



# The Blue D Quarterly

## BUDGET EDITION

DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2023

**VOTE:**  
Tuesday,  
May 16, 2023  
2-8 p.m.



James A. Green Jr. Sr. High School  
Cafeteria, 38 Slawson Street,  
Dolgeville NY 13329

2023-24 BUDGET (PROPOSED)

**\$21,389,611**

SPENDING INCREASE

**\$1,995,535 (10.3%)\***

TAX LEVY (PROPOSED)

**3.4%**

Maximum Allowable  
Tax Levy Increase = 3.4

\*Increase includes DCS and BOCES  
Capital Projects.

### Also on the ballot:

- Board of Education election
- Bus Proposition
- Student Board Member

See page 6 for more information  
about voter qualifications, absentee  
ballots, ballot propositions and  
Board of Education election.

## DCS residents to vote on 2023-24 budget on May 16

On Tuesday, May 16, Dolgeville Central School District residents will vote on a \$21,389,611 proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year. This budget, which represents a spending increase of 10.3 percent, or \$1,995,535, will result in a 3.4 percent tax levy increase, which equals the district's legal limit as defined by New York's tax levy cap legislation. Since the 3.4 percent is tax levy compliant, a simple majority (50 percent of votes plus one) is needed to approve the budget.

Voters will also elect two representatives to a five-year term each on the Board of Education, will vote to authorize the purchase of three 64-passenger school buses, and will vote to allow a student to serve as an ex officio non-voting member.

### STRENGTHENING AND MAINTAINING PROGRAMS

During the budget development process, the Board of Education focused on reinstating programs from prior year challenges while keeping taxes below the tax levy limit. The proposed budget includes no program cuts and includes sustaining programming that was previously supported by grant funds. This budget supports both the DCS Capital Improvement Project approved in March 2022 and the DCS portion of the recently approved Herkimer County BOCES Capital Project.

"We are very excited to receive a large proposed state aid increase in 23-24, which is allowing the district to prepare for the expiration of NYS ARP and CRRSA grant funding," said Business Manager Jessica Radley. In 2021, NYS legislature passed fully funding school district Foundation Aid which had been depressed since the recession in 2008. Dolgeville's one-time aid adjustment will

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"The district is now served by a full time Social Worker after being the lone district in the Mohawk Region without such an important position." – Superintendent Joseph Gilfus

# 2023-24 Dolgeville Budget Overview

## Revenues: WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED	% CHANGE	\$ CHANGE	% OF BUDGET
State Aid	\$13,842,997	\$15,951,774	15.23%	\$2,108,777	74.58%
Property Taxes	\$5,093,520	\$5,247,307	3.0193%	\$153,787	24.53%
Other	\$62,839	\$62,839	0.00%	\$-	0.29%
Fund Balance	\$394,720	\$127,691	-67.65%	\$(267,029)	0.60%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,394,076</b>	<b>\$21,389,611</b>	<b>10.29%</b>	<b>\$1,995,535</b>	<b>100%</b>

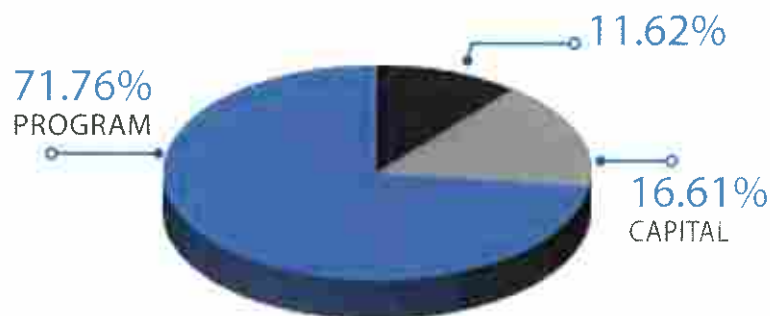
## Expenditures: WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED	% CHANGE	\$ CHANGE	% OF BUDGET
Salaries	\$8,246,491	\$8,811,784	6.85%	\$565,293	41.20%
Equipment	\$38,154	\$32,394	-15.10%	\$(5,760)	0.15%
Contractual	\$1,092,645	\$1,206,253	10.40%	\$113,608	5.64%
Supplies	\$402,862	\$466,402	15.77%	\$63,540	2.18%
Tuition	\$225,000	\$305,000	35.56%	\$80,000	1.43%
Textbooks	\$77,042	\$66,189	-14.09%	\$(10,853)	0.31%
BOCES Services	\$2,731,442	\$3,253,578	19.12%	\$522,136	15%
Bonds	\$1,576,497	\$2,122,558	34.64%	\$546,061	10%
Benefits	\$4,888,943	\$5,010,453	2.49%	\$121,510	23%
Capital Outlay (Trans)	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.00%	\$-	0%
Interfund Transfers	\$15,000	\$15,000	0.00%	\$-	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,394,076</b>	<b>\$21,389,611</b>	<b>10.29%</b>	<b>\$1,995,535</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Three-Part Budget

