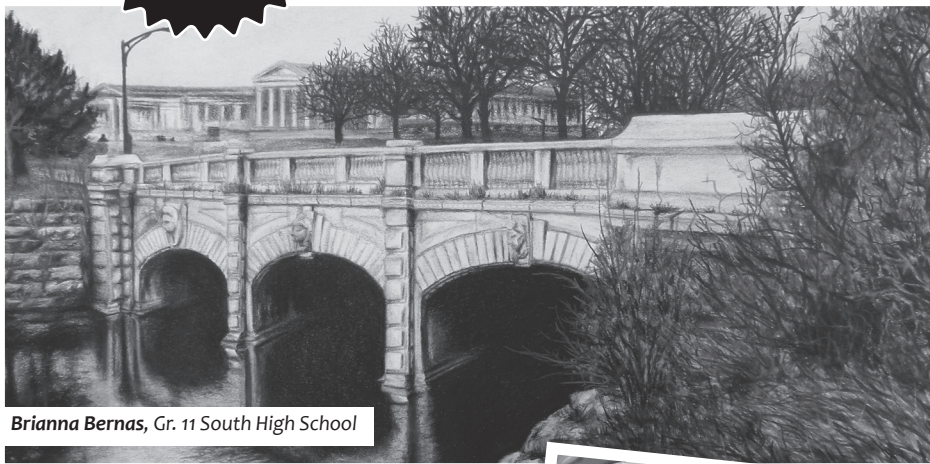


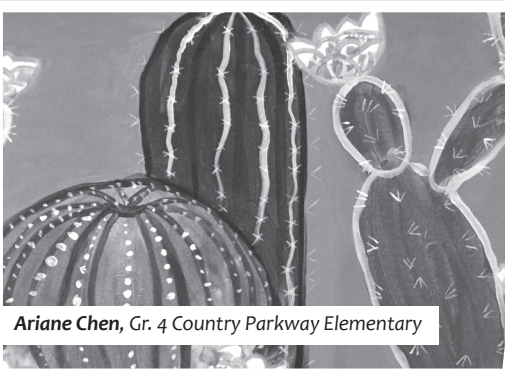
# CONNECTION

Special  
BUDGET  
ISSUE  
2021

A publication for the residents of the *Williamsville Central School District*



Brianna Bernas, Gr. 11 South High School



Ariane Chen, Gr. 4 Country Parkway Elementary



Beckett Wroblewski, Gr. 8 Mill Middle School



Isabelle Gunawan, Gr.1 Maple East Elementary

## ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

**TUESDAY,  
MAY 18, 2021**

7 a.m.- 9 p.m.

North High School Gym  
1595 Hopkins Road



## Budget-At-A-Glance

### 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

\$205,020,967

Budget-to-Budget Increase:  
2.92%

Tax Levy Increase:  
2.59%

*(Below mandated New York State tax levy cap  
for Williamsville schools)*

Estimated Tax Rate Increase:  
2.59%

*(Based on 2020 property assessments and  
equalization rates)*

### Budget Highlights

- Maintains all current academic and extracurricular programming for students.
- Tax levy increase is below state tax cap.
- Includes \$3.0 million in Federal Funding.
- Maintains focus on school safety and student wellness initiatives.



Dear Members of the Board of Education and Community,

While we continue to navigate one of the most challenging times in our community due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, I am pleased to recommend and present the 2021-2022 proposed budget.

While we are facing a challenging budget season, the District has worked diligently to present a balanced budget for the upcoming school year. The proposed \$205,020,967 budget represents a 2.92 percent spending increase driven mainly through contractual obligations for District employees and mandated expenses.

Most importantly, the proposed budget ensures all current instructional programs are maintained. In addition, all non-mandatory programs, such as music and athletics, are also maintained. A major factor in achieving a budget that maintains all instructional and non-mandatory programs was COVID-19 pandemic relief funds from the state and federal government along with the restoration of the STAR reimbursement.

