

Budget Vote • Tuesday, June 9, 2020

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Akron Central Schools Community:

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. Akron is a special place because of the partnership that exists between our school and community. In developing the 2020-2021 school budget, a series of public budget development presentations were held during Board of Education meetings to ensure that items within the budget reflect the values of the community and the needs of all learners. Special emphasis was placed on maintaining educational excellence while exercising fiscally responsible decision making.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on district operations, educational programming and fiscal planning are significant. Akron receives 49% of its operating revenue from New York State. For the upcoming year, that aid has been frozen at last year's level despite the fact that operating costs continue to rise. Moreover, it has been widely reported that school districts should anticipate reductions in State Aid and sales tax revenue as a result of the significant economic disruption caused by the partial shutdown of the economy. Thus, some staffing reductions and significant cost saving measures have already taken place.

This year, the Board of Education will present a budget with a 1.95% tax levy increase that falls under the District's Tax Cap amount. In addition, as part of our ten-year bus replacement plan, the Board will place before the voters a proposition to purchase three 66 passenger buses and one student transportation van. This plan has been very effective in keeping our buses safe for students and has maintained the fleet so that we have not been faced with the high cost of replacing large numbers of buses at the same time.

The public hearing on the budget will be on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 p.m. and will be accessible via a Zoom meeting video link on the district website. The District will make a good faith effort to distribute absentee ballots for the annual budget vote and school board elections to all qualified voters as required by Executive Order 202.26. The absentee ballot will be mailed via the United States Postal Service. Completed ballots must be received by the district no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick D. McCabe
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

JUNE 2020

BUDGET ISSUE VOTE

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Akron Elementary School Highlights & Achievements 2019-20

- Over the past six years, Akron Elementary has improved its Elementary School ranking in *Business First* by 75 spots for both public and private schools, each year making positive gains. In 2019-20, our mission focused on “WHY” we do what we do, and that is relationship building, persistence when faced with challenges, connectedness, and promoting kids’ love for coming to school every day.
- Students were able to participate in a variety of enrichment programs including STEAMFEST 2020 for grades 4 and 5, Hands On Science, Culture Kids (a foreign language program for Spanish), athletic intramurals for grades 4 and 5, and Lego Builder’s Club. Approximately 350 students participated in at least one of these programs.
- Akron Elementary once again partnered with the Akron-Newstead Rotary Club for the Blessings in a Backpack program. Through this program, participating students are provided with non-perishable food every Friday.
- Our students worked very hard on character building traits to become “bucket fillers” not “bucket dippers.” Each time the students fill up the huge “Having a Ball with Good Character” themed bucket with earned tickets, they are rewarded with a school-wide celebration on GREAT CHARACTER. Additionally, Mindfulness Mondays, an effort to share techniques to better cope with stress and anxiety, was instituted to help teach mental health awareness.
- Participation in several Service Learning opportunities included:
 - Annual Canned Food Drive and “Souper Bowl” collection to support the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry (over 2,000 items)
 - Operation Toothbrush to benefit those in need locally (over 1,500 items)
 - Grades 2 and 3 walked to The Cloisters bringing holiday cheer with gifts and song
 - Peyton’s Toy Box collection of new toys for patients at Oishei Children’s Hospital
 - Jump Rope for Heart Campaign benefited the American Heart Association and raised more than \$3,900 in honor of a beloved student who passed away



Akron Middle School Highlights & Achievements 2019-20

- Akron Middle School is ranked 13th out of 151 public middle schools in Western New York according to *Business First*. Akron Middle School is ranked 22nd out of all 191 public and private middle schools in Western New York according to *Business First*.
- Akron Middle School collected over 450 food items during the holiday season, earning a half-day of fun time for students in recognition of their compassion and responsibility towards our community.
- Akron Middle School held “Akron’s Got Talent” for the first time during the 2019-20 school year. The event is a talent show for Grades 6 through 8, without any judges, where participating students can showcase their talent on stage for our entire Middle School. “Akron’s Got Talent” is a great way for students to demonstrate their individual talents in ways not always present during the school day. Well done!
- Middle School students, embracing a fun tradition, participated in the annual Cardboard Boat Race. A feat of engineering, teams of students use math, science and technology to design quality boats then construct the boats using only cardboard and duct tape. The tradition culminates with the opportunity for teams to race their boats in the school pool for time – and terrific prizes. Our cardboard boat race is a great way for all students to have an enjoyable STEM experience
- 8th grade students in Creative Design and Engineering used a new program, *Playground Physics*, to record familiar play activities then investigate and analyze the physics concepts embodied in their everyday physical play experiences. This supports learners’ discussion, reflection, and understanding of the relationships between their performances and target science concepts. 8th grade students also learned how to use 3D CADD software, Autodesk Inventor, to design their own earbud holders and then 3D-printed their prototypes!
- Akron Schools was named a “Best Communities for Music Education” by The NAMM Foundation for the 8th consecutive year!