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories — program, administrative and capital — and compare them to the previous year's costs. Dolgeville's three-part budget is as follows:

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED	% CHANGE	\$ CHANGE	% OF BUDGET
Administrative	\$2,193,321	\$2,486,182	13.35%	\$292,861	11.62%
Program	\$14,215,441	\$15,349,626	7.98%	\$1,134,185	71.76%
Capital	\$2,985,314	\$3,553,803	19.04%	\$568,489	16.61%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,394,076</b>	<b>\$21,389,611</b>	<b>10.29%</b>	<b>\$1,995,535</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Budget Story (continued from page 1)

occur in 2023-24.

While remaining tax cap compliant, Dolgeville will continue to strengthen current programs for sustained positive benefits for students and school community stakeholders. The school will continue addressing teaching and learning loss impacted by the pandemic, along with acknowledging the growing need to address the SEL (social and emotional learning) needs found in our school district and community. Superintendent Joseph Gilfus stated that "The district is now served by a full time Social Worker after being the lone district in the Mohawk Region without such an important position."

School Officials plan continued growth with partnerships and area agencies, while improving school opportunities such as after school programs, summer learning enrichment opportunities, and driver's education. Officials would also like to see an increase in field trips at all grade levels in the upcoming school year.

With additional State funding the district can now support a second Pre-K (4-year-old) classroom for early learners, increasing our capacity to thirty-six students.

After surveying 7-12 students, elective course opportunities will continue to grow on the secondary level.

### Upcoming Budget Presentations

Faculty ONLY – May 3rd

Town of Mannheim Town Hall – May 8, 7:00 pm

DCS School Auditorium – May 9, 6:00 pm

Town of Salisbury Town Hall – May 11, 6:30 pm

Town of Stratford Town Hall – May 11, 7:00 pm

## Q and A with Board of Education President

DCS Board of Education President, Scott Hongo, answered some questions about the proposed 2023-24 budget below.

Q. What was the BOE's goal when developing the budget?

A. We strive to develop a budget that will maintain or improve programming and utilize our staff's full potential while keeping the tax levy at or below New York State's mandated cap.

Q. What does the BOE want the public to know about the budget?

A. It adds programming back into the general fund that was previously paid for with grant funding. This will enable the district to continue these programs that were once grant funded into the future.

Q. Are there any other messages for the community?

A. As always, we welcome community feedback and any questions they might have. Our business manager and superintendent are also more than willing to answer any questions or concerns about the budget.

### Dolgeville CSD update on the approved capital project

In March 2022, DCS voters approved a \$15.8 million capital project that includes maintenance and renovations to aging facilities, upgrades to the bus garage and athletic facilities.

Superintendent Joseph Gilfus shared that this project provides much needed renovations and upgrades to DCS facilities.

Work on the approved project will begin during the summer of 2023 and conclude around Fall 2024.

## Questions & Answers

Q.

What exactly am I voting on?

A.

On May 16, DCS voters will decide on the district's \$21,389,611 proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year. Voters will also elect two representatives to a five-year term each on the Board of Education, will vote to authorize the purchase of three 64-passenger school buses and allow a student to serve as a non-voting member of the BOE.

Q.

Why is the budget increasing?

A.

Growth in the budget can be attributed to both the Districts \$15.8 million Capital Project and the Herkimer County BOCES Capital Project. The District is receiving a large increase in State Aid that will help sustain ARP Grant Programming.

Q.

Are there any cuts in the proposed budget?

A.

No. During the budget development process, the Board of Education focused on bringing back programs that were re-established using grant funds while keeping taxes below the tax levy limit. There will be no cuts to current district programs.

Q.

What happens if the budget is voted down?

A.

If the proposed budget is defeated on May 16, the BOE can put the same or a revised budget up for a re-vote in June, or it can immediately adopt a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful budget votes, DCS would have to adopt a contingent budget. Under New York's tax levy limit law, a contingent budget must carry a 0 percent tax levy increase. Contingency rules prohibit the district from spending money in certain areas, including the community's use of school facilities (unless the costs are reimbursed), field trips, new equipment (not related to the health and safety of students), non-essential maintenance, certain student supplies, and small building improvement projects.



Twenty-three DCS students participated in BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes in 2022-23. These classes provide students with hands on learning for their desired career. Initial sign-ups for 2023-24 project an increase up to forty students showing interest.



The district now offers over twenty extracurricular clubs including Yearbook, Instrumental, Art, Outdoor, and Odyssey of the Mind.



The Mosaic Health Dental van came to DCS to help provide students with preventative dental services.

Currently the Dolgeville Police Department has re-started the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at DCS. The program focuses on students in grade five.



