

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission



To provide an excellent education to all that encompasses developing confident, creative, competitive and caring students.

Vision

To develop a nationally recognized school system focused on: A collaborative environment that fosters the academic, emotional and social growth of each student through quality and purposeful educational experiences. Students becoming independent, productive and globally competitive citizens. Instilling the belief that each student is invaluable.

Core Beliefs

North Tonawanda Lumberjacks are:

- Lifelong learners
- Understanding
- Motivated
- Brave
- Empowered
- Respectful
- Just
- Academically sound
- Caring
- Knowledgeable
- Strong

Voter Qualifications

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.

Superintendent's Message

This spring was full of unexpected changes. While we always start the budget process in December for the next school year, it was March that came in full of surprises. Considering the financial difficulties that COVID-19 has caused for many families and local businesses, the Board of Education quickly moved to a zero-increase budget. This meant that a few new initiatives would have to be put on the shelf for future consideration. We developed a budget with a zero-tax increase in late March. Then in April we got word that cuts to school funding from the state level would go even deeper than expected. The Board, with district administrators, worked to still maintain the zero-tax increase to the community. We were able to maintain the current level of programming but cut further back on some new initiatives. We have no way of knowing how deep the mid-year cuts may be in the 20-21 school year, but feel we are positioned well to weather the storm. We have two money saving propositions for future saving as well. The energy product will convert the district to LED lighting which will save thousands in energy bills for future budgets. We are also prepared to purchase our buses that are coming off a lease. We have put the needed funds in savings and just need approval from the voters to use it. This is also a purchase that generates aid back from the state, so it is a win-win.

I realize that the last months of the 2019-2020 school year were not what any of us anticipated. In the future we will look back on this time in our lives as a milestone. It will be remembered by all as the first time in our lives that the country was put into quarantine. We all hope that the 20-21 school year and the future graduates of the incoming kindergarten class will have a great graduation in 2033. To the graduating class of 2020, we know this was not what you envisioned but we know that history has taught us that great things occur out of the darkest of events. We wish you all the best and look forward to hearing of the great things this graduating class will accomplish in the future. Congratulations on your accomplishments and stay Lumberjack strong!

Sincerely, Gregory J. Woytila, Superintendent of Schools



School Board President's Message



There is an old saying "It takes a village to raise a child". It could not be truer than the times we find ourselves in. I want to say thank you to all the parents who have helped facilitate at home learning; to our teachers and staff working around the clock to give lessons, distributing lunches, and more things than I have room to mention here. We hope to see all the students back in the classroom in the fall.

The Board of Education has been hard at work on the 2020-2021 budget since January, while North Tonawanda and all districts across New York State grapple with the funding cuts due to COVID-19. The district is very aware of the financial struggles our community is and will go on to face because of this global pandemic. Therefore, we have proposed a zero-tax increase from the 2019-2020 budget while continuing to provide education that focuses on the whole child.

The budget will also include two propositions for your vote. The first proposition includes voter approval to spend capital reserves created last year and approval toward the purchase of a school bus fleet. This purchase will have zero tax implications. The second proposition is approval of an energy savings project which is saving the district on utilities and becoming greener. If approved, the district will receive an added 10% in aid toward this project. This savings will be used to fund important educational programs and also features zero tax implications.

Lastly to the class of 2020; I know this isn't how you expected to end your high school career. Our community could not be prouder of your accomplishments. We can't wait to see the amazing things you will all do to change the world.

Sincerely,
Matthew Kennedy, Board President



Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Qualified voters will vote only by absentee ballot.

Spruce Student Receives Praise for His Book on Tops

Spruce student Robert Miller recently wrote about a book on the grocery store chain Tops. It was for his Writing Workshop with his second grade teacher Michelle Logan. Ms. Logan was so impressed with Robert's story that she forwarded it to her brother who is a food broker for Tops Markets. "I sent him a photo of the nonfiction (expert) book that Robert worked so hard on. He then sent it to some Tops administrators who absolutely loved it. They actually featured it on their website and social media pages."

She says she, his classmates and his parents were very excited about this great opportunity. "This has really boosted Robert's confidence and self-esteem, especially as a writer! When I mentioned it to him, his entire face lit up with a huge smile. He is so proud and so am I!"



Mama Mia! What a Hit!

