



Vote at Sanford St. School on May 17

## Focus forward: School budget proposal builds program in 2022-23

### Budget facts:

3.16%

Proposed tax levy increase

• SEE PAGE 5 •

\$50,584,799

Total spending proposal for 2022-23 school year at GFSD

• SEE PAGE 4 •

5.57%

Budget-to-budget spending increase, or \$2,668,355

• SEE PAGE 5 •

May 17

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

• SEE PAGE 3 •

With the goal of enhancing learning outcomes for all students, the Board of Education has adopted a \$50.5 million budget proposal for the 2022-23 school year that expands current programs and services and stays within the property tax cap.

If approved by the voters on Tuesday, May 17, the spending plan would increase the tax levy by 3.16 percent, which is the district's maximum allowable without a super majority vote. The proposed budget would increase spending by \$2,668,355, or 5.57 percent over the current year. Voting takes place from noon to 9 p.m. in the Sanford Street School gym.

The spending plan includes:

- Creating four new elementary teaching positions within the special education department to build upon the district's inclusion model for learning. *(Read more about inclusion on page 6)*
- Adding a third Universal Pre-Kindergarten class to meet families' demand for the program, and provide a UPK class at each elementary school. The full-day program for 4-year-olds would expand with classes at Kensington, Jackson Heights, and Big Cross.
- Four new teaching positions at the elementary (1) and middle school (3) levels.
- Four new teacher aide and teaching assistant positions, which include a focus on math support.



- Two new Information Technology positions to support student Chromebook management and repair.
- An additional assistant principal position at the high school, separate from the athletic director position, that can increase capacity around social-emotional, academic, and mental wellness efforts.

Also on the ballot is Proposition 1, which would lease new school buses to replace older vehicles as part of the district's scheduled transportation maintenance plan. Voters will decide on Proposition 2, which seeks to add a student representative to the Board of Education.

Four candidates are running for three seats on the Board of Education. Please see details on the proposed budget and individual candidate statements inside.

*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 profiles

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.

This year, there are four candidates running for three open seats on the Board of Education.

➤ The **two highest vote-getters** will serve terms that begin on July 1, 2022 and last five years (through June 30, 2027).

➤ The **third-highest vote-getter** will serve a term beginning on May 18, 2022 and last through June 30, 2024. This person will serve the remainder of the term held by David Dawkins, who recently resigned the position.

All Board members serve "at large" and represent the entire district.

**Matthew Levin**, of 8 Ames Pl., is seeking his second term on the Board of Education. He is a Design Engineering and Post-Sales Activity Leader at General Electric.



*Serving on the board for the past 5 years has been a tremendous experience. I expected the learning curve as a new board member, but the COVID pandemic brought with it a lot of unexpected challenges.*

*My goal for my next term, is to continue listening and working with all the district stakeholders, to welcome a new Superintendent and support her successful start in the district, execute on the approved \$32M capital project and most importantly strengthen the education and support systems for all our students. Having served one term on the board, means I will be ready to hit the ground running, to help support changes in school district leadership.*

**Randy Rath**, of 88 W. Notre Dame St., is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is a Geospatial Systems Analyst at the Lake George Association.



*I am running to give our community, its teachers, and students, a voice that hasn't always been heard with the outgoing administration. Our school board should be transparent and open in its debates and decision making. Arbitrary and obtuse decisions made behind closed doors are part of the*

*past. I am excited to bring back pride to our district and GF Nation as we reboot with a new administration.*

*I graduated from GFHS in 1987 and attended Kensington and the Middle School on Glen St. I graduated from the University of Buffalo (B.A.) and the University of New Mexico (M.A.). My children went to Jackson Heights. My daughter graduated from GFHS in 2020 and my son will graduate in 2023.*

**Jason Rivers**, of 9 Sheridan St., is seeking his second term on the Board of Education. He is a Special Education Teacher at Warrensburg Central School District.



