



Eagle Express

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Shore Central School District

Vol. 26 #4 SPRING 2023

VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 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 1.95%, which across all towns in the school district (based on current year taxable assessed values and equalization rates) averages out to an estimated \$37.88 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, Capital Improvement Project, & Board Election Information

Voting on the Annual School Budget vote, proposals for Vehicle Purchase and a 2023 Capital Improvement Project, and the School Board Election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 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)** approval of the Annual School District Budget for the 2023-24 School Year;
- (2)** a proposition regarding the purchase of replacement vehicles;
- (3)** a proposition regarding a Capital Improvement Project;
- (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. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be elected to serve a term which will commence immediately after the election (upon filling the oath of office) and continue until June 30, 2026. The candidate who receives the second highest number of votes will be elected to a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026.

Absentee ballot information is on page 8. 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 16, 2023.

Meet the Candidates on Tuesday, May 2nd

A night to "Meet the Candidates" for the Lake Shore Central School District Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd 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: Kristen Bauer (i), Justin Nephew, Michael Franey (i) and Megan Smaldino. 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 1st.** 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.

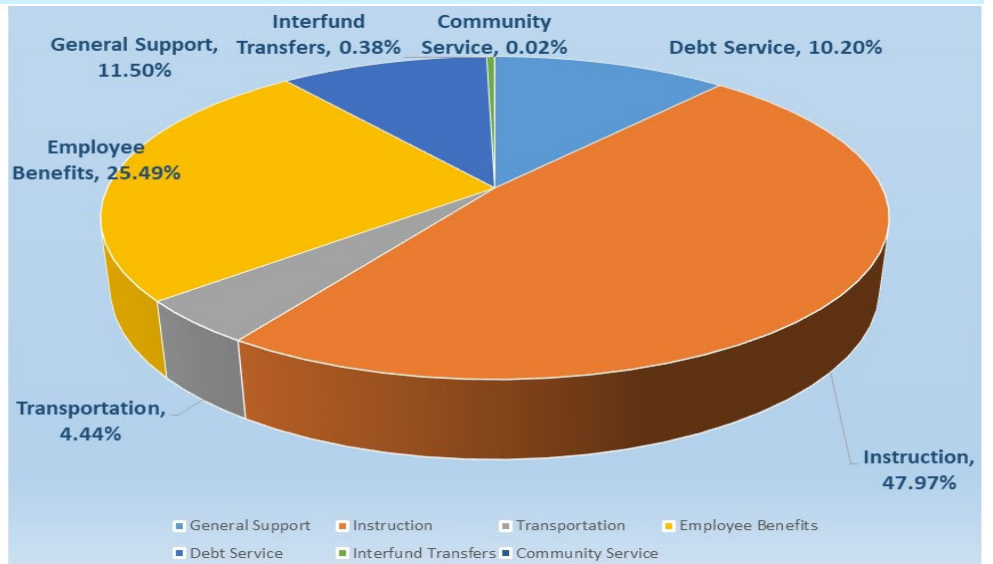
Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing)

The Annual School Budget Meeting (Public Hearing) for qualified district residents will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at approximately 7 p.m. (immediately following Meet the Candidates) in the Lake Shore High School Library-Media Center. Comments may be submitted via email to budget.comments@lscsd.org no later than noon on Monday, May 1, 2023.

A copy of the District's Proposed Budget Document and the required attachments can be found on the District's website at www.lakeshorecsd.org.

