

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Akron Central School Community:

As Superintendent, I am proud to present the 2022-2023 budget to the Akron Central School District community. This budget represents intentional and thoughtful consideration of staffing, program, and service obligations required to address the challenges students have faced over the past two years. Special emphasis has been placed on responding to the diverse needs of students and engaging them in high-quality, enriching educational experiences that will foster a love for learning while preparing them for the future.

Remarkably, this year, the Board of Education will present a budget with a 0% tax levy increase. This is made possible through a combination of effective financial planning and the strategic use of temporary Federal grant funding available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA).

Included in the budget is a new elementary teacher for the primary level, a part-time speech pathologist, and a part-time English as a Second Language teacher. Additionally, the District seeks to continue to support social-emotional learning and mental health through professional development, dedicated staffing, and the use of contracted service providers. The District will offer Seneca language instruction and swim lessons through after-school programs.

The proposed budget will allow for upgrades to the middle and high school computer labs, replacement of obsolete musical instruments, investment in new technology equipment and software for classroom use, and the replacement of athletic equipment that is beyond life expectancy.

As part of our ten-year bus replacement plan, the Board will place before the voters a proposition to purchase two 66-passenger buses and two student transportation vans. 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 Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 pm in the Edward Allen Auditorium and will also be streamed via the YouTube link on the District website. The annual Budget Vote will be held on May 17th 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 ballot applications and ballot returns.

Yours in Education,

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 Forrestel
Phillip Kenline
Robert Masse

AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2022

BUDGET ISSUE VOTE

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Akron Central School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 32,597,101	\$34,730,650	\$34,405,650
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$2,133,549	\$1,808,549
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.55%	5.55%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,168,386	\$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)	\$10,168,386	\$10,168,386	\$10,168,386
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$116,050	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,140,022	\$10,316,655	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$10,052,336	\$10,168,386	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$87,686	\$148,269	
Administrative Component	\$3,637,882	\$3,861,646	\$3,861,646
Program Component	\$23,345,888	\$24,948,701	\$24,761,201
Capital Component	\$5,613,331	\$5,920,303	\$5,782,803

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A contingent budget for 2022-23 is anticipated to result in a decrease of \$325,000 in contingent equipment expenditures. No other non-contingent expenditure lines will be required to be reduced. 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	\$380,000

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$396

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Akron Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Akron Central High School on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 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.

ACS emerges from pandemic restrictions and is grateful to move forward

Akron Schools is pleased to share many of the positive initiatives and events that have occurred as the school emerges from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's a sampling:

District

- Our District rolled out a new website template in September. Besides providing a fresh new look, the template's design is responsive – it automatically adjusts to make it look good on all devices (desktops, tablets, phones). If you haven't visited our website in a while, please take a look at www.akronschools.org.

- Superintendent McCabe was honored to present a diploma to Mr. Stanley Wyder, a WWII veteran who attended Akron High School prior to serving in the U.S. Army. Section 305 of the New York State Education Law created "Operation Recognition" to recognize the dedication and sacrifices of veterans who left school before graduation by awarding them a high school diploma. The surprise ceremony was attended by Mr. Wyder's family at the NYS Veterans' Home in Batavia.



- Students are receiving additional resources to manage their social-emotional well-being with the District partnering with BestSelf Behavioral Health and their Building Brighter Futures Program. The Social-Emotional Coordinator works with our building Student Support teams to provide additional services to our students, families, and staff members.
- In response to learning loss and student engagement, the District has increased the investment in summer learning programs by offering expanded opportunities.
- For much of the pandemic, Board of Education meetings were held virtually, with Board members attending meetings via Zoom. Eventually, socially-distanced meetings resumed at school,

but community members could only attend virtually. While in-person public meetings have now returned, the District has decided to continue to live-stream meetings via YouTube, and make those recordings available for convenience and transparency.

- Akron's Community Education programs, Hall Walking and Fitness Center, have been reinstated. The programs are a welcome return for those community members seeking free or low-cost physical fitness options. The school facilities are also open for use by local organizations like Akron-Newstead Recreation, Boy Scouts, Akron Sports, Inc., and Akron Soccer League.
- The District values the input from all stakeholders and has relied on several surveys to obtain feedback. Most recently, surveys intended for parents, teachers, support staff, and community members were offered and the results will help in the District's development of a new Strategic Plan. Additionally, a Capital Improvement Community Survey was used to seek comments on future priorities for our campus.

