



2026-2027
Draft Budget #2

Goals of Presentation

- ❖ Assist the BOE in making decisions about the use of reserves and fund balance while remaining within the Tax Levy Cap calculation
- ❖ Raise awareness about the future implications of the current budget structure and need for reduction and/or attrition.
- ❖ Review Draft 2 reductions, with low student impact in mind
- ❖ Review budgetary additions with Return on Investment in mind
- ❖ Allow the community to share feedback

Summary of Draft 1 March Presentation

- ❖ Unfilled 25-26 rolls= ~\$450,000 in savings in 25-26
- ❖ Only a portion of BOCES services is aidable @47.1%, not whole expense of each service
- ❖ Declining enrollment negatively impacts expense based aids such as Transportation Aid and BOCES Aid
- ❖ Estimated combined “wealth” of taxpayers is spread out over fewer students = higher local share per student
- ❖ Some of the savings in 25-26 can be used for one time equipment purchases or repairs

State Aid Update

April 1- NYS Budget Late

- ❖ Any increase in state aid will not create funding for budgetary additions. Any additional funding should be used to reduce the structural deficit in the budget and reduce potential use of reserves/fund balance.
- ❖ Any savings or reduced use of reserves that occur help lengthen the window of time we have to align expenditures with revenue

April Estimated Budget 2026-2027

April 2026 Draft #2 Budget	\$26,784,575
Projected Levy	\$11,126,498
State/Federal Aid	\$12,951,306
Other Revenues	\$870,582
Structural Deficit	-\$1,836,189

Budget \$ Increase Over Prior Year:
\$518,366

Budget % Increase Over Prior Year
2%

Consumer Price Index
2.63%

April 2026 - Revenue Projection

Revenue Source	2026-2027	2025-2026	Difference	
Tax Levy	\$11,126,498	\$10,874,224	\$252,274	= \$340,713
Foundation Aid	\$8,932,433	\$8,843,994	\$88,439	
Building Aid	\$1,481,615	\$1,510,981	-\$29,366	
Transportation Aid	\$1,420,000	\$1,345,299	\$74,701	
BOCES Aid	\$643,244	\$626,514	\$16,730	
Public & Private Excess Cost Aids	\$408,129	\$504,755	-\$96,626	
High Tax Aid	\$168,884	\$168,884	\$0	
Textbooks, Hardware, Software, Library	\$55,885	\$58,109	-\$2,224	
Homeless Aid	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
Prior Year Refunds	\$260,000	\$160,000	\$100,000	
Interest	\$250,000	\$320,000	-\$70,000	
Medicaid/CPSE Reimbursement	\$65,000	\$100,000	-\$35,000	
E-Rate	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	
Indirect Costs/Interfund Transfer	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$0	
Late Tax Penalties	\$8,000	\$10,000	-\$2,000	
Miscellaneous	\$12,700	\$6,100	\$6,600	
BOCES Distance Learning	\$60,000	\$40,000	\$20,000	
Sale of Scrap/Surplus	\$13,000	\$37,000	-\$24,000	
Total Projected Revenue	\$24,948,388	\$24,638,860	\$309,528	

Deficit History/Revenue Growth

Financial Stabilization Goals

- *Reduce and stabilize spending within a 3-year window to eliminate dependence on reserves*
- *Fund future Capital Reserves & maintain other reserves at appropriate levels*

2025-2026 Deficit

\$1,627,349

2026-2027 Deficit

\$1,836,189

2026-2027 Deficit Growth

\$208,840

Deficit History/Revenue Growth

Revenue Growth - Deficit Decrease

Revenue Growth - Deficit Frozen

We are Here →

Revenue Growth - Deficit Growth

Revenue to Budget Deficit Growth

\$208,840

Year-over-Year Revenue Growth

\$309,528

What If?

