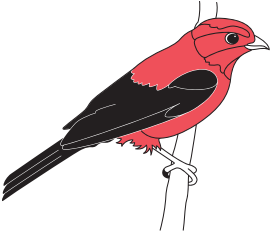


HOME OF THE TANAGERS



HARTFORD

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 | 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Ella Colvin Gymnasium

WHO CAN VOTE

U.S. Citizens, age 18 or older on election day and residing in the Hartford Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to election. You do not need to be registered or own property to vote in this election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available to qualified voters. Contact District Clerk Joanne Searles (518) 632-5931 ext. 508

DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON THE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

THREE ADDITIONAL ITEMS ON BALLOT

This year's annual budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 will be an unique experience for district residents. Not only will the annual budget of \$11,698,950 be up for adoption, but the district is including three other voting items: a proposed \$3.9 million capital project; a vehicle purchase proposition for a 66 passenger bus, and the purchase of a 6-8 passenger vehicle to be used for student transportation; and a vote to elect a board of education member to a five-year term.

The district administration and Board of Education worked hard to develop a comprehensive budget that provides for the optimal learning environment for the students, while ensuring that spending is practical and appropriate. When drafting the school budget, a number of different factors are considered that can have a major impact on how the district allocates its valuable resources: required state and federal mandates and the needs of our students (academic, social, psychological, etc.). We have done our best to continue the high level of academics within the school district, while reducing ancillary expenses. On behalf of the members of the Board of Education and district administration, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the district.

This newsletter contains information on all four items that should be helpful in fully understanding all entries and how these actions could potentially affect the district's tax levy. Each voting item has its own section within the newsletter and the district has compiled all the information together for an overall package. Additionally, there is a public meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

If you have any questions regarding any or all of the voting items, please feel free to contact the district office at 518-632-5222.

Arch Cook



2016-2017 SCHOOL BUDGET

Proposed spending plan
\$11,698,950
Projected tax levy (-.18%)



CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSITION

\$3.9 million proposed
Safety and maintenance
repairs/improvements
ADA compliances need to
be met



VEHICLE PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Purchase of 66 passenger
bus and 6-8 passenger
vehicle not to exceed
\$140,000



ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Brian Getty



2016-2017 SCHOOL BUDGET

ANNUAL BUDGET

When the New York State Tax Cap law was signed into law in 2011, it was the general understanding that school districts could not increase their tax levy by more than 2%, unless there was a super-majority vote of 60%. In truth, under the Tax Cap law, allowable growth is determined using a complex nine-step formula that begins by using the assumption that growth is limited to the lesser of 2% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI). When developing the 2016-2017 school budget, all school districts were forced to use the CPI; which has a number of .12%, and is well below the 2% threshold. Then, when factoring in the allowable exceptions to the Tax Cap (i.e. local growth factors and Capital exclusions), the district was determined to have a tax cap of negative .18% (-.18%). As a result, for the 2016-2017 school year, the district is required to reduce

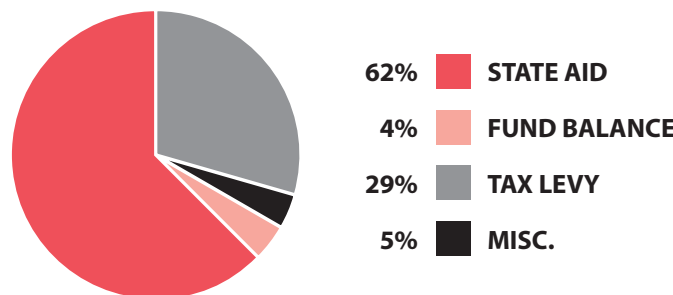
the overall tax levy by \$6,106. Fortunately, the district is projected to have a small increase in our State Aide, which we are utilizing to cover the required reduction in the levy. Using these figures, the District Administration and the members of the Board of Education have elected to propose a budget that utilizes our negative cap and does not seek to increase our contribution level from our fund balance. When calculating our projected State Aid, the 2015-2016 fund balance contribution, miscellaneous revenues, and our negative tax levy; we have computed a final revenue total of \$11,698,950. This dollar amount will be proposed as our total spending plan. Simply stated, while the overall spending plan is projected to be increased, the amount of monies the district is contributing to the budget has decreased.

