

Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2023

2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET & BOE VOTE

VOTE

TUESDAY
May 16, 2023

12 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Voting will take place in
the Gymnasium of the
Berlin Elementary School
53 School Street, Berlin, NY 12022

- **Budget Vote**
- **Proposition Vote**
- **Board Election Vote**
(2 Open Seats)

THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

The Budget for the 2023 – 2024
school year is not to exceed
\$26,272,953. This is an increase
of **1.95%** in the tax levy.

Superintendent Letter

Dear Berlin Central School District Residents,

Thank you for your continued support throughout this school year. The proposed 2023-2024 school budget reflects our continued commitment toward our students and staff by providing excellent educational, co-curricular, and extracurricular programs at Berlin CSD.

Through careful planning and use of our resources, the tax levy for 2023-2024 will increase by 1.95%. This is again below our tax cap of 2% and is consistent with increases over the past 2 years.

This budget will help us to maintain our current programs and support for our students; and also enhance them in areas such as academics, safety and security, and student social-emotional wellbeing.

This is our first full 'normal' year back to school after the pandemic. Thanks to your support, our district has shown growth in multiple areas. Our academic achievement has improved, and our increased support for students' mental health has had a positive impact, as students continue to recover from the impact of Covid.

Our concerts and plays are all back in-person and full of lively participation, and our student participation in Athletics is higher than in the past few years. We have also made multiple enhancements to safety and security — installation of cameras, keyless entry, School Resource Officer, etc. We will continue to make these and other enhancements over the coming year.

The success of our students and staff would not be possible without your continued engagement with the district.

Thank you, as always, for being our collaborative partner in the education and well-being of all our students!

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16th at the Berlin Elementary School Gym.

Respectfully,

A. Joseph Dhara, *Superintendent*

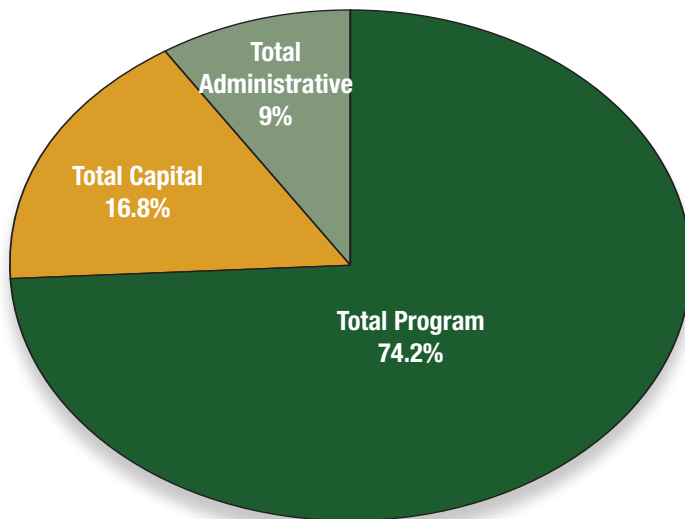


REVENUES:

	Actual 2022–2023	Proposed 2023–2024
State Aid	12,785,802	12,352,198
Real Property Taxes	10,060,913	10,251,399
Miscellaneous	431,107	408,365
Reserves	1,898,865	1,512,709
ARP Funding (Last Year of Relief Funding)		948,282
Fund Balance	797,500	800,000
Total Revenue	25,974,187	26,272,953

THREE-PART BUDGET

All public schools in New York State are required by law to report their spending in the three categories: Program, Administrative and Capital.



EXPENSES:

PROGRAM BUDGET

	Actual 2022–2023	Proposed 2023–2024
Regular Education	5,916,608	5,296,518
Special Education	3,378,852	3,838,681
Occupational Education	562,114	565,076
Continuing Ed/Driver Ed	25,000	25,000
Library/Technology	629,560	630,412
Educational Television	5,500	5,500
Guidance	441,607	443,572
Health Services	330,143	335,441
Co-Curricular/Sports	386,576	387,133
Transportation	1,655,734	1,791,246
Employee Benefits	5,950,330	6,178,948
Total Program Budget	19,282,024	19,497,527

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

	Actual 2022–2023	Proposed 2023–2024
Board of Education	15,657	21,250
Central Administration	244,411	245,358
Finance	412,176	483,943
Legal/Personnel/Public Info.	131,422	175,440
Insurance/Dues	73,905	77,405
School Supervision	574,455	528,816
Curriculum & In-service	189,898	109,612
BOCES Administration Expenses	176,175	181,462
Employee Benefits	565,427	535,435
Total Administrative Budget	2,383,526	2,358,721

