



UNATEGO

District Newsletter

www.unatego.org

Volume 34, Number 2

Budget Issue, May 2019

2019-2020 Proposed Budget

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, May 13, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Board Room

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

12:00 Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Unatego Middle/High School



UNATEGO CENTRAL SCHOOL

2641 STATE HIGHWAY 7, PO BOX 483

OTEGO, NEW YORK 13825-9795

www.unatego.org

(607) 988-5038

As we move toward the completion of a very successful 2018-2019 school year, we continue to plan for the future as well. As a result of right-sizing staff, finding efficiencies in expenditures, and leveraging grants and other funds to support student program, we are fortunate this year to propose a District budget with no increase in the tax levy! Although expenses are up, we received sufficient additional funds from the state which, with a little help from reserve funds, will allow us to maintain programs while keeping the local tax burden level to a 0% increase.

The past school year saw League and Sectional championships in Girls' Soccer, Girls' Basketball, and individual and team accomplishments at the highest level in Track and Field. Varsity Baseball won the MAC championship last year and we had a runner qualify for the State Cross-Country Championships this year. Our aspiring actors thrilled audiences with musicals and dramatic performances and our music students at all levels continued to exceed expectations at the local, county, and state levels.

Most importantly, students performed well academically. Student achievement at all levels improved last year, and we continue to have high expectations for continuous improvement. Math teams have been working hard all year to revise the curriculum, elementary teachers are revamping our very successful Positive Behaviors Interventions and Support (PBIS) program, and teachers across all grade levels have been unpacking the new NYS learning standards. Next year we will be participating in a regional program called Career Destinations to help prepare our students for success beyond high school; we also continue to offer both Advanced Placement (AP) and concurrent enrollment college courses to students in high school, at no cost to themselves or their families. We expanded our popular free breakfast program to include free lunch as well, and our backpack program ensures that our students in need are well-fed on weekends as well. All of these are part of our effort to ensure that all our students come to school ready to learn and graduate college and career ready.

We recently completed a year-long initiative on improving communication with all our stakeholders and this past fall, we published a *Good News* newsletter outlining all the great things we are doing here at Unatego. We also offered our parents, teachers, students, and community members the opportunity to participate in a survey via Thought Exchange. From this survey, we found out the things people appreciate the most and areas where we need to do better. Recently, the Board of Education and District Administrators spent an evening looking at data, including the survey results, to create District Goals to help guide us going forward. Although these are in the process of being finalized, one of the most important goals involved bringing all students together in one modern facility as soon as possible.

With that in mind, we are working with our architects and engineers to put together a capital project designed to bring all students in grades K-12 to the Junior-Senior High School building within the next five years. We do not anticipate significantly adding to the overall footprint of the building—we hope to make creative use of existing space to provide for our approximately 750 students in one building. Although we are still working out the details, our goal is to modify existing space to accommodate grades K-5 and do long-needed renovations to the current Junior-Senior High School area as well. With a state aid rate of 87.5% and a capital reserve to defray local expenses, we hope to complete the project with little or no additional cost to taxpayers. We anticipate asking voters to approve the project in late fall of 2019.

Overall, we have worked hard the past few years to maintain and expand programs for students at the least possible cost to our taxpayers. This year's budget, with a 0% increase in the tax levy, will continue to provide our students with a first-rate education at an affordable cost. If you have questions regarding this budget, please contact the Superintendent Richards, Business Manager Patti Loker, or any Board Member.

On behalf of the Board of Education
Dr. David S. Richards, Superintendent of Schools
James Salisbury, President
Jay McDermott, Vice-President
Richard Downey
David Clapper
Byron McMichael
Cindy O'Hara
Ken Olsen

Board of Education

James Salisbury
President

Richard Downey

Jay McDermott
Vice President

Ken Olsen

Byron McMichael

Cindy O'Hara

David Clapper

Administration

Dr. David Richards, Superintendent

Julie Lambiaso, High School Principal

Patricia Hoyt, Middle School Principal

Katherine Mazourek, Unatego Elementary Principal

Brian Trask, Transportation Director/Computer Coordinator/Buildings & Grounds

Patricia Loker, School Business Manager

Kim Corcoran, BOCES Food Service Director

Budget Presentation

The development, review, and consideration of the 2019-2020 Unatego Central School budget was completed with a detailed review of the revenue and expenditure items that make up the budget. This was done within the context of the District's mission, goals, and financial policies.