Elementary

- The staff at Akron Elementary were pleased to return to 5-day a week learning and are very proud of what staff and students have accomplished this year. Here are some highlights that helped everyone involved earn their tiger stripes:
- Increased efforts to support students in the areas of Reading and Math in order to get students the help they need, when they need it. Mid-year data showed tremendous growth among students in both areas which earned celebrations of two "Superhero Student Days" that were happily received.
- The Character Education Bucket Filling program strives to teach, show, and recognize acts of good character. A full bucket is celebrated in various ways – school-wide BINGO is a favorite!
- Reading and Math Challenges allow students to chart their efforts; academic successes are observed by recognizing monthly student winners.



- Afterschool enrichment programs include intramural sports, Tae Kwon Do, Girls on the Run, and a Native American Seneca Language program for Grades 4-6. Additionally, teachers offer academic tutoring opportunities for all grade levels.
- Service Learning is an important component to developing good citizens and Akron Elementary students can be proud of their good works, which include:
 - Over 1,000 items collected for the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry
 - A record collection – over \$5,000 – for the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart program. Top student fundraisers were center stage at an assembly where they gave Akron Elementary PE teachers, Mrs. Schukraft and Mr. Westmiller, a pie in the face to the delight of those in the audience!
 - More than 300 pet supply items donated to "Santa Paws" for the Genesee Animal Shelter and Open Arms Rescue of WNY. A cuddly visit from rescue dogs and cats was appreciated.
 - Organized by the Akron Chapter of the National Honor Society for school-wide collaboration, "Operation Toothbrush" is a program of donating personal hygiene items to families in need, for which Akron Elementary collected over 2,000 items!
- With sponsorship from the Akron Newstead Rotary Club and Bills Mafia, Akron Elementary continues to send food home for the weekend with over 55 elementary students through the Blessings in a Backpack program.

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Middle School

- “Act responsibly, show respect and maintain safety” has been the mantra for Akron Middle School. This year, a weekly program was started to target specific positive behaviors called “Tiger Traits.” Students recognized for modeling the specific behavior – or “Tiger Trait” – are entered in a drawing for one of five rewards each week. Both faculty and students regard the program favorably.
- 6th grade Social Studies students accepted a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) challenge based on ancient Greek architecture. Charged with creating a structure with columns, no walls, and using limited resources (paper, tape and paper cups), their design needed to hold the weight of a textbook! All classes enjoyed success.
- Two grants, secured by MS Technology teacher, Mrs. Christina O’Malley, provided for new and unique learning opportunities for 8th Grade Creative Design and Engineering (CDE) classes. The New York Agriculture in the Classroom “Grow with Us” grant provided three aeroponic Tower Garden Systems and all of the start-up materials to get students involved in learning about and growing food in a new way – no dirt! The high tech farming technique, one among several they studied, resulted in a tasty salad sampling at the end of the unit.
- Turing Tumble kits, awarded by a NYSCATE grant, allowed students to better understand how computers work. They collaboratively solved puzzles to demystify what goes on within the microscopic circuitry of computer chips!

- Additionally, learning with Adafruit microcontrollers give CDE students the opportunity to construct and program autonomous robotic animals with recycled materials that respond to various inputs, like sound, light, and motor outputs. The 8th graders learn to program with both Blocks and Javascript languages.
- Beyond her teaching duties, Mrs. O’Malley conducted a field experiment based on learning physics through embodied play in a school setting. Her work was published as a research study in the book, *Design Make Play for Equity, Inclusion, And Agency; The Evolving Landscape of Creative STEM Learning. Kudos!*