REVENUE SUMMARY

| | 2015-2016 BUDGET | 2016-2017 BUDGET | DOLLAR CHANGE |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| State Aid | \$6,950,575 | \$7,299,660 | \$348,586 |
| Fund Balance | \$448,499 | \$450,000 | \$1,501 |
| Miscellaneous | \$488,000 | \$488,000 | \$0 |
| Sub-Total | \$7,887,074 | \$8,237,660 | \$350,087 |
| Tax Levy | \$3,467,396 | \$3,461,290 | -\$6,106 |
| Total Revenue | \$11,354,470 | \$11,698,950 | \$344,480 |

School Districts receive revenue through three primary sources:

1. Property Taxes
 2. State Aid
 3. Miscellaneous Funds
- ▶ State Aid is made up of Foundation Aid and Expense Driven Aid.
 - ✓ **Foundation Aid** is an unrestricted aid category provided to all school districts in New York State.
 - ✓ **Expense Driven Aid** is monies that the district will receive based on our prior year spending. Items that fall within the category of expense driven aid are: textbooks, software, hardware and technology, and library.
 - ▶ Miscellaneous Funds consist of monies the district will receive through grants, Medicaid reimbursement, etc.





EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

- ▶ Administrative expenditures are all the costs associated with district supervision.
- ▶ The Administrative expenses are approximately 8% of the overall budget.

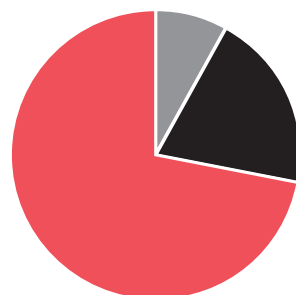
| ADMINISTRATIVE | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | CHANGE |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Board of Education | \$5,675 | \$8,640 | \$2,965 |
| Central Administration | \$122,194 | \$135,205 | \$13,011 |
| Business Administration | \$131,944 | \$136,289 | \$4,345 |
| Finance | \$18,475 | \$22,000 | \$3,525 |
| Legal Fees | \$17,425 | \$17,500 | \$75 |
| Public Information | \$2,500 | \$26,390 | \$23,890 |
| Central Services | \$55,133 | \$67,900 | \$12,767 |
| Unallocated Insurance | \$44,830 | \$50,072 | \$5,242 |
| BOCES Administration | \$69,079 | \$74,296 | \$5,217 |
| Supervision: Regular Day | \$248,059 | \$252,842 | \$4,783 |
| Employee Benefits | \$149,652 | \$157,732 | \$8,080 |
| Total Administrative | \$864,966 | \$948,866 | \$83,900 |

- ▶ Program expenditures are all the costs directly related to student instruction, including instructional salaries and health benefits.
- ▶ The Program expenses are approximately 72% of the overall budget.

| PROGRAM | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | CHANGE |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| In-service Training | \$31,567 | \$30,674 | (\$893) |
| Instruction: Regular Ed. | \$3,915,421 | \$4,021,267 | \$105,846 |
| Instructional Media | \$414,514 | \$428,832 | \$14,318 |
| Pupil Personnel | \$326,784 | \$335,684 | \$8,900 |
| Interscholastic and Co-curricular | \$157,110 | \$160,419 | \$3,309 |
| Transportation Services | \$623,775 | \$650,125 | \$26,350 |
| Employee Benefits | \$2,760,957 | \$2,807,633 | \$16,706 |
| Total Program | \$8,230,128 | \$8,434,634 | \$174,536 |

- ▶ Capital expenditures are all the costs associated with the maintenance of the district facilities.
- ▶ The Capital expenses are approximately 20% of overall budget.

| CAPITAL | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | CHANGE |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Central Services | \$628,034 | \$662,315 | \$34,281 |
| Employee Benefits | \$131,899 | \$153,154 | \$21,255 |
| Debt Service | \$1,499,443 | \$1,499,981 | \$538 |
| Total Capital | \$2,259,376 | \$2,315,450 | \$56,074 |