- Current Rate of Revenue Increase
- & Keep Expenses Flat

2026-2027 Deficit	\$1,836,189
Year 1	-\$309,000
Year 2	-\$309,000
Year 3	-\$309,000
Remaining Deficit	\$909,189

Use of Reserves & Fund Balance

	Year End 2025	Proposed Usage 2026-2027
Workmans Comp	\$621,565	(maximum allowable) \$55,096
Unemployment	\$580,127	(maximum allowable) \$40,000
ERS NYS Employee Retirement System	\$1,419,358	(maximum allowable) \$550,446
TRS Teacher Retirement System	\$542,683	\$190,647
Appropriated Fund Balance 2025-2026	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

\$1,836,189

4% fund balance= \$1,071,383

Cost Driver Updates

Commercial Insurance 7% increase
Caremark Pharmacy 21.8% increase
Highmark Blue Shield 5% increase
CDPHP 5.1% increase
TRS 8.24%
ERS 17.6%

Category	Estimated Increase
Legal	\$35,000
Utilities	\$42,000
Benefits	\$434,000
TOTAL	\$511,000

Draft 2 Budget Reduction Process

- Look at Optimal Coordination of Grant Funding
 - .Offset advisor/mentor stipends
 - .(1) Teacher on Special Assignment
 - .1.25 Special Ed teachers
 - .Special Education Program Review
 - .All Special Ed Department materials, conferences, other
- Work with administrators to pare down discretionary budgets
- **Thank you PreK registrants!** → April 1 Budgeting Due Date
- Reduce contingency margins throughout budget
- Re-estimate revenue as new information becomes available

Reductions in Budget Draft 2

Late Bus Run

- ❖ Monday - Thursday (no Friday late bus)
- ❖ Challenging to staff, often incurs overtime

Advisor Stipends

- ❖ Seven or more clubs will not be offered
(least impact-lower participation)

Special Education

- ❖ Updated Out-of-District Placement Info
- ❖ Reduced contingency funds
- ❖ All conferences, materials, etc → Grants

Reductions in Budget Draft 2

Athletics

- ❖ Removed Batting Cage
- ❖ Reduced General Equipment

Software State Aid Funds → Textbooks

- ❖ Reduce supplemental/optional software

BOCES Instructional Software Reduction

- ❖ GoGuardian
- ❖ EdPuzzle
- ❖ Brainpop
- ❖ NewsELA
- ❖ DataMate

Reductions in Budget Draft 2

Administration

- ❖ SuperEval Software
- ❖ Reduced materials & contract services

Facilities

- ❖ Digital POTS lines → savings + BOCES Aid
- ❖ Remove trainings → in-house delivery

Technology

- ❖ NERIC IT - More bundle savings than anticipated
- ❖ Reduced service contracts

Business Office

- ❖ E-Rate Reimbursement Coordination

Library Programming Reorganization

(1) Librarian

~~(1) Library Support (new 26-27)~~

- Librarian shared between BES & MSHS
- Add BOCES Library Automation (BOCES aidable)
- Consider Library coverage as an assignment

BOCES Library Automation	\$5,934
25-26 Library Catalog Cost	-\$1,500
Estimated BOCES Aid	-\$2,795
1 Year Pause Cooperative Library Service (Books)	-\$1,000
Estimated Net Cost Increase	\$639

Financial Literacy Mandate 26-27

Add 1 Full Time Math Teacher

*(½ time Math position included in the 25-26 budget, but was not filled)

➤ In 25-26 used (3.5) 6th assignments for math teachers to cover unfilled position

➤ **Math Academic Intervention Service Needs**

➤ Distance Learning Personal Finance (3 enrolled)

➤ Consumer Math (20 enrolled)

Other Items in Budget Draft 2

- Unified Sports (Travel, Materials, Officials, Nurse): \$5,500
- Weight Room Equipment Replacement: \$8,000
- ~~Batting Cage: \$13,500~~
- Drone Soccer: \$10,500
- Renewal of BES Literacy Curriculum: \$22,340
- STEM High School: \$13,770 x 5 students continuing
- All accepted CTE & New Vision students funded
- Distance Learning: \$87,000 - est \$60,000 offset = \$27,000
- ?? BTA & BAA Contracts Under Negotiation ??

