



Eagle Express

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Shore Central School District

Vol. 27 #4 SPRING 2024

VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 9 a.m. — 9 p.m.

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

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

A. It is 2.7%, which across all towns in the school district (based on current year taxable assessed values and equalization rates) averages out to an estimated \$53 a year on a \$100,000 assessed 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. In addition, the District expects to see savings on maintenance and fuel costs with more efficient vehicles. With those funds cycling in, the result is no local cost to taxpayers.

Annual School Budget, Vehicle Purchase Referendum, Donation of Land Referendum & Board Election

Voting on the Annual School Budget, proposals for Vehicle Purchase and a Land Transfer/Donation, and the School Board Election will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., in the District Office Lobby outside the Gymnasium of Lake Shore High School, 959 Beach Road, Angola, New York 14006. **Voters will cast their ballots on:**

- (1)** the Annual School District Budget for the 2024-25 School Year;
- (2)** a proposition for the purchase of replacement vehicles;
- (3)** a proposition for the transfer/donation of a strip of land to the Town of Evans;
- (4)** the election of two qualified District residents to the office of Member of the Board of Education.

The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of the two incumbents. These are three-year terms, from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

Absentee and early mail ballot information is on page 5. 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 21, 2024.

Meet the Candidates on Tuesday, May 7th

A night to "Meet the Candidates" for the Lake Shore Central School District Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at 6 p.m. in the High School Media Center, 959 Beach Road, Angola. There are four candidates running for two expiring seats. The candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, are: Scott Ziobro, Kristen Bauer, Ryan Kaczmarek, and Jennifer Michalec.

The candidate biographies are on pages 6 and 7.

Questions for candidates must be submitted in advance via email to BOEpubliccomment@lscsd.org **no later than noon on Monday, May 6th.** Questions should be worded so 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.

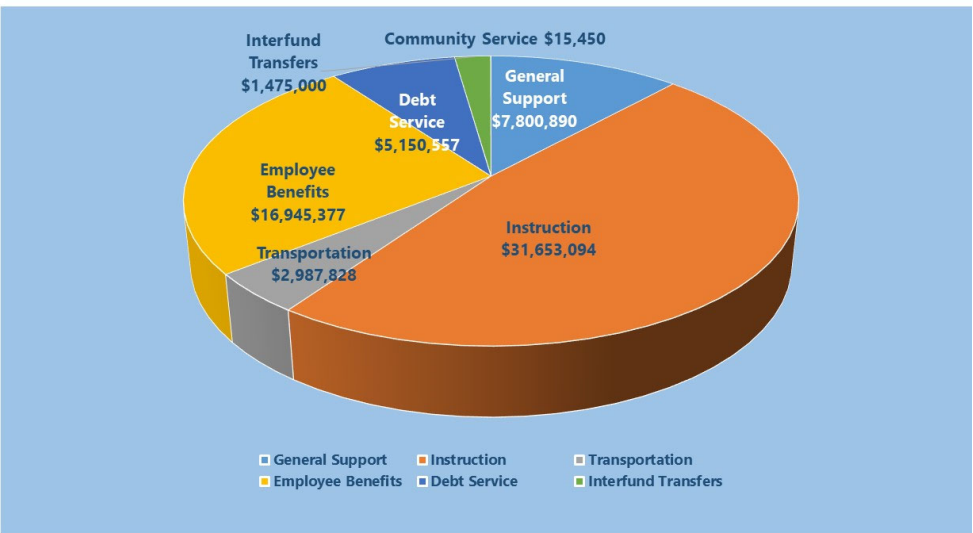
Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing)

The Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing) for qualified District residents will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at approximately 7 p.m. (immediately following Meet the Candidates) in the Lake Shore High School Media Center.

Comments may be submitted via email to budget.comments@lscsd.org no later than noon on Monday, May 6, 2024.