The Fine Arts Center turned into a magical place filled with ABBA music as the talented musical department performed the musical "Mama Mia!" The crowd was on its feet singing along as the beloved oldies were played. The cast, musicians and crew were outstanding!



Buffalo Bandits Pay A Visit

Drake School third graders were recently treated to a visit from several members of the Buffalo Bandits.

The players pushed into the third grade physical education classrooms and taught the students a little bit about lacrosse. They also stressed the importance of physical fitness and lifelong activity. The students got to practice some basic lacrosse skills and interact with the players. Our students enjoyed this excellent opportunity!



Bandits player Matt Gilray with some Drake third graders.

NTI Students Step in the Virtual World

When most people hear about exploring the virtual world, they think about gaming. At the North Tonawanda Intermediate School it has become a state-of-the-art teaching tool. The school is the only one in Western New York to have the Oculus Quest virtual reality headsets. Teacher Steve Sabo says that his class is using them to explore countries around the world. “We have been using them primarily for virtual field trips. We recently went to Egypt and the students got to walk through many of the landmarks and experience as they would as if they are there. It has been a real benefit to our social studies curriculum.”



Mr. Sabo says the students love it and he loves hearing their reaction to seeing how tall the pyramids are or how small the sphinx is in relation to them. “That was a big surprise to them. They also got to go up and down the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and were fascinated how green the land surrounding it is in a desert. It gives them a frame of reference. It is where civilization began.” The students have begun to explore Greece.

The devices are also being used to learn science. “We use something called engaged virtual reality and integrate that with our science curriculum,” explains Mr. Sabo. “If we are exploring the human body, we don’t have to deal with the blood and guts, we can just pull out the organs. They can manipulate it and then pass it on to the next student. We are so grateful to our school purchasing these for the students. It is really cool, it allows them to be more immersive in their learning.”



Students Learn Valuable Lesson in Mindfulness

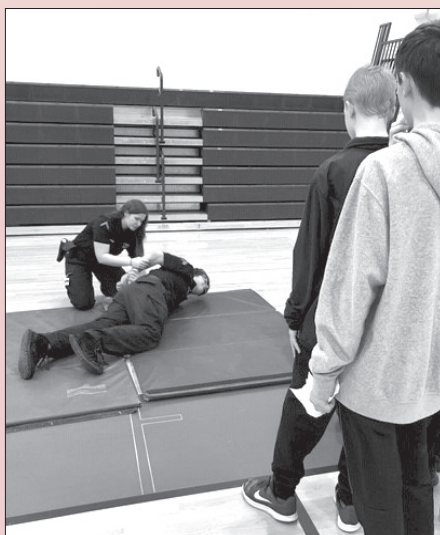
This year at Spruce Elementary, two new social and emotional learning components have been added to their curriculum. First off, social worker Amy Gorman has been instructing students on what it means to be mindful and in the present moment. Mindfulness has been seen to assist in positive cognitive outcomes such as better attention and focus in school which can improve grades, decrease stress and lower test anxiety. Mindfulness also enhances social emotional skills of regulating emotions and understand empathy.

Furthermore, school counselor Christopher Zon has incorporated lessons that focus on the “Seven Habits of a Healthy Student.” Each habit allows students to explore what it means to be a leader and how to represent essential leadership skills (Being Proactive, Listening Before you Speak, Cooperating, Putting First things First, etc.) “These seven habits/lessons allow students to recognize all the amazing things about themselves and can help them grow into the leaders we hope to see here at Spruce! These lessons which have been implemented have displayed success socially and emotionally for many students!” says Mr. Zon.



Learning About Career and Technical Education

The North Tonawanda Middle School recently welcomed students from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. The Orleans/Niagara BOCES students talked about their programs, gave demos and had some interactive activities for the students to try.



Spruce Elementary Students Plant Seeds of Kindness

The Spruce Elementary students in Mrs. Story and Ms. LeMar's third grade class have been working on a persuasive writing project for class. They chose the topic of bullying and how they can prevent it and how to make their school a kinder one.

They wrote how they felt it was important to acknowledge acts of kindness and encourage students to continue to being kind to others. They were particularly inspired by musician Jared Campbell. "He showed us that kindness travels like a wave, from one person to another. It reflects student to student, which spreads to the adults and makes our school happy!"



Principal Patti Adler with Mrs. Story and Ms. LeMar's class.

