



Top Students Announced

Fort Edward UFSD is pleased to announce the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2021.

Valedictorian Benjamin Colvin is the son of Scott and Lizabeth Colvin. Benjamin has competed in soccer, golf and baseball. He is president of the National Honor Society and Yearbook Club. Benjamin is also a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Drama Club, Math League, and Outing Club. He plans to continue his studies at SUNY Plattsburgh where he will major in nursing.



Salutatorian Lillian Newell is the daughter of Jaclyn and Brian Newell. Lillian has competed in volleyball and basketball. She is a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and Student Council. Lillian is completing her studies in the New Visions Health and Career Exploration program, where she was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She plans to attend Hartwick College where she will major in nursing.



BUDGET VOTE & ANNUAL ELECTION

Tuesday May 18, 2021

Noon Until 8:00 PM

Elementary School Foyer

A Message from the Superintendent

Proposed School Budget Reduces Spending and Restores Programs

The Fort Edward School District is coming out of the most challenging year that it has faced in decades. The School Board is proud to present a budget to the voters that allows for the restoration of many, but not all of the programs and services that were reduced or eliminated last year, while reducing overall school spending. The proposed budget also provides the necessary programs and staffing for all students to return to in-person instruction five days per week next year.

District Notified of Last Minute Assessment Change.

On April 29th the town assessor alerted me that she would be making a last minute five million dollar reduction to the taxable assessed value of the school district. Due to this fact, which is entirely out of the school's control, the school tax rate is now expected to increase slightly from last year's rate of \$29.28 to \$29.90, a 62 cent increase.

What Programs are Restored Next Year in the Proposed Budget?

Several academic and extracurricular programs are restored either partially or entirely.

- Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K was cancelled this year due to budget constraints)
- Kindergarten (class size exceeded 30 this year)
- Grades 4 and 5 expanded from one classroom to two (class sizes exceeded 30 students in these two grades this year)
- Middle and High School offerings in ELA, Social Studies, Science, Math, Music, and Health are all partially restored.
- Athletics and Extracurricular Clubs

What Areas are not Restored Next Year in the Proposed Budget?

Significant reductions were made last year in the following areas, and those reductions will remain in place in the proposed budget, so no restoration will occur in these areas.

- Administration, Clerical, Transportation

What Impact does the Proposed budget have on the Annexation (Merger) Study with the South Glens Falls School District?

- The proposed budget and the annexation study are two totally separate items. The students of Fort Edward will be attending school at Fort Edward for the 2021-2022 academic year regardless of the outcome of the study.
- The restoration of the programs and services included in the proposed budget provide for the needs of our students. Failure to restore the programs in the proposed budget will certainly put our students at a disadvantage in any school configuration that might result from the annexation study.

In closing, I cannot stress enough my pride in the students, faculty, staff, families, and the Fort Edward Community for the tenacity with which they have weathered the storms that have occurred over the last several years. The proposed budget provides a sound education while reducing total spending. It is my sincere hope that the Fort Edward voters will support the budget and what it offers to the children of Fort Edward as they, without a doubt, deserve it.

2021-22 BUDGET

2021-22 Ballot Items

✓ PROPOSITION 1 Adopt Annual Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Fort Edward Union Free School District, Town of Fort Edward, in the County of Washington, be authorized to expend \$11,096,764 for fiscal year 2021-2022?

School Board Election

To elect two members of the Board of Education for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2021, and expiring on June 30, 2026, to fill the seats presently held by Todd Tyler, whose term expires on June 30, 2021; and Daniel Shiels, whose term expires on June 30, 2021 for a five-year term commencing on July 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2026.