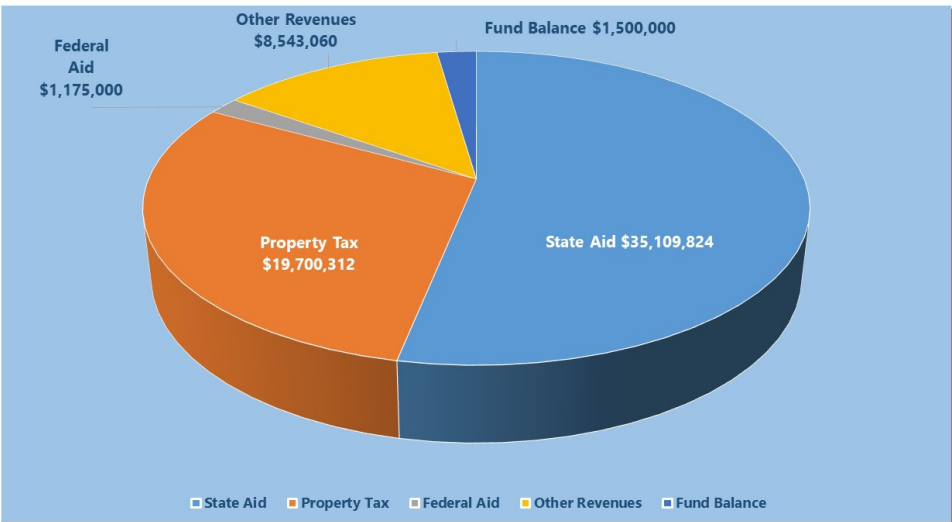
Proposed Budget: 2024-25

	Proposed Budget	Percent of Budget
General Support	\$7,800,890	11.81%
Instruction	31,653,094	47.94%
Transportation	2,987,828	4.53%
Employee Benefits	16,945,377	25.66%
Debt Service	5,150,557	7.80%
Interfund Transfers	1,475,000	2.23%
Community Service	15,450	0.02%
Total	\$66,028,196	100.00%



Anticipated Revenues: 2024-25

	Proposed Revenues	Percent of Revenues
State Aid	\$35,109,824	53.17%
Property Tax	19,700,312	29.84%
Federal Aid	1,175,000	1.78%
Other Revenues	8,543,060	12.94%
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,500,000	2.27%
Total	\$66,028,196	100.00%



Proposition 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, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$66,028,196 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 an anticipated 2.7% property tax increase, which does not exceed the statutory tax levy increase limit of 2.73%

Proposition 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: one (1) 30-passenger battery electric school bus at an estimated cost of \$149,553.32; two (2) 9-passenger gasoline mobility vehicles at an estimated cost of \$77,500 each; and one (1) pick-up truck with snow plow and lift gate at an estimated cost of \$75,000; for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$379,553.32; 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.**

Q&A

Q. If the budget increase is 2.39% (an increase of \$1,543,507), why is the tax rate increase 2.7% (an increase of \$517,924)?

A. The local tax rate increase fills budget gaps from other areas, such as State Aid, and changes in other revenue sources.

Q. What does the 2.7% increase mean to my taxes?

A. The average increase across all towns in the school district is an estimated \$53 (based on current changes in equalization rates) on a \$100,000 assessed home (before STAR savings). The property tax increase does not exceed the statutory tax levy increase (tax cap) of 2.73%

