

Budget Vote • Tuesday, May 18, 2021

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Akron Central Schools Community:

Over the past year, each of us has had to adapt to many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and we appreciate the many sacrifices made by students, parents and caregivers. On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire faculty and staff, thank you for your on-going support of our students and our district mission.

In developing the 2021-2022 school budget, the District has been especially mindful of the unique academic, social, and emotional needs of our students in the upcoming school year. As we look to the future, we have placed priority on offering rich and engaging educational programming that will support them to the greatest extent possible. It is imperative that during unprecedented times, students have opportunities to make up for lost instructional time, greater access to instructional technologies, and the opportunity to participate in a wide array of extracurricular offerings. We present a budget that asks voters to allow us to continue the tradition of educational excellence our students, families, and community have come to expect and appreciate.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on district operations, educational programming and fiscal planning have been significant. I am grateful to our Board of Education and administrative team for preparing a budget that not only provides for the high quality program offerings our community values, but does so at a tax levy decrease from what was accepted by voters for our current school year. For 2021-22, the Board of Education presents a budget with a 1% tax levy increase that falls well below the District's Tax Cap rate of 1.87%.

The public hearing on the budget will be on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria and will also be streamed via a Zoom meeting video link on the district website. The annual Budget Vote will be held on May 18th from 12:00-9:00 pm in Gym 3. Applications for absentee ballots may be acquired by contacting the District Office at (716)542-5006 or by emailing the District Clerk at districtclerk@akronk12.org. Please see our website for additional information including deadlines for absentee applications and ballots.

The Akron community is truly special and we are honored to serve the students in our care and are tremendously grateful for the trust that you place in us. Thank you for your unwavering support of our students and your commitment to maintaining a vibrant and enduring school district for our community.

May you and your families stay safe and well.

Sincerely yours,



Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools



Patrick D. McCabe
*Superintendent
of Schools*

James Grant
President

Erik Polkowski
Vice President

Jody Brege
Heather Cayea
Deborah Forrester
Phillip Kenline
Robert Masse

AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2021

BUDGET ISSUE VOTE

In this issue...

A Message from the Superintendent.....	page 1	STAR Information.....	page 7
Budget Notice	page 2	Contingent Budget Spending	page 7
Highlights From Our Buildings	page 3-5	Sample Ballot.....	page 8
Proposed Budget Summary for 2021-22.....	page 6, 7		

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Akron Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$33,696,592	\$32,597,101	\$32,236,860
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$(1,099,491)	\$(1,459,732)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		(3.26)%	(4.33)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,067,709	\$10,168,386	
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)	\$10,067,709	\$10,168,386	\$10,067,709
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$147,065	\$116,050	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,045,188	\$10,140,022	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$9,920,644	\$10,052,336	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$124,544	\$87,686	
Administrative Component	\$3,307,385	\$3,637,882	\$3,438,018
Program Component	\$22,450,915	\$23,345,888	\$23,296,188
Capital Component	\$7,938,292	\$5,613,331	\$5,502,654

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingent budget for 2021-22 is anticipated to result in a decrease of \$59,700 in contingent equipment expenditures. Other non-contingent expenditure lines that total \$300,541 will also be reduced if necessary. Final contingent budget decisions will be made by the Board of Education in late June if required. Please note that a contingent budget would require the district to charge for use of their facilities.

** List 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)

Description	Amount
Purchase And Financing Of School Buses	\$426,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$430

The annual budget vote for fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Akron Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the High School Gymnasium #3 in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, 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.

COVID-19 pandemic redefines many of the year's achievements at Akron Schools

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

This first sentence of Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, aptly describes the outpouring of good deeds that have demonstrated our humanity in and amongst the global turmoil of the pandemic.

For more than a year, Akron Schools has continued to uphold high standards for excellence in not only academics, but in helping to develop good character traits within each of our students. The people in their lives, including those working in our schools, are beacons – a true source of inspiration during the most challenging of times.

