885      \$307,634**

## LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS • LCS ACHIEVEMENTS

### JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Our Mentoring Program started in January and we are seeing great results: each student is paired with a mentor who can help them to set goals, remove barriers, and create an overall positive connection with the school environment.
- ◆ The National Honor Society inducted 10 members and has been involved with blood drives and collections for COVID patients.
- ◆ The Spring Musical, "Lucky Stiff" was streamed online for a virtual audience.
- ◆ Scholastic Art Awards were earned by our students: 3 Gold Keys, 5 Silver Keys, and 7 Honorable Mentions
- ◆ Students participated in many events including For High School Seniors, the Community Folk Art Center, the Native American Show, the 2021 CNY Art Guild Student Art Show Competition, a Fall and Spring photography contest, as well as the Scholastic Art Awards.



## 2021/2022 Propositions

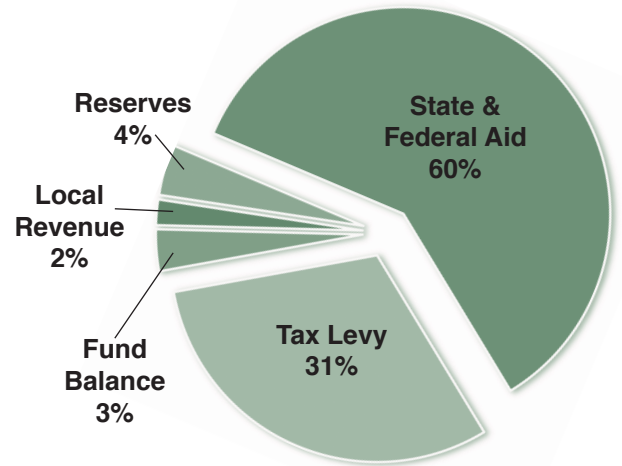
### Proposition I - Budget

Shall the proposed budget of \$20,631,885 for the LaFayette Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefor?

### Proposition II - Transportation

The District would like to replace two (2) 66 passenger buses and one (1) mower with attachments. Shall the Board of Education be authorized to purchase two (2) student transportation vehicles and one (1) mower with attachments (the "Vehicles"), including related furnishings and equipment incidental thereto, expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$300,510 which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such Vehicles by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted and approved in the amount of \$300,510 which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$300,510, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

## Where the Money Comes From



## How is the Budget Funded?

**2021/22 Proposed**

### Summary of State & Federal Aid

New York State Aid	\$9,751,904
Other State Aid	\$2,695,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$30,000

**TOTAL AID \$12,476,904**

### Local Sources

County Sales Tax	\$26,000
Interest & Earnings	\$30,000
Other Local Revenues	\$361,500

**TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES \$417,500**

### Use of Reserves

Debt Service Reserve	
Retirement Reserve	\$442,500
Unemployment Reserve	\$25,000
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve	\$253,500

**TOTAL RESERVES \$721,000**

### APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE

Offset Tax Levy	\$550,000
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**TOTAL BEFORE TAXES \$14,165,404**

**PROPERTY TAXES \$6,466,481**

**TOTAL REVENUES \$20,631,885**

## Capital Outlay

Capital outlay projects are currently allowed for just one building each year up to \$100,000. All of the proper paperwork must be filed with the State Education Department in advance and be approved before the work can be done. The advantage is that the aid is received in full for this project in the following year, whereas with all other capital projects, the project aid is spread out over 15, 20 or 30 years depending upon the type of construction involved.

This year's capital outlay project will consist of converting the remainder of the lighting at the Jr/Sr High School to LED. This will provide cost savings as well as enhancing the lighting within the school. This project will complete the LED lighting conversion at the Jr/Sr High School.

OCCUPANT  
Rural Route/Boxholder  
LaFayette, NY 13084

## Overall School District Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2020/21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021/22 School Year	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total Budget Amount</b>	\$20,324,251	\$20,631,885	\$307,634	1.5%
Administrative Component	\$1,737,117	\$1,828,067	\$90,950	5.2%
Program Component	\$14,559,752	\$14,620,086	\$60,334	0.4%
Capital Component	\$4,027,383	\$4,183,733	\$156,350	3.9%
	<b>Actual Beginning Balance 2020/21</b>	<b>Estimated Beginning Balance 2021/22</b>		
Restricted Fund Balance	\$5,708,561	4,700,000		
Assigned Fund Balance	\$648,931	650,000		
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$788,005	815,000		
Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of Total Budget**	3.88%	3.95%		
Change in Consumer Price Index	1.23%			

\*\*Legal limit for 2021/22 is 4%

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021/22 by the qualified voters of the LaFayette Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, will be held at LaFayette JR/SR High School in said district on May 18, 2021 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Proposed Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		
Current 2020/21	Est. Proposed 2021/22	Est. Annual Change
\$18.60	\$19.01	\$0.41