CAPITAL BUDGET

	Actual 2022–2023	Proposed 2023–2024
Operations & Maintenance	1,473,025	1,596,059
Central Data	273,150	326,352
Debt Service	1,524,800	1,886,641
Transfer to Other Funds	65,000	65,000
Employee Benefits	521,582	542,652
Total Capital Budget	3,857,557	4,416,705
Total Budget Expenses	25,523,107	26,272,954

Berlin Central School District Budget Notice 2023-2024

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	\$ 25,974,187	\$26,272,953	\$26,020,960
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$298,766	\$46,773
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.15 %	.18%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		5.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,055,467	\$10,251,399	
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)	\$10,055,467	\$10,251,399	\$10,055,467
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$336,079	\$343,414	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$9,764,499	\$9,957,822	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$9,719,388	\$9,907,985	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$45,111	\$49,837	
Administrative Component	\$2,383,526	\$2,358,721	\$2,245,291
Program Component	\$19,282,024	\$19,497,527	\$19,468,464
Capital Component	\$3,857,557	\$4,416,705	\$4,307,205
If a contingency budget is adopted, the community will be charged for the use of facilities, the district will not replace school buses and the district will not purchase certain equipment. Management confidential employees as well as the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will not receive raises. Professional development will be reduced. Some teacher stipends will be eliminated. Some programs may be reduced or eliminated.			
Description		Amount	
1 School Bus (66 Passenger)		\$155,178	
1 Suburban (30C)		\$78,791	
1 Minivan		\$57,000	

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$473

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Berlin Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held in the BES gym in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm prevailing time 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.

Class of 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

ELSIE CORBETT – 2023 BHS VALEDICTORIAN

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Biology and Environmental Science
Women's Cross Country
Women's Track and Field



Congratulations to Elsie Corbett, daughter of Rebekkah and Daniel Corbett of Stephentown, the 2023 Valedictorian of Berlin High School.

Elsie is graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors and will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) this fall.

As a Mountaineer, Elsie is enrolled in the most rigorous academic schedules that Berlin offers, taking several Advanced Placement courses. These included an accelerated track in Math and Science since eighth grade and honors English and Social Studies since ninth grade.

During her senior year, Elsie split her time between BHS and the University at Albany's Health Sciences campus as part of the New Visions Scientific Research and World Health program. At New Visions, Elsie interacted with research scientists and public health practitioners.

Beyond her studies, Elsie is an outstanding leader in her school community. She is a key member of Berlin's academic clubs, such as Masterminds, Science Olympiad and Envirothon. Elsie also serves as treasurer of her class, is a member of the National Honor Society, and has participated in the Olympics of the Visual Arts.

Elsie competes for Berlin as an exceptional athlete on the varsity cross country and track and field teams. Her drive, focus, and the support of her teammates have propelled her to success in her athletic career. She will be taking those qualities to her future teams at RPI, where she will be competing for the cross country and track teams.

During the winter months Elsie could be found on Jiminy Peak, where she has been a ski team member since sixth grade. During the summers Elsie has worked as a camp counselor at the local Stephentown Summer Camp.

Elsie's Berlin High School Counselor, Mrs. Rachel Harrison, has always been impressed by her ability to balance academics and extracurricular activities.

"Elsie's skills with time management and organization, combined with great communication, have made her a strong collaborator with others," said Mrs. Harrison. "And she has the self-initiative to always go above and beyond the basic requirements."

At RPI Elsie will pursue a degree in Biology and Environmental Science. She is motivated by the idea that research she could do in the future would help make a significant contribution to improving the environment.

CHARLES BRAND – 2023 SALUTATORIAN

Hudson Valley Community College
Engineering Science



Congratulations to Charles Brand, son of Kelly and Charles Brand of Petersburg, the 2023 Salutatorian of Berlin High School.

This fall Charles will be attending Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, enrolled in the Engineering Science program with a pathway to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Through this program Charles is planning to become a chemical

or electrical engineer.

Charles graduates BHS with an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors.

During his time as a Mountaineer, Charles enrolled in a challenging academic schedule. This included an accelerated track in Math, Science, English, and Social Studies.

Charles has always loved learning and is especially enthusiastic about history. The Industrial Revolution has been his favorite topic of study and, with strengths in math and science, helped lead him to his future path of becoming an engineer.

Charles also likes to be challenged and has enjoyed Physics during his senior year with Mr. Christian. He shared that he is always surprised and inspired by how much knowledge and information are needed to grasp the general concepts of Physics.

Science, engineering, and innovation have been a passion for Charles since his middle school years, where he participated on the Science Bowl team. Charles has been a part of the Science Olympiad and InvenTeam during his high school career. He especially enjoyed working with BHS Technology teacher, Ms. Dawn Wetmore, on designing and building a robotic arm.

Charles is known for getting tasks done no matter how challenging, and he says one of the keys to his academic success is not procrastinating.