Candidates:

1. Amanda Durkee
2. John Guglielmo
3. Elaine Trackey-Saltsman

Education Law requires schools to provide residents with an opportunity to write an individual's name for each vacancy on the Board. You may vote for a candidate who submitted a nominating petition, or you may write-in a person's name. Please note that if you wish to vote for a write-in candidate, you can only use that person's name once. Instructions will be posted in the Elementary Foyer. You may also ask the poll clerks for assistance if you have any questions.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 10, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting Held Virtually

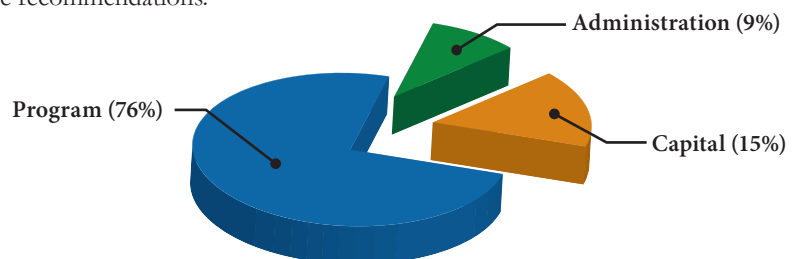
Check our website for meeting details.

Estimated Expenditures

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Difference
Administrative			
Board of Education	\$5,400	\$6,442	\$1,042
Chief School Administrator	\$164,892	\$173,128	\$8,236
Finance	\$260,742	\$252,116	(\$8,626)
District Staffing	\$24,436	\$27,910	\$3,474
Central Services	\$114,100	\$115,484	\$1,384
Special Items	\$128,229	\$122,137	(\$6,092)
Administration and Improvement	\$89,801	\$155,931	\$66,130
Employee Benefits	\$187,864	\$174,961	(\$12,903)
Total Administrative	\$975,464	\$1,028,109	\$52,645
Capital			
Operation of Plant	\$353,372	\$467,869	\$114,497
Maintenance of Plant	\$103,643	\$105,960	\$2,317
Judgements & Claims + Property Tax Refund	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$124,968	\$116,386	(\$8,582)
Debt Service	\$1,305,987	\$971,050	(\$334,937)
Total Capital	\$1,889,970	\$1,633,265	(\$226,705)
Instructional Program			
Inservice Training-Instruction	\$22,922	\$28,986	\$6,064
Instructional	\$2,344,787	\$2,778,790	\$434,003
Special Instruction	\$2,313,872	\$2,205,975	(\$107,897)
Career and Technical Education	\$592,320	\$499,291	(\$93,029)
Pupil Services	\$164,933	\$183,020	\$18,087
Extra Curricular	\$0	\$150,502	\$150,502
Transportation	\$233,191	\$187,757	(\$45,434)
Civic Activities	\$96,764	\$0	(\$96,764)
Census	\$3,378	\$0	(\$3,378)
Employee Benefits	\$2,486,868	\$2,316,069	(\$170,799)
Interfund	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0
Total Program	\$8,314,035	\$8,405,390	\$91,355
Total Expenditures	\$11,179,469	\$11,096,764	(\$82,705)

NOTES

By New York State law, school budgets are broken into three categories: Administrative, Program, and Capital. The State Education Department recommends these categories represent ALL expenses related to their function. Most school districts in the state follow these recommendations.



Estimated Revenues

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Proposed	Dollar Difference
Tax Levy	\$3,007,723	\$3,392,089	\$384,366
Other Income	\$181,079	\$277,105	\$96,026
State Aid Projection	\$7,501,002	\$7,205,509	(\$295,493)
Community School Setaside	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
NYS-STVP	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$304,744	\$0	(\$304,744)
Reserves Appropriated	\$84,921	\$12,450	(\$72,471)
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$0	\$109,611	\$109,611
Total Revenue	\$11,179,469	\$11,096,764	(\$82,705)

Property Tax Report Card

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	Percent Change
Total Budgeted Amount, not including Separate Propositions	\$11,179,469	\$11,096,764	(-0.74%)
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$3,007,723	\$3,392,089	12.78%
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$3,007,723	\$3,392,089	12.78%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$7,284	\$0	(-8.88%)
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$3,083,486	\$3,392,089	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$3,000,439	\$3,392,089	
I. Difference (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval)	\$83,047	\$0	
Public School Enrollment	473	431	(-8.88%)
Consumer Price Index			1.23%
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Estimated	
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	\$494,754	\$1,088,063	
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	\$0	\$109,611	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$679,299	\$1,153,336	
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	6.08%	10.39%	

*Please note that this Property Tax Report Card presentation is in accordance with NYS Education Law sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3).