72% ■ PROGRAM
 20% ■ CAPITAL
 8% ■ ADMINISTRATIVE



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year* |
|--|---|--|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not included Separate Propositions | \$11,354,470 | \$11,698,950 | \$11,643,197 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year | | \$344,480 | \$288,727 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 3% | 2.5% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 0.12% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve | \$3,467,396 | \$3,461,291 | |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, If Applicable ** | | | |
| 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) | 3,467,396 | 3,461,291 | |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$257,082 | \$221,782 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$3,237,829 | \$3,239,509 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$3,210,314 | \$3,239,509 | |
| I. Difference: F - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | \$27,515 | \$0 | |
| Administrative Component | \$864,966 | \$948,866 | \$893,113 |
| Program Component | \$8,230,128 | \$8,434,634 | \$8,434,634 |
| Capital Component | \$2,259,376 | \$2,315,450 | \$2,315,450 |
| * Pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, should the proposed budget be defeated, certain equipment in the capital and program components would be reduced as well as administrative supplies. ** There are no separate propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount. | | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings based on a home within the Hartford Central School District with a full value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year |
| Basic STAR Tax Savings | \$534.30 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Hartford Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held at Hartford Central School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May, 17, 2016 between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Ella Colvin Gymnasium, Hartford Central School(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote.

TANAGERS CELEBRATING CREATIVE ARTS

On Tuesday, May 17 beginning at 5:30 p.m., elementary and jr./sr. high school students will be performing various vocal and instrumental ensembles throughout the building. Art students will also have original works on display.



2016-17 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

| | Budgeted 2015-16 (A) | Proposed 2016-17 (B) | Percent Change (C) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions | \$11,354,470 | \$11,698,950 | 3% |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$3,467,396 | \$3,461,291 | |
| B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, If Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, If Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, If Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D) | \$3,467,396 | \$3,461,291 | 0% |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit | \$257,082 | \$221,782 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$3,237,829 | \$3,239,509 | |
| H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D) | \$3,210,314 | \$3,239,509 | |
| I. Difference: (F - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) | \$27,515 | \$0 | |
| Public School Enrollment | \$483 | \$465 | -4% |
| Consumer Price Index | | | 1.62% |

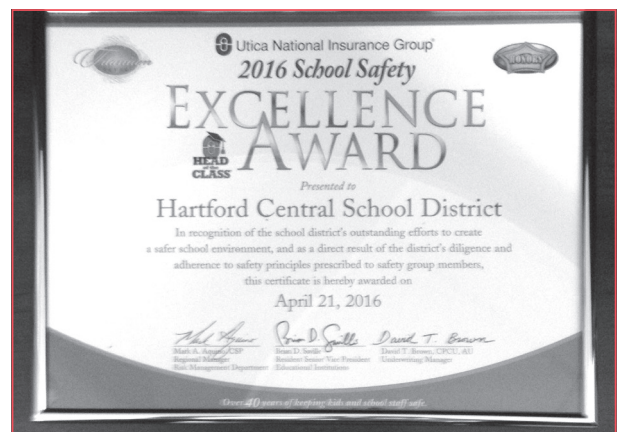
| | Actual 2015-16 (D) | Estimated 2016-17 (E) |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance | \$200,388 | \$200,200 |
| Adjusted Appropriated Fund Balance | \$469,213 | \$450,00 |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance | \$400,816 | \$400,000 |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget | 3.5% | 3.4% |

DISTRICT RECEIVES 2016 SCHOOL SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The district was recently presented the 2016 School Safety Excellence Award by the its' insurance company, Utica National Insurance Group. The plaque presented to Superintendent Andy Cook states, "In recognition of the school district's outstanding efforts to create a safer school environment, and as a direct result of the district's diligence and adherence to safety principles prescribed to safety group members, this certificate is hereby awarded on April 21, 2016."



Superintendent Andrew Cook displays plaque presented by Utica National Insurance Group



2016 School Safety Excellence Award

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GEORGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope everyone is enjoying the longer days and warmer weather. While it has been a long winter, our students have been hard at work both in and out of the classroom.

Throughout the year, our students, faculty and staff have had the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting activities including concerts, educational field trips, sporting events, Spud Run, 6th grade Pig Roast, Turkey Trot, school dances, LAS class trip to Washington D.C., Senior Class trip, hockey games, talent shows, and the Baila Lip Sync Contest, just to name a few. Needless to say, our students have been extremely busy. Not only have our students participated in countless fundraising and extra-curricular activities, but they have also been busy academically. It is my pleasure to report during the 2015-2016 school year:

- Students are enrolled in 7 College and 1 Advanced Placement Course
- Two students are enrolled in the Advanced Manufacturing-Early College High School Program at SUNY Adirondack
- One student is participating in the New Visions Health Careers Exploration Program
- 25% of Juniors and Seniors are taking at least one Distance Learning Class