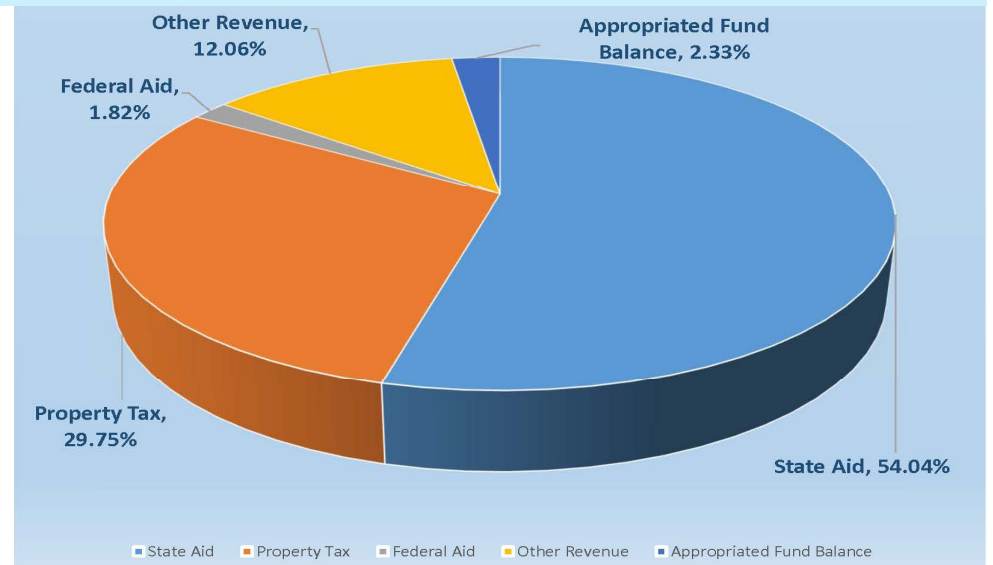
Proposed Budget: 2023-24

Proposed Budget		Percent of Budget
General Support	\$7,414,799	11.5%
Instruction	30,934,030	47.97%
Transportation	2,861,074	4.44%
Employee Benefits	16,436,740	25.49%
Debt Service	6,578,446	10.20%
Interfund Transfers	245,000	0.38%
Community Service	14,600	0.02%
Total	\$64,484,689	100.00%



Anticipated Revenues: 2023-24

Proposed Budget		Percent of Budget
State Aid	\$34,851,334	54.04%
Property Tax	19,182,388	29.75%
Federal Aid	1,175,000	1.82%
Other Revenues	7,775,967	12.06%
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,500,000	2.33%
Total	\$64,484,689	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, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, as presented by the Board of Education in the amount of \$64,484,689 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 6.17%.

Proposition No. 2

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) full size battery electric powered 71-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$440,259.32; and one (1) 30-passenger gasoline-powered school bus at an estimated cost of \$105,650.80; for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$545,910.12; 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 5.69% (an increase of \$3,471,645), why is the tax rate increase only 1.95%?

A. The local tax rate increase fills budget gaps from other areas, such as State Aid. Increases in other revenue sources have reduced the need to increase local taxes.

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

A. The average increase across all towns in the school district is an estimated \$37.88 (based on current changes in equalization rates) on a \$100,000 home (before STAR savings).

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 6.17%, 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?

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.

Proposition No. 3

Shall the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Evans-Brant (Lake Shore) Central School District, Erie County, New York (the “District”) is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of (i) the construction of alterations, renovations and improvements to the District’s school building and associated facilities, including improvements to recreation and athletic facilities, (ii) site work improvement for various school purposes and (iii) other appurtenant and related improvements, and the acquisition and installation in and around the foregoing improvements of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and technology improvements, and other services incidental thereto; all at a total estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$59,500,000, with such cost being raised by the expenditure of \$10,000,000 from the District’s existing “Capital Reserve Fund, 2021” (said fund being established pursuant to a proposition approved by the qualified voters of the District on May 18, 2021), and with the balance thereof, not to exceed \$49,500,000, being raised by a tax upon the taxable property within said District to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law, with such tax to be partially offset by State aid available therefor, and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, by the issuance of debt obligations of the District as may be necessary.

Q&A

Q. Why is the District proposing the 2023 Capital Improvement Project?

A. The Lake Shore Central School District is committed to exercising care and good judgment in managing the community resources entrusted to us. We need to continue to take care of our schools, one of the most important assets owned by our community.

