



Eagle Express

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Shore Central School District

Vol. 24 #3 SPRING 2021

VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 9 a.m.— 9 p.m.

Voting will be held in the High School Gymnasium.
Parking is available in the lower and upper parking lots
located by the District Office.

SEE PAGE 6 FOR ALL VOTER NOTIFICATION INFORMATION.

Q. What's the budget's tax rate increase?

A. It is 1.95%, which in Evans is estimated (based on last year's taxable assessed values and equalization rates) at \$23.58 a year on a \$100,000 home. That is before STAR savings.

Q. How can there be no tax increase on the bus purchases?

A. When new buses are purchased, State Aid is reimbursed to the District and old buses are auctioned off. With those funds cycling in, the result is no local cost to taxpayers.

Annual School Budget, Vehicle Purchase Referendum & Board Election Information

The Annual School Budget Referendum, Vehicle Purchase Referendum & Board Election will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Voters will cast their ballots on:

- (1) approval of the Annual School District Budget for the 2021-22 School Year;
- (2) the purchase of replacement vehicles (no tax increase);
- (3) the establishment of a capital reserve fund (no tax increase);
- (4) the Election of two qualified district residents to the office of Member of the Board of Education – both for a three-year term to commence on July 1, 2021.

Voting will take place Tuesday, May 18, 2021, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., in the Gymnasium of the Lake Shore High School located at 959 Beach Road, Angola, New York 14006.

Parking is available in the lower and upper parking lots by the District Office.

Absentee ballot information is on page 4.
Please note, your ballot will not be counted unless the statement of absentee voter is signed and returned to the District Clerk by the deadline: 5 p.m., on the day of the vote, May 18, 2021.

Meet the Candidates On Tuesday, May 4th

A Meet the Candidates Night, moderated by the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara, will be held in the Middle School Auditorium at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4.

Individuals who do not wish to attend in person can submit questions for candidates via email to BOEpubliccomment@lscsd.org **no later than 12 noon on Monday, May 3, 2021.**

Individuals who attend in person may submit questions via this avenue or on cards available to the audience prior to the start of Meet the Candidates Night.

Questions should be worded so that all candidates can answer. Questions directed to one candidate will not be asked.

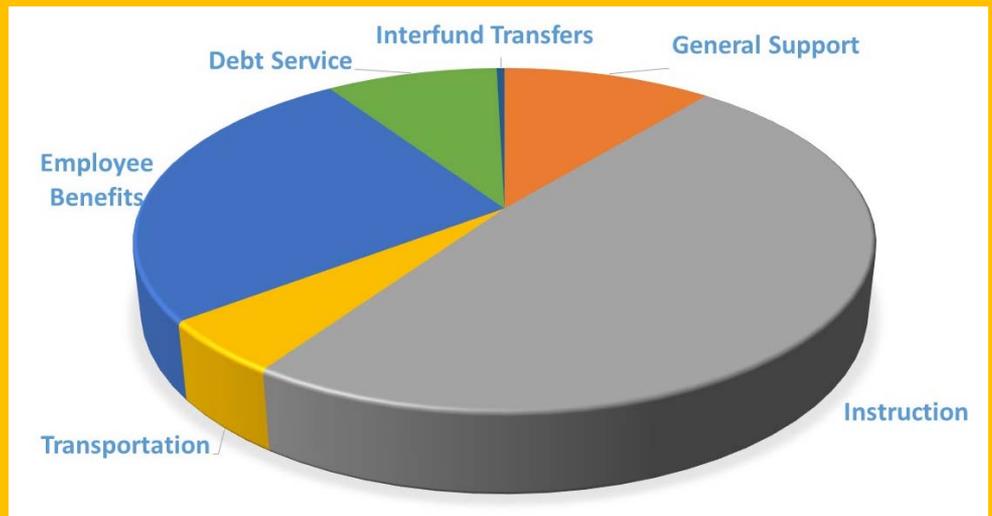
Questions will be screened and used based on appropriateness, non-redundancy and time constraints.

Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing)

The Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing) for qualified district residents will be held on **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at approximately 7 p.m. (immediately following Meet the Candidates) in the Lake Shore Middle School Auditorium.** Those wishing to attend must enter through the main entrance of the Middle School where they will need to complete a Health Screening and temperature check prior to entrance into the meeting. Masks are required. Members of the public who do not wish to attend in person may view the meeting via live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1gugc1uxhYJMOzgyPk9KA/videos>. Comments may be submitted to budget.comments@lscsd.org no later than noon on Monday, May 3, 2021. A copy of the District's Proposed Budget Document and the required attachments are available on the District's website at www.lakeshorecsd.org.

