

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Akron School Community,

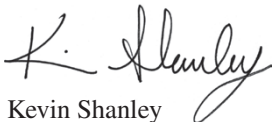
I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying nice weather after a particularly difficult winter season. This school year found many of our students recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in academics, athletics and the arts in Western NY and New York State. Our community can be proud of the education they help provide our students. Thanks go out to the talented administrators, faculty and staff that make it happen.

Over the past four years the District has been forced to make difficult cuts to programs and services for our students and to delay some needed repairs and maintenance needed to preserve our buildings. While we are fortunate to be able to have a slight increase in programs and services this year, we still have a long way to go to close the “educational gap” created by cuts in previous years. The reduction in aid from New York State continues to inhibit our ability to restore educational programs and services. In 2008-09 Akron CSD received \$12,416,919 in State Aid (excluding Building Aid) and we are due to receive \$10,899,105 for 2014-15. The combined reduction for 5 years in NYS Aid is \$9,378,821.

This year the Board of Education will present a budget with a proposed 1.19% tax levy increase that falls under the District’s Tax Cap amount. In addition the Board will place before the voters a proposition to establish a Capital Reserve. The Capital Reserve would be used to address needed repairs and maintenance and can also be used to offset the local share of repairs and maintenance items that are eligible to receive State Aid.

I encourage District residents to attend our Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 PM in the auditorium and to vote on the budget on May 20th from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have. I may be reached at 542-5006.

Sincerely,



Kevin Shanley
Superintendent of Schools



Kevin Shanley
*Superintendent
of Schools*

Daniel Caprio
President

Phillip Kenline
Vice-President

Shannon Cinotti
William Murty
David Penn
Kevin Stone
Tracy Sturmer

AKRON

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2014

B U D G E T I S S U E



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Akron Elementary Building Achievements 2013-14



- Curriculum supported in-school workshops from the Farm 2 Table program produced by the Erie County Agricultural Society were enjoyed by Gr. 3 with the maple syrup making process and Gr. 1 with monthly instruction on a variety of topics.
- Care and compassion were shown by students, staff and community for a benefit and basket auction that raised over \$25,000 honoring P.E. teacher Linda Kwasniak in her fight against ALS. Additionally, the school raised \$717 through a coin drive to benefit the "Blue 4 Ben" fund supporting a child with terminal cancer in neighboring Clarence Center.
- Encouraging and promoting a love for reading, Pizza Hut's "Book It" and Darien Lake's "Read



- to Ride" which rewards students with a free park pass, continue to be motivating programs for 350+ students.
- Attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences approaches 80% participation, enhancing the partnership between school and home.
- Over 350 students participate in two PTA sponsored afterschool enrichment programs, the expanded Science Nature EdVentures and new Spanish Language Program.
- Service Learning projects include the holiday food drive netting over 2,300 items for the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry, holiday cheer visits to the Cloisters by Grades 2 and 3, the partnership with PTA to display artwork in local businesses, and the Jump Rope for Heart Campaign that raised



- over \$2,500 for the American Heart Association.
- Sixteen musicians audition at the Erie County Solo Festival: eleven earn grades of A+ and five earn an A. Approximately 70% of grades 3 – 5 students participate in chorus, band or orchestra.
- Batter up! The entire elementary will attend the Bisons' Kid's Day in June as reward for participating in this year's themed "Reading Helps You Score in Life" program. Kudos to Mr. Zazynski's class for twice winning the monthly award.
- Once again, Akron ranked in the top 10 schools in NYS for the PTA's efforts collecting Box Tops for Education. Funds earned result in enhanced programming including a free book for every student at the annual Reading Carnival.

Akron Middle School Building Achievements 2013-14

- Top in their class for Math and Science, Anthony Brandl, Skyler Earle, Chloe Karmazyn, Hannah Kitchell, Brandon Meek, Nicholas Brand, Emma Sage, Millard Young, Amanda Ziarniak and Casey Zuba are participants in GCC's STEM Program. Thirteen current sixth grade students are nominated to participate in the program in September.
- "Reading for Meaning" strategies are implemented in all subject areas to support the demands of the Common Core Learning Standards. The activity encourages students to support their answers with text-based evidence.
- MS Government volunteers help with the Homecoming food drive benefitting the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry.
- For the third consecutive year, Akron hosts the NYSSMA Sectional All-State Junior High Music Festival.
- Margo Henley and Eliza Papke, 8th graders on Akron's Section VI Class C Champion Girls XC team that competed at the NYSPHSAA's State Championship, are named to 2nd and 4th Team, respectively, All-State Class C. Margo is named "Eighth Grade Runner of the Year" for Section VI.
- Abigail Stone, 8th grade student on the Varsity Field Hockey team, earns 2nd Team All-WNY Honor.