As we look back on the achievements of 2020-21, we are compelled to highlight the extraordinary efforts of many:

Our administrators collaborated to develop the re-opening plan that would allow our school to adhere to federal, state, and local government laws and the guidance of health agencies, enacted to minimize the spread of the virus. Their leadership has provided an action plan that would evolve and adapt to the changing requirements of our school community and support those charged with its implementation.

Our facilities staff has worked long and sometimes unusual hours to set up our classrooms and workspaces to meet requirements and have maintained stringent cleaning protocols to keep our building clean and safe.

Our food service personnel have prepared, served, and delivered tens of thousands of meals at a time when many families were not certain how they would put food on the table.

Our counselors, social workers, and nurses have prepared materials and compiled links to resources to help students, parents, and caregivers cope with the health crisis. Students and staff members were and are encouraged to meet with these specially trained professionals whenever necessary.

Our transportation department has provided a clean and safe environment on each of our buses and has remained flexible throughout the year, adjusting routes to accommodate the changing student population seeking transport to and from the campus or other locations.

Our clerical staff has adapted to the needs of each situation as necessary. Their service and professionalism is exceptional -

creating "Plan A, Plan B, or Plan C" often for the same function! They support our faculty and staff, parents and caregivers, for a multitude of pandemic-related changes with grace.

Our technology department has provided hours of professional development for our teachers navigating the technological requirements of the hybrid or fully remote learning models. They tirelessly answer calls from parents, grandparents, and caregivers working with children at home, troubleshoot hardware and software issues, and arrange for Chromebook repairs to allow students to keep up with their remote lessons.

Our teachers and teacher aides have exceeded expectations in every facet, continuously going the extra mile to creatively make learning meaningful, engaging, exciting, and fun. (Mostly!) They were and are superheroes in every sense!

Our students have demonstrated courage and perseverance daily as they face many new changes and challenges, and certainly some disappointment. However, their resilience has been witnessed and is seen as one of the greatest highlights of the past year. Whether hybrid or remote, their smiles and willingness to keep working hard continues to inspire.

Our parents and guardians have immensely supported the efforts of our faculty and staff here at Akron Schools. We salute the parents, grandparents and caregivers who may have reluctantly taken on the role of teacher, counselor, technology wizard, or Google Meet expert! Now, more than ever, we are grateful to call you **partners** in your child's education.



Here's a sampling of just some of our traditional achievements:



- For the 9th consecutive year, Akron Schools has been named a “Best Communities for Music Education” by the NAMM Foundation! Although the COVID-19 pandemic has affected how the local Akron school community enjoys music events from the school’s many ensembles during 2020-21, the musicians and their directors are very proud of their efforts in spite of the challenges. Socially distanced rehearsals have culminated with pre-recorded concerts for viewing from the school’s website or YouTube.

Many individual musicians accepted the challenge to submit a video recording of a solo audition to the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA). They all agreed that it was much harder performing in front of a camera instead of a judge! 19 Akron students were honored with selection to various All-County ensembles for their efforts and talents, although the traditional weekend festival spent rehearsing and performing could not be held.

Students look forward to performing at unrestricted events that in the past have included Labor Day, Memorial Day and July 4th holiday parades; annual Prism and holiday concerts; the lighted Community Christmas event featuring the Santa’s Helpers’ Band; Cabaret Concerts and Music & Munchies Orchestra concerts; and musical productions such as last year’s Disney’s High School Musical for which Akron was lucky to have performed before the pandemic shut down most of the country in March of 2020.



- Despite the limitations forced by the pandemic, the Athletics Department was able to facilitate interscholastic sports for all teams except wrestling and basketball cheerleading. While Section VI shortened some sport seasons in response to county and state health guidance, our athletes put forth exceptional effort and really shined!