- Currently Hartford CSD hosts two distance learning classes and receives 6.
- Distance learning classes offered include Career and Financial Applications, Business Law, Sociology, Psychology, English 101 & 108, Spanish 201 and Health.
- Over 40% of our students have qualified for an academic honor for the quarterly marking periods
- 55% of the middle school students participated in the February Strive-for-Five academic incentive program
- The varsity soccer program, girls' varsity volleyball and both girls' and boys' varsity basketball programs have been recognized as "Scholar Athlete Teams." (an overall team GPA of at least 90%)

As educators, we strive to provide our students with every opportunity to become active members in our communities. From looking at just some of the many accomplishments our students have had during the 2015-2016 school year, I would say we are well on our way to achieving this goal. I am extremely honored to be a part of the Hartford Central School District and look forward to a successful end of the school year.

Brian George
Middle/High School Principal
bgeorge@hartfordcsd.org

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

REBECCA CLEARWATER "TEEN EXCELLENCE" RECIPIENT



Rebecca Clearwater

Senior Rebecca Clearwater was selected as one of this year's "Teen Excellence" recipients by The-Post Star. The annual program honors students who have demonstrated personal growth, leadership, innovation and a commitment to their community. Teachers, coaches, youth group leaders, and other community leaders were invited

to nominate teens who they believe are the young leaders of tomorrow, and serve as exceptional role models in their schools, jobs, communities and beyond.

Miss Clearwater exemplifies all of these traits in her role as class president, member of the National Honor Society, member of the WSWHE BOCES Student Leadership Planning Committee, member of Future Farmers of America, captain of the girls' varsity basketball team, scorekeeper for the boy's varsity soccer team, and participant in Math League competitions. She volunteers for Nipper Knolls therapeutic riding program.

Miss Clearwater is enrolled in WSWHE BOCES New Visions Health Careers Exploration and plans to attend SUNY Adirondack to pursue a nursing degree.

HARTFORD STUDENTS COMPETE AT SKILLS USA



Dennis Galusha

Juniors Dennis Galusha and Dawson Woodell recently competed at the SkillsUSA Regional Competition held at Schenectady Community College. Both students are enrolled in Career and Technical (CTE) curriculums at BOCES Southern Adirondack Education Center (SAEC).



Dawson Woodell

Dennis Galusha is enrolled in Construction curriculum and competed in the Carpenter's Assistant division. Dawson Woodell is enrolled in Power Sports Technology curriculum and competed in small engine service division. Mr. Woodell's performance advanced him to the state competition in Syracuse, NY.

SkillsUSA Championships are competitive events challenging Career and Technical Education students. Competitors must demonstrate hands-on skills related to their course of study. The competitors are timed and judged by industry professionals.



CAPITAL PROJECT

In accordance with New York State law, every five years, school districts are required to complete a building condition survey through the Board of Education appointed architectural firm. Hartford's survey was completed during the 2015-2016 school year. The results identified a number

of areas as potential safety concerns for our faculty, staff, and students that require repair and/or improvements. The Board of Education has authorized a proposition for voter approval for a \$3.9 million capital project to address the safety and maintenance items identified.

The proposed project has two components: work to be completed at the Bus Garage, and work at the Main Building. The projected work includes:

| BUS GARAGE | MAIN BUILDING |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a 2,000 sq. ft. addition to the front of the existing building to relocate the drivers' room, offices, bathrooms, and parts storage areas • Renovating the existing 6,000 sq. ft. building to create a second mechanic bay • Bring the building up to the required ADA compliance • Replace the roof • Address HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and circulation concerns • Update the fuel monitoring system and tank storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repoint the chimneys • Repair cracks in the foundation • Replace shingles, soffit, and fascia • Address HVAC, electric, plumbing, and lighting concerns • Repair cracks in the sidewalks and other masonry areas • Revise the Elementary Office to be a more secure entrance • Upgrade the woodchip delivery system for the AEP |

In working with the architects and construction management team, the potential work should not cause a disruption to the daily operations of the district. Pending voter and NYSED approval, the actual construction work would be scheduled to begin in the late spring or early summer of 2018 when existing construction debt is removed from the district's budget ledger. The new debt will replace the expiring debt and the net difference would result in a 1.9% increase in the tax levy. However, it is important to note that with the district's negative tax

levy for the 2016-2017 budget, the overall tax impact for the 2016-17 budget, vehicle proposition, and \$3.9 million capital project will only be approximately 1.79%. This would translate to a \$23 a year tax increase for a home valued at \$100,000 with the Basic STAR exemption. Should the vote not pass, the maintenance and safety items proposed will still need to be repaired and/or improved and will cost more in the future as further deterioration will occur. The items not meeting ADA compliance will need to be corrected as mandated by law.