The students came up with a proposal to their principal, Mrs. Adler, that they make cut out spruce trees, since they go to Spruce, and every time someone exhibited an act of kindness they add a tree to the hall display. "We feel that more students will have an opportunity to be recognized," the class wrote. "At our character assemblies, only one student from each classroom gets acknowledged. We believe it is important because it tells kids to "keep it up" since someone might notice. We will be able to see and hear about many students' good deeds."

Mrs. Adler was duly impressed with the hard work and persuasive writing that the students put into the proposal. "I thought it was a wonderful idea and now we are having the spruce tree cutouts in each classroom. When someone is seen doing a good deed or being kind, their name and act gets written down and placed in the office. I read it out loud to the school on the announcements and then the tree gets hung in the hallway."

The students were thrilled that she agreed to their idea. "Being kind to others makes everyone feel special and spectacular. It gives you a feeling of warmth in your heart."

Who's Got Game?

The Unplugged Gaming Club at the North Tonawanda Intermediate School has been having a blast this year. Thanks to teacher Steve Sabo who runs the program.



First Responder Day

The NT high school students were given an opportunity to interact with first responders in the community. It was all part of a career day organized by the school's Guidance Office.

Students had the opportunity to interact with members of the Armed Forces, law enforcement, Mercy Flight and the Red Cross. It was a great way for them to explore careers.



All County Band

The NCMEA All County elementary band students, from the North Tonawanda Intermediate School, recently performed under the direction of Mrs. April Carere. Their concert was held on February 1, 2020 at Niagara Wheatfield High School.



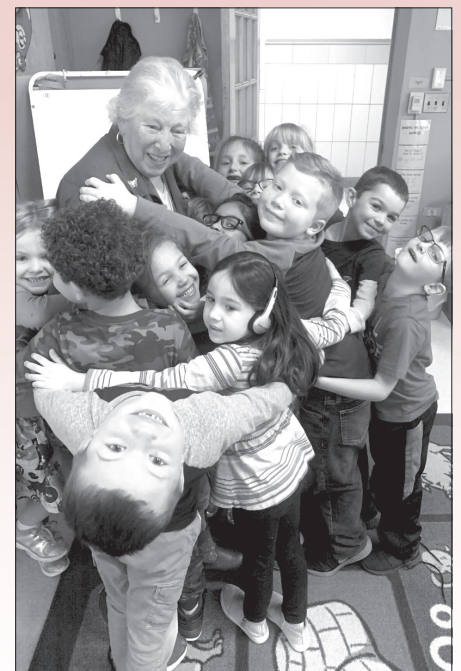
(Front Row from left to right): Nora Davidson, Emma Stahl, Mason Goraj, Meredith Roberts. Back Row: Luke Caskie, Jason Ruisi, Marissa Fiorentino, Amber Gambino, Joselyn Bird. Behind all of them: Mrs. April Carere.

Spruce's Grandma Olga Immortalized in Book

Mrs. Kiedrowski's students have been very fortunate to work with HANCI (Health Association of Niagara County Inc.) volunteer, Olga Ciovacco, for over fifteen years at Spruce Elementary.

In fact, Olga has worked with Spruce School students years before that. Those who have worked with her says she is humble, kind, generous, and talented. Olga emigrated from Italy and settled in North Tonawanda where she loves to socialize and give back to the community. "She is such an asset within the first grade classroom," says Mrs. Kiedrowski. "The children enjoy reading to her and talking to her."

The first graders just began writing "All About" books during Writing Workshop." The students were asked to write on subjects they are experts in. Janda Sanchez wrote a book entitled "All About Grandma Olga." I stated, "Grandma Olga is our helper. She works so hard. She is the best, really she is!"



Budget Vote and Board Election

**Tuesday,
June 9**

**Qualified voters
will vote only by
absentee ballot.**



All County Chorus

Under the direction of Music teacher Virginia Hendra, the All County students from the North Tonawanda Intermediate School performed at the Lewiston-Porter High School on February 29, 2020.



Top Row: Audrey Stringfellow, Macy Gabel, Madison Swartz, Autumn Deschamps, Avery Janowsky and Hannah Bozek. Bottom Row: Amelia Bell, Jason Ruisi, Eeve Cicali, Emma Stahl and Meredith Roberts.

5th Grade All County Chorus

We are so proud of our 5th grade chorus! What a talented bunch of students and congrats to their teacher Marissa Greenwald!