Berlin CSD PreK: Direct Employment

1 Class full (18), 1 Class Partial (6)				
Registration as of 3/30/26				
	Salary	TRS	SS	Totals
Teacher 1	\$ 77,550	\$ 6,390	\$ 5,933	\$ 89,873
Teacher 2	\$ 60,500	\$ 4,985	\$ 4,628	\$ 70,113
Job Rate TA 1	\$ 29,500	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,257	\$ 34,188
Job Rate TA 2	\$ 29,500	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,257	\$ 34,188
Family Medical	\$ 30,356	4		\$ 121,424
Total				\$ 349,785
Berlin Grant Funding				
@ 24 Enrollment	24	\$10,000		\$ 240,000
Total General Fund Cost				\$ 109,785

Boces PreK Cost Per Section	\$194,274 X 2 = \$388,548
State Aid @ 24 Students	\$240,000
Total General Fund Cost	\$148,548

Boces PreK Cost (1)UPK + (1)TPK	\$194,274 + \$93,799 = \$288,073
State Aid @ 12 Students NO State Aid = 12 students	\$120,000
Total General Fund Cost	\$168,073

PreK Costs Scenarios

1 Class= Maximum 18 Students

1 Class of PreK				
	Salary	TRS	SS	Totals
Teacher 1	\$ 77,550	\$ 6,390	\$ 5,933	\$ 89,873
Job Rate TA 1	\$ 29,500	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,257	\$ 34,188
Family Medical	\$ 30,356	2		\$ 60,712
				\$ 184,772
Berlin Grant Funding				
@ 18 Enrollment	18	\$10,000		\$ 180,000
Total General Fund Cost				\$ 4,772

Boces PreK Cost Per Section	\$194,274
State Aid @ 18 Students	\$180,000
Total General Fund Cost	\$14,274

PreK Costs Scenarios

2 Classes: 28 Students				
(25-26 enrollment)				
	Salary	TRS	SS	Totals
Teacher 1	\$ 77,550	\$ 6,390	\$ 5,933	\$ 89,873
Teacher 2	\$ 60,500	\$ 4,985	\$ 4,628	\$ 70,113
Job Rate TA 1	\$ 29,500	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,257	\$ 34,188
Job Rate TA 2	\$ 29,500	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,257	\$ 34,188
Family Medical	\$ 30,356	4		\$ 121,424
Total Cost				\$ 349,785
Berlin Grant Funding @ 28 Enrollment		28	\$10,000	\$280,000
Total General Fund Cost				\$ 69,785

Boces PreK Cost Per Section	\$194,274 X 2 =\$388,548
State Aid @ 28 Students	\$280,000
Total General Fund Cost	\$108,548

PreK Furniture ~\$20,000

- 10 tables=\$ 2,670
- 40 chairs =\$9,800
- 2 educational play kitchen sets= \$1,860
- 4 bookshelves = \$2,292
- 2 sets of stacking cots= \$250
- 2 teacher desks and chairs \$2,500
- other misc. educational toys/furniture per teacher request
- Curriculum?



Other In-House PreK Considerations

10% Community Based Organization (waiver)
Professional Development
Substitutes

Already Provided by Berlin

Daily Supervision
Classroom Space
Maintenance & Custodial
Art, Gym, Music, Library, Lunch

Buildings & Grounds

Add 1 Full Time Groundskeeper

-
- Purchase plow truck (voter approved 25-26 budget)
 - Purchase mower, trimmer, Ventrac attachments
-
- In-house Mowing & Athletic Field Care
 - Flex schedule for groundskeeping & custodial subbing
 - Reduce custodial over time
 - New title & pay need to be negotiated with CSEA

Athletic Fields Care & Maintenance

Ventrac Attachments: \$ 15,030

(Recommend purchasing for Spring 2026)

- Aera-vater \$8,340
- Spreader- \$3,195
- Seeder- \$3,495

Last full service field contract 2022-2023 = \$15,220

Other Notes:

Water Cannon servicing/repair parts started
Anticipated fully functional Spring 2026

Mowing

Equipment Estimate: \$27,660

- Zero Turn mower (72 inch)- \$21,500
- Trimmer- \$360
- Trailer- \$5,800
 - needs replacement (1998): brakes, rust, wiring issues, rickety condition

Storage Plan: Garage @ BES, Green Conex @MHS, Old Garage

**Additional costs associated with fuel, repair parts, and maintenance are not calculated **

Current Groundskeeping Services

(2024-2025 School Year Costs)

Mowing.....