*I would like to extend my service as a member of the Glens Falls City Schools BOE in order to continue advocating for our students.*

*Building a collaborative relationship with the district's administrative team will guide the future of GF Nation.*

*My 20 year career as a teacher and coach provides insight to the importance of support and resources necessary for student success. As a father of two sons within the district, I look to further strengthen and ensure that all students of GF Nation are given every opportunity for success.*

**Matthew Webster**, of 230 Bay St., is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is a Surveyor at Van Dusen & Steves Land Surveyors.



*As a 2007 Glens Falls graduate now laying down roots in my home town, I want to make sure every student has the same excellent opportunities that I did.*

*Glens Falls has a proud tradition of sending well-balanced graduates out into the community and I believe that can be carried into the future by focusing on student-first programs led by transparent leadership.*



Soroptimiss, National Honor Society, Student Council, and Social Justice Club raised \$518.05 for the Capital District branch of the UCCA (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America).



Photo: Mindy LaVine, Harman Photography

The GFHS Theatre Ensemble production of **HONK!** earned seven regional High School Musical Theatre Award nominations, organized by the Collaborative School of the Arts at Proctors Theater!



Congratulations, **Peyton Catarelli, Cate Barclay, and Catriona Dobert, Post Star Teen Excellence** honorees for 2022! These awards honor leadership, innovation, and community commitment.

## What's actually on the ballot?

Voters will be deciding on four ballot items on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The actual ballot language is as follows:

### Annual elections to Board of Education

To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for a term of five years, commencing on July 1, 2022, and to elect one (1) member of the Board of Education to fulfil the unexpired term of David Dawkins ending June 30, 2024.

### 2022-23 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 \$50,584,799 and to levy the necessary tax, therefore, for the school year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

### Proposition 1: Lease of School Buses

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Glens Falls City School District is hereby authorized to enter into five year leases for two (2) 65 passenger school buses, at a total amount of lease payments not to exceed \$53,500 per year, and three (3) 30 passenger school buses, at a total amount of lease payments not to exceed \$42,000 per year, and that the total lease payments for the five year leases would be at an amount not to exceed \$477,500, and such annual lease payments shall be paid out of the operating budget of the District in each of the five years.

### Proposition 2: Authorize a Student to Serve on School Board

RESOLVED, that a High School student may serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the School Board, which student shall be selected and serve in accordance with the New York State Education Law.

## Where and how do I vote?

**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 17.

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the May 17, 2022 election, be a citizen of the United States, be at least 18 years of age, and be registered to vote with the school district.



Jackson Heights 4th graders read "Change Sings" poetry, sang "Be the Change" in music, then created environmental posters to promote change.



This year's "Pennies for Pink" drive netted \$3,699 for gas cards to get local cancer patients to and from their treatments. That's 147 smiles!



The Middle School has welcomed its newest therapy dog, Bailey, who gives and receives a lot of affection. She loves being read to!



Kensington's Battle had a great showing in their competition this year.

## The 2022-23 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 interscholastic athletics.

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

PROGRAM BUDGET 2022-23: \$38,462,837

### 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

CAPITAL BUDGET 2022-23: \$8,065,960

### 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

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET 2022-23: \$4,056,002

### THE THREE-PART BUDGET AS A PERCENTAGE OF WHOLE



### Summary of Proposed Expenditures

	Adopted 2021-22
Salaries	\$22,991,979
Equipment	611,311
Contractual	3,236,899
BOCES	4,566,085
Materials & Supplies	1,160,851
Debt Service	4,126,246
Employee Benefits	11,123,073
Interfund Transfers	100,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$47,916,444</b>

### Summary of Proposed Revenues

	Adopted 2021-22
State Aid	\$21,269,795
Tax Levy	22,144,063
Other	2,829,005
Appropriated Fund Balance	
Debt Service	416,114
Employee Retirement Service Reserve	578,073
Unassigned Fund Balance	679,394
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$47,916,444</b>



of the Books teams  
ing at the regional literary  
ring



GFHS swimmers broke multiple school records and placed 6th in the state meet for the 200-Free relay!



Eight authors from Big Cross wrote hilarious short stories that won national publication in the "Ridiculous Writers" anthology



There was a lot of blue in GF Nation on April 1st for greater acceptance, understanding, and support of our friends affected by autism.