High School

- Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) awarded Akron High School the Gold Standard School award for its initiative to ensure that all AHS students take at least one standalone semester course in personal finance. The Personal Finance course, taught by Business teacher, Mrs. Karen Saeli, became a graduation requirement with the Class of 2020. NGPF’s mission is that all HS students receive a full semester class in personal finance. In New York State, only 2% of high school students meet that goal. Gold Standard Schools are recognized for their “remarkable leadership, surging ahead of state progress on financial education instead of waiting for a mandate.”
- The National Honor Society welcomed thirteen new juniors and seniors to the Akron chapter at a ceremony held with family and friends in attendance. Selection for membership is by the Faculty Council and based on the four

pillars of outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

- Nine students attending programs at the Orleans and Harkness Career and Technical Education Centers, were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. The NTHS exists to honor, recognize, and empower students and teachers in Career & Technical Education.
- Art students chose their best work for submission to local or virtual exhibits. Two students have artwork displayed in the 2022 New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) Legislative Exhibit Virtual Edition “Art Connects Us” themed exhibit. Ten students submitted photographs to the Storr’s All High Photo Show that exhibited work at the Kenan Center in Lockport; four seniors won awards.
- 27 seniors earned recognition, two as winners and 25 named honorable mention, as All-WNY Scholar Athletes for Section VI of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for the 2021 Fall Sport Season. Eight out of nine fall Tiger teams were also given Scholar-Athlete Team designation. For the Winter Sport Season, one athlete was named winner and 12 were named Honorable Mention.
- The Interact Club was very active with new activities including a used sporting goods collection last fall that was shipped to the children of Bani, Dominican Republic.
- They collaborated with the Akron-Newstead Senior Center on two projects. The first, “Ready, Set, Click & Learn,” paired interested senior citizens with Interact Club members who served as tech coaches. It’s a free, fun, interactive four-week program to teach



people age 55+ to connect better and interact more safely using virtual chat, social media, and electronic calendaring, as well as researching information. It is funded by a grant awarded to both People, Inc. and Hearts & Hands.

- The next project brought teenagers and seniors together to fundraise for and make blankets for children receiving treatment at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and for residents at Brothers of Mercy Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.
- Most recently, they held a Spring Food Drive collecting and delivering donations for the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry.

Music Department

- It is no surprise that Akron Schools has been named Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation for the 10th consecutive year and here are just some of the many reasons why:
- The Music Department worked tirelessly to find ways to give students more performance opportunities despite the lingering restrictions of the pandemic.
- Six high school musicians were selected to Area All-State ensembles and performed at the NYSSMA festival held at SUNY Fredonia.
- High School and Middle School musicians were delighted to bring PRISM 36 to the stage – and gym. Concerts were modified to control student and audience social distancing requirements.
- The elementary chorus was joined by the Santa's Helpers Band at the return of the Community Christmas Celebration

in Russell Park and the Elementary Holiday Concert provided another joyous occasion for the season.

- Over 20 ACS students were selected to participate in Elementary, Junior High or Senior High ECMEA Music Festivals that took place on weekends in March. Students are honored to be named to these ensembles and to have the opportunity to rehearse and perform with top musicians from Erie County.
- The *Theory of Relativity*, a musical performed for the first time at Akron Schools, was well received. The ensemble cast introduced a compelling array of characters experiencing life's joys and heartbreaks.
- Elementary music directors arranged for students to perform for the community at a special concert held at the C. Dee Wright Center and Grades 6-12 string students put together an Orchestra Pops Night in the auditorium.
- With pandemic restrictions lifted, the Cabaret Concerts were held featuring middle and high school ensembles. The Akron Music Parents were able to host the event and their renowned Basket Auction returned.