Girls XC, Field Hockey, and Girls Soccer teams were named Scholar Athlete Teams (90 and above); Winter and Fall II team data was not available at deadline. One senior was a winner for All-WNY Scholar-Athlete selection by Section VI of the NYSPHSAA with nine seniors earning Honorable Mention designation for the Fall I season.

Additionally, Field Hockey, Golf and Girls Swim were Niagara-Orleans Champions and several individual Tiger athletes were honored at the WNY and NYS levels.

We were happy to be able to “live stream” swim meets, basketball games and volleyball games to our new athletic YouTube channel as spectators were limited due to pandemic restrictions.

Go Tigers!

- Thirteen juniors and seniors were selected for the Akron chapter of the National Honor Society and eight Akron seniors were selected to the Erie 1 BOCES chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. Due to pandemic restrictions, the traditional ceremonies were adjusted and pre-recorded events were made available for public viewing.



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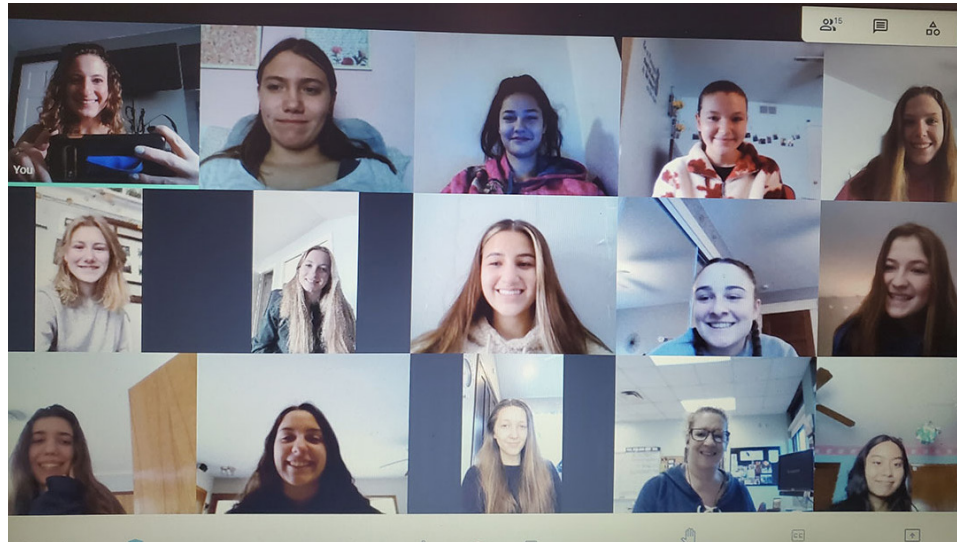
We're proud of faculty and staff members who have been recognized or called upon to serve, including:

- Mrs. Julie Constantino, Health teacher for Akron Middle and High School, was selected the Western Zone's Health Education Teacher of the Year by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Mrs. Laura Penn, Librarian for Akron Middle and High School, was the recipient of the 2020 Excellence in Library Service award by the Western New York Library Resources Council and was also selected as one of only 120 teachers in the US for the National History Day® (NHD) spring professional development program.

Mrs. Christina O'Malley, Middle School 8th Grade Creative Design and Engineering teacher, who was recommended by the New York State Association for Computers and Technology (NYSCATE) and invited to serve on the New York State Education Department's new P12 Digital Learning Advisory Council.

Mrs. Barbara Goodman, Food Services Director, was honored by recently retired NYS senator, Michael Ranzenhofer, as a 2020 Woman of Distinction for her dedication and leadership in serving our community.



Goodman and the Food Services staff were also honored with the Paul Harris Award, Rotary International's highest recognition for "service above self" for their efforts preparing and distributing meals to our families during the pandemic.

