



## School budget proposal for 2021-22: vote on May 18

# Meeting our students where they are: redeeming the pandemic experience

### Budget facts:

2.5%

Proposed tax levy increase

• SEE PAGE 6 •

\$47,916,444

Total spending proposal for 2021-22 school year at GFSD

• SEE PAGE 7 •

3.04%

Budget-to-budget spending increase, or \$1,411,578

• SEE PAGE 7 •

May 18

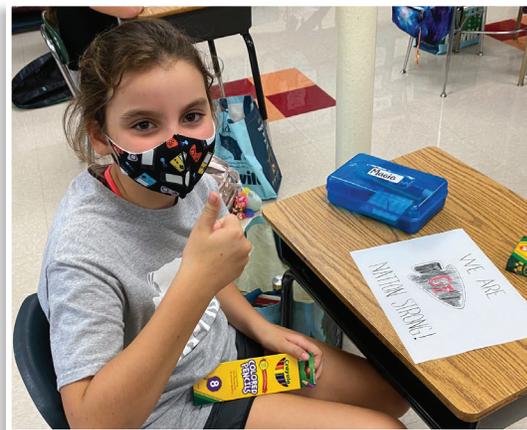
School budget vote and Board of Education elections, Noon—9 p.m. at Sanford St. School

• SEE PAGE 2 •

Building on strategic efforts to boost relationships and relevance within Glens Falls’ educational program, the Board of Education has adopted a \$47.9 million budget proposal for the 2021-22 school year that enhances current programs and services and stays within the property tax cap.

If approved by the voters on Tuesday, May 18, the spending plan would increase the tax levy by 2.5 percent, which is the district’s maximum allowable without a supermajority vote. The proposed budget would increase spending by \$1,411,578, or 3.05 percent over the current year. Voting takes place from noon to 9 p.m. in the Sanford Street School gym.

“This budget allows us to move into next year with a student-centered approach that continues to fund our existing programs and allows us to focus on our district-wide initiatives like classroom space reconfigurations and purchasing student school supplies, as we’ve done in past years,” said Assistant Superintendent for Business Bobby Yusko. “Fortunately, throughout the pandemic we were able to ‘weather the storm’ without any reductions in student programming or staffing, albeit with mandated restrictions. However, we’re in a position to move into the future and build upon the progress that has taken place, before and during this unprecedented situation.”



The district plans to embed extra student social-emotional support and learning gap closure initiatives into the educational program throughout next year.

“We know our students have had a wide range of experiences this past year,” said Superintendent Paul Jenkins. “Some have flourished in the all-virtual model, and some have struggled mightily. Some have enjoyed the hybrid-remote schedule, and some have found it stressful. Every family has endured their own set of difficult circumstances ... whether it be a job layoff, illness of a loved one, loss of special events and activities, or simply general anxiety throughout the pandemic. Altogether, we are heading into a school year with as many challenges—academically and emotionally—as we just came through.”

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 •

*The mission of the Glens Falls City School District is to provide a safe, positive and stimulating environment — one that fosters self-growth, a passion for continuous learning, confidence, and the ability to succeed in a changing world.*

## Board of Education candidate profile

The Board of Education of the Glens Falls City School District is made up of nine members who are elected by qualified voters of the district. They serve without pay for five-year terms. The Board of Education, in serving its role as trustee of the district's five schools, is responsible for the development of the policy through which the Superintendent administers the educational program, the students, and the staff.

The Board encourages all citizens to take an active role in the development of our schools. It is the philosophy of the Board that the schools are the responsibility of the entire community if the schools are to continue and provide a program of quality education for the young people of our district. There is one candidate running for an open seat on the Board of Education, with a term beginning July 1, 2021.

### **Laura A. Kennedy**, of 2 Spruce Court, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is Director of Financial Planning at Glens Falls Hospital.



*As a parent of two young children and a graduate of GFHS, I have a vested interest in the success of our schools and am eager to give back to the community that raised me.*

*My primary goal as a board member is to ensure that all students have an opportunity to succeed, with an understanding that providing support for our teachers and staff is the foundation for student success.*

*I will bring an inquisitive nature, willing to ask tough questions while collaborating with other board members and the Superintendent to help move the district forward. My experience in Finance will also support a focus on fiscal responsibility in aligning resources to ensure a high level of student achievement.*

## Where and how do I vote?

Voting returns to an in-person event this year, with enhanced COVID safety protocols and social distancing. **All Glens Falls City School District voters, including parts of the town of Queensbury within Glens Falls City Schools—regardless of where they live—will cast their votes at Sanford Street School.**

Voting on the school budget and Board of Education elections takes place from noon to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18.