We are proud to publish and disseminate budget information to our community. We welcome the opportunity to present and discuss our plans and related financial impact with all concerned parties. Interaction among interested groups consistently leads to educational improvements which become available to our students.

Our most important concern in the presentation of budget data is to provide information to our community about the District's educational programs and services for the 2019-2020 school year and how the budget supports these programs and services. The material in this document includes information that has been suggested by the Board of Education, community members, and staff. A line item budget is available at each school building and online at *Unatego.org*. Copies are available for inspection at the Otego and Unadilla Public Libraries. Questions regarding the budget should be directed to Dr. David Richards, Superintendent (988-5038) or Patricia Loker (988-5038).

Budget Process and Significant Change

The budget process commenced with the development of the student enrollment forecast for the 2019-2020 school year. These forecasts predict our enrollment for next year will be about 760 students. This is approximately the same number of students as this year.

The following schedule presents a comparison of the proposed expenditures for 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 budgets.

| 2019-2020 | 2018-209 Budget | % Increase |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| \$22,815,895 | \$22,354,972 | 2.06% |

| Object | 2019-2020 Proposed Budget | 2018-2019 Budget |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$8,026,491 | \$7,741,077 |
| Benefits | 5,250,227 | 4,980,946 |
| Equipment | 91,000 | 128,500 |
| Contractual Items | 1,101,446 | 1,133,858 |
| Materials & Supplies | 738,716 | 760,455 |
| Tuition | 523,000 | 535,000 |
| Textbooks | 68,000 | 68,000 |
| BOCES Services | 4,655,815 | 4,599,436 |
| Debt Service | 2,311,200 | 2,307,700 |
| Inter-fund transfers | 50,000 | 100,000 |
| Total General Fund Expenditures | \$22,815,895 | \$22,354,972 |

Analysis of the Proposed Budget

The education of students is a labor intensive enterprise that is reflected in the personnel costs. The workforce of the district is determined by the staffing policies and guidelines of the Board on the basis of projected student enrollment and curriculum requirements. Personnel costs are based on conditions of employment established by collective bargaining agreements. For the 2019-2020 school year, salaries and fringe benefits as budgeted account for 58.19% of expenditures.



Resources to Support Operations

The financial support for district-operated programs and services are substantially derived from state sources and the property tax. We project an decrease in State Aid for the 2019-2020 School Year. The tax levy will not increase for 2019-2020. This represents an increase of 0%, which is below our tax levy limit.

| Object | 2019-2020 Proposed Budget | 2018-2019 Budget |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| State Sources | \$14,943,712 | \$14,450,041 |
| Local Sources | 306,250 | 248,550 |
| Federal Sources | 40,500 | 30,000 |
| Real Property Tax Items | 7,369,709 | 7,362,709 |
| Use of Reserves | 155,724 | 143,672 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 0 | 120,000 |
| Total Anticipated Revenues | \$ 22,815,895 | \$ 22,354,972 |

School and District Report Cards

School and District Report Cards are produced to inform the people of New York State about the performance of public schools and districts. School and District Report Cards for Unatego can be viewed by following the link on our Board of Education page on the Unatego School website, Unatego.org.

Board Candidates

The term of Jay McDermott will expire on June 30, 2019.

Running for the open seat are: Jay McDermott and Justin Fancher.

The Three Part Budget

Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 requires school districts to divide the budget into an administrative component, a program component, and a capital component. The Budget must also categorize revenues, and compare the proposed budget to the previous year. A detailed, line item budget may be viewed at one of our school buildings or on the Unatego website, Unatego.org.