.\$40,000

Plowing

.....\$20,00

0 Est. Salary & Benefits = Service Agreement Costs Field

** Maintenance.....\$8,530
** Medical insurance would bring an increase to the budget

** Groundskeeper can assist with repairs noted on Building
Condition Survey

** Director of Facilities = more maintenance, less administrative

** Include in budget, but wait to hire Groundsman, to determine need

2026-2027
Capital Outlay: \$100,000 Project
75.4% Aidable

MSHS Lockers

- Remove Damaged/Aged Lockers
- Replace for Current Enrollment Numbers
- Spackle/Paint

MSHS Auditorium Doors

- Locking Mechanisms Broken
- Replace or Repair (under discussion)
- Water fountains (2) by gymnasium - Switch to bottle fillers
(under consideration as “alternate” if funds remain)

Why Invest in Buildings & Grounds?

- Maintenance of facilities is part of the district's overall sustainability picture
- Unpredictable, uneven financial impacts → preventative maintenance and equipment replacement plan needed
- Recent community survey and staff feedback overwhelmingly indicates that there is an expectation for improvement in this area
- Building trust within department and school community
- Willingness and desire to do the work and see improvements within the department

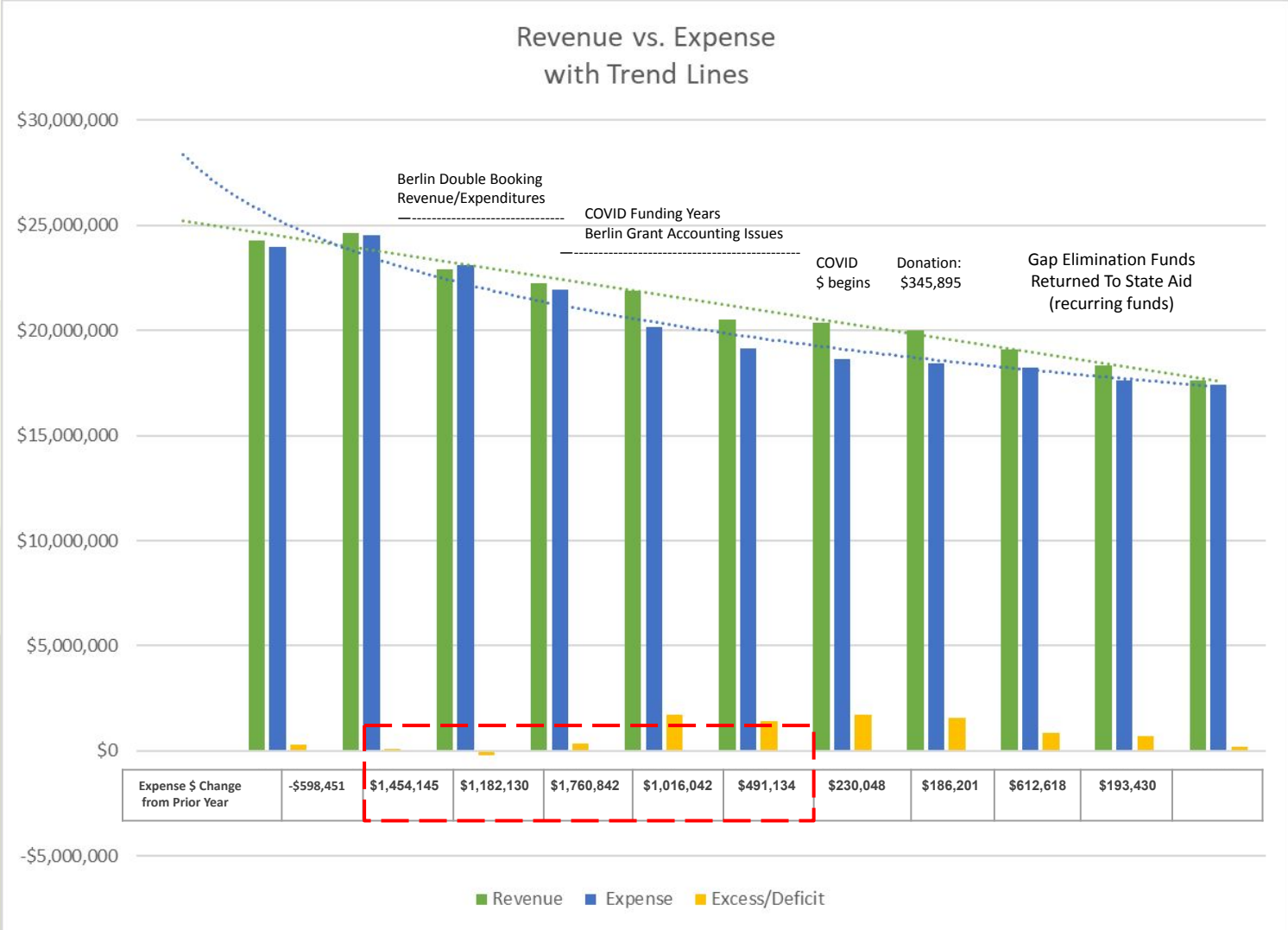
2024-2025 Efforts

- Electrical upgrade MSHS IT closets
- Combi oven installation
- Repair of defunct security system in both buildings
- Flushed and returned bubbler fountains to service/water testing completed
- MSHS entryway repaving
- Lock down classroom window coverings throughout both buildings
- Emergency Asbestos project completed under architect's estimated budget
- Added insulation to crawlspace piping for long term heating efficiency/savings