The budget also maintains a focus on physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all of our students. Now more than ever in the age of COVID-19, we know and understand the importance of mental health and ensuring the necessary resources are in place to fully support our students and families. Finally, the budget continues to provide professional development so administrators and teachers have the tools and skills necessary to prepare students for continued success in our schools and community.

Our administrative team, together with the Board of Education, is guided by the fundamental principle that everything we do is done in the best interest of our students. Even as COVID-19 impacts our daily lives, I am proud that the 2021-2022 budget protects the existing level of quality educational programming that our school community deserves.

Questions or concerns about the 2021-2022 proposed budget can be sent to [budgetfeedback@williamsvillek12.org](mailto:budgetfeedback@williamsvillek12.org). We encourage all of our stakeholders to visit the District website at [www.williamsvillek12.org](http://www.williamsvillek12.org) to view the budget presentations. The Annual Budget Hearing is Thursday, May 6, 2021. The Budget Vote and School Board Election is Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at Williamsville North High School.

Thank you for your continued support of the Williamsville Central School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. John E. McKenna  
Acting Superintendent of Schools



Dear Neighbors,

Even in a time of crisis, it is our duty as stewards of the community to continue to uphold the high standards of education you and your family deserve. While the COVID-19 global health pandemic has presented its share of challenges, I am proud of the work the Williamsville Central School District and Board of Education have done to ensure a comprehensive budget for the 2021-2022 school year.

The proposed budget is a fiscally responsible budget that I am confident our community can support. It preserves current academic and extracurricular programming for students, maintains a focus on physical, mental, and emotional well-being of students at all levels, and continues to support a high level of professional development for all teachers and staff members so they have the resources necessary to help our students and community succeed.

Through continued advocacy at the State and local level, the District was also able to receive Federal and State stimulus funds to help balance the budget. This crucial funding helps maintain the instructional and extra-curricular programming that will allow our students to succeed and become the leaders of the future. Our advocacy will continue as we prepare, not only for the upcoming school year, but in the years beyond. The District will comply with all Federal guidelines regarding these funds.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our families and students have demonstrated great patience and resiliency. The administrators, faculty, and staff in the District have gone above and beyond delivering a strong Williamsville education. I am confident they will be able to continue this great work during the 2021-2022 school year.

I encourage you to review the budget and participate in the budget vote on May 18, 2021. Detailed information on the 2021-2022 proposed budget is available on the District website at [www.williamsvillek12.org](http://www.williamsvillek12.org).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Teresa Anne Leatherbarrow

**In accordance with New York State law, to vote in the district's Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election you must be:**

- 18 years of age
- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Photo I.D. required on day of the vote



# SAMPLE BALLOT



**Tuesday, MAY 18, 2021**



.....  
**PROPOSITION #1 - BUDGET**

SHALL IT BE RESOLVED: That the Budget for the year 2021-2022 presented by the Board of Education be approved? YES NO

.....  
**PROPOSITION #2 - VOTE FOR ANY THREE BOARD MEMBERS**

Election of three (3) board members, the highest three vote recipients, each for a term of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2021 and concluding June 30, 2024.

- |                                   |                              |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1A</b><br>Eric Borenstein      | <b>2A</b><br>Maureen Poulin  | <b>3A</b><br>Shawn P. Lemay         |
| <b>4A</b><br>Dr. Swaroop S. Singh | <b>5A</b><br>Rev. Terry King | <b>6A</b><br>Dr. Michael J. Littman |

## Absentee Ballot Request Information

Ballot packets will be fulfilled upon request. A District voter must request in advance an application for an absentee ballot. The voter must complete the application and state the reason they will not be able to appear in person on the day of the District vote for which the absentee ballot is requested. The application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or one (1) day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. [Policy 1640 - Absentee Ballots](#)

Please send request to Lynn Carey, District Clerk, email: [LCarey@Williamsville12.org](mailto:LCarey@Williamsville12.org) or call 716.626.8092.

### Application Information for Absentee Ballot

Voter will need to complete application (stating reason and signing) and return to District Clerk.