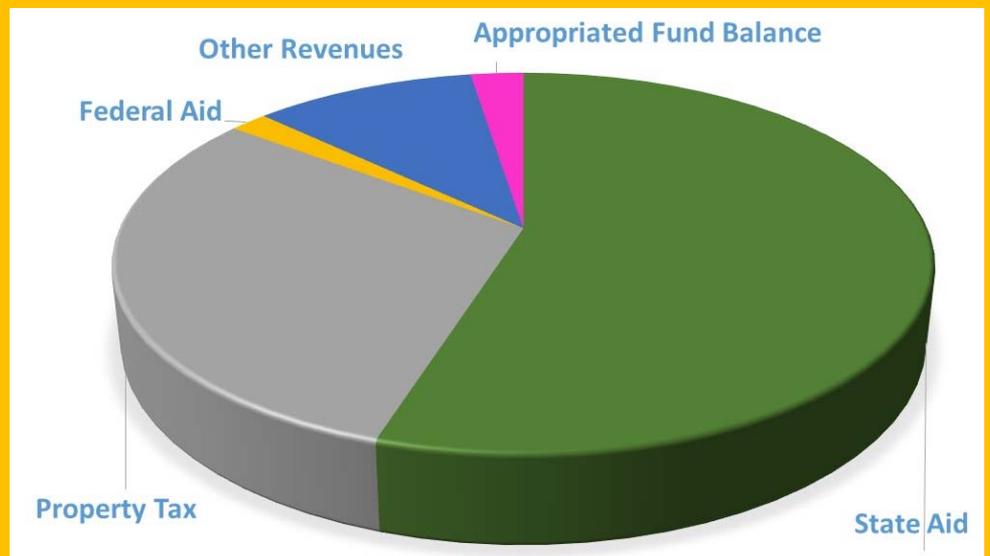
Proposed Expenditures: 2021-22

	Proposed Budget	Percent of Budget
General Support	\$6,598,756	10.88%
Instruction	29,506,993	48.64%
Transportation	3,090,156	5.09%
Employee Benefits	15,812,190	26.06%
Debt Service	5,412,878	8.92%
Interfund Transfers	245,000	0.40%
Total	\$60,665,973	100.00%



Anticipated Revenues: 2021-22

	Proposed Budget	Percent of Budget
State Aid	\$33,303,668	54.90%
Property Tax	18,455,600	30.42%
Federal Aid	1,075,000	1.77%
Other Revenues	6,331,705	10.44%
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,500,000	2.47%
Total	\$60,665,973	100.00%



Proposition No. 1

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$60,665,973 is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law. Adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase of 1.95% which does not exceed the statutory tax levy increase of 4.08%.

Proposition No. 2

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District (the "District") is hereby authorized to purchase the following replacement vehicles for use by the District in the transportation of students and general use by the District: three (3) full size diesel-powered 71-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$128,828.51 each; two (2) 30-passenger gasoline-powered school buses at an estimated cost of \$68,594.71; and one (1) diesel-powered pick-up truck with snow plow and lift gate at an estimated cost of \$52,000; for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$575,674.95; with such aggregate cost to be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be levied and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be partially offset by State aid available therefore, and, in anticipation of such tax, by the issuance of debt obligations of the District as may be necessary, not to exceed such maximum aggregate cost.

No tax levy increase is anticipated for Proposition 2.

Proposition No. 3

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District (the "District") is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law of the State of New York (the "Fund"); that the Fund shall be known as the "Capital Reserve Fund, 2021" of the District; that the Fund shall be established for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, renovation, alteration and/or improvement of buildings, facilities, sites and/or real property owned by the District, including, in all cases, the acquisition of necessary furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus; that the ultimate amount of such Fund shall not be greater than \$10,000,000 (plus interest earned thereon); that the probable term of such Fund shall not be longer than ten (10) years; and that the permissible sources from which the Board is authorized to appropriate monies to such Fund from time to time shall be (a) unappropriated fund balance of the District; (b) unappropriated funds from the District's Mandatory Debt Reserve; and (c) such other sources as the Board or the voters of the District may direct from time to time, all as may be permitted by law.

No tax levy increase is anticipated for Proposition 3.