- Devin Scotch and Jessica Heim win regional honors in the Western Region PTA's Reflections Contest. Devin's Film Production entry earns Award of Merit at the state level in the Middle/Junior Division.
- Shannon Roberts and Marissa Brennan are chosen to play in a side-by-side concert with the Genesee Symphony Orchestra.
- 8th grade science classes learn about physics and how it relates to their body when practicing Tae Kwon Do with Master Chong and Mrs. Muscarella.
- Among the best in Erie County, Melissa Brennan, Caeley Harsch, Evelyn Hochreiter, Sara Hoefler, Abigail Nunn, Shannon Roberts, Emma Sage and alternates Kristen Stachowiak and Micah Suckow, are selected to All-County Performing Groups.
- Middle School Government hosts "Friday Fun Nights" at Sky Zone and Monster Mini Golf, as well as "Minute to Win It" and a Valentine's Day Dance and Activity Nights. For fundraising, they set up collection sites around the district for

recyclable bottles and cans.

- 8th grader Johnathan Fiebelkorn is Section VI Wrestling Champion at 99 lbs. earning a trip to the state championship.
- "Taste of Tech" was an exciting field trip to the Harkness Career and Technical Center for 8th graders.
- Mrs. Cramer's students receive Community Based Instruction during field trips to Eastern Hills Mall, Pixley's Shurfine and Guy's Sub Shop.
- 32 musicians are adjudicated at the Junior High All-County Solo Competition; 13 earn scores of A+, 17 earn As, and two earn a score of A-.
- Celebrating March "Music in our Schools" Month, music-minded students earn applause for their participation in "Music & Munchies" orchestra concert and Cabaret Concert 2014.
- Over \$2,700 is raised for the annual United Way Campaign, Cassidy Gaik leads a collection for toys for Owen's Toy Box and the MS went "Blue 4 Ben", too.

Akron High School Building Achievements 2013-14

- Akron earns an 11th place ranking among all public high schools in WNY by Business First. Special designation as a High Performance Reward School – one of only 88 in the state to receive this honor – is also given.
- Akron is named in the top 500 high schools in the nation by US News and World Report.
- Of June 2013 graduates, 97% earn Regents diplomas and 68% attain Advanced Regents diplomas, the fourth highest district in all of Erie County.
- Student Council organizes PB & J and toilet paper collection for Homecoming Spirit Week, a holiday giving tree for needy families and “Candy Canes for Kwasniak” to raise money for ALS.
- Saxophonist Nathan Bryk auditions and is selected for the 2013 NAFME National HS Honor Band earning a trip to Nashville, TN for a performance at the famed Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Resort.
- Girls XC team is Section VI Class C and N-O League Champs earning a trip to the NYSPHSAA’s State Championship.
- Field Hockey team and Coach Borden are honored with Section VI Harris Wienke Officials’ Sportsmanship Award and the N-O League Sportsmanship Award. Senior Dakota Earle receives the individual league honor as well.
- Senior Claudia Stone earns 1st Team All-WNY Field Hockey selection.
- Vocalist Leah Bisson auditions and is selected to perform with the NYS School Music Association’s Conference All-State Chorus.
- Austen Lauricella is football Connolly Cup Finalist and selected to 1st Team All-State Class C as wide receiver. Austen is also featured as Ch. 7’s Super 7 Athlete of the Week. Teammate Tommy James is given Honorable Mention for the All-State team as linebacker.
- Girls Soccer team is named Far West Regional Co-Champs following a hard-fought game that ends in a tie. Juniors Cailin Regan and Paige Buscaglia are named to 1st and 4th All-State Class B teams, respectively.
- Both Class B Sectional and N-O Champions, the Boys Soccer team has Christopher Mayrose and Austin Medole chosen for 1st Team All-WNY.
- Performing with one of six ensembles for NYSSMA’s Senior High Area All-State concerts