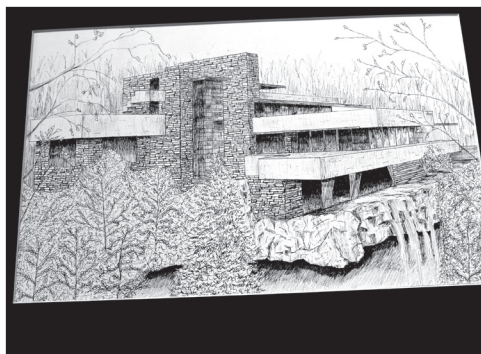
(LtoR) Aiden Raymond, Savannah Ashby, Graeme Ashby, Reyna Borowiec, Amelia Cicali, Joselyn Bird, Jessica Lyndhurst, Emma Bush, Madelyn Samsel, Addison Hart. Not pictured is Paige Raymond, Music Teacher: Marissa Greenwald on the top left.

Art Reception Huge Success!



There were over 300 in attendance at the Carnegie Art Center March 11th. People were in awe of the amazing artwork that our students produced that were on display.

Fantastic job to students and staff for the great show!



Welcome to Vowel Town!



The Spruce first graders in Mrs. Kiedrowski's class worked together to make a "Vowel Town" during Phonics Workshop. They used blueprints and all that they know about vowel teams to design a community with all of the components labeled with their newly learned vowel skills. A perfect celebration for the end of a unit!

Joseph Pray Named New High School Assistant Principal

Joseph Pray says he is excited and proud to be joining the North Tonawanda family as the new Assistant Principal at the high school.



"I consider it a great privilege to add to North Tonawanda's rich education. At the moment, I am in an interesting situation because of schools being closed. So I've really only worked one day in school. The teachers, staff and administrators I have met were extremely welcoming and open to answering any questions I had. The continued communication through emails and phone calls shows the strength and dedication of the NT family. I look forward to meeting the rest of the faculty, staff and students when we return to school."

Mr. Pray is originally from the Rochester area where he graduated from Williamsville Senior High School in 2002. He attended SUNY at Buffalo (UB) for all undergrad, graduate and doctoral coursework and received a B.S. in Biomedical Science, Master's (Ed.M) in Biology Education, Master's (Ed.M) in Educational Administration and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program (Ed.D) at UB, which he will complete by May 2022. He taught Biology, Chemistry and Forensics for eleven years at Williamsville South High School.

He says sports and music are a big passion of his. "I coached Boys' Varsity and JV Lacrosse and Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey at Williamsville South. I pole vaulted in high school and college and I still play soccer, tennis and golf. I have found a passion for archery and have traveled to many competitions where I have won some medals. I also enjoy playing the piano, guitar, ukulele and trumpet."

Welcome Mr. Pray! We know you will be a great addition to our district!

PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$81,016,940 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

PROPOSITION #2 VOTE ON BUDGET

TRANSFER OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS (ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES)

Shall the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York (the "District") be authorized to appropriate funds from the District's "Capital Reserve Fund-2019" in the maximum amount of \$1,200,000 and to expend these funds for the following purposes: (1) twenty-one large 66 passenger Type C school buses; (2) two Type A school buses; and (3) one small Type A wheel chair school bus.

This will allow the District to keep the tax levy at a 0% increase and purchase buses using reserves. This is part of the long-term financial plan put in place last year to use savings to finance the purchase of the fleet.