Outside the classroom, Charles can be found working at a local farm store, saving his money to restore his 1966 Ford Mustang. Charles is dedicated to his Mustang and especially likes studying the innovation and progress that Ford engines are known for.

"An engineer is a maker of history," said Ms. Wetmore, excited to see Charles channeling his talents into the engineering field.

"Go forth, Charlie, and make the world a better place."

PROPOSITION

There will be a Bus Purchase Proposition on the ballots. The Berlin Central School District has a need to purchase one (1) school bus (66 seats), one (1) suburban (30 seats), and one (1) minivan at a cost not to exceed \$300,000. The purchase of these vehicles will enable the transportation department to continue transporting our students safely and efficiently.

Board of Education Seats

There are two seats up for election this year. Both seats are three-year terms (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026). There are two candidates running for two seats. Voters will be asked to vote for two candidates. The candidates will appear on the ballot in this order:

- **Derrick Gardner**
- **Frank J. Zwack**

Board of Education Candidates



DERRICK GARDNER

I am a lifelong resident of the Berlin Central School District. I live in Stephentown with my wife and two children. My daughter is a sixth grader at BMHS and my son is a fourth grader at BES. After graduating from Berlin High School, I obtained an Associate Degree from Hudson Valley Community College and a Bachelor of Science and Master of

Engineering in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I am a licensed Professional Engineer currently employed as the Rensselaer County Water and Wastewater Engineer. In addition, I operate my own Civil Engineering practice and am involved with my family farm. I have been a member of the Stephentown Planning Board for the past 15 years and have been the Chairman of the Planning Board for the last 5 years.

I have been on the Berlin Central Board of Education and the Facilities Committee for the past three years. I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that our children receive a quality, cost effective education while acting with the best interests of our District and our students in mind.

Thank you for your support.



FRANK J. ZWACK

I am a lifelong resident of Stephentown, a graduate of Berlin Central School, Hudson Valley Community College, and Union College. Besides being a Board member for the Berlin Central School District, I am a Board member of Questar III and Tech Valley High School Board and a member of the Stephentown Fire Department.

My current occupation is in mechanical engineering and management of our family business located in Stephentown.

Serving as a Berlin Central School Board member allows me to share the lifelong skills and experiences I have gained, particularly working with various colleges and businesses that support our District and our students. Decision making takes time, you need to be informed, and sometimes it is hard to make a decision when the outcome may be unpopular to some, but still needs to be made to advance the best interests of the District.

I look forward to completing the current Board projects and to meeting our future educational challenges.

Thank you for your support.

Capital Project Updates

The Berlin Central School District would like to thank the BCSD Community for its support during the two phases of the Capital Project.

The \$7 million Capital Project, approved by the public in 2019, was for repair and maintenance at Berlin Elementary School and Berlin Middle High School. The Capital Project had no financial impact on taxpayers.

Phase 1 of the Capital Project has been completed. This phase started at the end of the 2020 school year and included extensive upgrades on the interior and exterior of both school buildings. This phase was completed in fall of 2022.

To see highlights of the completed projects in Phase 1, the new Transportation Facility and BCSD Athletics Complex please visit our district's Capital Project page: <https://berlincentral.org/capital-project/>. Additional videos for Capital Project Phase 2 will be released in the coming months as this phase has also reached its completion.

SAVE THE DATES

- High School Spring Concert May 17th 6:00 pm BMHS
- 2nd Annual Night of the Arts 4-5th Grade Concert May 18th 6:30 pm BES
- 2nd Annual Night of the Arts K-3rd Grade Concert May 23rd K-1st 6 pm 2nd -3rd 6:45 pm BES
- National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony & Art's Alive June 1st 5:30 pm BMHS
- Middle School Concert June 7th 6:30 pm BMHS
- BHS Musical Theatre Class presents "Next to Normal" June 10th BMHS
- 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony June 23rd 9:30 am BES
- Senior Graduation June 23rd 7:00 pm BMHS

Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Andrea Beckwith – *Audit Committee, Merged Sports Committee*

Kim Collen – *Wellness Committee, Merged Sports Committee*

Derrick Gardner – *Facility Committee*

Trevor Jewett – *Facility Committee*

Sherry Bowman-Kluck – *Merged Sports Committee*

Katie Snyder – *Vice President - Facility Committee, Audit Committee*

Frank J. Zwack – *President – Audit Committee*

SUPERINTENDENT

Joseph Dhara

<https://berlincentral.org/district/board-of-education/>

**BUDGET
VOTE**
Tuesday, May 16

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polling place on May 16 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the District Clerk at 518-658-1500 Option 8, Extension 1010. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.



CONNECT WITH US

DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://berlincentral.org/district/calendar/>

MOUNTAINEER WEBSITE

www.berlincentral.org

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