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 18 election, be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years of age, and be registered to vote with the school district.

## Food Service steps up for students

When schools were forced to close in mid-March 2020, it became a district priority that every Glens Falls child who needed or wanted meals would get them. It was a critical effort to help children maintain and improve their physical nourishment, and strengthen relationships with parents navigating income disruption.

Through the herculean efforts of our Aramark kitchen staff, volunteer chefs, bus drivers, teachers and staff member volunteers, our GF Nation fed an average of 900 students a week for a meal total of approximately 12,600 meals every week between April and June. At the height of the shutdown, nearly 56% of the total student body was benefitting from these nutritious breakfast and lunch meals, with many families expressing deep gratitude for the free, steady service.

Food service continued to be a key element of students' growth over the year, as close to 11,000 meals were served to more than 500 students over the Christmas break. Over February break, we served more than 200 students nearly 4,000 meals.

Many thanks to the cafeteria staff and volunteers for their huge hearts and helpful smiles (under the mask) that got our kids fed!



## Budget provides targeted support

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

“Our principals know the unique strengths and needs of our students, and we will be ready to respond with targeted resources to help them fully recover from this convoluted pandemic year,” Mr. Jenkins continued.

Questions remain on which health and safety requirements will still be in place in the fall, and which educational delivery models the district will need to use next year. Directives from New York State Education and Health departments are expected throughout the summer, as district leaders plan for the opening of school in September. “I would like to see all of our students back in their buildings, taking advantage of our full educational and extra-curricular program next year,” said Mr. Jenkins. “We simply don’t know whether state regulations will allow that. But we are ready to adapt, just as we did this year.”

Federal funding for schools in the American Rescue Plan and a more positive state budget outlook should help the district adjust to new requirements brought on by the pandemic.

“We are cautiously optimistic that the NYS budget’s promise of a fully funded foundation aid formula over the next three fiscal years, in addition to the availability of federal funds as a result of the federal stimulus packages, will allow us to address a number of challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Mr. Yusko.

The budget was Board of Education-approved in April after an open process that included several work sessions throughout the school year. Materials from the Board’s audit and finance committee meetings are available online at [www.gfsd.org](http://www.gfsd.org), under “About Us -> School Budget.”

## Students excel, even in redefined, “virtual” year of competition



Swimmers Dylan Anselment, Greg Frandsen, Joe Flood, and Nolan Towers set a new record in the 200-yard freestyle relay. They won the virtual Foothills Council championships with a pool-record time of 1:29.47. Their lightning fast time would have also qualified them for the state championships, which were canceled due to the pandemic.

## What’s actually on the ballot?

Voters will be deciding on two ballot items on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. There are no additional propositions this year. The actual ballot language is as follows:

### Annual elections to Board of Education

To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for terms of five years, commencing on July 1, 2021.

### 2021-22 School Budget

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Glens Falls City School District in the County of Warren is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$47,916,444 and to levy the necessary tax, therefore, for the school year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Congratulations, **Post Star Teen Excellence** honorees for 2021! The Teen Excellence Awards identify outstanding young people between the ages of 13 and 19 who have demonstrated personal growth, leadership, and innovation, along with a commitment to the community. Nice work, Ella Crossman, Ella Kules, Sydney Snyder, Patrick Bruen, and Phoebe Fox!



Senior Nick Teta (Trombone), junior Peyton Catarelli (Tenor Saxophone), and 8th grader Brady Gross (Alto Saxophone) represented Glens Falls in the re-vamped New York State Band Director’s Association (NYSBDA) 2021 Honors Ensembles. This extremely selective festival represents the top musicians in the state.

## Kindergarten Registration set for June

Do you have a little learner in your life who is ready for Kindergarten? Or Universal PreK? We're ready to welcome them into GF Nation!

Registration for new Kindergarten students is now the final week of June to limit the number of people in the schools and potential for spreading COVID-19.

Kindergarten Round-Up and screening appointments will be held on the following days:

### Big Cross Street School: June 28, 2021

• call **Patty Farrell at 518-792-2619** to make your appointment

### Kensington Road School: June 29, 2021

• call **Assunta Moore at 518-793-5151** to make your appointment

### Jackson Heights School: June 30, 2021

• call **Stacy Frandsen at 518-792-1071** to make your appointment

Many more Kindergarten registration details are at: [bit.ly/3tXWEk5](https://bit.ly/3tXWEk5)

## UPK seats still available for September

After the pandemic-related pause on our UPK program this year, we are looking forward to welcoming four-year-olds back into the program in September—with many details still yet to be finalized.