- are Carly Staebell, Kaitlyn Stachowiak, Nathan Bryk and Leah Bisson.
- Over 100 MS and HS students participate in the “Hour of Code,” an introductory opportunity for students to try computer science.
- Nearly \$1,700 is raised at the annual Jack Silvernail Memorial Basketball Tournament, a Coaches vs. Cancer event. Monies raised were sent to the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research.
- National Honor Society inducts Carrie Akin, Elizabeth Anderson, Lauren Dorobiala, Kells-Amber Ellis, Trevor Foster, Deegan Lotz, Austen Lauricella, Mardi Mangus, Carly Staebell, Claudia Stone and Elizabeth Wager.
- English teacher Mr. Baumgarten is named one of WNY’s 2014 “Teachers of Merit” by Business First. The award is given to only twenty-five K-12 teachers in all of WNY.
- Senior Career & Technical Center students Cassandra Carlson, Abigail Kankiewicz, Thomas Reynolds, Doni Roehling, II and Lance Salmon are inducted to the National Technical Honor Society.
- Alex George, Kayla Jackson and Brandi Reuben have artwork selected for exhibition at the Daemen All-High Art Show.
- Lockport’s Kenan Gallery hosts the Storr’s All-High Photo Show where Alicia Borth, Riley Guenther, Carolyn Bodenschatz, Allison Norton, Kayla Jackson, Brandi Reuben, Samantha Wahl, McKenzie Frayne, Fox Cummings and Shaylyn Jones have photos displayed.

- Eight fall and winter teams earn Scholar-Athlete status with team averages above 90.
- Girls Basketball team and Coach Butler are selected from over 100 Section VI teams to receive the Brian Hansen Memorial Officials’ Sportsmanship Award. The team is also Section VI Class B2 Runner-up.
- Soccer and basketball player Jenny Komosinski is a two-time winner of the All-WNY Scholar Athlete recognition. Austen Lauricella, Joe Sarow, Elizabeth Wager, Noah Diebel and Gina Henley are also honored for the fall or winter athletic seasons. Eight more seniors from the fall season earn Honorable Mention.
- Science in Society classes visit Ford Gum, Akron Airport, Aakron Rule, Niagara Specialty Metals and Schrock Metal Products. They work with Akron Fire Dept. and Mercy Flight of WNY, too.
- Jennifer Komosinski is named to Business First’s 2014 All-WNY Academic 2nd Team. Jenny makes this year’s list of top 100 HS seniors out of more than 20,000 seniors in the 8 county region.
- Music director Mr. Flynn is awarded the “Excellence in Music Education” Award by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Erie County Music Educators Association. The award presentation is made at the BPO’s concert on May 10th at Kleinhans.
- Akron Schools is named “Best Communities for Music Education” by NAMM Foundation for the second year in a row, one of only 376 districts nationwide.



Fiscal Accountability Summary

Commissioner's Regulations require that certain expenditure ratios for general education and special education students be reported and compared with ratios for similar districts and all public schools. The required ratios for this district are reported below.

The numbers used to compute the statistics on this page were collected on the State Aid Form A, the State Aid Form F, the School District Annual Financial Report (ST-3), and from the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). These data are from the 2011 - 12 school year.

This School District	General Education	Special Education
Instructional Expenditures	\$13,795,006	\$4,037,853
Pupils	1,486	147
Expenditures Per Pupil	\$9,283	\$27,468
Similar District Group (Average Need/Resource Capacity)	General Education	Special Education
Instructional Expenditures	\$8,266,153,234	\$3,167,391,005
Pupils	785,995	108,241
Expenditures Per Pupil	\$10,517	\$29,262
All School Districts	General Education	Special Education
Instructional Expenditures	\$31,088,294,986	\$12,418,610,168
Pupils	2,676,495	411,123
Expenditures Per Pupil	\$11,615	\$30,207

Instructional Expenditures for General Education are K-12 expenditures for classroom instruction (excluding Special Education) plus a proration of building level administrative and instructional support expenditures. These expenditures include amounts for instruction of students with disabilities in a general-education setting. District expenditures, such as transportation, debt service and district-wide administration are not included.

The pupil count for General Education is K-12 average daily membership plus K-12 pupils for whom the district pays tuition to another school district. This number represents all pupils, including those classified as having disabilities and those not classified, excluding only students with disabilities placed out of district. Pupils resident in the district but attending a charter school are included. For districts in which a county jail is located, this number includes incarcerated youth to whom the district must provide an education program.

Instructional Expenditures for Special Education are K-12 expenditures for students with disabilities (including summer special education expenditures) plus a proration of building-level administrative and instructional support expenditures. District expenditures, such as transportation, debt service and district-wide administration are not included.