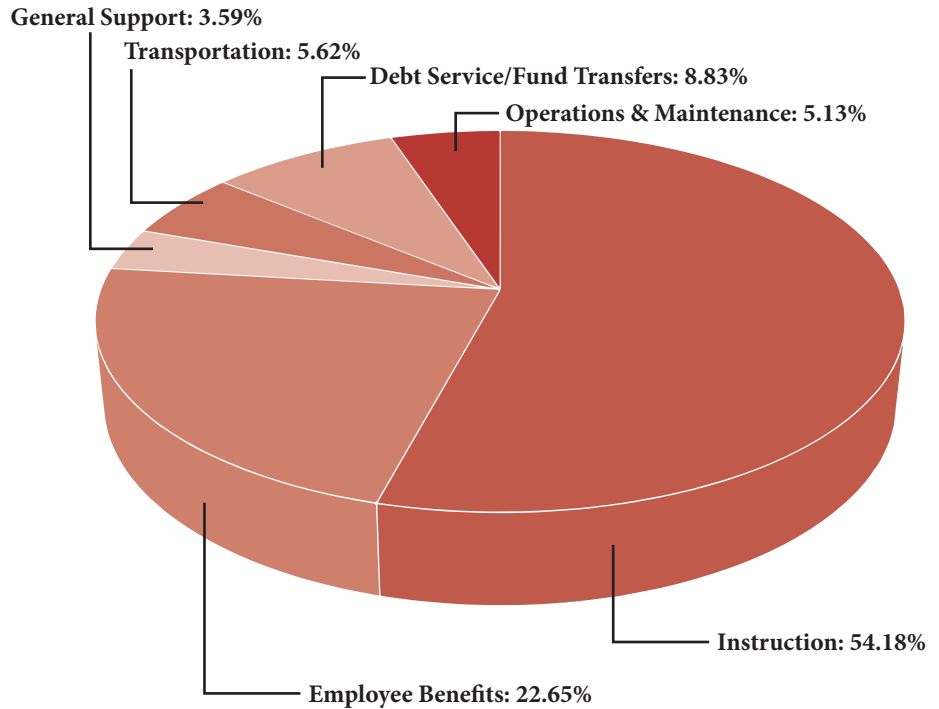
PROPOSITION #3 VOTE ON BUDGET

ENERGY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2020 (OBTAINING ADDITIONAL STATE BUILDING AID)

Shall the Board of Education (the "Board") of the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York (the "District"), be authorized by the voters of the District to undertake a particular energy performance improvements project (the "Proposition No. 3 Project") pursuant to Article 9 of the Energy Law (such voter authorization not being necessary to allow the project to go forward, since such a project can be undertaken by the Board of Education acting on its own, but rather to allow the District to receive an extra 10% increment of building aid from the State of New York for such project), the cost of which is to be paid for from long-term energy cost savings that will be generated through certain conservation measures.

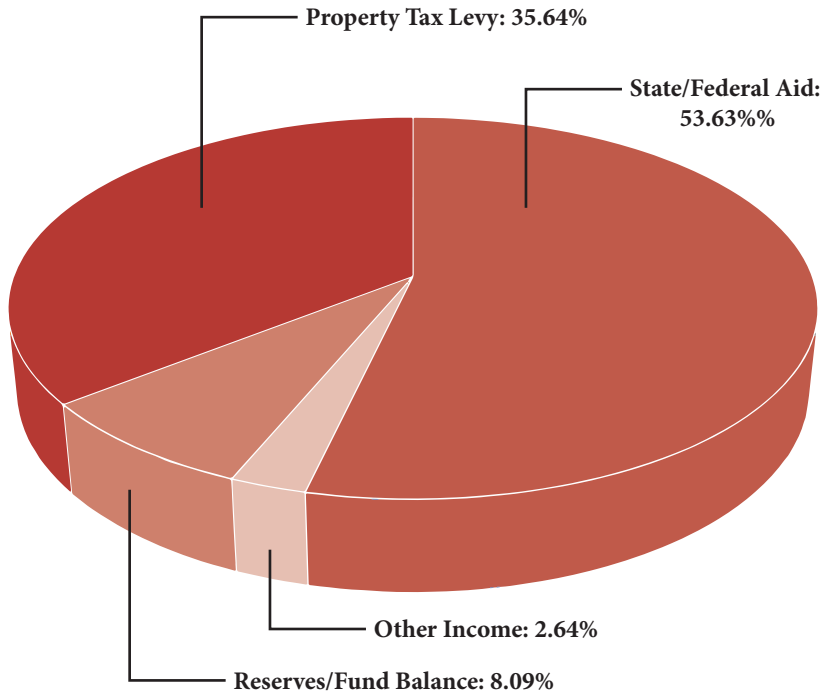
This is only a portion of the entire proposition, but it captures the main idea. Voter approval of the energy project will allow the District to get an additional 10% state aid on the cost of the project. This extra aid along with the energy and maintenance savings from the new LED lights and boilers at NTI and Ohio will help the District keep taxes low in future budgets. This is also part of the long-term financial plan to continue to cut operational costs.