The UPK lottery was held in April, but there are still some remaining seats in the program. Please call Debbie Robbins at 518-792-1212 if your family would like to explore the UPK program.

More details are also here:

[bit.ly/2QU0Fad](https://bit.ly/2QU0Fad)

## Growing through a challenging year, together What is Social Emotional Learning?

Social Emotional Learning. SEL.

You've probably heard it a few times. It's directed by the NYS Education Department, it was an entire section of our reopening plan, and we've been working under an SEL, trauma-informed, relationship-building mindset for years at GFSD schools.

But beyond the buzzword, what IS SEL?? And what does SEL look like inside our own schools?

SEL is the process through which children and adults acquire the competencies to:

- Recognize and manage emotions
- Develop caring and concern for others
- Make responsible decisions
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Handle challenging situations effectively

"Educational researchers have known for decades that we must meet and address students' social and emotional needs if we are to help them meet their full potential," says Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Trent Clay.

Integrating SEL into academic instruction includes free standing lessons that teach SEL competencies, inclusion of SEL in academics, and teaching practices to create classroom and schoolwide conditions that teach and model SEL.

Glens Falls has been a step ahead of the SEL revolution for several years now. In the past year alone, this learning has looked like an elementary teacher using the story of Spookley the Square Pumpkin to frame classwork around



acceptance, a middle school counselor leading a Circle of students to create their own classroom expectations, and a high school teacher using a daily prompt "Today I feel \_\_\_" with every student, and following up privately based on the given answer.

We know that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma can have a negative impact on young people's ability to learn and develop. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected every one of us with some degree of trauma. SEL can nurture skills that better equip young people to manage responses and improve outcomes.

One good way to envision it is that "SEL is the plate that learning is served on," notes Middle School Principal Kristy Moore. "As a building community, we will continue to strengthen this essential foundation by providing time and space for intentional dialogue so staff and students can connect and discuss shared realities. Collaboration with the broader community allows us to meet the social emotional needs of all students while focusing on continued academic growth as a pathway to success."

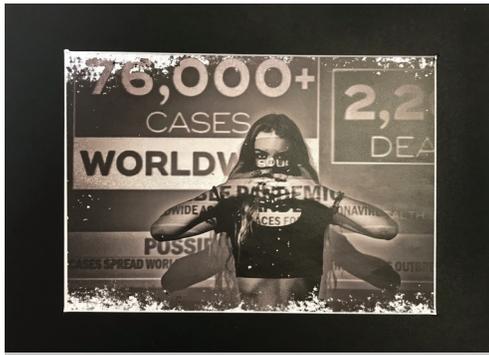
# "COVID-19 and Me"

Many students used art to relieve some of their stress of this school year. And a collaboration between the GFSD Art Department and World Awareness Children's Museum led to extraordinary work.

"Students read articles about art as healing and were asked to find an art form that would help convey their voice," said art teacher Sue Botch. "Many students created soulful collages, propaganda-type posters and zen-like patterns." The work is on display now at WACM in Glens Falls.



McKayla Welch



KC Maxwell



Claire Seelen



Isabella Bullard



Robin Gorton



Eben McGee Bierman



Katherine Lieberth



Annalysse Wilson



Lyla Krogmann

## National Honor Society 69 members strong!

Big congratulations to this year's inductees to the Glens Falls Chapter of National Honor Society! Every one of these scholars has a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better, serves their community in a variety of volunteer roles, and is a recognized leader inside and outside the classroom. Way to go, students!

### Senior Members

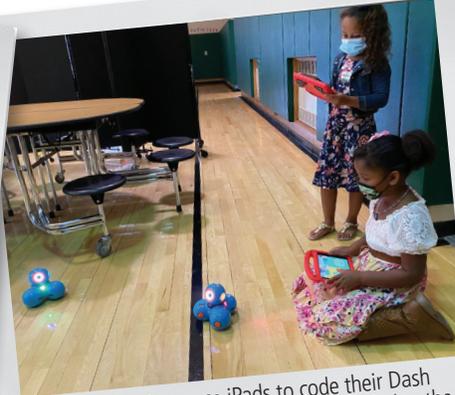
- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Brianna Aiken       | Cailin Harrington |
| Dylan Anselment     | Catherine Hayes   |
| McKenna Austin      | Fisher Herrmann   |
| M. Patrick Bruen    | Ella Kules        |
| Halie Clerville     | Aidan La Fond     |
| Allison Comstock    | Emily Lunt        |
| Ella Crossman       | Benjamin Palmer   |
| Benjamin Di Fiore   | Sydney Snyder     |
| Brian Donlon        | Nicholas Teta     |
| Amelia Elmen        | Olivia Twardy     |
| Daniel Florio       | Evan Wiggins      |
| Phoebe Fox          | Brooke Willett    |
| Nathaniel Greenwood | Annalysse Wilson  |
| Abby Hamell         |                   |