The pupil count for Special Education is a count of K-12 students with disabilities for the 2011-12 school year plus students for whom the district receives tuition from another district plus students for whom the district pays tuition to another district. Students attending the State schools at Rome and Batavia, private placements and out-of-state placements are included.

Instructional Expenditures Per Pupil is the simple arithmetic ratio of Instructional Expenditures to Pupils. The total cost of instruction for students with disabilities may include both general- and special-education expenditures. Special-education services provided in the general education classroom may benefit students not classified as having disabilities.

Total Expenditures Per Pupil

This School District	Similar District Group	NY State
\$17,627	\$19,290	\$20,906

Total Expenditures Per Pupil is the simple arithmetic ratio of Total Expenditures to Pupils. Total Expenditures include district expenditures for classroom instruction, as well as expenditures for transportation, debt service, community service and district-wide administration that are not included in the Instructional Expenditure values for General Education and Special Education. As such, the sum of General Education and Special Education Instructional Expenditures does not equal the Total Expenditures.

Information about Students with Disabilities (2012-13)

Commissioner’s Regulations require reporting students with disabilities by the percent of time they are in general education classrooms and the classification rate of students with disabilities. These data are to be compared with percentages for similar districts and all public schools. The required percentages for this district are reported below.

Student Placement (Percent of Time Inside Regular Classroom)	This School District		Similar District Group (Average Need/Resource Capacity)	NY State
	Number of Students	Percent of Students	Percent of Students	Percent of Students
80% or more	109	78.4%	57.7%	57.8%
40% - 79%	7	5.0%	18.8%	11.7%
Less than 40%	13	9.4%	16.9%	21.4%
Separate Settings	10	7.2%	4.1%	6.2%
Other Settings	0	0.0%	2.5%	2.9%

The source data for the statistics in this table were reported through the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) and verified in Verification Report 5. The counts are numbers of students reported in the least restrictive environment categories for school-age programs (ages 6-21) on October 3, 2012. The percentages represent the amount of time students with disabilities are in general-education classrooms, regardless of the amount and cost of special education services they receive. Rounding of percentage values may cause them to sum to a number slightly different from 100%.

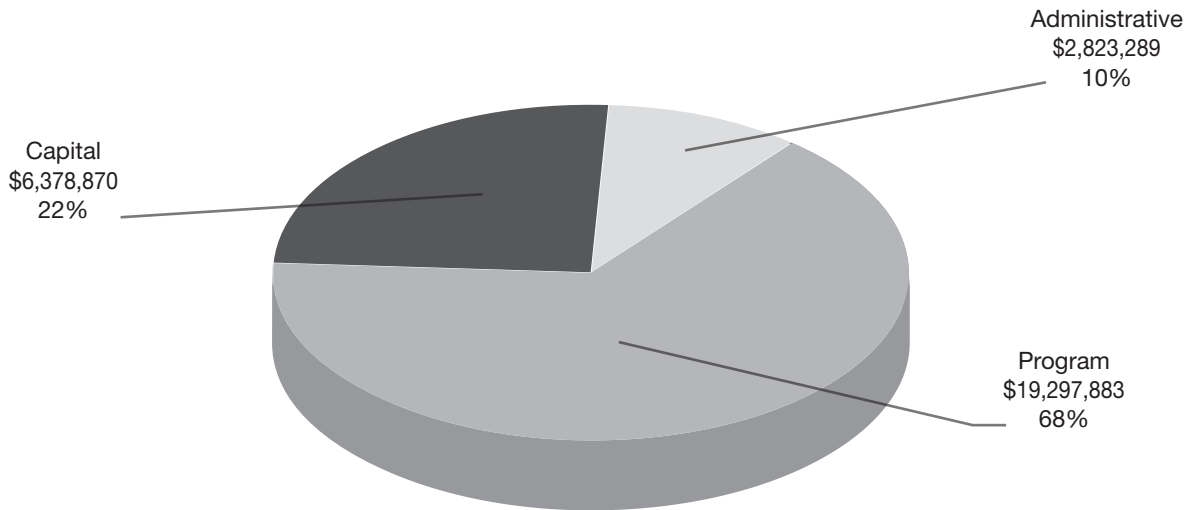
School-age Students with Disabilities Classification Rate

This School District	Similar District Group	NY State
9.1%	12.1%	13.1%

This rate is a ratio of the count of school-age students with disabilities (ages 4-21) to the total enrollment of all school-age students in the school district, including students who are parentally placed in nonpublic schools located in the school district. The numerator includes all school-age students for whom a district has Committee on Special Education (CSE) responsibility to ensure the provision of special education services. The denominator includes all school-age students who reside in the district. In the case of parentally placed students in nonpublic schools, it includes the number of students who attend the nonpublic schools located in the school district. Source data are drawn from the SIRS and from the Basic Education Data System (BEDS).



