



# UNATEGO

District Newsletter

[www.unatego.org](http://www.unatego.org)

Volume 36, Number 2

Budget Issue, May 2021

## 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Superintendent's Message on Behalf of the Unatego Board of Education

As I look back on last year's Budget Newsletter article, I began thinking about how much had changed since then and how much had remained the same. Last May, we were in full-remote mode, with the COVID-19 pandemic first and foremost on our minds. Since then, we have been able to reopen our schools to in-person hybrid instruction following guidance from the CDC, the NYS DOH, and the Otsego County Department of Health. More recently, we have returned all students in grades K-5 to four day per week in-person learning and, although our Middle and High School remains on a hybrid schedule, interscholastic sports have once again become available for our student athletes. And we are planning to reopen, conditions and guidance permitting, to full-time in-person instruction in the fall.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have weathered the storm financially and with an increase in state aid and pending funding from a federal stimulus package, are in a position to not increase local taxes this year. We will be able to continue to maintain programs for our students, including AP and college courses, Robotics and other STEM offerings, as well as no-cost breakfast and lunch for all students, regardless of income. We are also slated to receive a grant to start full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten for four-year olds, a goal of the District for the past several years.

We remain committed to providing our students with a first-rate education while keeping costs to the community as low as possible. We feel that, under the current circumstances, the proposed 2021-2022 school budget does just that. Please vote for three candidates for the Board of Education, on a proposed capital project, and the District's 2021-2022 school budget on May 18 from noon until 9:00 PM at the District Offices. If you have questions about the budget or any school related area, please contact me or the School Business Manager, Patti Loker, at 607-988-5038. In the meantime, stay safe and be well!

*Dr. David S. Richards*  
Superintendent of Schools

### ALSO ON THE BALLOT:

**\$27.6 Million Capital Project**  
at no tax increase.

For more information,  
please call the district office or go to  
[2021 Capital Project \(unatego.org\)](http://www.unatego.org)

### PUBLIC HEARING

**Monday, May 3, 2021**  
**6:30-7:00 p.m.**  
via Zoom

### BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**  
**12:00 Noon to 9:00 p.m.**  
Unatego Middle/High School

## RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS

The financial support for district-operated programs and services are substantially derived from state sources and the property tax. The tax levy is remaining the same for the 2021-2022 school year.

Object	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Proposed Budget
NYS Aid	14,249,440	14,629,873
Property Tax Levy	7,420,915	7,420,915
Other Revenue	416,950	377,500
Use of Reserves	120,100	240,000
Fund Balance	624,000	625,000
<b>Total Anticipated Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 22,831,405</b>	<b>\$ 23,293,288</b>

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

3-Part Appropriations Summary				
Category	2020-21 Amount	2021-22 Amount	\$ Difference	% of Budget
Administrative	\$2,991,582	\$3,040,221	\$48,639	13.1%
Program	\$16,309,537	\$16,512,636	\$203,099	70.9%
Capital	\$3,530,286	\$3,740,431	\$210,145	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,831,405</b>	<b>\$23,293,288</b>	<b>\$461,883</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Administrative:** The Administrative component of the budget includes expenditures for central administrative and support salaries and related costs, Board of Education expenses, legal expenses, business office expenses, and insurance.

**Program:** The program component of the budget includes expenses relating to instruction, including salaries, benefits, textbooks, supplies, transportation, and athletics.

**Capital:** The Capital component of the budget includes custodial salaries and benefits, building maintenance costs and debt service costs.

## COMPARISON OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Proposed Budget	% Increase
\$22,831,405	\$23,293,288	2.02%

Object	2021-2022 Proposed Budget	2020-2021 Budget
Salaries	\$8,341,397	\$8,291,006
Benefits	5,669,667	5,012,163
Equipment	105,000	108,500
Contractual Items	1,359,391	1,144,232
Materials & Supplies	758,574	815,346
Tuition	249,000	446,761
Textbooks	46,000	48,000
BOCES Services	4,477,509	4,663,997
Debt Service	2,236,750	2,251,400
Inter-fund transfers	50,000	50,000
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$23,293,288</b>	<b>\$22,831,405</b>

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON  
OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.UNATEGO.ORG](http://WWW.UNATEGO.ORG)**

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## BOARD CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES

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Three members for the Board of Education of the Unatego Central School District are to be elected for three three-year terms most recently held by Richard Downey, Ken Olsen and James Salisbury whose terms expire at this time. Candidates for these positions (listed in order as they will appear on the ballot) Janette Johnson, James Salisbury, Matthew Downey and Mitchell Bush.