Revenue Breakdown

| <i>Source of Funds</i> | 2019-20 Proposed Budget | 2018-19 Budget | Change |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Local Sources | | | |
| Admissions & Fees | \$13,000 | \$8,000 | \$5,000 |
| After School Program Fees | 70,000 | 64,000 | 6,000 |
| Tuition | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 |
| Interest & Earnings | 250 | 150 | 100 |
| Refunds of Prior Year's Expenses | 210,000 | 150,000 | 60,000 |
| Other Sources | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Bus Garage Lease | 0 | 26,400 | (26,400) |
| <i>Total Local Sources</i> | <i>306,250</i> | <i>248,550</i> | <i>57,700</i> |
| State Sources | | | |
| Basic Formula Aid | 12,806,676 | 12,616,327 | 190,349 |
| Excess Cost Aid | 435,685 | 421,108 | 14,577 |
| BOCES Aid | 1,622,473 | 1,328,341 | 294,132 |
| Software, Library, Textbook Aid | 78,878 | 84,265 | (5,387) |
| <i>Total State Sources</i> | <i>14,943,712</i> | <i>14,450,041</i> | <i>493,671</i> |
| Federal Sources | | | |
| Medicaid Reimbursement | 40,500 | 30,000 | 10,500 |
| <i>Total Federal Sources</i> | <i>40,500</i> | <i>30,000</i> | <i>10,500</i> |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 0 | 120,000 | (120,000) |
| Retirement Reserve | 149,224 | 143,672 | 5,552 |
| Employee Benefit Liability Reserve | 6,500 | 0 | 6,500 |
| Real Property Tax Items | | | |
| Tax Levy | 7,338,909 | 7,338,909 | 0 |
| Interest & Penalties | 28,000 | 21,000 | 7,000 |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes | 2,800 | 2,800 | 0 |
| <i>Total Real Property Tax Items</i> | <i>7,369,709</i> | <i>7,362,709</i> | <i>7,000</i> |
| TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES | \$22,815,895 | \$22,354,972 | \$460,923 |
| Overall Budget Percentage Increase: | | | 2.06% |

Expenditure Breakdown

Administrative Component

The Administrative Component provides for the overall general support and management activities of the district. This includes BOCES Administration and Capital Budgets, insurance, audit and legal services, printing and newsletter costs.

| Category | 2018-2019 Adopted Budget | 2019-2020 Proposed Budget | Dollar Increase/ (Decrease) |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Board of Education/District Clerk/District Meetings and Election Inspector Salaries</u> District Clerk and election inspector salaries, contractual expenses, materials, and mandated board of education training, and School Association dues | 23,900 | 20,800 | (3,100) |
| <u>Office of the Chief School Administrator</u> Superintendent & Secretarial Salaries, contractual expenses, materials for the Office of the Superintendent | 183,974 | 194,742 | 10,768 |
| <u>Business Office/Auditing/Treasurer/Tax Collector/Purchasing/Fiscal Agent Fees</u> Business Office salaries, auditing fees, tax collection expenses, contractual expenses including Medicaid reimbursement processing, materials, BOCES Services (Cooperative Purchasing and Central Business Office) | 334,223 | 379,356 | 45,133 |
| <u>Legal Services</u> School attorney & other legal services required by the district | 7,500 | 6,500 | (1,000) |
| <u>Personnel and Records Management</u> Contractual expenses, materials, BOCES services, parent broadcast system and personnel advertising | 49,607 | 52,056 | 2,449 |
| <u>Central Printing and Mailing</u> Copier paper, postage, postage meter rental, BOCES printing services | 193,270 | 193,375 | 105 |
| <u>Central Data Processing</u> Broome-Tioga BOCES network support services | 640,000 | 606,587 | (33,413) |
| <u>Insurance</u> Property, liability, and student accident insurance premiums | 81,000 | 71,000 | (10,000) |
| <u>BOCES Administration and Capital</u> District's share of BOCES administrative and capital costs. Based on a weighted student allocation. Includes BOCES Project | 531,669 | 490,340 | (41,329) |
| <u>Supervision of Instruction</u> Building principals & secretarial salaries, contractual expenses, materials & supplies, research, planning and evaluation | 446,646 | 474,100 | 27,454 |
| <u>Employee Benefits</u> Retirement system contributions, social security, health and dental insurance, workers compensation insurance | 440,811 | 505,684 | 64,873 |
| Total Administrative Component | \$2,932,600 (13.1% of budget) | \$2,994,540 (13.1% of budget) | \$61,940 |

Program Component

The Program Component represents the largest portion and the focal point of our budget. Included are all instructional expenses for our school including K-12 programs, special programs for students with disabilities, occupational education, and an alternative learning environment. Student support services included are health services, various counseling services, instructional media and technology, athletics and co-curricular, and pupil transportation. Associated employee benefits are also listed.