Our students and staff were still mindful of our local community and families or individuals struggling through the pandemic. Although service projects had to be adapted due to the pandemic, they were still meaningful. Here's a sample:

- Mrs. Bernadette Chunco challenged her sixth grade students to demonstrate an act of kindness during the holiday

season – and many stepped up by donating toys, books, clothes, and food to charities, made ornaments or cookies for neighbors and relatives, or sent special letters to those unable to visit family due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Chrischell Samolis once again spearheaded "Santa Paws" to collect donations from elementary students for furry friends at the Genesee Animal Shelter and Open Arms Rescue.

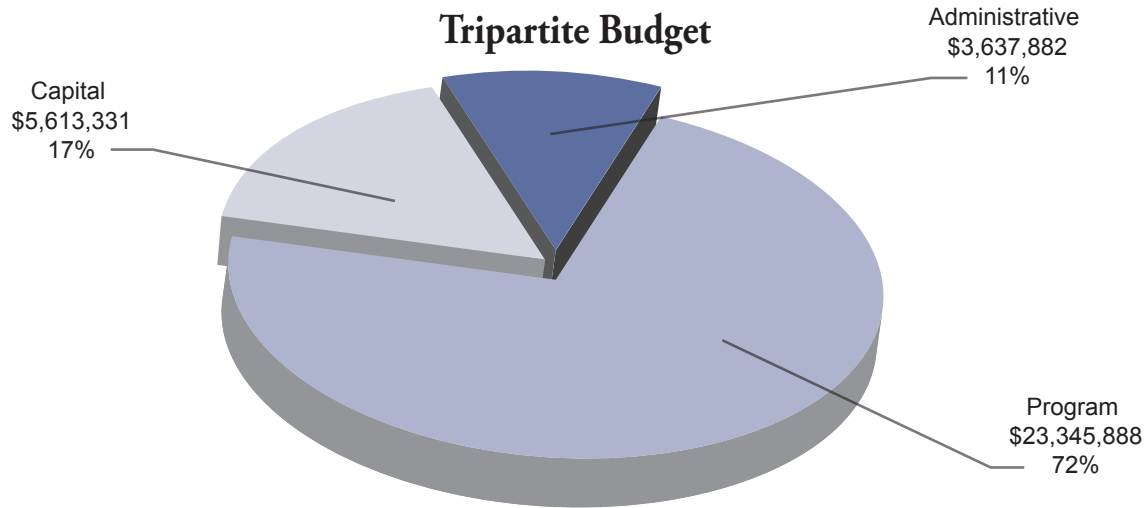
Our faculty and staff sponsored Friday "Dress Down Days" with donations going to Making Strides for Breast Cancer, Akron-Newstead Food Pantry, Hearts & Hands, ALS, and AFA and AEA Scholarship funds.

We continue to coordinate with the Newstead Rotary Club to assist families during the holidays and for the "Blessings in a Backpack" program that sends food home on Fridays with over 50 elementary and middle school children.

"Mindful Mondays" is a new in-school effort developed by the Elementary Student Support Staff who prepare and push out mindfulness videos for students and teachers to utilize and practice. Mindfulness activities focus on mindful breathing, eating, listening, movement, stretching, and writing, as ways to self-regulate.



