

# VALLEY VIEWS

NEWARK VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Randal H. Kerr, President, James Phillips, Vice President,  
Robert Bennett, Thomas Darpino, Scott Parmelee, Anthony D. Tavelli, Sue Watson  
EDITOR: Laura J. Johnson

[www.nvcs.stier.org](http://www.nvcs.stier.org)



Volume XXIX, Issue 5

Budget Issue

May 2014

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

In developing the budget for the 2014-2015 school year, our District was faced with the now familiar pattern of steep challenges and difficult decisions. As has been our practice, the Board of Education maintained a primary focus of balancing the needs of our children with the ability of taxpayers to support those needs. There were, however, some differences that factored into the completion of this year's spending plan.

First, the fiscal pressure in the form of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, although still intense, lessened to a degree with the passage of the final State budget. Newark Valley Schools will still have \$1,122,293 of aid withheld through the GEA this year, and although it is a painfully large amount, it is less than was initially projected in the Governor's budget.

Second, New York State has adopted a tax rebate plan for STAR eligible property owners for the 2014-2015 budget year. The operational guidance from the Department of Taxation and Finance is as follows:

A STAR eligible property owner (household income of less than \$500,000), in a school district that remains at or below their allowable levy limit, will receive a check from the Department of Taxation and Finance for the dollar increase in their school tax bill in the fall of 2014. For example, if a homeowner had a \$1,000 tax bill in 2013-2014, and that tax bill increased by 2% in 2014-2015, their dollar increase would be \$20. In the fall of 2014, they will receive a check from NYS in the amount of \$20, effectively providing them with a 0% increase in their school tax bill. This formula holds true regardless of the increase, as long as the school district remains at or below their allowable levy limit. The one exception to this is that there is a floor of 1.46%. In other words, eligible property owners will receive a refund check for the greater of the increase in their school tax bill or 1.46%. Additionally, increases due to owner action and subsequent re-assessment, (home additions, new buildings on a property), are not covered.

The Newark Valley Central School District has adopted a budget below the allowable levy limit for the 2014-2015 school year, qualifying our residents for the above tax credit. After several months of work, the Board adopted a budget that increases expenditures by approximately 2.8% and results in a necessary tax levy increase of 2.4%. As in past years, we continued to pursue a balanced approach to budgeting, and manage cost reduction in a fashion that did not impact program.

This budget reflects a number of internal adjustments to maximize our program offerings and best meet the needs of our students. Although we will be reducing 1 support staff position (through attrition), and 2.5 faculty positions (2 through attrition) in certain areas, we will also be rebuilding or expanding in others. Our budget includes the maintenance and expansion of our career transition program at the High School, the maintenance of academic support services for our elementary students, the reinstatement of department and grade level chairs, replacement of the High School Assistant Principal at reduced hours, expanded on-line course offerings for our High School students, the addition of Advanced Placement U.S. History, the restoration of a maintenance mechanic, and the restoration of a Guidance Counselor (.6) at the High School.

In sum, the Board has adopted a budget that not only maintains modest and conservative growth, but focuses on maximizing the expansion of opportunities for our students in the most efficient manner. We continue work very hard in meeting the challenges that arise, and always do our best to minimize the impact of these circumstances on both students and taxpayers.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (607) 643-3221.

*Sincerely,*  
**Ryan Dougherty, Superintendent of Schools**

## Propositions on the Ballot

### Proposition #1

#### Vehicle Purchase

Shall the Board of Education of the Newark Valley Central School District, located in the counties of Tioga, Tompkins, Cortland and Broome, State of New York, be authorized to finance the costs of the acquisition of school buses and a passenger vehicle at a maximum cost of \$360,000 and to authorize and issue serial bonds in the principal amount of \$360,000 and to levy real estate taxes for the cost of such purpose?

### Proposition #2

Shall the Board of Education of the Newark Valley Central School District, located in the counties of Tioga, Tompkins, Cortland and Broome, State of New York, be authorized to expend \$40,000 from moneys in a capital reserve fund established by the School District on May 12, 1993, as amended on May 21, 2002, for the purchase of School District vehicles, including school buses and any other preliminary and incidental costs related thereto in and for the School District?

### Proposition #3

#### Facilities Improvement

Shall the Board of Education of the Newark Valley Central School District be authorized to expend from the reserve fund approved by the voters of the school district on May 11, 1994 under the provisions of Education Law 3651 and as amended by the voters of the district on May 15, 2007, an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the following purposes at Newark Valley Central School District Bus Garage: Removal and closure of the existing underground fuel storage tank and providing new fuel tank including all appurtenances, and other allied expenses including architectural and engineering fees, and legal fees?

