



# Fonda-Fultonville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## At a glance:

2024-25  
PROPOSED BUDGET  
**\$34,074,710**

BUDGET INCREASE  
FROM 2023-24  
**\$841,138 / 2.53%**

2024-25  
TAX LEVY INCREASE  
**\$11,619,841 / 2.9%**

## FFCS community to vote on budget on May 21

On May 21, Fonda-Fultonville residents will head to the polls to vote on a proposed \$34,074,710 spending plan for the 2024-25 school year. Under the proposal, spending would increase by 2.53% from the current year. The proposed budget carries a 2.9% tax levy increase which is below the district's assigned tax levy "cap" of 3.82%. Budget approval requires a simple majority of votes (50% plus one).

The proposed budget seeks to maintain all programs, staff, and services.

"This year's proposed budget continues to adjust to the current economic climate while strengthening the district's effort to provide social-emotional support, increase academic resources, and provide our students with the opportunities in which to grow," said Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas Ciaccio.

This year's proposed budget will concentrate on the continuation of mental health support programs for students and will follow the continuation of the district's five-year financial plan.

**\*Please note: a home fully assessed at \$100,000 - approximately \$36 overall increase. This will vary based on your town/village tax rate, which will be finalized this summer.**

# Vote

Tuesday, May 21  
Noon - 9 p.m.

Auditorium Lobby  
Also on the ballot:

- See pg. 4 for a list of propositions.

**"Our budgeting process focuses on the needs of students and how to financially sustain those programs over time. This district has always been committed to providing the educational opportunities and supports necessary to enable our students to be successful through graduation and beyond. At FFCS, that is always our priority."**

THOMAS CIACCIO,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



*High school students continue to develop their ability to build self-confidence and express themselves in the art department.*



*F-F High School students expanding their opportunities to get creative in the classroom.*

## Creativity is building at FFCS

Art continues to build a creative influence in our school community. Each year, students at FFCS continue to find inspiration in drawing and illustration, pottery, painting, and sculpture. By concentrating on these areas, we are supporting our students' ability to experience a comprehensive curriculum from elementary to high school.

"The ability to express oneself enables students to utilize different areas of their mind while creating an outlet for expression," said Fonda-Fultonville High School Art Teacher Ms. Fleming. "We continue to see their growth in observing, learning, and displaying their creative side not only in our classroom but also with their families and our community."

According to the New York State Department of Education website, current arts standards are designed to support arts educators in constructing high-quality curriculum and engage students in rigorous arts instruction and assessments that connects their life to real-world experiences, and supports them in succeeding in school and tomorrow's careers.

During the budget vote on May 21, please take a moment to view the various art projects created by our students from pre-K through high school. FFCS student art displays will be available for viewing by community members and families throughout our campus buildings. At FFCS, we are encouraging creativity and discovery for a positive future.



### F-F supports Read for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Earlier this year, elementary and middle school students eagerly participated in the annual Read for Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region (RMHC-CR ) program. What exactly does this program provide for our students and region? RMHC-CR is a reading-based community service program that empowers elementary and middle school students to develop lifelong skills while supporting children and families served by RMHC of the Capital Region.

This year, elementary and middle school students did their part to raise funds through this important community-based program. For the 2023-24 campaign, FFCS contributed nearly \$5,000 to the families that count on the RMHC to assist them during difficult times.

“Participating in the Read for Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region is such a boost for our students,” stated Fonda-Fultonville Middle School Principal Mr. Zadoorian. “It’s really a two-fold process that encourages the love of reading and helping others in need. We look forward to supporting their mission each year.”

To learn more about this program, please visit the Read for Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Capital Region website at <https://rmhcofalbany.org/>.



*Congratulations to our elementary and middle school students who continue to raise awareness for important causes.*

## Required School District Budget Notice

2024 - 2025

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	\$33,233,572	\$34,074,710	\$33,947,639
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$841,138	\$714,067
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.53%	2.15%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$11,292,433	\$11,619,841	
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)	\$11,292,433	\$11,619,841	\$11,292,433
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$290,913	\$126,603	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$11,104,710	\$11,596,738	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$11,001,520	\$11,493,238	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$103,190	\$103,500	
Administrative Component	\$2,838,416	\$3,263,923	\$3,263,923
Program Component	\$26,266,709	\$25,875,386	\$25,770,715
Capital Component	\$4,128,448	\$4,935,401	\$4,913,001

\* In a contingent budget, some programs and services would be reduced or eliminated, as would equipment purchases.