Just as one’s home ages and needs regular upkeep, restoration, and equipment replacements to keep it in good shape, so do our schools. Over the past several years, the District administration and Board of Education have been developing and refining a long-range facilities plan to assess current and future capital improvement needs and the means to responsibly achieve them.

- During this process, critical safety upgrades and building preservation needs were identified and prioritized, as were opportunities to enrich our students’ school experience and ensure equitable opportunities.

The 2016 Capital Improvement Project, which is now nearly complete, has successfully addressed a significant portion of prioritized items. The 2023 Capital Improvement Project that is being proposed would serve as the next step of our long-range facilities plan.

- Spacing out planned capital projects in this way is a cost-effective approach that allows the District to make optimal use of available state building aid to eliminate local tax impact.

Q&A

Q. What does the proposed 2023 Capital Improvement Project address?

A. Our District is committed to providing a safe learning environment and well-maintained facilities for students and public use. This next project in our long-range facilities plan focuses on safety, security, and infrastructure.

In addition to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural priorities identified in the Building Condition Survey (BCS), the project will add air-conditioning at the High School (allowing windows to be kept safely closed and locked during the warmer months), energy efficiency improvements and cost-savings with roof top solar arrays, and athletic field upgrades to minimize maintenance requirements and maximize usability for our physical education and sports programs.

Q. What is the total cost of the proposed 2023 Capital Improvement Project and how will it affect my taxes?

A. The total cost of the project is \$59,500,000. The majority of the project's cost will be paid using a combination of State Building Aid and other funding. The remaining "local share" will be paid from the District's Capital Reserve Fund, which is designated specifically for capital improvements.

As a result, this project will have a "tax neutral" financing plan: There will be no additional increase in the local tax levy in relation to this project.

Q. Why was the cost of this work not included within the District's annual budget?

Routine facility maintenance and repair work is typically funded within the annual District budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. However, larger renovations, improvements, and replacements, such as those included in this project, would have a major impact on the tax rate if included within the annual District budget. A capital project bond authorization is a fiscally responsible alternative because the State reimburses much of the cost, and the expense is spread out over a longer period of time.

Q. What if the referendum does not pass?

A. The critical safety requirements and building preservation needs would still be absolutely necessary. If the referendum does not pass, these requirements would still need to be addressed - but without bond authorization these needs would not be eligible for building aid reimbursement. Without the State's aid, the funds for any required work would have to come from the annual budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost.

Q. Isn't State Aid just my tax dollars too?

A. Yes, it is.

The New York State Legislature has given all school districts in the state an opportunity to use tax dollars for school building repairs, improvements and renovations. This is an opportunity to keep some of those tax dollars here at Lake Shore to protect the community's investment in its buildings and improve the educational setting for our children and the public.

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. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be elected to serve a term which will commence immediately after the election (upon filing the oath of office) and continue until June 30, 2026. The candidate who receives the second highest number of votes will be elected to a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2023 and continuing until June 30, 2026.

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 Kristen Bauer

My name is Kristen Bauer and I am running for the Lake Shore School Board. I am a village resident of 10 years. My husband Michael and I have 2 daughters that attend John T. Waugh elementary. I currently work part time for Bell chiropractic in Derby NY and spend the rest of my time as a stay at home mom. My volunteer work includes being a co leader for Girl Scouts and I am very involved in the parent group at my daughters' elementary school.

I was appointed to fill a seat on the school board this past August and have thoroughly enjoyed my time learning about the district more in depth. It is important to stay involved by attending regular school board meetings which has helped me gain a better understanding of policies, procedures, and budget to name a few. While serving on the board the last 8 months I have learned that for our success as a district we need to have open communication with teachers, staff and the community. Offering ideas

and constructive opinions on current issues helps us to foster valid and meaningful conversations. I would love to continue to serve the tax payers and the children of the district.