District Highlights

## District Highlights

Dolgeville continues to experience notable accomplishments this school year, both on the academic and athletic fronts.

The Southern Adirondack Fire Prevention Team continues to provide fire prevention programs for our students in grades PreK-4. Students discuss the science behind fires, as well as general prevention strategies through an interactive discussion.



The Dolgeville Theatre Club performed the musical, "Mary Poppins" in April. The production - held in the auditorium, displayed the talents of our students and was supported with remarkable stage settings.

The Art Department continues to excel with students' work being displayed in exhibits throughout the area. Students in grades 7-12 participated in the Art show at the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts.



In 2022, DCS received state funding to start a four-year-old Pre-k program. In 2023, the district anticipates providing a second classroom through additional state funding.



DCS hired a Social Worker to support students and families facing vicarious trauma and emotional burdens.

The DCS staff and students have been participating in extensive DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) training. This District wide initiative promotes student participation and being mindful of the strengths and contributions of others.



The DCS boys' Basketball team had a historical season finishing with a 23-2 overall record, with League and Sectional titles.

DCS is proud of its Athletic teams which have enjoyed overall success with other programs also earning League and Sectional titles.



# Required NYS School District Budget Notice

Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	BUDGET ADOPTED FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR	BUDGET PROPOSED FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR	CONTINGENCY BUDGET FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$19,394,076	\$21,389,611	\$21,235,824
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$1,995,535	-\$153,787
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.3%	9.5%
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$5,093,163	\$5,268,558	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$27,500	\$27,500	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$5,120,663	\$5,296,058	\$5,120,663
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$263,788	\$209,569	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$4,829,375	\$5,058,989	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$4,829,375	\$5,058,989	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,193,321	\$2,486,182	\$2,193,321
Program Component	\$14,215,441	\$15,349,626	\$15,349,626
Capital Component	\$2,985,314	\$3,553,803	\$3,692,877

\*If the budget is defeated and a contingency budget is adopted, the Board of Education would need to use more fund balance to support expenses and remove \$153,787 of tax revenue. The Board would also have to charge for building use, out of district tuition and cut equipment purchases.

\*\* 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
Bus Proposition	\$389,703
Student Ex Officio non-voting member	\$-
	\$

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$411

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Dolgeville Central School District, Herkimer & Fulton County, New York, will be held at Dolgeville Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.\*

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

## ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE PER TOWN BY ASSESSMENT VALUE

Understanding this infographic: If your home is in Ephratah and last September's tax bill shows its full total assessment value was \$30,000, your school tax bill could increase by \$20.81 in September. This is the best estimate the school district can make given existing data. Calculations will change when ORPS announces new equalization rates in August. Additionally, the estimated figures are BEFORE factoring in any exemptions.

TOWN	ASSESSED VALUE	TAX INCREASE
Ephratah	\$ 30,000	\$20.81
Oppenheim	\$50,000	\$52.90
Stratford	\$75,000	\$37.34
Fairfield	\$ 30,000	\$18.95
Manheim	\$50,000	\$34.69
Salisbury	\$100,000	\$48.17



DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
38 Slawson Street  
Dolgeville, New York 13329

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Utica, New York  
Permit No. 566

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Scott Hongo II, President  
Jennifer Williams, Vice President  
Julie Izzo  
Tiffany Rutkowski  
James Schmid  
Craig Spofford  
Carolyn Williams

## Local Postal Customer

### 6 | DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# VOTE:

Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
2-8 p.m.

James A. Green Jr. Sr. High School Cafeteria, 38 Slawson Street,  
Dolgeville N.Y. 13329

Vote Information

#### VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to vote, a resident must have lived in the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote date of May 16, 2023, be at least 18 years of age, and be a U.S. Citizen.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration is not required. DCS conducts its voting using a Poll List.

#### ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

Applications will be available for qualified voters from the District Clerk at 38 Slawson Street, Dolgeville, N.Y. between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day (other than Saturday, Sunday or a holiday), or by calling the District Clerk at 315-429-3155 Ext. 3501. A completed application must be received by the clerk before a ballot can be issued.

#### BUDGET HEARING INFORMATION

Attend the Annual Public Budget Hearing at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, 2023, in the school's auditorium, 38 Slawson Street, Dolgeville NY 13329.

## Ballot Propositions

In addition to the \$21,389,611 budget, community members will be asked to consider these propositions:



- » Board of Education election: Elect two candidates to serve a five year term each on the Board of Education. The candidates on the ballot are:
  - Jennifer Williams • Jonathan Fredericks
- » Bus proposition: To authorize the purchase of three 64-passenger school buses at a total cost not to exceed \$389,703. The money for the bus purchases would come from the district's transportation reserve fund and would not increase taxes. However, the district needs public approval to use any funds from the transportation reserve to make the purchase.
- » Allow a student to serve on the board of education as a non-voting member.