### Inductees

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sarah Backus      | Jackie Layden     |
| Kathyn Barber     | Wyatt MacPherson  |
| Catherine Barclay | Hudson McTiernan  |
| Camden Barry      | Aidan Murphy      |
| Jack Barry        | Massimo Nassivera |
| Natalie Baxter    | Andrew Nelson     |
| Jack Bourdeau     | Elijah O'Sick     |
| Ashley Bourdeaux  | Johnson           |
| Heath Borgos      | Durant Poole      |
| Owen Burr         | Jack Putnam       |
| Peyton Catarelli  | Averielle Roberts |
| Rowan Davidson    | McKayla Roberts   |
| Eric Delvaux      | Caroline Shaver   |
| Trevor DiMezza    | Luke Skellie      |
| Catriona Dobert   | Tanner Sokol      |
| Kailey Gayton     | Alexandra Sperry  |
| Haylee Girard     | Faith Stone       |
| Robin Gorton      | Paige Sylvia      |
| Sylvia Guillot    | Helena Trackey    |
| Avery Hill        | Kiley Trombley    |
| Ava Hubany        | Nicholas Westfall |
| Sydney Jones      |                   |



Serving lunch in classrooms and other spaces where students could be six feet apart was challenging, but we did it—together!



Big Cross students use iPads to code their Dash and Dot bots to zoom and spin around during the enrichment portion of their daily schedule.



Incoming GFHS students still got a warm welcome from the Freshman Orientation Committee, which planned a socially-distanced, fun introduction.

## How can I give feedback on budget priorities?

Every year, the district conducts an exit survey in conjunction with the budget vote. Data from these surveys helps weigh our community's priorities and shape future budget development. All district residents are also encouraged to attend monthly Board of Education meetings throughout the year.

### Summary of Proposed Revenues

	Adopted 2020-21	Projected 2021-22	Dollar Variance	Budget Variance
State Aid	\$17,963,276	\$21,269,795	\$3,306,519	18.41%
School Taxes	21,603,964	22,144,063	540,099	2.50%
Other	2,792,083	2,829,005	36,922	1.32%
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance</b>				
Debt Service	---	416,114	416,114	---
ERS Reserve	525,619	578,073	52,454	9.98%
Unassigned Fund Balance	3,619,924	679,394	(2,940,530)	(81.23%)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$46,504,866</b>	<b>\$47,916,444</b>	<b>\$1,411,578</b>	<b>3.04%</b>

## The 2021-22 budget proposal in three-part format

All public schools in New York State are required to report appropriations in three official categories: program, capital, and administrative. The following data shows how Glens Falls' budget breaks down under this formula:

### THE PROGRAM BUDGET INCLUDES:

The salaries and benefits of all teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and speech therapists. Also included are textbooks and equipment, library costs, transportation, co-curricular programs and inter-scholastic athletics.

**PROGRAM BUDGET 2021-22: \$36,166,335**

**PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET: 75.48%**

### THE CAPITAL BUDGET INCLUDES:

Operations and maintenance costs, including salaries and benefits for custodial staff, debt service on buildings, utilities, cleaning supplies, tax certiorari, and court-ordered costs.

**CAPITAL BUDGET 2021-22: \$7,932,939**

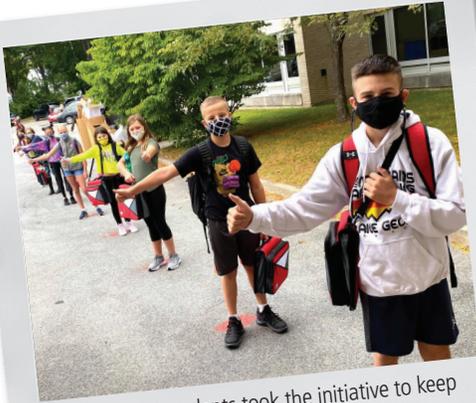
**PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET: 16.56%**

### THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET INCLUDES:

The salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing, curriculum and staff development, school board-related costs, tax collection, and legal services.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET 2021-22: \$3,817,170**

**PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET: 7.97%**



Middle School students took the initiative to keep each other safe by carefully following line-up procedures throughout the year.