2014-2015 General Fund Appropriations



	Adopted 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	\$ Change
Administrative Component			
Board of Education/District Clerk	\$ 20,080	\$ 20,938	\$ 858
Central Office/District Services	\$ 1,114,562	\$ 1,210,386	\$ 95,824
Legal & Personnel	\$ 116,995	\$ 133,495	\$ 16,500
Instructional Administration	\$ 755,510	\$ 810,255	\$ 54,745
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 825,688	\$ 648,215	\$ (177,473)
	\$ 2,832,835	\$ 2,823,289	\$ (9,546)
Program Component			
Instruction	\$ 9,075,214	\$ 9,120,803	\$ 45,589
Exceptional Education	\$ 3,306,298	\$ 3,406,751	\$ 100,453
Co-Curricular & Athletics	\$ 390,822	\$ 406,050	\$ 15,228
Transportation	\$ 1,239,141	\$ 1,245,690	\$ 6,549
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 5,084,579	\$ 5,118,589	\$ 34,010
	\$ 19,096,054	\$ 19,297,883	\$ 201,829
Capital Component			
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 1,878,395	\$ 1,973,292	\$ 94,897
Debt Service	\$ 4,817,445	\$ 3,975,252	\$ (842,193)
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 518,225	\$ 430,326	\$ (87,899)
	\$ 7,214,065	\$ 6,378,870	\$ (835,195)
Total Expenditures	\$ 29,142,954	\$ 28,500,042	\$ (642,912)

STAR Program Information

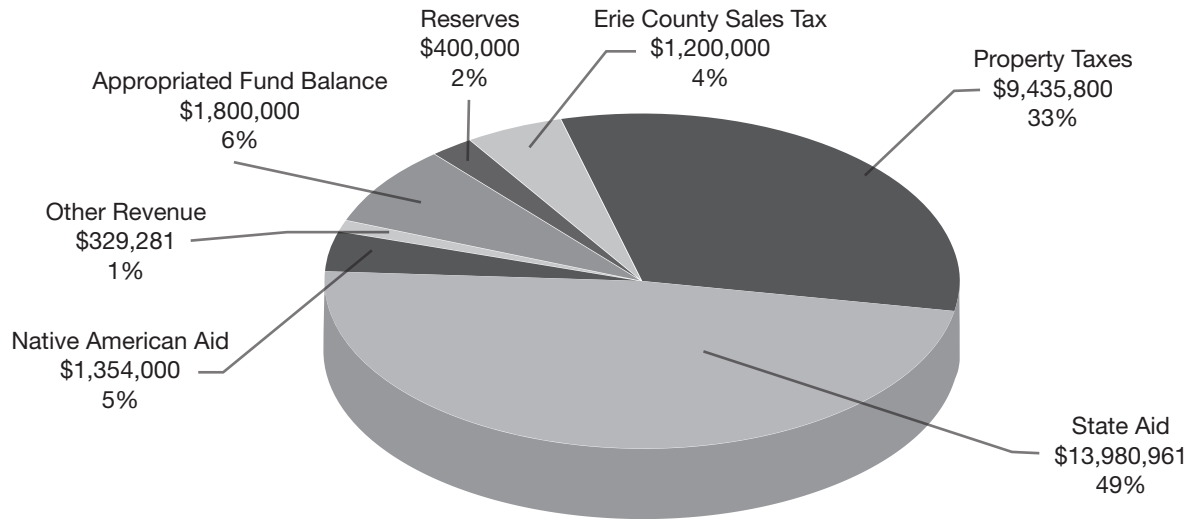
The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides New York homeowners with partial exemptions from school property taxes. If you earn less than \$500,000 and own and live in your home, you are probably eligible for the STAR exemption.

Basic STAR is available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the owners' total income is less than \$500,000. Basic STAR works by exempting the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home from school taxes.