I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to:  
 (please verify one reason from below)

1. patient in a hospital, or is unable to appear personally because of illness or physical disability
2. duties, occupation or business responsibilities, or studies which require being outside of county or city of residence on the day of the vote
3. vacation outside of the county or city of residence on day of the vote
4. detention in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury, or in prison for conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony
5. absent from the District on the day of the vote by reason of accompanying spouse, parent or child who is or would be, if they were a qualified voter, entitled to apply for the right to vote by absentee ballot
6. potential for contraction of COVID-19 as illness

Once application and absentee ballot is requested:

1. Packet, with application included, can be mailed out or picked up at District Office.
2. The voter would return completed packet to the District Clerk.

Several options are available when turning in packet:

- a. Return completed application and ballot by mail according to instructions in the packet.
- b. Place in locked drop box located outside of entry way to District Office.
- c. Return to District Office during regular office hours.



**Absentee Ballot must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021.**

**Our District staff will adhere to Erie County Department of Health protocols and New York State guidance at the time of the Annual Vote.**

Questions: Please call District Clerk, Lynn Carey at 716.626.8092 or email [LCarey@Williamsville12.org](mailto:LCarey@Williamsville12.org)

## General Support

The General Support category of the operating budget covers instruction-related managerial functions for the entire District. Included are funds which make it possible for the Board of Education and its Chief School Officer, the Superintendent of Schools, to carry out required responsibilities. Also included in this category are funds for the strictly regulated financial operation of the District; for operation and maintenance of the school buildings and grounds; for fire and liability insurances, personnel management, legal affairs and public information expenses; and for BOCES administrative charges.

## Instruction

Instruction is the core of the school budget. This general category covers salaries for administrators, teachers, nurses, aides, related instructional personnel (library media specialists, school counselors, psychologists and social workers) and all materials, supplies, and equipment necessary to support the educational environment. Co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities are also included in this general area of instruction.

## Pupil Transportation and Other Community Services

**Pupil Transportation** - The District uses outside contractual services to provide regular transportation within and outside of the District for all students and for co-curricular and interscholastic athletic activities at other locations as well as for instructional-related field trips.

**Other Community Services** - This general category includes costs related to District census activities and support for certain community use of facilities.

## Employee Benefits

This category groups a variety of District benefit costs including required contributions to the State Retirement Systems, Social Security, Health/Medical Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and an Unemployment Insurance Fund.

## Debts & Obligations

This category groups a variety of district-wide costs which are not included in other areas such as long term debt payments.

**2021-2022  
PROPOSED**
**2020-2021  
BUDGET**

### General Support

Board of Education	\$ 157,253	\$ 127,443
Chief School Administrator	\$ 352,708	\$ 357,660
Finance	\$ 700,412	\$ 699,925
Public Information	\$ 204,851	\$ 196,210
Human Resources & Legal Services	\$ 1,529,800	\$ 1,526,721
Operations & Management	\$ 14,049,540	\$ 13,798,041
Central Printing & Mailing	\$ 514,693	\$ 514,063
Data Processing	\$ 1,685,641	\$ 1,685,641
Special Items	\$ 3,241,187	\$ 2,139,273
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 22,436,085</b>	<b>\$ 21,044,977</b>

### Instruction

Curriculum & Staff Development	\$ 1,636,076	\$ 1,620,237
Supervision: Regular School	\$ 5,152,722	\$ 4,906,121
Teaching: Regular School	\$ 73,641,397	\$ 74,199,684
Exceptional Education & Student Services	\$ 25,244,891	\$ 19,817,718
Occupational Education	\$ 2,901,352	\$ 2,857,873
Teaching & Supervision: Special Schools	\$ 819,430	\$ 816,980
School Library & Audio-Visual Services	\$ 1,566,775	\$ 1,629,641
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$ 3,456,929	\$ 3,477,519
Guidance Services	\$ 3,085,869	\$ 3,505,258
Other Pupil Services	\$ 4,667,198	\$ 4,534,792
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 433,850	\$ 433,890
Interscholastic Athletics	\$ 1,823,977	\$ 1,823,977
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$ 124,430,466</b>	<b>\$ 119,623,690</b>