EXPENDITURES



	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent Change from 2019-20
Instruction	\$42,560,212	\$43,897,021	3.14%
Includes: K-12 Instructional program, supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, special education programs, occupational education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, pupil personnel services.			
Employee Benefits	\$18,705,266	\$18,350,000	(1.90%)
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.			
General Support	\$2,765,315	\$2,911,044	5.27%
Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.			
Transportation	\$3,090,662	\$4,550,650	47.24%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$7,165,736	\$7,154,523	(0.16%)
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, includes District's share of special education summer programs.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,144,109	\$4,153,702	(19.25%)
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$79,431,300	\$81,016,940	2.00%

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2019-2020	2020-2021	Change from 2019-20
State/Federal Aid	\$43,450,993	\$43,452,270	\$1,277

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2020-21 school year, it is projected to be 53.63% of all revenue. Last year it was 54.70%. This year, the aid was expected to be flat and increase by only \$1,277 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an area that must be monitored closely as the year progresses due to potential mid-year cuts.

Other Income	\$2,104,682	\$2,139,045	\$34,363
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Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipts.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$5,000,000	\$6,550,000	\$1,550,000
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Reserves: The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

Fund Balance: Funds which are budgeted but unexpended at the end of the budget year, and revenues which are realized in excess of those budgeted for the year, are available at the end of the fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance.

Tax Levy (Includes Prorated Taxes)	\$28,875,625	\$28,875,625	\$0
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This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2020-21 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a zero percent tax levy increase in recognition of the difficult economic times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The District will be using reserves to offset the loss of tax revenue to support the budget as a temporary measure to provide relief to taxpayers.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$79,431,300	\$81,016,940	\$1,585,640
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\$100,000 Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement Projects

What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2020-2021 school budget this year?

Capital outlay projects were established by NYSED Department of Facilities Planning as a method for districts to maintain facilities, make modest upgrades, and improvements of up to \$100,000 between larger capital projects. The most important aspect of these projects is that they will generate state aid for the school district to cover a portion of the cost of construction. In the past these necessary repairs and improvements would all be paid for through local funds as building repairs in the budget, or the district would have to delay repairs until the district could put together a large capital project. Now, using capital outlay projects the district will only pay for approximately 16% of the costs with local funds because the state will provide aid for approximately 84% providing a funding source for the district to reduce the local cost to taxpayers. In the 20-21 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for a construction/reconstruction project to address technology control rooms which would include but not limited to wiring, heating and ventilation systems in school buildings. In addition to work within the buildings, it is anticipated some site work will be done to address the needs of the grounds around the associated buildings.

As part of North Tonawanda City School District's annual budget, the District will also be transferring \$500,000 to be used for the 2020 Capital Improvement Project at the Meadow Complex and Spruce Elementary. The funds allow the district to perform maintenance on facilities throughout the district which are eligible for state building aid. The 2020 Capital Improvement Project will assist asset preservation at Spruce Elementary and Meadow Complex. Work at Meadow Complex includes parking lot upgrades, exterior lighting, signage replacement, floor refinishing, reconfiguration of space and equipment replacement. Work at Spruce Elementary will include playground replacement and construction of a secure entry at the main office. The 2020 Capital Improvement Project will have no marginal increase to the tax levy.

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education anticipated candidates can be found on the district website: www.ntschoools.org.

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies on the Board. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

Anticipated candidates listed below are in alphabetical order:

1. Matthew Kennedy
2. Zachary Niemiec
3. Jeremy Geartz
4. Jacob Quinn

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$79,431,300	\$81,016,940	\$79,289,876
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$1,585,640	(\$141,424)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.00%	-0.18%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$28,875,625	\$28,875,625	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$28,875,625	\$28,875,625	\$28,875,625
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$678,285	\$225,112	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$28,432,061	\$28,789,101	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$28,197,340	\$28,650,513	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$234,721	\$138,588	
Administrative Component	\$7,267,798	\$7,459,026	\$7,436,026
Program Component	\$58,356,427	\$59,891,336	\$59,707,772
Capital Component	\$13,807,075	\$13,666,579	\$12,146,079

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$1,727,064 reduced from student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$547

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-2021 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City Schools, Niagara County New York, will be held pursuant to Executive Order 202.26, issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo on May 1, 2020 ordering the budget vote to be held by absentee ballot with ballots being due back to the District Clerk by 5 PM on June 9, 2020. Further details are posted on the District website at <https://www.ntschoools.org>.