| Category | 2018-2019 Adopted Budget | 2019-2020 Proposed Budget | Dollar Increase/ (Decrease) |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Regular Education</u> Teacher and aide salaries, contractual expenses, instructional materials, textbooks, BOCES services including English as a Second Language, legal services | \$4,757,196 | \$4,823,050 | 65,854 |
| <u>Students with Disabilities</u> Teacher, 1:1 Aide & LTA salaries, contractual expenses, instructional materials, tuition for special schools, BOCES services. | 3,228,302 | 3,688,870 | 460,568 |
| <u>Occupational Education & Special Schools</u> BOCES services including Occupational and Alternative Education, an Alternative Learning Environment, and Driver's Education | 710,756 | 664,916 | (45,840) |
| <u>Instructional Media & Technology</u> Salaries, contractual expenses, library books, hardware and software, BOCES services | 541,002 | 449,019 | (91,983) |
| <u>Counseling & Attendance Services</u> Counselor office salaries, contractual expenses, and materials | 309,260 | 301,755 | (7,505) |
| <u>Student Health Services</u> Nursing salaries, contractual expenses, materials | 77,899 | 80,550 | 2,651 |
| <u>Psychological & Social Work Services</u> Psychologist and Social Worker salaries, contractual expenses, testing materials | 62,864 | 64,905 | 2,041 |
| <u>Co-Curricular</u> Advisor salaries, contractual expenses, materials | 62,000 | 60,800 | (1,200) |
| <u>Athletics</u> Coaching salaries, equipment, contractual expenses including sports officials, materials, BOCES services | 239,222 | 245,117 | 5,895 |
| <u>Transportation</u> Bus driver, mechanic, and supervisor salaries, equipment, diesel & heating fuel, insurance, bus repairs, contractual expenses, bus parts, materials, BOCES driver training services and garage maintenance | 1,252,939 | 1,258,460 | 5,521 |
| <u>Community Services</u> After School and Summer Program | 66,000 | 70,000 | 4,000 |
| <u>Employee Benefits</u> Retirement system contributions and incentive costs, social security, health and dental insurance, workers compensation insurance | 4,354,950 | 4,545,371 | 190,421 |
| Total Program Component | \$15,662,390 (70.1% of budget) | \$16,252,813 (71.2% of budget) | 590,423 |

Capital Component

The Capital Component is defined by the New York State Education Department as primarily the operation and maintenance section of the district budget. This is where a majority of the heating fuel is budgeted. However, debt service (principle and interest payments) on building projects and some special items are also included.

| Category | 2018-2019 Adopted Budget | 2019-2020 Proposed Budget | Dollar Increase/ (Decrease) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Operations and Maintenance</u> Salaries for custodial workers, supervisor, heat, electricity, service contracts, replacement equipment, and custodial supplies | 1,054,097 | 995,170 | (58,927) |
| <u>Special Items</u> Refund of real property taxes for corrected tax bills | 10,000 | 8,000 | (2,000) |
| <u>District Transportation Services</u> Purchase of Transportation Vehicles | 35,000 | 0 | (35,000) |
| <u>Employee Benefits</u> Retirement system contributions and incentive costs, social security, health and dental insurance, workers compensation insurance. | 253,185 | 254,172 | 987 |
| <u>Debt Service—Buildings</u> Principal & Interest on Capital Projects | 2,307,700 | 2,311,200 | 3,500 |
| <u>Transfer to Capital Fund</u> Capital Outlay Project—Lighting and security improvements. | 100,000 | 0 | (100,000) |
| Total Capital Component | \$3,759,982 (16.8% of budget) | \$3,568,542 (15.7% of budget) | (\$191,440) |



A Message from Harris Memorial Library and Unadilla Public Library Trustees

New York Education Law 259 provides public libraries the option to place a funding proposition on a school district ballot. The Harris Memorial and Unadilla Public Libraries are seeking your support. We are proposing a separate line item funding proposition to the voters of the Unatego School District on May 21, 2019. Harris Memorial and Unadilla Public Library together are asking for an annual tax levy of \$85,000 to be divided between the two libraries according to their annual budgets. Harris Memorial Library would be allocated \$55,000 and Unadilla Public Library would be allocated \$30,000. If the voters approve the proposition, District residents will pay approximately 20¢ and 3¢ per \$1,000 in assessed property respectively. Supporting the libraries would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$20 per year in Otego and \$37 per year in Unadilla, equal to the cost of one hardcover book per year. This amount cannot increase without another public vote.

Both libraries face minimum wage increases, online automation and technology service fees (services required by the state) through the Four County Library System, and rising costs in providing basic services and programming. At every turn funding is being cut and revenues are losing ground versus expenses. Harris Memorial Library faces the specific needs for more staff as well as a new roof and other major building improvements. Currently both libraries receive partial funding from their village and town. Should the public vote on May 21 to fund their libraries through an annual tax levy, the Town and Village of Otego and Unadilla will no longer fund the Libraries from their budgets. The Unatego School will collect the tax for the Libraries, as required by NYS law and the funds will go directly to the libraries. Most of the local libraries in our region are already funded through school district ballots, including Sidney, Afton, Deposit, Greene, Norwich, Walton, Franklin, Edmeston, Cooperstown, Oxford, Hartwick.