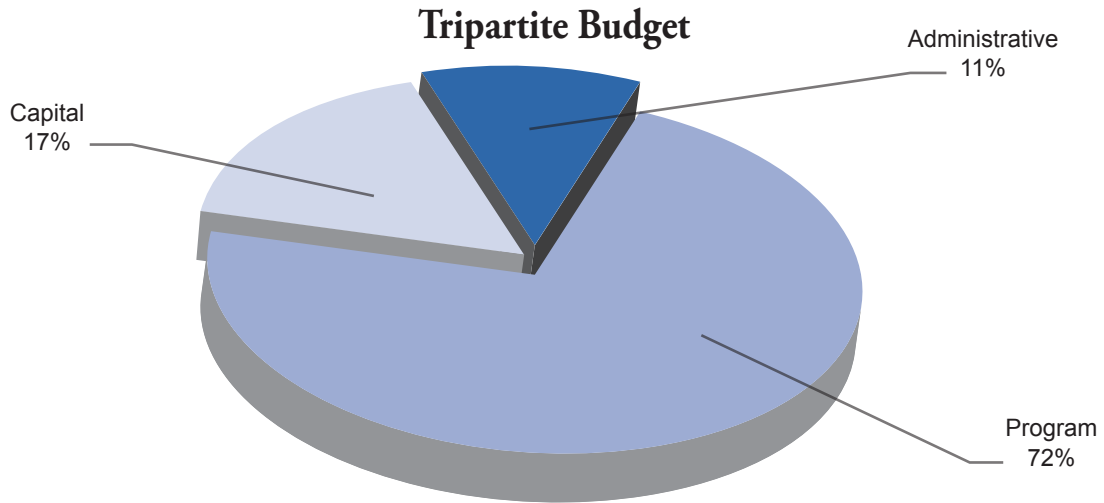
Athletics

- Mr. Christopher Schiumo made his debut as Athletic Director during the fall Parent-Athlete pre-season meeting where he shared the Athletic Department's philosophy, code of conduct, policies for academics and attendance, social media, and spectator expectations. The presentation and discussion that followed was valuable for all new and returning athletes and their parents and was repeated this spring.

- Field Hockey was the undefeated Section VI Class C and Niagara-Orleans League Champs! Four players, the most in one season for ACS, were selected to the All-WNY Teams. Boys and Girls Cross Country sent two runners to the NYSPHSAA State Championship and a send-off parade throughout the campus brought out the Tiger Spirit!
- Field Hockey and Boys Cross Country each had an athlete named N-O Player or Runner of the year, and Football had an athlete named Class C North Player of the Year. Varsity Boys Soccer had one player named to the First Team All-WNY for Small Schools and varsity Girls Soccer was awarded the N-O League Sportsmanship award. The Golf team made it two-in-a-row as N-O League Champions and All-League Tournament Champs.
- During the winter sports season, the Girls Swim team earned a patch as Niagara-Orleans League Champs again and a 32 year old 100 breaststroke record was broken. Wrestling returned to the mats and hosted the 53rd Annual Holiday Tournament, sans spectators, due to pandemic restrictions. Varsity Boys Basketball hosted their annual Jack Silvernail Memorial Tournament and raised \$2,000 for the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research and \$250 to Hearts & Hands.
- Two of our coaches were also honored: Mrs. Nancy Bennett, Physical Education teacher and girls' cross-country coach, was named to the Alden High School Athletic Wall of Fame. Her success and experience as a high school and college athlete have benefitted her students and athletes here at Akron. Mr. Andrew Clouse, Head Coach for the Tiger Football team, was named "Legacy Builder Coach of the Year" by Cross Training Athletics. The award is given to a coach who coaches not just the game of football, but rather a coach who teaches and prepares athletes for life. Coach Clouse was selected for the award in his first year of eligibility.