Enhanced STAR provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes. For qualifying seniors, Enhanced STAR exempts the first \$64,200 of the full value of their home from school taxes. For the 2014-15 school year, senior citizens applying for the Enhanced STAR exemption must demonstrate that the combined income of all of the owners of the property was no greater than \$81,900 in 2012.

Beginning with the 2011-12 school tax bills, the savings resulting from the Basic or Enhanced STAR exemptions are limited to a 2% increase over the prior year.

2014-15 Proposed General Fund Revenues



	Adopted 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15	\$	Change
Proposed State Aid:				
Foundation Aid/General Aid	\$ 9,191,060	\$ 9,270,091	\$	79,031
Excess Cost Aid	\$ 399,313	\$ 489,336	\$	90,023
BOCES	\$ 768,352	\$ 920,000	\$	151,648
Hardware and Technology	\$ 27,407	\$ 25,374	\$	(2,033)
Textbook, Software, Library	\$ 121,926	\$ 116,754	\$	(5,172)
Transportation	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$	(50,000)
Building	\$ 3,868,557	\$ 3,252,923	\$	(615,634)
Gap Elimination Adjustment	\$ (1,669,097)	\$ (1,293,517)	\$	375,580
Total Proposed Aid	\$ 13,957,518	\$ 13,980,961	\$	23,443
Other Revenue:				
Native American Aid	\$ 1,354,000	\$ 1,354,000	\$	-
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$	100,000
Other Revenues	\$ 348,998	\$ 329,281	\$	(19,717)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$	(500,000)
Use of Reserves	\$ 758,000	\$ 400,000	\$	(358,000)
	\$ 5,860,998	\$ 5,083,281	\$	(777,717)
Proposed Real Property Tax Levy:	\$ 9,324,438	\$ 9,435,800	\$	111,362
Total Proposed Revenues:	\$ 29,142,954	\$ 28,500,042	\$	(642,912)

Contingent Budget Spending

Contingency budget estimates are based on Section 2023 of the Education Law. A contingent budget for Akron CSD for 2014-15 is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$177,362 from the original budget of \$28,500,042.

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.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING - MAY 13, 2014
Edward Allen Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

SAMPLE BALLOT

PROPOSITION NO. 1: 2014-2015 BUDGET

Shall the following proposition be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Akron Central School District (the "District") for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, 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.

PROPOSITION NO. 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Akron Central School District (the "District") is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law of the State of New York (the "Fund"); that the Fund shall be known as the "Capital Reserve Fund" of the District; that the Fund shall be established for the purpose of funding, in whole or in part, the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds could be issued the District in accordance with the local finance law, including but not limited to for purposes of funding all or a portion of the costs of the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, renovation, alteration and improvement of District buildings, facilities, grounds and real property, including the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection therewith; that the ultimate amount of such Fund shall be not greater than \$1,200,000 plus interest earned thereon; that the probable term of the Fund shall be not longer than 10 years; and that the source of the monies for the Fund shall be (a) the unrestricted fund balance of the District, (b) state aid received as reimbursement for expenditures by the District in connection with District capital improvements and for expenditures from the Fund, to the extent not otherwise required to be reserved by law, (c) the proceeds from the sale of unneeded District furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus, and (d) such other sources as the Board or the voters of the District may direct, all as may be permitted by law.

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 on the Board created by the expiration on June 30, 2014 of the terms of Board members Kevin Stone and Tracy Sturmer. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

A drawing was conducted to determine the order in which Board of Education candidates will appear on the ballot. The order will be as follows:

Jody Brege
Diane Snyder

**ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT
OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 3:30 P.M.**

**Please Vote Tuesday, May 20, 2014
12:00 Noon - 9:00 p.m.
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

Daniel Caprio, President
Phillip Kenline, Vice-President
Shannon Cinotti
William Murty
David Penn
Kevin Stone
Tracy Sturmer

Superintendent of Schools

Kevin Shanley

www.akronschoools.org

District Phone Numbers

District Phone – 542-5010
District Office – 542-5006
Business Office – 542-5020
Maintenance – 542-5025
Bus Garage – 542-5026
Food Service – 542-5027
High School – 542-5030
Guidance – 542-5035
MS/HS Nurse – 542-5036
Middle School – 542-5040
Elementary – 542-5050
Elementary Nurse – 542-5056
Instructional Technology – 542-5045
Special Education – 542-5077
Athletic Office – 542-5088
District Fax – 542-5018