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

Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Qualified voters will vote only by absentee ballot.

Student-Athletes College Signing Day

Congratulations to four North Tonawanda High School student-athletes who signed their commitments to attend college and play their particular sport.

Isabella Finley (Soccer/Medialle College), McCartney Geartz (Volleyball/Buffalo State), Camerin Holmes (Baseball/Niagara County Community College) and Kaia O'Rourke (Soccer/Medialle College) signed on February 12th in front of their families, coaches and administration.



Kaia O'Rourke, Isabella Finley, Camerin Holmes and McCartney Geartz with their families.

Isabella will be studying Applied Mathematics and hopes to become a high school math teacher. Kaia will be studying Criminal Justice with the goal of becoming a detective. Camerin will study Sports Medicine and Education. "I would like to become a gym teacher and help out the community," he says. McCartney will be studying Education and become an elementary school teacher. "It is great for all these athletes," says Athletics Director Matt Cook. "We love celebrating their accomplishments and them representing NT in their college athletic career."

From the Family of Michael Marra

Michael was a senior at North Tonawanda High School who tragically lost his life at the beginning of the year

Saturday March 14, 2020

We would like to thank the North Tonawanda community, NTCSD, and the North Tonawanda High School family for the overwhelming response in the sudden death of Michael Marra. Many parents, students, lifetime friends, NTHS faculty and administration, shared stories with us that lifted our spirits, comforted us, and aided our family in our time of need.



Our gratitude also goes to the NT Police, Niagara County Sheriff's Department, local businesses, local volunteer fire department, and neighbors that gave their time and support and expressed such compassion and love. There were many hugs, cards, prayers and thoughtful words that we are so grateful to have received.

We would also like to thank St. Jude Parish, Father Jim, and the Knights of Columbus for their spiritual support and luncheon after mass for Michael.

Our family's gratitude goes to all. We are so humbled that we are a part of this special community, which is North Tonawanda. The outpouring of love and support has and continues to be a comfort to us!

Peace and love to all,
Rocky, Mary, Kate and Megan Marra



A fundraiser at Senior Game Night which was held for the Michael Marra Memorial Scholarship Fund on March 13th. The event raised \$400.

Jaxon Hummel Signs With Hofstra

Congratulations to senior Jaxon Hummel who signed with Hofstra University to play golf. "I am very excited," says Jaxon. "I felt right at home when I toured there. My decision was made for me when I went there."

Jaxon says he has been playing golf since he can remember. "I loved playing on the golf team here at NT. It was awesome. All the coaches I have had have been great to me. Every team I had I loved and it has been a great experience."

Jaxon has not decided on a major yet. "I am thinking of education or business. I am just kicking ideas around right now. I will see where it takes me."



Jordan Hummel (Sister), Cathy Hummel (Mother), Jaxon Hummel and Todd Hummel (Father). Back Row: Matt Cook (North Tonawanda Athletic Director) and Golf Coach Al Zbytek.





NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS
176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Board of Education

Matthew Kennedy, President
Colleen Angelhow, Vice President
Erik Herbert
Zachary Niemiec
Gabrielle Richards
Erica Robinson
Krista Vince Garland
Lila Wieclaw, Student Member

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools
www.ntschoools.org



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NT Takes Top Ranking at Bridge Competition

North Tonawanda seniors Kirsten Ferree, Ryan Glennon and Ethan Busse took second place at the Association for Bridge Construction and Design's (ABCD) annual Kenneth T. Rybarczyk Memorial Bridge Contest. The competition is open to all Western New York middle school and high school students. The mission of the ABCD is to further educate bridge designers, constructors, federal, state, local officials and the general public in the vital role of bridges in our society.

Architecture and Engineering Academy teacher Chris Cook says his class submitted 78 bridges made from balsa wood. "They all had to be checked and judged to ensure that all the requirements were met on the bridges' weight, length and height. They were also judged on complexity, engineering, workmanship and efficiency.

The students have a little over a month to make their bridges before the competition. Mr. Cook goes over a PowerPoint before they start about bridges and the stresses on the bridges and the size of the beams, which beams are under tension, which ones are being pulled, which ones are being compressed and pushed together. "Once you know that, you can design the arch to deal with the compression," he explained. His students have taken first place for the past five years, but he says he is very proud of everyone who competed.