Budget Facts

Q. If the budget increase is just 1.01% (\$608,748), why is the tax rate increase 1.95%?

The local tax rate increase fills budget gaps from other areas, such as State Aid. State Aid only makes up 55% of the budget. The difference is paid by local revenue, including school taxes.

Q. What does the 1.95% increase mean to my taxes?

In the Town of Evans, based on a \$100,000 home, the increase is estimated at \$23.58 (before STAR savings).

Q. What is the District's maximum allowable tax increase?

New York State's allowable tax rate increase for Lake Shore this year was 4.08%, but the District focused on keeping it below 2%, and was able to achieve the lower 1.95% tax rate increase.

Q. Why is there no tax levy increase for Proposition 2 or Proposition 3?

There is no need to levy a tax to fund these propositions, but voter approval is needed for the Proposition 2 vehicle purchases and to establish the Proposition 3 reserve fund.

- A. In the Proposition 2 vehicle purchases, the transportation aid on the buses, coupled with revenue from the sale of the older vehicles, will fully fund the purchase of the new vehicles. Plus, money will be saved through better gas mileage and fewer repairs.**
- B. In Proposition 3, the District can reduce its reliance on State Aid by moving money saved in its Debt Reserve Fund into a fund to pay for future needs. The Capital Reserve Fund would be funded through such savings.**

Request for Absentee Ballot Information

The District Clerk will automatically mail an Absentee Ballot to each voter whose registration record on file with the county board of elections is marked "permanently disabled." All other voters must submit an application prior to obtaining an absentee ballot.

Applications for Absentee Ballots are available in the District Clerk's office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The District Clerk's office is in Lake Shore High School, 959 Beach Road, Angola, NY. Applications are also on our website (lakeshorecsd.org).

The Application for Absentee Ballot must be received by the District Clerk at least **7 days before (May 11, 2021)** the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Absentee Ballots must be received by the District Clerk **by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election (May 18, 2021).**

DISTRICT OFFICE

959 Beach Road
Angola NY 14006
716-549-2300

Board of Education Election

The candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of the two incumbents and will serve on the Board of Education for three-year terms to commence on July 1, 2021 and expire June 30, 2024. The seats are currently held by Jennifer Michalec and Kathleen Chiavetta. The biographical sketches below are submitted by the candidates and are presented in the order they will appear on the ballot. The opinions expressed are those of the candidates.

Background information, as stated in the profiles, has not been verified by the school district.

Biography submitted by candidate Arlene DeJoy-Meckes



My name is Arlene DeJoy-Meckes and I am running for Lake Shore Central School Board.

I have over 15 years of experience in the field of education and have 3 children in the Lake Shore District at the elementary, middle and high school levels. After graduating from Lake Shore, I attended both SUNY Fredonia and Nazareth College in Rochester to obtain a Secondary Education Degree and a master's degree in Educational Technology. I went on to become a middle and high school social studies teacher in Pittsford, NY.

My family and I moved back to Brant 6 years ago. Since moving back to the area, I obtained my master's degree in English as a Second Language and have been teaching and advocating for children in that capacity. My volunteer work includes Girls on the Run Coach, organizing toy and clothing drives for families in need and leading a campaign to increase recess and physical education for students. As a board of education member, I will always put children and families first and I hope to work towards a positive community, school relationship.

Biography submitted by candidate Jennifer Michalec



Jennifer Michalec is proud to be a current member of the Lake Shore Central School Board and is currently in her 15th year of service. She currently serves as the Board President, and has held this position since July 2012. To enhance her knowledge of public education, she has completed numerous hours of board development opportunities such as, fiscal oversight training, law conferences and various other workshops. She has successfully completed the requirements of the NYSSBA's School Board Institute. Additionally, she serves as a NYSSBA Alternate, and an Erie County Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly Alternate. Jennifer has continued to show her dedication by attending regular monthly

board meetings and work sessions and has served on our Policy Review Committee, Code of Conduct Review Committee, Budget Committee, Audit Committee and Administrative Leadership Committee. She currently sits on our Athletics Committee, Board Recognition Program Committee, Professional Development/Shared Decision Making, and Safety Committee.

Jennifer is the office manager at Bell Chiropractic and oversees all operations at both of their locations. She has been with the practice for 17 years. Jennifer is married to Paul Michalec and they have five children, all of whom are Lake Shore graduates. Jennifer and Paul have always been active in their community and volunteer many hours of service to both school and town initiatives. Jennifer continues to be an advocate for children and for quality programs within our district and has worked hard to maintain stable taxes within our community. She wishes to continue to proudly serve the Lake Shore taxpayers and the children of this community as a member of the Lake Shore Central School Board.