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

A. New York State's allowable tax rate increase for Lake Shore this year was 2.73%.

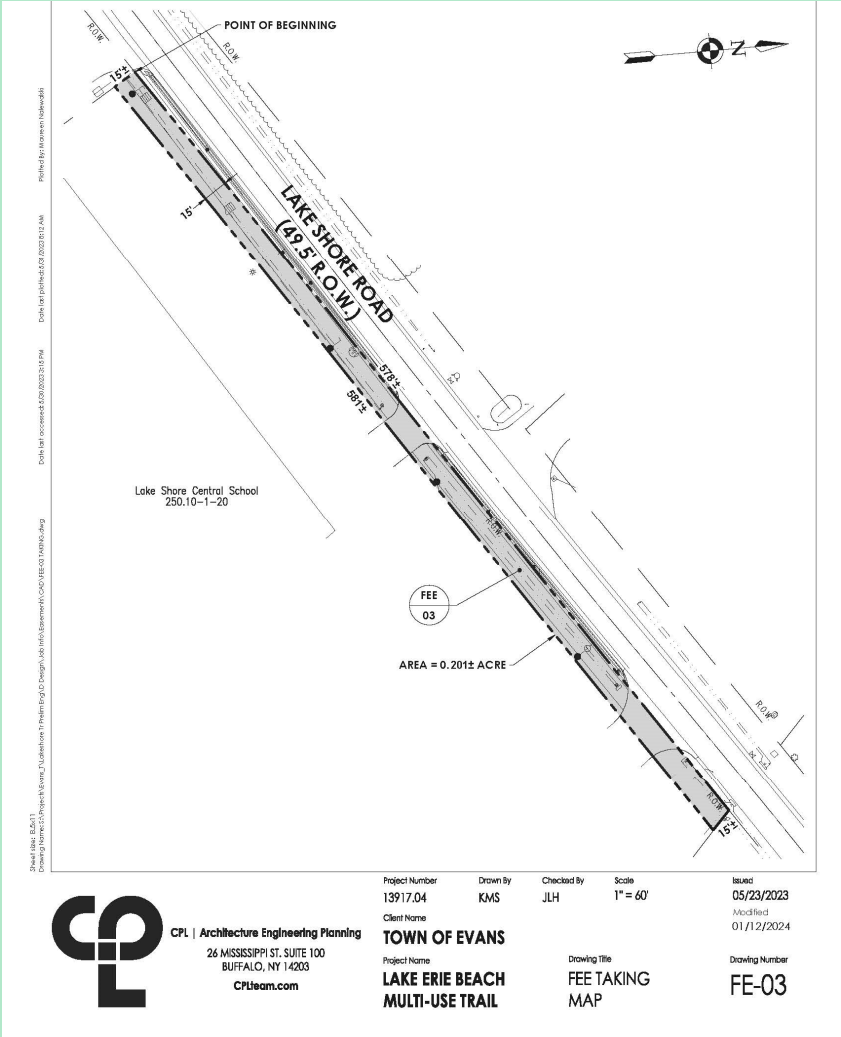
Q. Why is there no tax levy increase for Proposition 2?

A. There is no need to levy a tax to fund this proposition, but voters must approve the 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. In addition, the District expects to see savings on maintenance and fuel costs with more efficient vehicles.

Proposition 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 contribute to the construction of the paved Lake Erie Multi-Use Trail (“Trail”) and new drainage infrastructure through the transfer and donation of a strip of land along the District’s property at 9455 Lake Shore Road, measuring approximately fifteen (15) feet wide and running the length of the road frontage of approximately five hundred eighty one (581) feet (“Parcel”), with such Parcel being transferred and donated to the Town of Evans and future maintenance of the Trail and drainage being the obligation of the Town of Evans and/or the County of Erie.



Q&A

Q. Why is the District proposing the transfer/donation of a strip of land to the Town of Evans?

A. Voters are being asked to consider approving the transfer and donation of a 15-foot wide strip of property along the front of the A.J. Schmidt Elementary School building along Old Lake Shore Road to the Town of Evans.

This would allow the Town to construct a multi-use trail (bike path) to the school property. Old Lake Shore Road is a two-lane road with very narrow shoulders. Those who walk or ride bikes in that area must do so directly on the roadway.

With the bike path, children who walk or ride their bicycles to school or to the playground on weekends, would be able to avoid riding in the road.

A bike path would greatly improve safety for all who ride bicycles or walk in that area.