## BUDGET AT A GLANCE

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES			
BUDGET COMPONENT	2013/2014	2014/2015	CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 2,313,265	\$ 2,433,495	\$ 120,230
PROGRAM	\$ 16,773,341	\$ 17,281,808	\$ 508,467
CAPITAL	\$ 4,382,337	\$ 4,415,794	\$ 33,457
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,468,943</b>	<b>\$ 24,131,097</b>	<b>\$ 662,154</b>

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES			
OBJECT OF EXPENSE	2013/2014	2014/2015	CHANGE
STAFF	\$ 9,252,840	\$ 9,461,979	\$ 209,139
EQUIPMENT	\$ 77,382	\$ 56,666	\$ (20,716)
PURCHASED SERVICES	\$ 1,261,697	\$ 1,258,925	\$ (2,772)
MATERIALS	\$ 722,921	\$ 847,000	\$ 124,079
TUITION	\$ 60,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 3,000
TEXTBOOKS	\$ 42,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 3,000
B.O.C.E.S. SERVICES	\$ 2,641,218	\$ 2,706,172	\$ 64,954
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 7,188,831	\$ 7,501,970	\$ 313,139
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$ 2,222,054	\$ 2,190,385	\$ (31,669)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,468,943</b>	<b>\$ 24,131,097</b>	<b>\$ 662,154</b>

ESTIMATED REVENUE OFFSET			
SOURCE OF REVENUE	2013/2014	2014/2015	CHANGE
STATE AID	\$ 13,712,607	\$ 14,458,238	\$ 745,631
OTHER SOURCES	\$ 810,330	\$ 822,652	\$ 12,322
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE (FB)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 900,000	\$ (100,000)
SUPPLEMENTAL FB APPROPRIATION	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ (160,000)
APPROPRIATED RESERVES	\$ 471,000	\$ 449,805	\$ (21,195)
FEDERAL AID	\$ 35,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 10,000
TAX LEVY	\$ 7,280,006	\$ 7,455,402	\$ 175,396
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,468,943</b>	<b>\$ 24,131,097</b>	<b>\$ 662,154</b>

## Candidates for the Board of Education

The following statements were prepared by the candidates. These statements have not been altered or edited by the district. The candidates are solely responsible for the content of their statement.

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### Susan Watson

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I have been a resident of the NV School District since 1997 and both my daughters graduated from Newark Valley. I grew up in Vestal and graduated from Ithaca College. Currently I work at United Health Care as a Network Account Manager for the NYS Empire Plan. Since joining the board in 2008, I have been a member of the Health and Wellness committee; the High School Site based Team and most recently serve as a member of the Resource Development Team and the board representative on the CDEP committee. In the 6 years since I joined the board, we have seen a transition in leadership and staffing, as well as huge changes in instruction, but always with the continued focus of always doing what is best for the students. In

addition to consistently ranking high in our academic achievements within the region, we also offer students and their families' excellent athletic facilities and buildings that have brought praise and recognition to the district. Our greatest task continues to be how to balance our annual budget -- to provide the best for our students and keep the tax contribution to an acceptable level to the taxpayers. We have also dealt with the challenges of the Common Core and equipped our teachers with the best possible tools to continue to bring out the best in the students at every grade level. I believe the NV board has shown success in both these areas and I look forward to serving another term as a board member and continue to contribute to the changes and growth of the district in the future. Thank you.

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### Randal Kerr

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I grew up in Richford, NY, attended the Eastman Elementary school, and graduated from Newark Valley in 1980. After college I began work at IBM and am currently an operations manager responsible for worldwide revenue and gross-profit process, consolidation, and reporting. I have three sons, all of whom attended NVCS.

I have been a Newark Valley School Board member since 1991 and have served many years as the Board's President. I have served on many committees in the District, in our BOCES Region, and in the State. I have been on the regional executive committee for many years and serve as the chairman of the regional Legislative Committee. I am also our District's representative on the regional Health Insurance Consortium where I am also on the Rates Committee and the regional Worker's Compensation Consortium where I am also the chairman.

I sincerely enjoy serving on the Newark Valley School Board and try to represent the residents of our district and the children in our schools by being actively involved in district committees and educational issues locally, area wide, and state wide. It is especially enjoyable to get into our buildings and see our education

in action, to interact with our students, and to hear what they are doing. We have many impressive programs and students!

My goals for our school district are similar to those I had my first year on the Board:

- having high expectations for all students and the support structure in place to achieve those expectations
- providing the best possible educational programs and facilities at supportable costs
- being a leader in educational programs and value
- involving a caring staff and making a strong community-school
- creating solutions to ease the local tax burden

Much has been done in each of these areas over my terms on the School Board and challenges are sure to continue each year. With strong staff, strong educational leadership, and strong community involvement, we can continue to improve in all of these areas. We must keep the focus on our children, our community, and how we can best achieve our goals in both good and difficult times. Educational excellence, community pride, and the development of our children as good citizens should help drive our decisions.

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### DATE OF VOTE

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Richard H. Kerr Board Room, Newark Valley, District Office, 79 Whig Street

Current Resident or

ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER

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## **VOTER QUALIFICATIONS**

Voting upon the budget and Board candidates will occur:

**May 20, 2014 – 1:00 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**DISTRICT OFFICE – 79 Whig Street**

To be eligible to vote, you must fulfill ALL of the following requirements:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be at least 18 years of age; and
- be a resident of the District for at least 30 days preceding the meeting at which you offer to vote.

**BUDGET  
HEARING  
Monday,  
May 12, 2014  
7:00 p.m.  
Richard H. Kerr  
Board Room  
Newark Valley  
District Office,  
79 Whig Street**