Despite the pandemic challenges, students found many moments of joy this year, like in this sidewalk chalk station during elementary enrichment time.



Our all-virtual teachers, including Sue Williams, above, made learning engaging and fun for the 16% of students that chose the fully remote model.

### Summary of Proposed Expenditures

	Adopted 2020-21	Proposed 2021-22	Dollar Variance	Budget Variance
Salaries	\$22,184,650	\$22,991,979	\$807,329	3.64%
Equipment	614,175	611,311	(2,864)	(0.47%)
Contractual	3,034,997	3,236,899	201,902	6.65%
BOCES	4,565,824	4,566,085	261	0.01%
Materials & Supplies	1,125,842	1,160,851	35,009	3.11%
Debt Service	3,883,759	4,126,246	242,487	6.24%
Employee Benefits	10,995,619	11,123,073	127,454	1.16%
Interfund Transfers	100,000	100,000	---	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$46,504,866</b>	<b>\$47,916,444</b>	<b>\$1,411,578</b>	<b>3.04%</b>

### What if I can't get to the polls on Tuesday, May 18th?

This year's budget vote will take place in person, using the traditional format of voters filling out paper ballots and depositing them into optical scan machines. Extra COVID safety precautions will be in effect, such as mask-wearing, sanitization of pens, and cleaning of ballot completion areas frequently throughout the day.

Residents who will not be able to go to the polling location on May 18 may apply for an **absentee ballot** at the district office. If the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote.

If the absentee ballot is to be picked up by the voter in person, applications will be accepted until May 17.

Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on May 18.

### Where can I find more details on the proposed budget and district financials?

Budget books—which include detailed information on the District's NYSED Report Card, Required Budget Notice, Property Tax Report Card, Salary Disclosure Notice, and Exemption Reporting for Taxing Jurisdictions—are available to any district resident at Crandall Public Library, all school buildings, and the district office.

Each item in the budget books is also available online at [www.gfsd.org](http://www.gfsd.org), under "About Us -> School Budget."



Use the QR scanner on your smartphone to access the district's budget page now! Need a QR code scanner? It's easy and free to download an application from your service provider.

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 Jeremy Deason, VP  
 Kelly Culliton  
 David Dawkins  
 Kristin Greenwood  
 Matthew Levin  
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 Deb Stockdale

**Superintendent** – Paul Jenkins

# Glens Falls

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Glens Falls CITY SCHOOLS

# State-required School District Budget Notice

## GLENS FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-2022 by the qualified voters of the Glens Falls City School District, Warren County, New York, will be held at the Sanford Street Elementary School gymnasium in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 school year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 school year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 school year
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$46,504,866	\$47,916,444	\$47,916,444
Increase (decrease) for the 2021-22 school year		\$1,411,578	\$1,411,578
Percentage increase (decrease) in proposed budget		3.04%	3.04%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
<b>A. Proposed levy to support the total budgeted amount</b>			
	\$21,603,964	\$22,144,063	
<b>B. Levy to support library debt, if applicable</b>			
	N/A	N/A	
<b>C. Levy for non-excludable propositions, if applicable</b>			
	N/A	N/A	
<b>D. Total tax cap reserve amount used to reduce current year levy</b>			
	N/A	N/A	
<b>E. Total proposed school year tax levy (A + B + C - D)</b>			
	\$21,603,964	\$22,144,063	\$21,603,964
<b>F. Total permissible exclusions</b>			
	\$126,934	\$413,525	
<b>G. School tax levy limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions</b>			
	\$21,477,030	\$21,730,538	
<b>H. Total proposed school year tax levy, excluding levy to support library debt and/or permissible exclusions</b>			
	\$21,477,030	\$21,730,538	
<b>I. Difference: G-H (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)</b>			
	\$0	\$0	
<b>Administrative Component</b>			
	\$3,744,987	\$3,817,170	\$3,817,170
<b>Program Component</b>			
	\$35,116,826	\$36,166,335	\$36,166,335
<b>Capital Component</b>			
	\$7,643,053	\$7,932,939	\$7,932,939

\* The contingency budget is based on the following projected assumptions:

1. The tax levy cannot increase from the prior year.
2. Non-contingent expenses such as equipment are excluded.
3. The ratio of the administrative component to the sum of the administrative and the program component cannot exceed certain parameters.

**VOTE**  
**on May 18!**

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

### Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Under the budget proposed for the 2021-22 school year

\$547