### **Janette Johnson**

As a mother of two boys, Braeden and Xander Johnson, both current Unatego students; I bring a desire to ensure future generations have what is needed to succeed both now and in the future. I have volunteered in the Unatego community with UES PBIS committee, Booster Club, UYSA, and the Girls' Basketball program for many years. All of which have inspired my interest in how our school functions at the policy level. As the next step, I chose to run for Unatego Central School Board of Education.

As a member of the Unatego School Board of Education, my priorities would be focused on Education, Transparency and Budget. I would put my role of governance to work by providing active policy direction to the Superintendent representing interests of the entire district. I believe my leadership abilities, entrepreneurial skills, analytical skills and respect for community will support my effectiveness.

### **James Salisbury**

An Otego resident since 1978, is currently on the School Board since September 2014 having served previously 1989-1999, is seeking to be re-elected for another term. Jim retired as a Vice President and CFO from a banking career spanning forty-five years. Most of those years were spent in accounting, budgeting and control. Jim also served on the Hoosic Valley Central School Board 1969-1978. He currently is a Trustee in the Village of Otego and has been since the year 2000. He is a member of the Oneonta Rotary Club since 1979 having served as Treasurer for twenty-seven years and being President for one year. Jim's two adult children are graduates of the Unatego School and he has one grandchild currently attending Unatego, and two who graduated from the district. He would like to continue to serve the Unatego School District to ensure that all students can obtain an education that will prepare them for their future.

### **Matthew Downey**

My name is Matthew Downey, a graduate of Unatego CSD class of 2007. I have an undergraduate degree in music education and a master's degree in classical guitar performance. I currently work with Bainbridge Guilford CSD as their elementary music teacher and chorus instructor. I have been working as an educator for 6 years now while engaged in small private music business giving lessons, tuning pianos, and gig work. I have served as the Treasurer of the Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York, a local non-profit arts organization, for the past 5 years.

Unatego has always been important to me. I have followed my interests in music from the classroom of Unatego to my present jobs. I want to invest time in my own local community and help students with their education.

### **Mitchell Bush**

Mitchell Bush was born in 1951 in the town of Hancock. Mr. Bush graduated Hancock Central School in 1969 and spent his entire life in the Bluestone Industry owning and operating two companies. His companies won several awards for excellence. In 1998 he helped form the New York Bluestone Association and rose through the ranks serving as secretary and vice president. In 2008 Mr. Bush was elected President and served in that capacity until 2013. Mr. Bush authored several articles on bluestone and was passionate about promoting the industry. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Bluestone Association and several national business organizations.

He became a member of The First Baptist Church in Walton in 1984 and served as Deacon, Trustee and Moderator. In 1993 Mr. Bush became the pastor of the Meridale Baptist Church in Delhi and served until his retirement in 2003.

After moving to Deposit in 2003 Mr. Bush became very active in community service. He served on the Deposit Foundation and Rural Housing board and was a volunteer driver for them. He also served on the Deposit Lumberjack Festival committee as a board member, secretary, vice president and president. He was also on the board of the Deposit Community Theater and served eight years on the DCS school board as a member and vice president. During his time on the school board he served on the health insurance, audit, policy and negotiation committees. Mr. Bush was also a member of the Deposit, Delaware County, and Broome County chambers of commerce. Mr. Bush supported many organizations through his companies.



**Unatego Central School District**  
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

James M. Salisbury, President  
 Jay McDermott, Vice President  
 David Clapper  
 Richard Downey  
 Byron McMichael  
 Cindy O'Hara  
 Ken Olsen

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. David S. Richards

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Brian Trask

**ECRWSS  
 POSTAL PATRON**

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

Patricia Loker

**Annual District Budget Vote, Election of Members  
 to the Board of Education and Capital Project Vote**

**Unatego Jr./Sr. High School  
 2641 State Highway 7  
 Otego, NY**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021  
 Hours of Voting: 12:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Voting Qualifications**

**For the May 18, 2021 Budget Referendum**

In order to vote, a person must fulfill all of the following requirements:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Be a resident within the district for a period of at least 30 days preceding the meeting at which he/she offers to vote.

**Applications for absentee ballots may be obtained at the District Clerk's office  
 from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The District Clerk can be contacted at 607-988-5038.**