The amount being proposed will help both libraries continue to purchase books and DVDs, run story times and special programs, offer free Wi-Fi and computer access, and to provide a space for community groups to meet. Help us ensure a legacy of public knowledge, learning and opportunity in our communities. For more information call Harris Memorial Library at 988-6661 or Unadilla Public Library 369-3131, leave your name and phone number, a library trustee will contact you.

Important information for STAR exemption recipients

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit; you'll receive a check instead.

Note: The income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is now \$250,000. If your income is more than \$250,000, you must switch to the credit to continue receiving a STAR benefit.

Due to recent changes in the law, beginning this year:

- The value of the STAR credit may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the STAR exemption cannot increase; and
- The income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is now \$250,000.

Who must switch?

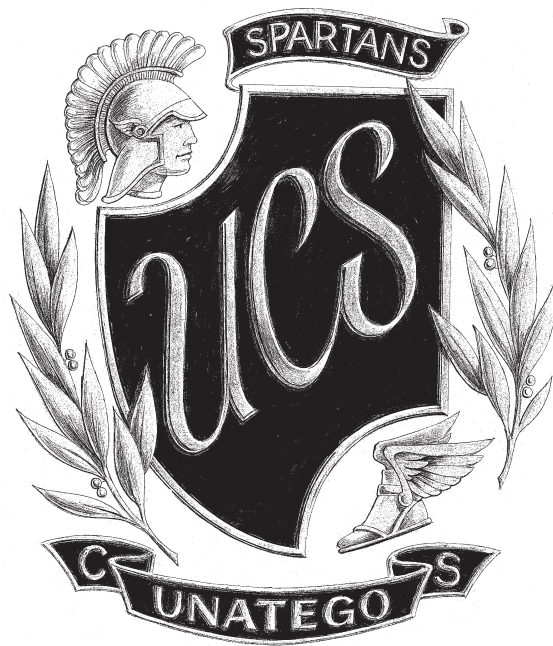
If your income is more than \$250,000, you must switch to the STAR credit to continue receiving your benefit.

If your income is \$250,000 or less, you have the option to switch.

How to switch to the STAR credit:

1. Notify your assessor that you wish to withdraw your STAR exemption.
2. Register for the STAR credit.

Please check the NYS website <https://www.tax.ny.gov/star/> for additional information. As the District receives additional information, we will make it available on our website.



Board of Education Candidate's Profiles

Jay McDermott

Jay McDermott has lived in Unadilla for some twenty-five years. Both his children graduated from Unatego, in the Class of 2005. He has worked as a substitute teacher here, covering classes for teachers in all three buildings, from grade 2 through grade 12. After being appointed three times to complete terms of board members who left office, McDermott ran for his first elected term in 2010; this will be his third re-election term. He serves as Vice President of the Board. He has recently retired from the English department at the State University of New York at Oneonta.



Justin Fancher

I am 39 years old and I live in Otego. I grew up here and have lived here most of my life totaling over 28 years. I have called both of our communities in our district home as I have also spent over two years living in Unadilla. I graduated from Unatego in 1999. After school, I took some college courses and jumped into working full time. I began working the night shift at Walmart and this is how I met my wife, Lisa whom I would later marry in 2004. We have been married ever since going on 15 years now and have two beautiful daughters, Savannah 16, and Kassidy 13 both of whom attend Unatego. We returned to buy a house here and raise our girls here and call Otego home after a few brief years away. I would later begin to write and draw during the day, becoming a published poet.



In 2012, after some life altering events, my life needed new direction, so I started a new adventure, leaving the world of retail behind having over 10 years' experience in all areas. I started working for Springbrook, serving, advocating, and supporting individuals with special needs. I continue to work there and have since become a recognized face in their advertisements and marketing campaigns with my picture on the sides of buses, on billboards, websites, and magazines. Three years ago, I bought my house as I've always thought of Otego as home, it seemed the perfect place to grow old and raise my kids just as I grew up here. Today I own two properties in Otego. I am seeking election to the Unatego School Board hoping to empower all our kids and hopefully giving them every opportunity available to live their lives the best way possible and to be a positive change for our communities and our district.





Unatego Central School District
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Otego, New York 13825

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON**

Annual District Budget Vote and Election of Members to the Board of Education

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

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Hours of Voting: 12:00-9:00 p.m.**

Voting Qualifications

For the May 21, 2019 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.
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