*To learn more about how real property affects overall school taxes, please visit: www.orps.state.ny.us. The Fort Edward Union Free School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or age. Inquiries concerning this policy of equal opportunity should be made to the Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator: 518-747-4529.

2021-2022 BUDGET



The STAR Program

The STAR program provides property tax relief to residents. Basic STAR is available eligible homeowners and provides Fort Edward residents a \$536 reduction on the full assessed value of the home.

The Enhanced STAR is available to homeowners aged 65 and over with an annual income under \$90,550 and provides a \$1,072 reduction on the full assessed value of the home. Applications for STAR are available at the Office of the Assessor and online at tax.ny.gov/star.

Maximum STAR tax savings can't exceed more than 2% of the prior year maximum savings.

Property Tax and STAR Program Example

Based on tentative figures of a house with an assessed value of \$100,000 and the **estimated tax** of \$29.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Current	No Star	Estimated
Taxes Charged.....\$2,928		Taxes Charged.....\$2,990
STAR Savings.....\$0		STAR Savings.....\$0
You Paid.....\$2,928		You Will Pay.....\$2,990

Current	Basic Star	Estimated
Taxes Charged.....\$2,928		Taxes Charged.....\$2,990
STAR Savings.....\$536		STAR Savings.....\$536
You Paid.....\$2,392		You Will Pay.....\$2,454

Current	Enhanced Star	Estimated
Taxes Charged.....\$2,928		Taxes Charged.....\$2,990
STAR Savings.....\$1,072		STAR Savings.....\$1,072
You Paid.....\$1,856		You Will Pay.....\$1,918

Fort Edward Union Free School District
220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828
www.fortedward.org

Daniel A. Ward, Superintendent of Schools
John Galarneau, K-12 Principal

Board of Education
Thomas Roche, President
Anita Tripp, Vice President
Joseph Carroll
Ella Collins
Christopher Miles
Todd Tyler
James Donahue
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Daniel Shiels

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2021-22 BUDGET

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$11,179,469	\$11,096,764	\$11,096,764
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$-82,705	\$0
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		(-0.74%)	0%
Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$3,007,723	\$3,392,089	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$3,007,723	\$3,392,089	\$3,007,723
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$7,284	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$3,083,486	\$3,392,089	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$3,000,439	\$3,392,089	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$83,047	\$0	
Administrative component	\$975,464	\$1,028,109	\$1,028,109
Program component	\$8,314,035	\$8,405,390	\$8,405,390
Capital component	\$1,889,970	\$1,663,265	\$1,663,265

* Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, certain program components would be reduced including equipment and non-ordinary expenses such as supplies and contractual agreements and certain extra wage supplements.

Contingency budget figures contained herein are estimates. Final decisions regarding contingency budget appropriations will be made by the Board of Education, if necessary, pursuant to section 2023 of the Education law. This is an estimate of the reductions in each component. Since the Contingency Budget may not include a levy higher than the prior year's levy (0% levy growth), the difference of \$384,366 would have to be made up by using fund balance or ordinary contingent expenses may have to be reduced to ensure there is no tax levy increase

Management/Confidential Salaries & Equipment	Administrative	\$0
Management/Confidential Salaries & Equipment	Capital	\$0
Management/Confidential Salaries & Equipment	Program	\$0

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$536

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Fort Edward Union Free School District, Washington County, New York, will be held Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of noon and 8:00 pm, prevailing time in the Fort Edward School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available for registered voters who are unable to vote in person. You must request an application for an absentee ballot at least seven (7) days before the election Call Tobie Bessette, School District Clerk, at 518-747-4529 x 3100 for assistance.

Voter Qualifications

A person shall be entitled to vote at the Annual School Election who is:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age
- A resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the vote

Tax Rate Calculations

The final tax rate is set in August when the town assessment and equalization rates are established. The only portion of the tax rate that the school district controls is the tax levy, which is the amount the district asks residents to pay to maintain programs and services for students.

FE MISSION

We are committed to providing a safe environment where ALL students are nurtured to actively acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to reach their full potential.