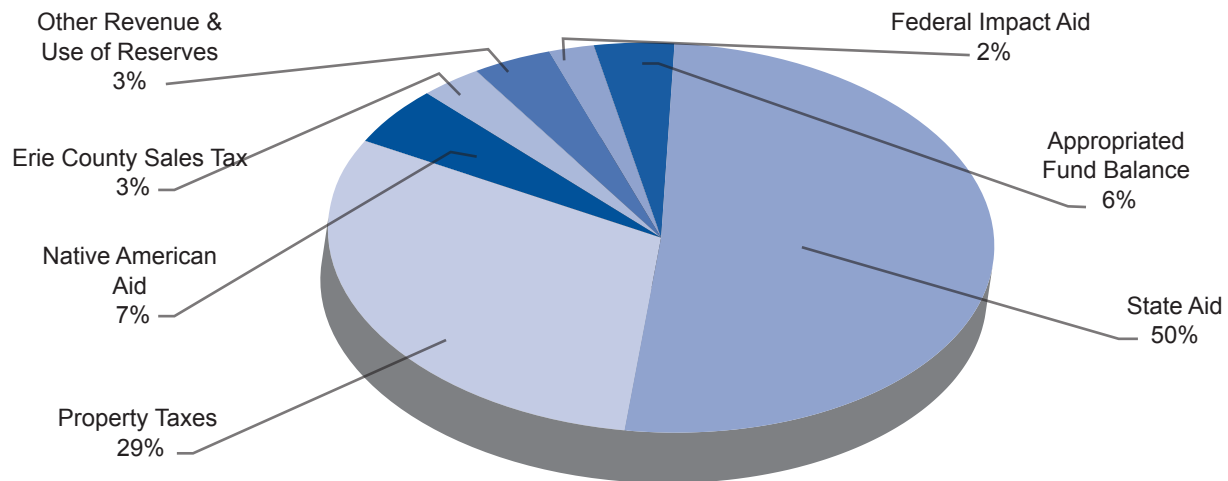
2022-2023 General Fund Appropriations



	Adopted 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	\$	Change
Administrative Component				
Board of Education/District Clerk	\$ 57,602	\$ 44,100	\$	(13,502)
Central Office/District Services	\$ 1,536,462	\$ 1,465,434	\$	(71,028)
Legal & Personnel	\$ 195,750	\$ 198,250	\$	2,500
Instructional Administration	\$ 1,093,853	\$ 1,353,282	\$	259,429
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 754,215	\$ 800,580	\$	46,365
	\$ 3,637,882	\$ 3,861,646	\$	223,764
Program Component				
Instruction	\$ 10,186,798	\$ 11,034,578	\$	847,780
Exceptional Education	\$ 5,093,769	\$ 5,510,746	\$	416,977
Co-Curricular & Athletics	\$ 874,892	\$ 934,479	\$	59,587
Transportation	\$ 1,360,183	\$ 1,465,234	\$	105,051
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 5,830,246	\$ 6,003,664	\$	173,418
	\$ 23,345,888	\$ 24,948,701	\$	1,602,813
Capital Component				
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 1,931,917	\$ 2,227,725	\$	295,808
Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$ 3,127,186	\$ 3,141,269	\$	14,083
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
Allocated Employee Benefits	\$ 554,228	\$ 551,309	\$	(2,919)
	\$ 5,613,331	\$ 5,920,303	\$	306,972
Total Expenditures	\$ 32,597,101	\$ 34,730,650	\$	2,133,549



2022-2023 Proposed General Fund Revenues



	Adopted 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23	\$	Change
State Aid:				
Foundation Aid/General Aid	\$ 10,550,836	\$ 10,867,360	\$	316,524
Excess Cost Aid	\$ 590,711	\$ 592,559	\$	1,848
BOCES	\$ 1,327,477	\$ 1,627,429	\$	299,952
Hardware and Technology	\$ 22,715	\$ 21,700	\$	(1,015)
Textbook, Software, Library	\$ 103,164	\$ 101,336	\$	(1,828)
Transportation	\$ 1,257,673	\$ 1,336,611	\$	78,938
Building	\$ 2,896,679	\$ 2,894,697	\$	(1,982)
NYS Pandemic Adjustment	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
Federal CARES Restoration	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
Estimated Mid Year NYS Cuts	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
	\$ 16,749,255	\$ 17,441,692	\$	692,437
Other Revenue:				
Native American Aid	\$ 1,724,000	\$ 2,274,000	\$	550,000
Erie County Sales Tax	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$	200,000
Federal Impact Aid	\$ 485,592	\$ 550,000	\$	64,408
Other Revenues	\$ 504,004	\$ 480,400	\$	(23,604)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,265,864	\$ 2,016,172	\$	750,308
Use of Reserves/Transfers In	\$ 700,000	\$ 600,000	\$	(100,000)
	\$ 5,679,460	\$ 7,120,572	\$	1,441,112
Real Property Tax Levy:	\$ 10,168,386	\$ 10,168,386	\$	-
Total Revenues:	\$ 32,597,101	\$ 34,730,650	\$	2,133,549

Contingent Budget Spending

Contingency budget estimates are based on Section 2023 of the Education Law. A contingency budget for Akron CSD for 2022-23 is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$325,000 from the original budget of \$34,730,650.

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 – 2022-2023 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, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, 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 resolutions be adopted?

REESOLVED, 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 two (2) sixty-six (66)-passenger buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$125,000 each, and two (2) van-type buses, at an estimated maximum cost of \$65,000 each, (with such estimated maximum cost reflecting the value of any trade-ins), and to expend therefor an aggregate sum not to exceed \$380,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$380,000 (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

Three (3) Seats Vacant

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill three (3) at-large vacancies. All seats are for three (3) year terms, 7/1/22-6/30/25.

VOTE FOR ANY THREE

Heather Cayea Kristy Pingitore Ryan Allen

Please  **VOTE**
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
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