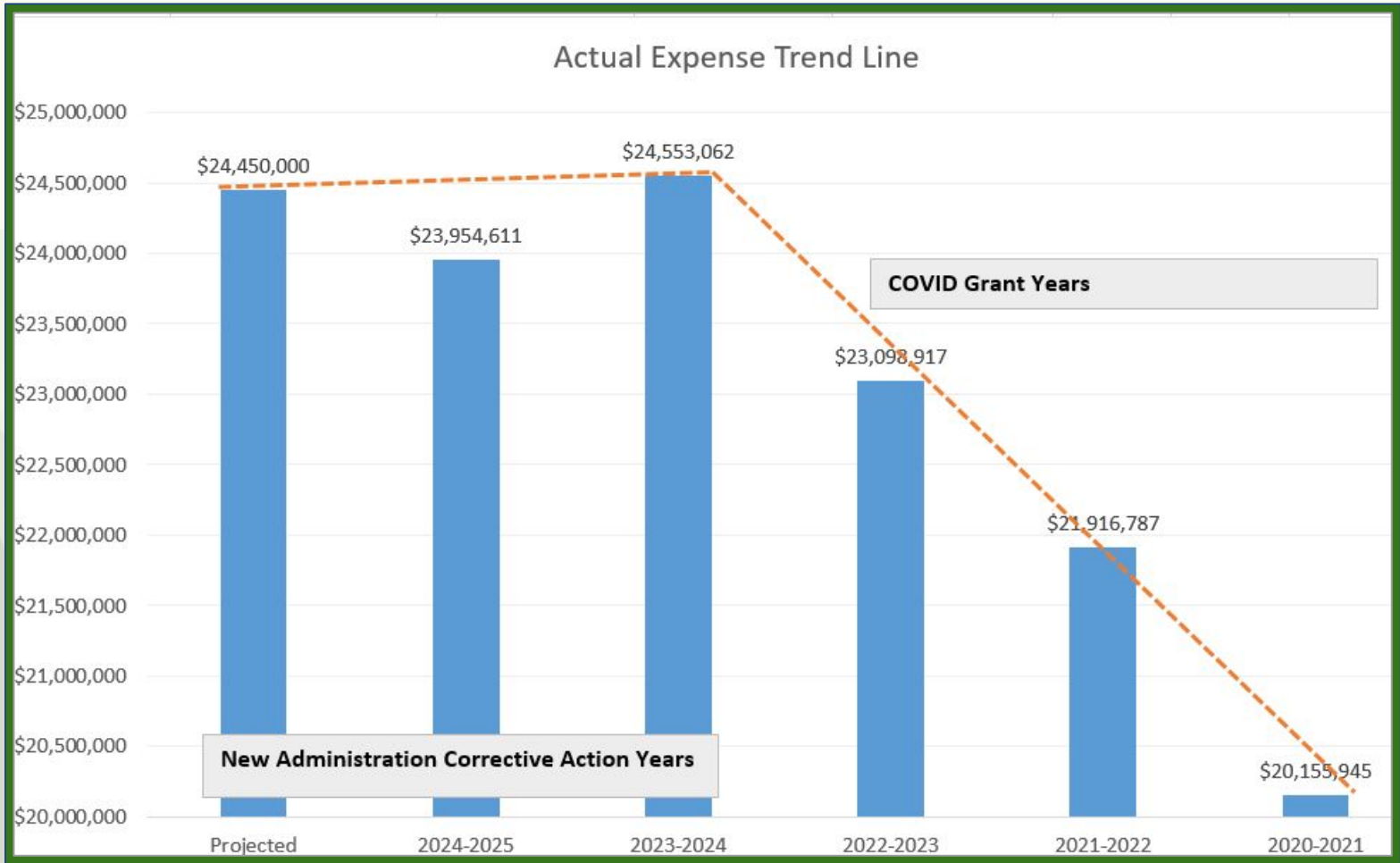
2025-2026 Efforts

- Cooperative bid electric & BOCES telephone services switch
- Garbage price reduction & staff efficiency
- Replace 44 broken BES roof slates
- QWare Preventative Maintenance tracking software
- BES playground fencing
- Begin efforts for storage space cleanout and consolidation → Create inventory & warehousing space → improved purchasing practices, inventory tracking, & operational efficiencies
- Water Cannon repair
- Repair bus loop pavement
- Gym partition full disassembly and repair
- Amended Smart Schools Bond Act for high priority need → Security camera upgrade & door access control upgrade and repairs

How We Got Here



Corrective Action



Impact of Budget on Reserves

- ❖ **In order to make this 26-27 budget possible, we maneuvered funds in June 2025.**
 - Drew down ERS funds voters approved to run the 24-25 budget to create additional fund balance to prepare for a budget gap and to insure against critical facilities events
 - Moved the maximum allowable (2% of certified staff salaries) from ERS into the TRS sub-fund, creating another source of reserves to close a budget gap.
 - Moved funds into EBAL to prepare for retirements in the next 3 years. This fund does not currently hold enough to cover anticipated payouts for all bargaining units in this 3 year timeframe.

Long Term Budget Impacts

❖ **Next Year:**

If we use Reserves & Fund Balance in 26-27, what actions will we take in developing the 27-28 budget to move toward sustainability?

❖ **Points of Comparison:**

The amount of Reserves & Fund Balance used is:

- ~7% of our budget
- 1.7 x amount of allowable unappropriated fund balance