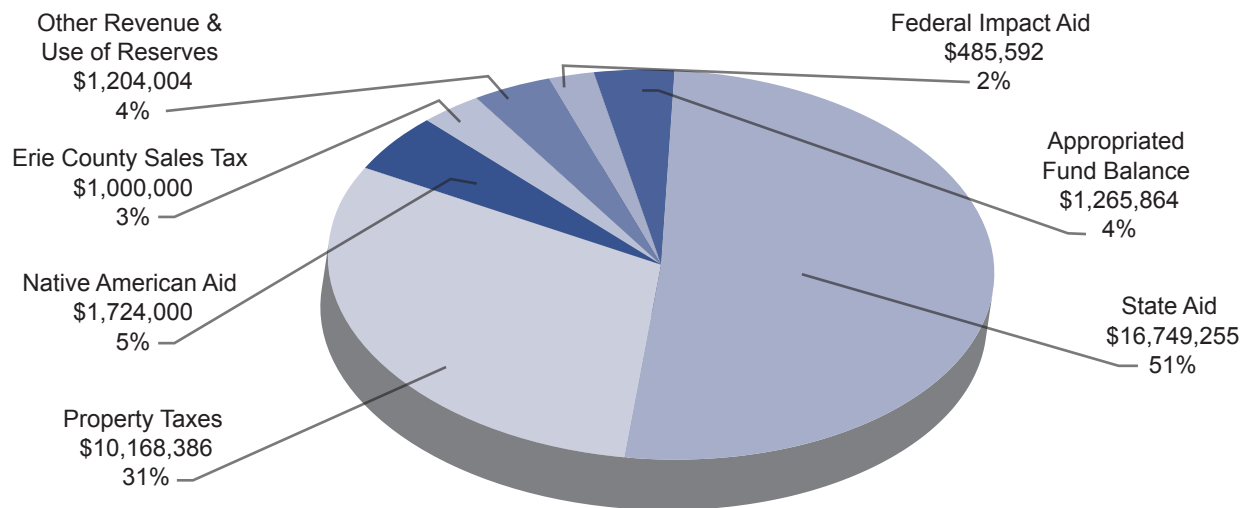
2021-2022 General Fund Appropriations



	Adopted 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	\$	Change
Administrative Component				
Board of Education/District Clerk	\$ 34,800	\$ 57,602	\$	22,802
Central Office/District Services	\$ 1,366,460	\$ 1,536,462	\$	170,002
Legal & Personnel	\$ 191,750	\$ 195,750	\$	4,000
Instructional Administration	\$ 997,010	\$ 1,093,853	\$	96,843
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 717,365	\$ 754,215	\$	36,850
	\$ 3,307,385	\$ 3,637,882	\$	330,497
Program Component				
Instruction	\$ 10,122,268	\$ 10,186,798	\$	64,530
Exceptional Education	\$ 4,991,535	\$ 5,093,769	\$	102,234
Co-Curricular & Athletics	\$ 647,916	\$ 874,892	\$	226,976
Transportation	\$ 1,231,664	\$ 1,360,183	\$	128,519
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 5,457,532	\$ 5,830,246	\$	372,714
	\$ 22,450,915	\$ 23,345,888	\$	894,973
Capital Component				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 1,981,609	\$ 1,931,917	\$	(49,692)
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$ 4,156,224	\$ 3,127,186	\$	(1,029,038)
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ 1,317,042	\$ -	\$	(1,317,042)
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 483,417	\$ 554,228	\$	70,811
	\$ 7,938,292	\$ 5,613,331	\$	(2,324,961)
Total Expenditures	\$ 33,696,592	\$ 32,597,101	\$	(1,099,491)



2021-2022 Proposed General Fund Revenues



	Adopted 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	\$ Change
State Aid:			
Foundation Aid/General Aid	\$ 10,243,531	\$ 10,550,836	\$ 307,305
Excess Cost Aid	\$ 590,187	\$ 590,711	\$ 524
BOCES	\$ 1,204,574	\$ 1,327,477	\$ 122,903
Hardware and Technology	\$ 24,193	\$ 22,715	\$ (1,478)
Textbook, Software, Library	\$ 111,049	\$ 103,164	\$ (7,885)
Transportation	\$ 1,331,344	\$ 1,257,673	\$ (73,671)
Building	\$ 3,556,283	\$ 2,896,679	\$ (659,604)
NYS Pandemic Adjustment	\$ (262,797)	\$ -	\$ 262,797
Federal CARES Restoration	\$ 262,797	\$ -	\$ (262,797)
Estimated Mid Year NYS Cuts	\$ (574,522)	\$ -	\$ 574,522
	\$ 16,486,639	\$ 16,749,255	\$ 262,616
Other Revenue:			
Native American Aid	\$ 3,041,042	\$ 1,724,000	\$ (1,317,042)
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 200,000
Federal Impact Aid	\$ 451,392	\$ 485,592	\$ 34,200
Other Revenues	\$ 724,500	\$ 504,004	\$ (220,496)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,152,276	\$ 1,265,864	\$ 113,588
Use of Reserves/Transfers In	\$ 973,034	\$ 700,000	\$ (273,034)
	\$ 7,142,244	\$ 5,679,460	\$ (1,462,784)
Real Property Tax Levy:	\$ 10,067,709	\$ 10,168,386	\$ 100,677
Total Revenues:	\$ 33,696,592	\$ 32,597,101	\$ (1,099,491)