CAPITAL PROJECT PROPOSITION AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU



\$100,000 home value

Annual increase: \$23.00 per home
Monthly increase: \$1.92 per home



\$160,000 home value

Annual increase: \$43.00 per home
Monthly increase: \$3.58 per home

*Please note these figures do not take into account the projected tax levy of (-.18). Should the 2016-17 school budget vote pass these figures will decrease.

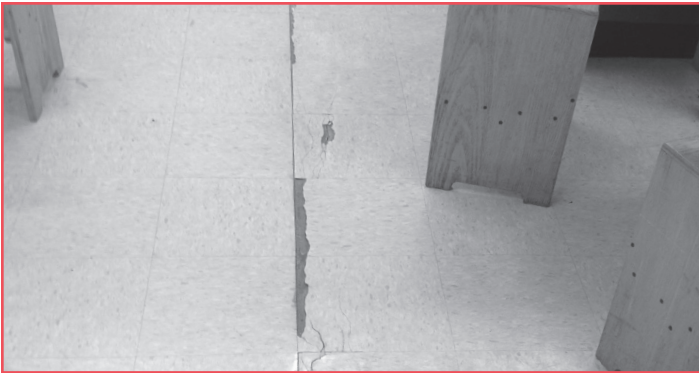
CAPITAL PROJECT



Cracks throughout the main building's foundation need repair



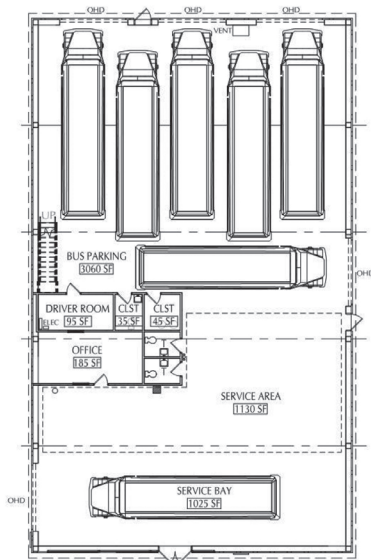
Masonry work is needed on steps, sidewalks, and other areas



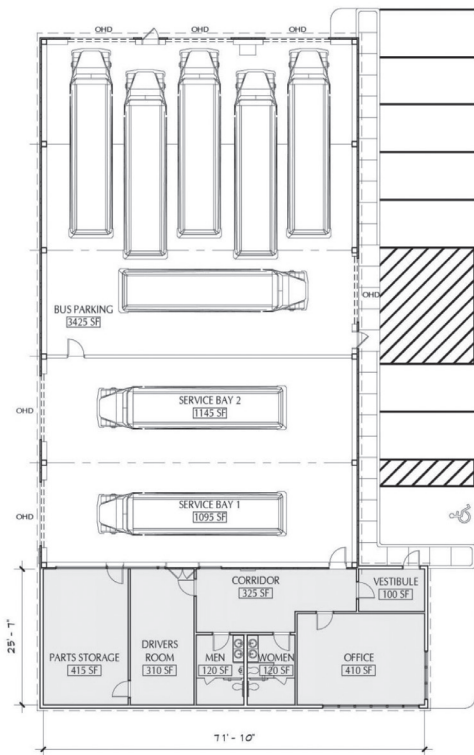
Floors through the building need to be replaced



Lighting fixtures throughout the building need to be replaced



Bus Garage - Existing Plan



Bus Garage - Proposed Plan



VEHICLE PURCHASE PROPOSITION

The table below contains the vehicle number, purchase date, year, make, and mileage for each district owned vehicle. On average, each bus accumulates approximately 12,000 miles per school year. The district tries to replace a bus once it reaches twelve (12) years of service. Historically, it has been learned once a bus reaches these milestones the repair and maintenance costs required to keep the bus on the road far exceed the cost to replace the bus. While bus purchases appear to be expensive, the district is only responsible for approximately 10% of the overall cost. A new bus can cost upwards of \$115,000. Using this formula, the district would only be responsible for \$11,500 of the total cost, thereby making the purchase relatively inexpensive. In addition, each year, the district has the debt of a previous bus purchase come off the books and purchasing a new bus replaces the existing debt without negatively increasing the total spending. Since the district is reimbursed such a large portion of the costs, if the district does not elect to purchase a bus in order to replace the existing debt, a gap will be created in the revenue stream

and the district will actually lose money in future years and leave the district at risk for expensive repairs on older buses.