\*\* 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)

#### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$435
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, Montgomery County, New York, will be held in the auditorium lobby in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of noon and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the high school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

# Budget Summary

2024-2025

## REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED	2024-25 CONTINGENCY
Property Taxes	\$11,292,433	<b>\$11,619,841</b>	\$11,292,433
State Aid	\$19,828,946	<b>\$19,713,676</b>	\$19,713,676
Fund Balance	\$1,209,995	<b>\$1,809,995</b>	\$2,010,332
Reserves	\$138,470	<b>\$138,470</b>	\$138,470
Other Revenue	\$763,728	<b>\$792,728</b>	\$792,728
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,233,572</b>	<b>\$34,074,710</b> 2.53% INCREASE	<b>\$33,947,639</b>

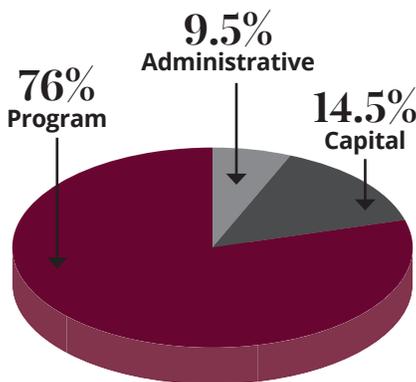
## EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED	2024-25 CONTINGENCY
General Operations	\$3,732,554	<b>\$3,904,651</b>	\$3,882,251
Instruction	\$15,802,016	<b>\$15,533,335</b>	\$15,428,664
Transportation	\$2,806,342	<b>\$2,934,442</b>	\$2,934,442
Employee Benefits	\$8,591,608	<b>\$9,199,262</b>	\$9,199,262
Debt Service	\$2,296,052	<b>\$2,498,020</b>	\$2,498,020
Interfund Transfers	\$5,000	<b>\$5,000</b>	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,233,572</b>	<b>\$34,074,710</b> 2.53% INCREASE	<b>\$33,947,639</b>

## THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year's costs. Fonda-Fultonville's three-part budget is as follows:



Figures may not be exact due to numbers being rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

CATEGORY	2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED	2024-25 CONTINGENCY
<b>Program</b> Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, equipment, extra-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).	\$26,266,709 79% OF BUDGET	<b>\$25,875,386</b> 76% OF BUDGET	\$25,770,715 76% OF BUDGET
<b>Administrative</b> Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.	\$2,838,416 9% OF BUDGET	<b>\$3,263,923</b> 9.5% OF BUDGET	\$3,263,923 9.5% OF BUDGET
<b>Capital</b> Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.	\$4,128,448 12% OF BUDGET	<b>\$4,935,401</b> 14.5% OF BUDGET	\$4,913,001 14.5% OF BUDGET
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,233,572</b>	<b>\$34,074,710</b>	<b>\$33,947,639</b>

## Mascot Image/Logo Vote

There will be an in-person vote for FFCS residents ONLY on Wednesday, June 19 from noon -7 p.m. in the high school main lobby to officially select the new mascot logo/image to represent Valley Hawks. All students in grades 5-12 will cast their vote through their school email and elementary students will vote individually in their classrooms. Community residents 18 years or older must cast their vote in person or through an absentee ballot. If you cannot attend in person, absentee ballots will be available upon request beginning on June 10 for Fonda-Fultonville residents only.



Please reach out to [lmaves@ffcsd.org](mailto:lmaves@ffcsd.org) or contact (518) 853-4415 ext. 4230 to obtain an absentee ballot. More information on the Mascot logo/image options will be posted on the district webpage prior to June 19.



# Fonda-Fultonville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

112 Old Johnstown Road  
PO Box 1501  
Fonda, NY 12068-1501

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fonda, NY  
Permit No. 25

## Board of Education

Matt Sullivan, *President*  
Bonnie Couture, *Vice President*  
Domenic DiNatale  
Dennis Egelston  
Michelle Isabella  
Michael Lewis  
John Wiltey

Thomas Ciaccio,  
*Superintendent of Schools*

*Produced in cooperation with the Capital  
Region BOCES Engagement & Development  
Services.*

*Rich Meddaugh, Editor*

**POSTAL CUSTOMER**

# FF | CSD Budget Newsletter

2024 - 2025

# Vote:

Tuesday, May 21  
Noon - 9 p.m., Auditorium Lobby

## On the ballot:

### PROPOSITION 1

Vote on a \$34,074,710 proposed budget for the 2024-25 school year.

### PROPOSITION 2

Voters will be asked to authorize the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed \$8,000,000 (total deposits) and a probable life of ten years. The Capital Reserve Fund will serve as a type of savings account that will mitigate the costs of future facilities work.

### PROPOSITION 3

Vote on a proposition to authorize the school board to lease one (1) thirty passenger school bus at \$19,830.00 per year for a total expenditure of \$99,150.00.

### PROPOSITION 4

Vote on \$100,000 for the Frothingham Free Public Library in Fonda. Under state education law, funding for libraries is collected by the school district and then forwarded to the respective libraries.

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

All voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older, and residents of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Advanced registration is NOT required. You may be asked to show proof of residency (such as a valid ID that lists your address) when voting.

### BOARD ELECTION

Elect three (3) members of the Board of Education to a three (3) year term commencing on July 1, 2024, and expiring June 30, 2027, to succeed Domenic DiNatale, Dennis Egelston and Michelle Isabella whose terms expire on June 30, 2024.

## ABSENTEE / EARLY MAIL BALLOTS

Absentee ballot voting is available. The new Early Mail Voter Act effective Jan. 1, 2024, also allows for early voting via mail without any reasons needed for voting early. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications for voting by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

To receive an application, contact the District Clerk Lori Maves at 518-853-4415 ext. 4230. If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 14, 2024. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2024. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024.



*FFCS students are always looking to improve and build upon their success in the classroom.*