Akron High School Highlights & Achievements 2019-20

- The Washington Post* has recognized Akron High School as being one of America’s Most Challenging High Schools. This ranking is based on the academic offerings in our curriculum including an index used for the per student ratio of Advanced Placement® and college level courses offered. *U.S. News & World Report* has named Akron High School one of America’s Best High Schools. We ranked 2,559 out of more than 24,000 public high schools in the country. Additionally, Akron High School ranked 239th out of 1,217 public high schools in New York State.
- Our Graduation Rates:
 - Overall:
 - #1 out of 19 districts in Erie 1 BOCES
 - #2 out of 28 districts in Erie County
 - #6 out of 79 districts in the WNY Regional Information Center area
 - #83 out of 647 districts in New York State.
 - With Advanced Designation Distinction (for extra credits in Math/Science as well as mastery performance on State exams):
 - #1 out of 19 districts in Erie 1 BOCES
 - #1 out of 28 districts in Erie County
 - #1 out of 79 districts in the WNY Regional Information Center area
 - #6 out of 647 districts in New York State.
- Our Akron Tiger Marching Band were excellent ambassadors for our school, NYS and the US when they performed in Canada’s Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade held October 12, 2019. The parade was televised nationally in Canada and the Tigers paraded for over 20,000 spectators. They were awarded \$4,000 to help defray the cost of hotel and busing.
- The Entrepreneurship Class was featured in a WKBW Channel 7 news story in December for their hands-on retailing relationship with Akron Market on Main.
- Seventeen juniors and seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society and nine seniors were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society through Erie 1 BOCES. Both organizations have a rigorous selection process.



Akron Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$35,187,360	\$33,696,592	\$33,365,827
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$(1,490,768)	\$(1,821,533)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-4.24%	-5.18%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$9,875,144	\$10,067,709	
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)	\$9,875,144	\$10,067,709	\$9,875,144
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$65,855	\$147,065	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$9,903,706	\$10,045,188	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$9,809,289	\$9,920,644	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$94,417	\$124,544	
Administrative Component	\$3,491,228	\$3,307,385	\$3,307,385
Program Component	\$22,202,703	\$22,450,915	\$22,421,215
Capital Component	\$9,493,429	\$7,938,292	\$7,637,227

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingent budget for 2020-21 is anticipated to result in a decrease of \$138,200 in contingent equipment expenditures. Other non-contingent expenditures lines that total \$192,565 will also be reduced if necessary. Final contingent budget decisions will be made by the Board of Education in late June if required. Please also note that a contingent budget would require the district to charge for the 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	\$408,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$434

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Akron Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held by absentee ballot due on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 pm prevailing time.

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

The New York State School Report Card Fiscal Accountability Summary for AKRON CSD (2018-19)

Information about expenditure ratios (2017-18)
(Data are lagged a year.)

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).

2017-2018 School Year		General Education	Special Education
This School District	Instructional Expenditures	\$13,663,332	\$5,431,683
	Pupils	1,358	189
	Expenditures Per Pupil	\$10,061	\$28,739
Similar District Group Average Need/ Resource Capacity	Instructional Expenditures	\$8,760,789,980	\$3,724,876,702
	Pupils	735,579	113,376
	Expenditures Per Pupil	\$11,910	\$32,854
All School Districts in NY State	Instructional Expenditures	\$35,199,223,413	\$15,660,696,162
	Pupils	2,632,781	485,151
	Expenditures Per Pupil	\$13,370	\$32,280

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 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.

2017-2018 School Year	This School District	Similar District Group	New York State
Total Expenditures Per Pupil	\$20,875	\$23,507	\$25,845

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.

The New York State School Report Card Information about Students with Disabilities for AKRON CSD

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.