Q. Does this mean the District will be losing usable frontage at A.J. Schmidt?

A. No. The multi-use trail would be constructed over the existing ditch at the front of the property - so no usable land would be lost.

Absentee Ballots & Early Mail Ballots

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 or early mail ballot.



To pick up an Absentee or Early Mail Ballot, please use the High School Main Entrance, which directly faces Beach Road. This also is the entrance to use when attending Candidate’s Night/Public Hearing.

Applications for Absentee Ballots and Applications for Early Mail Ballots are available 8 a.m.–3 p.m. in the District Clerk’s office at Lake Shore High School, 959 Beach Road, Angola, NY. Please enter through the High School main entrance.

Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least **7 days before (May 14, 2024)** the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election (May 20, 2024), if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

Absentee Ballots and Early Mail Ballots must be received by the District Clerk by **5:00 p.m. on the day of the election (May 21, 2024).**

Questions on Meet the Candidates Night

All questions for candidates on Meet the Candidates Night (6 p.m., Tuesday, May 7 in the High School Media Center, 959 Beach Road, Angola)

must be submitted in advance via email to **BOEpubliccomment@lscsd.org** no later than noon on Monday, May 6, 2024.

Questions should be worded so 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.

Public Hearing Comments

(7 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, High School Media Center, 959 Beach Road, Angola)

A Public Hearing on the proposed 2024-25 school budget immediately follows Meet the Candidates (at approximately 7 p.m.). Comments may be submitted via email to **budget.comments@lscsd.org** no later than noon, Monday, May 6, 2024.

Board of Education Election

The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of the two incumbents (Jennifer Michalec and Kathleen Chiavetta). The candidates who receive the highest number of votes will be elected to a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2024 and continuing until June 30, 2027.

The biographical sketches below are submitted by the candidates and are presented in the order they will appear on the ballot. The biographies are printed as submitted, without editing. 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 Scott Ziobro

My name is Scott Ziobro and I am seeking a seat on the Lake Shore Central School Board. I am running for this seat primarily as a PARENT, as well as a TAXPAYER. It is my belief that parents and/or taxpayers are under-represented in our district, and I would like to help bring a much needed “Common Sense” balance to the BOE.

My wife and I live in Angola, and our 2 boys attend Lake Shore. One attends Elementary and the other attends High School.

I was born and raised in Hamburg, I am a 1997 graduate of Frontier Central Schools. I have been employed with the Town of Hamburg for over 20 years. I am currently the Head Mechanic for the Highway Department where I am also the VP of our Blue Collar Union.

The fundamental beliefs I would bring to the board would be: Transparency, Accountability, Fiscal Responsibility, Advocacy, as well as Common Sense. As a taxpayer, I am aware who pays the district’s bills, and I value where our tax dollars are spent. My goal is to advocate for the taxpayers and children, first and foremost, by putting them above any other agendas. I would also advocate for more engagement between the stakeholders and BOE. I believe in a common sense approach to the issues we all face.

I am asking to be given a chance to help our kids and our district reach their full potential, with as much support that we can possibly give.



Biography submitted by candidate Kristen Bauer

Hi, my name is Kristen Bauer and I am running for a seat on the Lake Shore School Board of Education. My husband Michael and I are village residents of 10 years. We have 2 daughters who attend Lake Shore schools, one at William G Houston middle school and our youngest attends John T Waugh Elementary! I currently work full time and volunteer at my daughter’s school. In my spare time I am a Girl Scout co leader.

In August of 2022 I was appointed to fill a vacant seat and served until June 2023. During my time on the board, it taught me the importance of listening to taxpayers and advocating for all students. I believe in fostering constructive dialogue on current issues to benefit the district. As a board member, I aim to represent the interests of the teachers, staff and students striving for collaborative efforts to propel the district forward. Quality education while being fiscally responsible is a top priority. Thank you for the opportunity and I am excited at the possibilities ahead.