Proposed 2022-23	Dollar Variance	Budget Variance
\$24,760,960	\$1,768,981	7.69%
621,551	10,240	1.68%
3,733,739	496,840	15.35%
5,009,615	443,530	9.71%
1,174,386	13,535	1.17%
4,047,475	(78,771)	(1.91%)
11,137,073	14,000	0.13%
100,000	---	0%
<b>50,584,799</b>	<b>2,668,355</b>	<b>5.57%</b>

Projected 2022-23	Dollar Variance	Budget Variance
\$23,078,894	\$1,809,099	8.51%
22,844,597	700,534	3.16%
2,708,500	(120,505)	(4.26%)
----	(416,114)	----
415,627	(162,446)	(28.10%)
1,537,181	857,787	
<b>\$50,584,799</b>	<b>2,668,355</b>	<b>5.57%</b>

## 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.”



Open the camera app on your phone and point it at the QR code at left to access the district’s budget page now!

## What if I can't get to the polls on Tuesday, May 17th?

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. Health and safety precautions will be in effect, such as 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 17 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 16.

Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on May 17.



# Growing Glens Falls' promising model of inclusion classrooms

“The best thing about teaching an inclusive class is seeing acceptance firsthand,” says Jackson Heights kindergarten teacher Jessica Elder. “Kindergartners are so genuine and will make friends with anyone, so it is really wonderful to see all of our students playing together.”

Fourth-grade teacher Amanda Burt at Big Cross agrees. “What’s great about inclusion is seeing a diverse group of students come together and form bonds/friendships and support each other—not only academically but in other ways too.”

An inclusive classroom is a general education classroom where students with and without learning differences learn together. Inclusive classrooms are welcoming and support the diverse academic, social, emotional, and



Amanda Burt and Lindsey St. Clair

communication needs of all students.

Two years ago, Glens Falls City Schools began promoting inclusion through a direct consultant teacher model. This gives students the support of two teachers in a classroom—one who is an expert on the content and curriculum, and one who is an expert at helping all kids access all curriculum and

## STATE-REQUIRED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

	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	\$47,916,444	\$50,584,799	\$50,157,859
Increase (decrease) for the 2022-23 school year		\$2,668,355	\$2,241,415
Percentage increase (decrease) in proposed budget		5.57%	4.68%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$22,144,063	\$22,844,597	
B. Levy to support library debt, if applicable	N/A	N/A	
C. Levy for non-excludable propositions, if applicable	N/A	N/A	
D. Total tax cap reserve amount used to reduce current year levy	N/A	N/A	
E. Total proposed school year tax levy (A + B + C - D)	\$22,144,063	\$22,844,597	\$22,144,063
F. Total permissible exclusions	\$413,525	\$501,193	
G. School tax levy limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions	\$21,730,538	\$22,343,404	
H. Total proposed school year tax levy, excluding levy to support library debt and/or permissible exclusions	\$21,730,538	\$22,343,404	
I. Difference: G-H (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$3,817,170	\$4,056,002	\$3,856,002
Program Component	\$36,210,106	\$38,462,837	\$38,462,837
Capital Component	\$7,889,168	\$8,065,960	\$7,839,020

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-2023 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 17, 2022 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.

\* 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.

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 2022-23 school year

**\$547**

learn alongside their peers of the same age or grade level.

Launching this new approach was important for two reasons. Foremost, the research-backed inclusion classroom strengthens the ability of all kids to work together, understand and value different points of view, think critically, and be successful learners—all of which are reflected and supported in our District Mission Statement and Board of Education goals. Additionally, The IDEA (The Individuals with Disabilities Act) includes a “least restrictive environment” requirement, which directs schools to teach students with special needs within regular education classes (not in special classes, through separate schooling, or other general removal from the regular education environment).

“I believe that learning differently requires teaching differently,” says kindergarten special educator Jacqueline Smith. In the kindergarten classroom she teaches with Jessica Elder, every child gets the support they need to excel. “Jessica and I use station teaching so students are receiving their instruction in small groups that rotate through each teacher’s station,” Mrs. Smith says. “By using the station teaching model we can differentiate our lessons to meet the needs of all learners.”