	This School District		Similar District Group	New York State
Student Placement – Percent of Time Inside Regular Classroom	Count of Students with Disabilities	Percentage of Students with Disabilities	Percentage of Students with Disabilities	Percentage of Students with Disabilities
80% or more	113	65.7%	57.7%	58.7%
40% - 79%	25	14.5%	18.7%	11.5%
Less than 40%	23	13.4%	16.1%	19.0%
Separate Settings	10	5.8%	4.7%	5.3%
Other Settings	1	0.6%	2.8%	5.6%

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 BEDS Day, which is the first Wednesday of the reporting year. 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

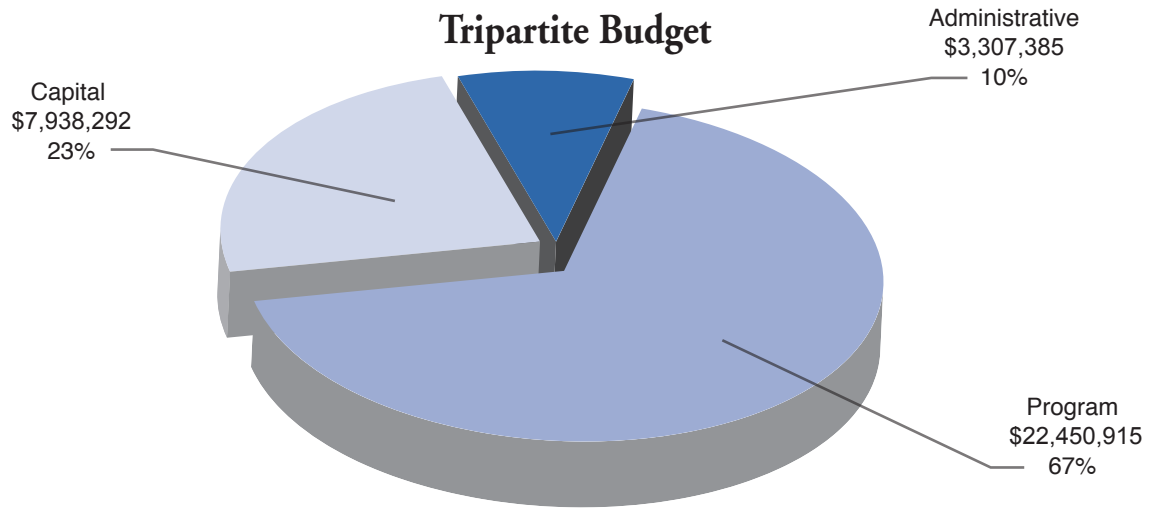
2018-19 School Year	This School District	Similar District Group	New York State
Special Ed Classification Rate	13.6%	13.4%	14.7%

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).

Similar District Groups are identified according to the Need-to-Resource-Capacity Index.