Contingent Budget Spending

Contingency budget estimates are based on Section 2023 of the Education Law. A contingent budget for Akron CSD for 2021-22 is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$360,241 from the original budget of \$32,597,101.

Under a contingency budget, state law allows a school district to operate the regular instructional program, preserve the health and safety of students and staff, and protect the district's property. Districts are prohibited from spending money on items such as new equipment or nonessential maintenance projects. In addition, a district would be required to charge for public use of their facilities, except when there is no cost to the district.

STAR Program Information

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides New York homeowners with partial exemptions from school property taxes. For information on how the relief program works or how calculations are made, please contact the Town of Newstead Assessor's Office, 5 Clarence Center Road, P.O. Box 227, Akron, NY 14001 or call (716) 542-5473 Option 4 or visit www.tax.ny.gov/star.

SAMPLE BALLOT

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – 2021-2022 BUDGET

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Akron Central School District (the “District”) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted, and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated, and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

YES NO

PROPOSITION NO. 2 Acquisition of School Buses (and Related Equipment)

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Akron Central School District, Erie, Genesee and Niagara Counties, New York (the “District”), is hereby authorized to purchase school buses and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the District, including three (3) sixty-six (66)-passenger buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$121,000 each, and one (1) van-type bus, at an estimated maximum cost of \$63,000 (with such estimated maximum cost reflecting the value of any trade-ins), and to expend therefor an aggregate sum not to exceed \$426,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$426,000 (which may include certain up-front financing costs), plus an amount for interest thereon, shall be funded by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in anticipation of such tax, bonds or other obligations (including, without limitation, obligations arising under leases, lease/purchase contracts or installment purchase contracts having a term of not more than five years) of the District shall be issued or entered into in accordance with applicable provisions of New York State law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State Transportation Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

YES NO

Board of Education Members

Two (2) Seats Vacant

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies. All seats are for three (3) year terms, 7/1/21-6/30/24.

VOTE FOR ANY TWO

Phillip Kenline Erin Behm Jacob Halleck Erik Polkowski Lisa Giallella

Please  **OTE**

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

12:00 Noon - 9:00PM

High School Gymnasium #3 (Orange Gym)

US Postage
Non-Profit
PAID
Permit #41
Akron, NY

Akron Central School
47 Bloomingdale Avenue
Akron, NY 14001

BOXHOLDER
Akron, New York 14001

Board of Education

James Grant, President
Erik Polkowski, Vice President
Jody Brege
Heather Cayea
Deborah Forrestel
Phillip Kenline
Robert Masse

Superintendent of Schools

Patrick D. McCabe

www.akronschools.org

District Phone Numbers

Main District Phone - 542-5010
District Office - 542-5006
Business Office - 542-5020
High School - 542-5030
HS Student Support Services - 542-5035
HS/MS Nurse - 542-5036
Middle School - 542-5040
Elementary School - 542-5050
Elementary Nurse - 542-5056
Central Registrar - 542-5039
Educational Services - 542-5060
Special Education - 542-5077
Athletic Office - 542-5088
Instructional Technology - 542-5045
Building & Grounds - 542-5025
Bus Garage - 542-5026
Food Service - 542-5027
District Fax - 542-5018