Long Term Budget Impacts

❖ **We continue to travel down an unsustainable path.**

Use of reserves and fund balance can help balance a budget in difficult year. This is not just a difficult year; this is an annually recurring problem. Reserves cannot run budgets indefinitely.

Each year we need to take steps to improve upon our financial circumstances. Revenue continues to grow more slowly than our expenses.

Continue efforts to align budgeted amount to actual expense;
School-wide effort to spend less than budgeted wherever possible

❖ **Our largest reserve (ERS) holds ~3 years' value.**

Annual Bus Proposition

(no budgetary impact - new debt replaces old debt)

(2) 66 Passenger Type C Diesel School Buses

- Maximum cost of \$355,000
- Continues our existing fleet replacement plan
- Old buses bring in scrap metal or auction \$

Update: Electric Bus Mandate

- The NYS Electric Bus mandate is still in effect for 2027 → 2 year waiver → 2029
- After waiver period, diesel bus purchases will not be state aided. Full expense of bus replacement would be an additional cost to taxpayers

Budget Vote: May 19

- ❖ (2) Board Seats open for election
- ❖ To obtain a petition to run for one of the open seats, please contact the District Clerk at ddemick@berlincentral.org
- ❖ The deadline for this year's nominating petitions is **Monday, April 20, 2026.**
- ❖ More information on running for the board can be found on our website.

Questions, Discussion, & Feedback

Board of Education
Budget Adoption: April 21

Colleen Mills

School Business Official

cmills@berlincentral.org

Ken Rizzo

Superintendent of Schools

krizzo@berlincentral.org