### Pupil Transportation & Community Services

Pupil Transportation	\$ 8,590,731	\$ 8,494,597
Other Community Services	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,610,731</b>	<b>\$ 8,515,347</b>

### Employee Benefits

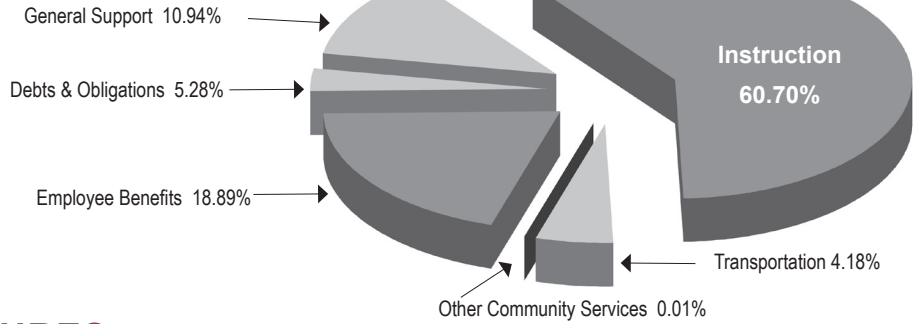
New York State Retirement Systems	\$ 11,510,295	\$ 11,060,295
Social Security	\$ 8,339,654	\$ 8,014,654
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Medical Insurance	\$ 18,226,121	\$ 19,452,233
Other Benefits	\$ 615,311	\$ 615,311
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 38,726,381</b>	<b>\$ 39,177,493</b>

### Debts & Obligations

Long Term Debt	\$ 10,617,304	\$ 10,638,223
Special Aid Fund	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,817,304</b>	<b>\$ 10,838,223</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 205,020,967</b>	<b>\$ 199,199,730</b>



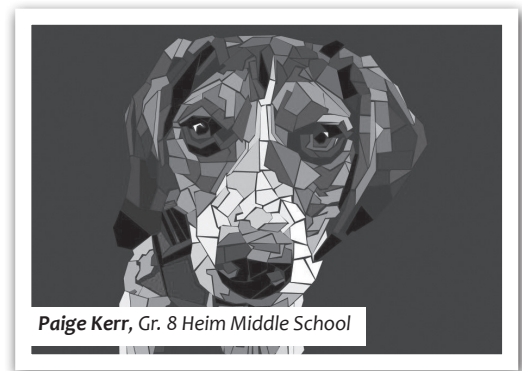
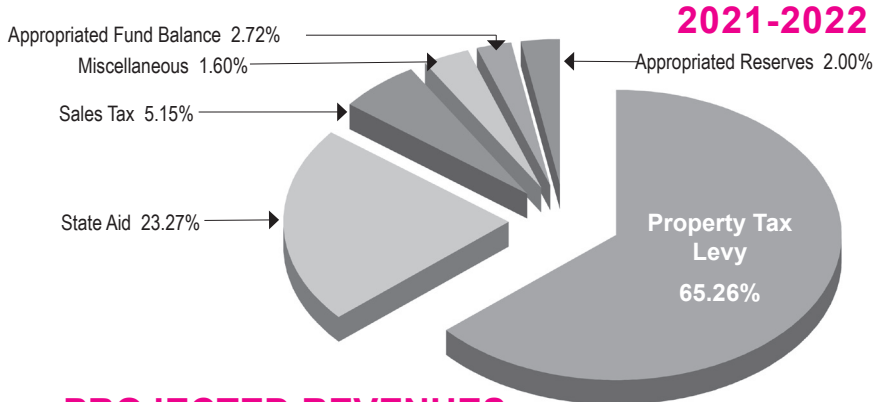
2021-2022



PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES

	Proposed 2021-22	% of Total	2020-21	% of Total
General Support	\$ 22,436,085	10.94	\$ 21,044,977	10.57
Instruction	124,430,466	60.70	119,623,690	60.05
Transportation	8,590,731	4.18	8,494,597	4.26
Other Community Services	20,000	0.01	20,750	0.01
Employee Benefits	38,726,381	18.89	39,177,493	19.67
Debts & Obligations	10,817,304	5.28	10,838,223	5.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205,020,967</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>199,199,730</b>	<b>100%</b>



PROJECTED REVENUES

CURRENT YEAR REVENUES

	Proposed 2021-22	% of Total	2020-21	% of Total
Property Tax Levy	\$133,790,000	65.26	\$130,415,000	65.47
STAR Reimbursement	<i>Included in above</i>		<i>Included in above</i>	
State Aid	47,696,161	23.27	42,369,062	21.27
Sales Tax	10,550,000	5.15	11,325,000	5.69
Miscellaneous	3,280,806	1.60	5,386,668	2.70
Appropriated Fund Balance	5,574,000	2.72	5,574,000	2.80
Appropriated Reserve Funds:				
♦ Employee Benefits	600,000	0.30	600,000	0.31
♦ Workers' Compensation	700,000	0.34	700,000	0.35
♦ Repair Reserve	330,000	0.16	330,000	0.17
♦ Unemployment Reserve	50,000	0.01	50,000	0.01
♦ Retirement Reserve	2,450,000	1.19	2,450,000	1.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205,020,967</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>199,199,730</b>	<b>100%</b>

State Aid includes \$3,036,162 of Federal stimulus funding

## 2021-2022 COMPONENT BUDGET

**Program: \$ 158,205,270**

The Program Component includes all program expenditures, including the salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrators or supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties. Also, all transportation operating expenses including diesel fuel.

**Capital: \$ 29,615,657**

The Capital Component includes all transportation capital, debt service, and lease expenditures; costs resulting from court judgments, administrative orders or settled or compromised claims; and all facilities costs including lease expenditures, annual debt service and total debt for all District facilities financed by bonds and notes. Also, all expenditures associated with custodial/maintenance salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities and maintenance repair of school facilities.

**Administrative \$ 17,200,040**

The Administrative Component includes Board of Education and central administrative expenses; salaries and benefits of the Superintendent and all certified school administrators and supervisors who spend the majority of their time performing administrative or supervisory duties; all expenditures associated with the Annual District Budget Vote; any consulting costs not directly related to student services and program planning; and all other administrative activities.

**Total: \$ 205,020,967**

## Estimated 2021 School Tax Bill for Amherst

*School tax bill samples with Basic STAR subsidy applied*

Property's Assessed Value	Actual 2020-21	Estimated 2021-22	Difference
\$150,000	\$2,133.55	\$2,188.76	\$ 55.21

School tax bills are estimated based on the prior year's (2020) property assessments and equalization rates. Property assessment, equalization rates and changes in the New York State STAR program will impact a homeowner's actual tax bill.

The district issues a tax levy amount that is certified by Erie County Real Property Tax Services and reported to the Office of the New York State Comptroller. The proposed 2021-2022 levy is voted on by the community in May and does not change when town assessors issue final assessment numbers which are received in July 2021.

### Contingent Budget

The Board of Education is required by state law to implement a contingent budget if the proposed budget fails to receive community approval after two budget votes. Under a contingent budget, the school tax levy cannot exceed the prior year's tax levy. For Williamsville schools, a contingent budget would require a \$3,375,000 reduction to the 2021-2022 proposed budget.

## Services to Non-public schools

Public school districts administer and distribute federal and state funds for services to resident students who attend non-public and parochial schools. In accordance with the law, the following services are offered to students who live in the Williamsville CSD and attend non-public schools:

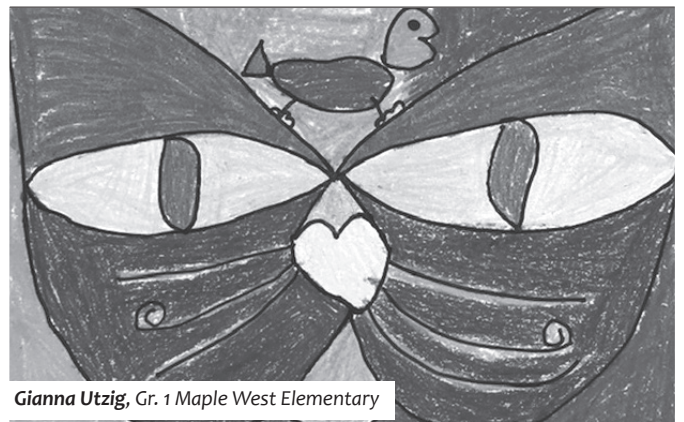
- Transportation
- Health Examinations
- Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Occupational, Physical, & Speech Therapy; Vision and Hearing Services\*
- Child Find Evaluations
- Social Work Consultation (upon request)
- Library materials
- Remedial Reading & Math, Grds. 1-8\*\*
- Career & Technical Education
- Computer Software
- Textbooks

*\*As recommended by the Committee on Special Education.*

*\*\*based on criteria for eligibility and admission.*



Ainsley Foster, Gr. 1 Heim Elementary



Gianna Utzig, Gr. 1 Maple West Elementary



# SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

## OVERALL 2021-2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL

*New York State requires the following presentation of 2021-2022 Budget Information:*

	Budget Adopted for 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2021-22 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$199,199,730	\$205,020,967	\$201,645,967
Increase/Decrease for 2021-22		\$5,821,237	\$2,446,237
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		2.92%	1.23%
Change in consumer price index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to support the total budget amount	\$130,415,000	\$133,790,000	
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)	\$130,415,000	\$133,790,000	\$130,415,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>excluding</u> levy for permissible exclusions	\$130,422,956	\$133,797,572	
H. Total proposed school year tax levy, excluding levy to support library debt and/or permissible exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$130,415,000	\$133,790,000	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval; see note below regarding separate propositions)**	\$7,956	\$7,572	
Administrative Component	\$16,777,707	\$17,200,040	\$16,764,840
Program Component	\$154,139,054	\$158,205,270	\$155,311,470
Capital Component	\$28,282,969	\$29,615,657	\$29,569,657

\*The contingent budget includes the removal of equipment dollars as required by New York State law. Contingent budgets require that the district maintain the same tax levy that was issued in the prior school year.

\*\*List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount (tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements).

Description	Amount
There are no separate propositions that are not included in the proposed budget.	N/A

	Budget Proposed for the 2021-2022 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR exemption savings	\$504

<sup>1</sup> The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The Annual Budget Vote for the fiscal year 2021-2022 by the qualified voters of the Williamsville Central School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at the Williamsville North High School gymnasium on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

## 2020-21 Board of Education

Mrs. Teresa Anne Leatherbarrow, *President*  
Mrs. Suzanne Van Sice, *Vice President*  
Dr. Susan McClary, *Parliamentarian*  
Mrs. Mary Bieger  
Mr. Eric Borenstein  
Mr. Michael Buscaglia  
Mrs. Crystal Kaczmarek-Bogner  
Mr. Shawn Lemay  
Mr. Mark Mecca

---

Dr. John E. McKenna, *Acting Superintendent*  
Mr. Nick Filipowski, *Editor*  
Mrs. Amy Vohwinkel, *Graphic Designer*



105 Casey Road  
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East Amherst, New York 14051

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## PTSA Council honors three individuals for Service to Youth

The 64th Annual Service to Youth Awards honored three individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the children of the Williamsville Central School District. The 2021 Award recipients are:



**PROFESSIONAL AWARD: Maureen Reilly**, Vocal Music Teacher, Williamsville East High School  
As one of the most respected music teachers in the region, Ms. Reilly has earned numerous honors and awards during her three decades at East, including the 2014 BPO/ECMEA Award for Excellence in Music. “Maureen’s passion for nurturing students as people and musicians is evident in everything she does,” wrote Michael Russo, the District’s Instructional Specialist for the Arts. “Walking into her classroom, one sees extremely excited and motivated students who are eager to learn.” Ms. Reilly has been the producer and vocal director of the school musical for 25 years, her choirs have consistently received gold with distinction medal ratings at the New York State School Music Association Major Choral Festival, and has also presided over the school’s performances during the Town of Amherst’s September 11th Memorial Service. Ms. Reilly’s East Chorale has performed at many venues including Carnegie Hall, the opening of Marine Midland Arena (KeyBank Center) as well as Darien Lake, singing alongside the classic-rock band “Foreigner”.