Biography submitted by candidate Ryan Kaczmarek

Hello Lake Shore families!

My name is Ryan Kaczmarek and I am running for the Lake Shore school board. I have been a resident of the town of Evans for 24 years. I have 2 children, 1 who graduated from Lakeshore in 2023 and the other who is a current student in the Lake Shore Middle School.

I have been heavily involved in youth sports in the town of Evans for several years. I currently serve on the board for the Lake Shore Junior Eagles Football and Cheerleading program as well as the Evans Cagers Basketball Program that I helped bring back to the town of Evans youth 2 years ago.

I am running for the Lake shore school board in an effort to bring a more student and family first approach to decision making. Being a parent of children in the Lake Shore school District I have faced issues within the schools and have spoken to many other parents who have concerns of their own that have not been resolved and are not being addressed. I hope to bring a voice to the board and work with current board members to address these concerns and create clear paths to resolutions.

As a community and a School District we all need to work together to provide the best education and experience we can for our children. Thank you for your time and consideration. GO EAGLES!!

Ryan Kaczmarek



Biography submitted by candidate Jennifer Michalec

My name is Jennifer Michalec, and I bring 18 years of dedicated service to the Lake Shore Central School Board. My commitment to excellence in governance is evident through my devotion to continuous learning and professional development. I've completed numerous hours of board training sessions covering critical areas such as fiscal oversight, budgeting, education law, mental health, and school safety.

I have participated in various committees, including Policy, Code of Conduct, Budget, Audit, Professional Development/Shared Decision Making, Athletics, School Counselors Advisory Council, and Safety, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the diverse needs of our school community. I also serve as the District's alternate Delegate to both NYSSBA and ECASB, amplifying our district's voice on regional and state platforms.

Professionally, I've spent the last two decades as the office manager at Bell Chiropractic, overseeing operations at our two locations in Derby and Fredonia. My experience in managing complex operations has honed my organizational, customer service, and leadership skills, which I utilize in my role on the board.

My husband Paul and I are proud parents to six children, and grandparents to two grandsons. We have a strong commitment to community engagement and volunteerism. I am committed to ensuring that quality education and social programs are accessible to all members of our school community, while also prioritizing fiscal responsibility to maintain stable taxes. I look forward to continuing to serve with dedication and integrity, striving to make a positive impact on the lives of our students, families, and taxpayers.

THE EAGLE EXPRESS
is a publication of the
Lake Shore
Central Schools

lakeshorecsd.org

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EDUCATION**

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DISTRICT OFFICE

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

**Annual Budget Vote, Vehicle Purchase Referendum,
Donation of Land Referendum, & Board Election**

May 21, 2024 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Voting will be held in the Lobby outside the District Office/High School Gymnasium.

**Parking will be available to voters in the lower and upper parking lots
located by the District Office.**

New York State Education Law §2012 sets forth the qualifications of voters at school district meetings:

- 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.

**To be a qualified voter in the Lake Shore Central School District Annual Meeting,
Budget Vote and Election, an individual who resides on the Seneca Nation of Indians territory
must meet the following qualifications:**

- Eighteen years of age or older;
- Born in the United States to a member of an Indian tribe, or having been naturalized or otherwise acquired citizenship;
- Resided on the Seneca Nation of Indians territory for a period of thirty days prior to the election;
- NOT be the parent or guardian of Native American children who are being educated in the Gowanda Central School District or the Silver Creek Central School District*; and
- NOT be otherwise prohibited from voting pursuant to Election Law Section 5-106.

**The parents or guardians of Native American children of such reservation/territory who are being educated in the Gowanda CSD or the Silver Creek CSD are eligible to vote only in the district where their children are being educated.*

PLEASE NOTE – Individuals who have not registered to vote in Erie County and who have not previously voted in a school district election will be asked to show proof of residency (e.g., driver's license, non-driver identification card, utility bill, or voter registration card).