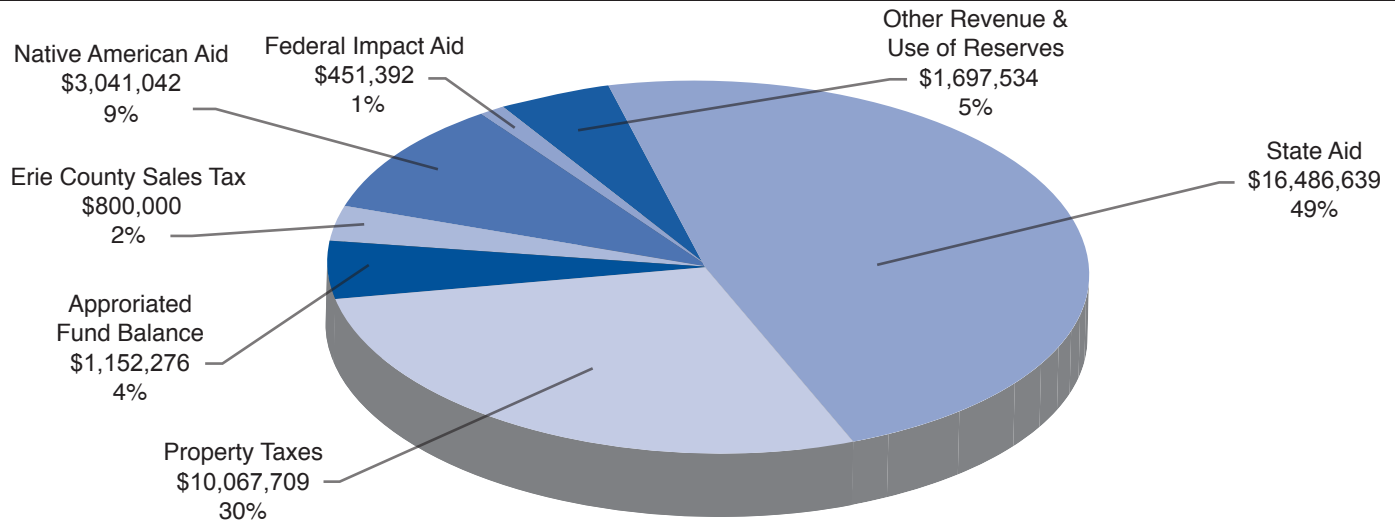
2020-2021 General Fund Appropriations



	Adopted 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	\$	Change
Administrative Component				
Board of Education/District Clerk	\$ 24,624	\$ 34,800	\$	10,176
Central Office/District Services	\$ 1,348,526	\$ 1,366,460	\$	17,934
Legal & Personnel	\$ 149,000	\$ 191,750	\$	42,750
Instructional Administration	\$ 1,230,645	\$ 997,010	\$	(233,635)
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 738,433	\$ 717,365	\$	(21,068)
	\$ 3,491,228	\$ 3,307,385	\$	(183,843)
Program Component				
Instruction	\$ 10,360,180	\$ 10,122,268	\$	(237,912)
Exceptional Education	\$ 4,880,485	\$ 4,991,535	\$	111,050
Co-Curricular & Athletics	\$ 642,398	\$ 647,916	\$	5,518
Transportation	\$ 1,215,275	\$ 1,231,664	\$	16,389
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 5,104,365	\$ 5,457,532	\$	353,167
	\$ 22,202,703	\$ 22,450,915	\$	248,212
Capital Component				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 2,222,802	\$ 1,981,609	\$	(241,193)
Debt Service	\$ 4,179,582	\$ 4,156,224	\$	(23,358)
Transfer to Capital Fund (Reserve)	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 1,317,042	\$	(1,282,958)
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 491,045	\$ 483,417	\$	(7,628)
	\$ 9,493,429	\$ 7,938,292	\$	(1,555,137)
Total Expenditures	\$ 35,187,360	\$ 33,696,592	\$	(1,490,768)



2020-2021 Proposed General Fund Revenues



	Adopted 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21	\$ Change
State Aid:			
Foundation Aid/General Aid	\$ 10,243,531	\$ 10,243,531	\$ 0
Excess Cost Aid	\$ 594,304	\$ 590,187	\$ (4,117)
BOCES	\$ 1,073,586	\$ 1,204,574	\$ 130,988
Hardware and Technology	\$ 24,349	\$ 24,193	\$ (156)
Textbook, Software, Library	\$ 110,047	\$ 111,049	\$ 1,002
Transportation	\$ 1,232,471	\$ 1,331,344	\$ 98,873
Building	\$ 3,577,953	\$ 3,556,283	\$ (21,670)
NYS Pandemic Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ (262,797)	\$ (262,797)
Federal CARES Restoration	\$ 0	\$ 262,797	\$ 262,797
Estimated Mid Year NYS Cuts	\$ 0	\$ (574,522)	\$ (574,522)
	\$ 16,856,241	\$ 16,486,639	\$ (369,602)
Other Revenue:			
Native American Aid	\$ 1,612,467	\$ 3,041,042	\$ 1,428,575
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 800,000	\$ (400,000)
Federal Impact Aid	\$ 444,864	\$ 451,392	\$ 6,528
Other Revenues	\$ 589,500	\$ 724,500	\$ 135,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,152,276	\$ (447,724)
Use of Reserves/Transfers In	\$ 3,009,144	\$ 973,034	\$ (2,036,110)
	\$ 8,455,975	\$ 7,142,244	\$ (1,313,731)
Real Property Tax Levy:	\$ 9,875,144	\$ 10,067,709	\$ 192,565
Total Revenues:	\$ 35,187,360	\$ 33,696,592	\$ (1,490,768)

Contingent Budget Spending

Contingency budget estimates are based on Section 2023 of the Education Law. A contingent budget for Akron CSD for 2020-21 is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$330,765 from the original budget of \$33,696,592.

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 – 2020-2021 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, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, 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 Similar Vehicles (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 \$116,000 each, and one (1) van-type bus, at an estimated maximum cost of \$60,000 (with such estimated maximum cost reflecting the value of any trade-ins), and to expend therefor an aggregate sum not to exceed \$408,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$408,000 (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 on the Board created by the expiration on June 30, 2020 of the terms of Board members James Grant and Robert Masse. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

Board of Education candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

1. James Grant 2. Robert Masse

Please  **OTE**

Voting by Absentee Ballot Only
Completed ballots must be received by 5:00PM
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

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Akron, NY

Akron Central School
47 Bloomingdale Avenue
Akron, NY 14001

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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

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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