### SUPPORT STAFF AWARD: Patricia Gray, Senior Clerk Stenographer, Casey Middle School

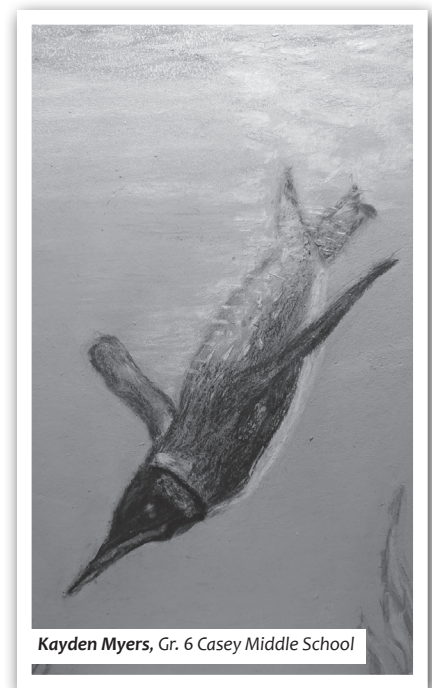


For more than 20 years, Patricia Gray has been welcoming families, parents, and students to Casey Middle School. A mom of three former Williamsville graduates, Mrs. Gray exemplifies what it truly means to be a school and community ambassador. “A front office staff member needs to be a good communicator, a compassionate listener, and a team player,” wrote Casey Principal Pete Dobmeier in his nomination. “Mrs. Gray is all of these things and more, and our students know it.” Mrs. Gray works closely with the PTSA at Casey, is a part of the Building Safety Committee, participates in the yearly Casey Talent Show, helps coordinate the “Casey Families in Need Program,” and has assisted with the “Chris Maloney Legacy Foundation Golf Tournament,” which raises awareness to the opioid crisis and helps fund The First Tee of WNY program. Additionally, Mrs. Gray is an active member of her church community and participates in multiple service projects. In her free time, Mrs. Gray enjoys spending time with her family, camping, crafting, and being outdoors.



### VOLUNTEER AWARD: Sarah Smith-Ronan, Esq., Heim Middle School

Ms. Smith-Ronan began volunteering at Maple West Elementary School in 2014, where she served as Vice President and later as co-President of the PTA. Her tenure with the Maple West PTA culminated in 2019 with the prestigious Phoebe Hearst School-Family Partnership Award, conferred annually by the National PTA to the PTA in the United States demonstrating excellence in family engagement. That same year, she also began serving as Vice President, and then co-President, of the Heim Middle School PTSA. In 2020, Ms. Smith-Ronan joined the New York State Western Region PTA as an Associate Director. For the last four years, Ms. Smith-Ronan has chaired the Williamsville PTSA Council’s Candidates Night. “Sarah Smith-Ronan exemplifies the mission of the PTA/PTSA by making every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering all families and communities to advocate for all children,” wrote one of her nominators. In addition to her roles on the PTA and PTSA, Ms. Smith-Ronan has been an active member of the District’s Wellness Council, and served on the District’s Nutrition and Wellness committee from 2018-2019. She was a co-leader of Girl Scout Troop 30959 from 2014-2020. In addition to her volunteer work, Ms. Smith-Ronan is a full-time Supervising Administrative Law Judge for New York State. She lives in Amherst with her husband, Sean, and their three children.



Kayden Myers, Gr. 6 Casey Middle School

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**VOTE**



**MAY 18, 2021**

**7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**North High Gym**

1595 Hopkins Rd., Williamsville