Board of Education Election Con't ...

Biography submitted by candidate Guy Canonico, Jr.



As a lifelong resident of Evans, I have had the privilege to serve our community for many years in the volunteer fire service. I currently serve as the Disaster Coordinator for the Town of Evans which is a title I have held for the last nine years. I am the parent of a child at AJ Schmidt elementary school and a Lake Shore Central alumni, class of 1998. I am running for school board because I am invested in this community and I have firsthand understanding of the struggles many parents and students face today.

Biography submitted by candidate Kathleen Chiavetta



Kathleen Chiavetta was born and raised in the Town of Brant and graduated from Lake Shore in 1994. She is the Director of Business Development and Chief Operating Officer of Chiavetta's Catering, a graduate of UB's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and in 2020 was named one of *Buffalo Business First's* 150 Most Powerful Women.

A fierce advocate for public education, Kathleen represents Lake Shore as co-chair of the Erie County Association of School Boards Legislative Team, and meets with elected officials, at home, in Albany, and in Washington DC to support the challenges of the 21st Century Learner, advocating for issues like full and fair funding of public education, student social-emotional and mental health support, and equitable access to internet and technology, particularly in underserved communities, such as the Seneca Nation territories.

Kathleen serves as Fundraising Committee Chair of the Academy of Business and Finance, and has served on numerous committees, including Budget, Administrative Leadership, School Counselors Advisory Committee, Professional Development, Shared Decision Making, Policy, and Code of Conduct.

Kathleen is the recipient of multiple Erie County Association of School Boards Awards, including the Rising Star, Shining Star, and Medallion Star, the Board Achievement Award and Board Excellence Award from the New York State School Boards Association, and the Lake Shore Academy of Business and Finance Outstanding Commitment to Education Award.

Biography submitted by candidate Tiffany Eckles



My name is Tiffany Eckles and I am a candidate for the Evans-Brant Central School District (Lake Shore Central Schools) Board of Education on Tuesday May 18, 2021. I am a lifelong resident of Angola. I am the third of four children, the mother of two and an aunt of six. I am the daughter of retired Town of Evans Police Lieutenant Frederick K. Eckles Sr and Gwendolyn Eckles. I am a military veteran, and a special education advocate. I am a graduate of Most Precious Blood School, Immaculata Academy, Empire State College. If elected I will work to advocate for all of the children in the Evans-Brant Central School District. It is imperative that I always have an open ear and listen to all of the suggestions and comments that would come my way and treat them with dignity. I believe that every point of view and perspective must be respected and considered.

I believe that having good communication is one of the most important keys to be successful in an environment such as this.



Lake Shore Central Schools
(Evans-Brant Central School District)

Annual Budget Vote, Vehicle Purchase Referendum & Board Election

May 18, 2021 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**VOTE LOCATION CHANGE: Voting will be held in the Lake Shore High School Gymnasium.
Parking will be available to voters in the lower and upper parking lots located by the District Office.**

VOTERS will NOT be permitted to enter the polling site if they:

- Have symptoms of COVID-19, including fever greater than or equal to 100.0°F, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pains, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days and have not been cleared by a medical professional or the local health department to appear in public.
- Had close or proximate contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days.

All individuals at the polling site must undergo a COVID-19 Health Screening and will be **required to wear a mask.**

If any voter anticipates not being able to enter the polling site, we strongly encourage you to submit an application for an absentee ballot. Applications are available on our website and in the District Clerk's office located in the High School. The Application for Absentee Ballot must be received by the District Clerk at least **7 days before (May 11, 2021)** the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee Ballots must be received by the District Clerk **by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election (May 18, 2021).**

Qualifications of Voters at District Meetings (Pursuant to Education Law §2012)

- A voter must be a citizen of the United States
- A voter must be eighteen (18) years of age or older
- A voter must be a legal resident within the District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the meeting or election at which he/she offers to vote.
- A voter must not be otherwise prohibited from voting pursuant to Education Law Section 5-106.

Native Americans residing on the Seneca Nation Territory are eligible to vote in this annual vote if the majority of their children attend the Lake Shore Central Schools. The above qualifications must also be satisfied.

PLEASE NOTE: Voters should bring a valid photo ID to all District elections as they may be asked to show proof of name and/or address.