Biography submitted by candidate Justin Nephew

Justin Nephew is a proponent of student achievement and development. He believes the sound use of resources, along with focused leadership, provides the best environment for student accomplishments. He regards successful students as a key element to building strong neighborhoods and communities. Justin has been an active parent within the district and in his residential community with the youth.

Justin is a US Air Force veteran with management experience in the military and the private sector. Much of that experience is comprised of work in compliance and policy initiatives. Currently, he works as a Field Representative for a sovereign tribal holdings company from Long Island, NY.

A lifelong learner, Justin completed his undergrad at D'Youville College and graduate degree at Canisius College's Richard J Wehle's School of Business. Justin resides with his wife Beth and their children Jacella, Jairon, and Amiya in the Town of a Brant on the Seneca Nation Territory.



Biography submitted by candidate Michael Franey

I am a graduate of Lake Shore Central School District and a resident of 50 years. My wife Christine and I are proud parents of Lauren Franey who is also a Lake Shore Central graduate. I have been employed by the Town of Evans for the past twenty eight years as a Dog Control Officer and previously a Dispatcher for the Town of Evans Police Department. I initially ran for school board six years ago because, as a parent of a Lake Shore student, my family and I had many positive interactions and very few negative with the district faculty, staff, and administration. I always found that any issue that had arisen was handled in a constructive way. I wanted to become more involved and have the chance to contribute to the operations of the district in a positive way.

During my tenure on the board I have been involved in many district committees including the budget, policy, and administrative leadership committees. I am also an ECASB Legislative Alternate Delegate and always an active advocate for Lake Shore Central School District and other area school districts when there are common goals. If fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will continue to work toward providing the best educational opportunities for students, provide faculty and staff with the needed resources, and continue to value taxpayers' hard earned dollars. I feel I have been able to make positive contributions to the school district and if you agree, I would appreciate your support.



Biography submitted by candidate Megan Smaldino

Hello friends. My name is Megan Smaldino and I am running for School Board. I am a lifelong Lake Shore resident and hope my kids are as well.

My intent is to assist those who want Lake Shore to be an inviting place to learn, work and play.

Parents have been faced with one of the most challenging times in history to raise children.

Our school district needs to meet us at the challenge. Not as parents, but as educators. Unfortunately, our school has two separate and unrelated mission statements. One is difficult to find on the website and the other is a copy of Maslow's Hierarchy. The latter depicts education as a "result" of a long list of responsibilities typically covered by guardians. This adds confusion and unrealistic pressure on our teachers and staff. There are teachers working extremely hard at every level to catch our kids up after years of loss and negativity. They need support and direction from administration.

Education is the first responsibility of school. Educated kids have the best chance at success!

We need to establish a single Lake Shore School District mission centered on quality education. A mission that carries support across all areas of expertise, including counselors, bus drivers, local police, and the various family of staff we are so fortunate to have. A solid goal is the first step toward achieving positive quality education and bright futures for our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Go Eagles!

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 8 a.m. –3 p.m. in the District Clerk's office at Lake Shore High School, 959 Beach Road, Angola, NY.

The completed application must be received by the District Clerk at least **7 days before (May 9, 2023)** the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election (May 15, 2023), if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

If you are qualified for absentee voting and issued an Absentee Ballot, the ballot must be received by the District Clerk by **5:00 p.m. on the day of the election (May 16, 2023).**

DISTRICT OFFICE

959 Beach Road
Angola NY 14006
716-549-2300

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

Annual Budget Vote, Vehicle Purchase Referendum, Capital Improvement Project Referendum, & Board Election

May 16, 2023 – 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**LOCATION: 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.

Qualifications of Voters at 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
- *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.*
- NOT be otherwise prohibited from voting pursuant to Election Law Section 5-106.

See N.Y. Education Law §2012.

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).