Bethany Carpenter, a fourth grade teacher at Big Cross, agrees that the inclusion model allows more opportunities for small groups and stronger modeling during lessons. Her team is a two-classroom combo that includes teacher Amanda Burt and special educator Lindsey St. Clair. “I really enjoy planning



Jessica Elder and Jacqueline Smith in their kindergarten classroom

lessons together because it allows us to bounce ideas off each other in order to deliver the strongest, most creative lessons. We also have a lot of fun together which gives a positive atmosphere for the students to learn.”

Mrs. Elder echoes the benefits of modeling, from both an instructional viewpoint and an interpersonal one. “I learn from Jacqueline everyday, and the students get to see our friendship and working relationship as an example.”

“Coming from a place of mutual respect and allowing each of us to share ideas and a willingness to be flexible has been critical in developing our collaborative style,” says Mrs. St. Clair. “We know that none of us has all of the answers and so we trust each other to trial different things or attempt different approaches if we see something isn’t working. Most importantly, we can make each other laugh and get through the tough moments.”

Special education director Becky Vanderklish can already see the benefits of inclusive schooling. “Research states—which supports our experiences over the last two school years—that positive relationships are one of the strongest indicators of increased growth in students. Particularly after the pandemic disrupted so much learning, we’re seeing both an

## In practice, inclusive education means:

- **A classroom model** in which students with and without disabilities are based in a regular structure and benefit from the shared ownership of general and special educators.
- **A student-centered approach beginning with profiles** that help educators appreciate the strengths and challenges of learners with and without disabilities and the individualized accomplishments that can be attained.
- **A schedule** that accounts for the full range of needs in the class—where no student engages in “pull out” or alternative activities to the extent that disruptions in the daily schedule and in peer relationships do not occur.
- **A curriculum** that is rich and accommodating for all students—and when further individualized to meet the needs of a particular learner.
- **A teaming process** in which support staff work in flexible, coordinated ways to strengthen the collaborative relationships among special and regular educators, parents and educators, and educators and the community.
- **A classroom climate** that embraces diversity, fosters a sense of social responsibility, and supports positive peer relationships.

~ From Dr. Julie Causton and Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, *Inclusive Schooling*

increased need for support and the early benefits emerging from our inclusive classrooms that were already in place.”

The budget proposal for 2022-23 includes several teaching, aide, and assistant positions so that adults and students will have more time to work together collaboratively, further individualizing instruction.

Ms. Burt notes, “as the saying goes ‘two heads are better than one’ and I think we can accomplish so much more!”

**Board of Education**

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# Glens Falls CITY SCHOOLS

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**calendar**



**VOTE**  
on May 17!

## Kindergarten Registration set for June

### ART EXPO is back!

The 17th annual Glens Falls High School ART EXPO will take place the evening of Wednesday, May 18th, from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM in the main hallways of the high school building.

Every art student, grades 9 through 12, will be showing at least one piece of art he or she created during the school year.

The exhibition will include works in drawing, painting, ceramics, photography, 2D & 3D design, creative crafts, and computer art. The Seniors' Portfolio Exhibit will also be on review. There will be a bake sale, ceramic ice cream bowl sale, silent art auction, an art sale to benefit the permanent student art collection and much more.

Again this year is the inclusion of some selected art pieces from the Middle School. This year's special guest artist is Erica Butto-Keays, a 2000 GFHS graduate. The public is cordially invited and admission is free!



Eloise Dugall

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 takes place during the final week of June. Kindergarten Round-Up and screening appointments will be held on the following days:

**Big Cross Street School: June 27, 2022**

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

**Kensington Road School: June 28, 2022**

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

**Jackson Heights School: June 29, 2022**

• 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)

### Universal Pre-Kindergarten waiting list

The UPK lottery was held in April, but the district maintains a waiting list for any available seats in the program that may arise during the year. 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)



Aiden Gormley