The other item on the vehicle proposition is for the purchase of a 6-8 passenger vehicle for the purpose of student transportation. Each day, the district transports students to various programs throughout Warren, Washington, and Saratoga counties using district owned vans. When examining the "State of the Fleet" table, please notice the oldest van is more than ten years old with over 125,000 miles. Just like the buses, in order to maintain student safety and to avoid costly repair and maintenance costs, the district needs to continually update its fleet with newer vehicles. Just as with the buses, when the district purchases a vehicle, the district is reimbursed 90% of the total cost.

If this proposition is successful, it will have no impact on the tax levy.

STATE OF THE FLEET

| NUMBER | PURCHASE DATE | YEAR | MAKE | MILEAGE* |
|-----------|---------------|------|-------|----------|
| 610 (Van) | 7-1-2006 | 2007 | Chevy | 124,006 |
| 611 (Van) | 7-1-2008 | 2009 | Ford | 91,493 |
| 612 (Van) | 7-1-2011 | 2011 | Ford | 62,946 |
| 613 (Van) | 7-17-2013 | 2013 | Dodge | 27,603 |
| 67 | 7-22-2004 | 2005 | IC | 105,398 |
| 68 | 7-19-2005 | 2006 | IC | 96,593 |
| 69 | 10-14-2005 | 2006 | IC | 106,162 |
| 70 | 7-7-2006 | 2007 | IC | 110,511 |
| 71 | 8-17-2007 | 2008 | IC | 70,166 |
| 72 | 8-17-2007 | 2008 | IC | 76,591 |
| 73 | 7-1-2008 | 2009 | IC | 77,450 |
| 74 | 10-1-2009 | 2010 | IC | 66,978 |
| 75 | 8-16-2010 | 2011 | IC | 50,751 |
| 76 | 12-19-2012 | 2013 | IC | 35,256 |
| 77 | 11-1-2013 | 2014 | IC | 21,952 |
| 78 | 11-24-2014 | 2015 | IC | 11,030 |
| 79 | 11-23-2015 | 2016 | IC | 4,177 |
| TRUCK | | 1986 | Chevy | |
| TRUCK | | 1986 | Chevy | |
| TRUCK | 11-1-2015 | 2015 | Chevy | |

*Mileage numbers are as of February 2016



ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER

There is one (1) candidate, Brian Getty, running to fill the terms of the Board of Education seat last held by him. It is a five (5) year office term beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Getty has served two consecutive terms.

UPDATE: GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL ALLOWING DISTRICTS TO REMAIN IN EXPERIENCE-RATED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Ten school districts within the WSWHE BOCES area were facing new federal rules affecting how certain employers would be impacted by the Affordable Care Act and New York State Law. They would have been forced to leave the WSWHE Health Insurance Trust, an experience-rated plan, in order to join a community-rated plan, in which the rates are significantly higher. The changes would have resulted in an estimated increase of \$2.2 million in additional health insurance premiums for the region.

WSWHE BOCES education leaders formed a sub-committee within the larger WSWHE BOCES Advocacy group and approached members of the New York State Legislature in June 2015 to address this item, and members from both parties worked diligently to draft and pass Chapters 588 and 589 which will postpone the law for the new two years. The committee followed up in November 2015 by meeting with Governor Cuomo's office, to impress upon him the adverse financial consequences 28 school districts plus the BOCES would endure should the Chapter not be passed by December 31, 2015.

Hartford Central School District Superintendent Andrew Cook, who serves as chairman of the sub-committee, received confirmation the Chapter was signed. The ten school districts will remain in the WSWHE Health Insurance Trust through December 31, 2017.

Mr. Cook stated, "The passing of Chapters 588 and 589 of the Laws of 2015 was a major victory for the small school districts

in New York State. Our representatives heard our pleas and fought on our behalf to allow school districts to remain in their experience-based health care consortium. If these bills were not passed, approximately 10 districts in the BOCES and over 125 districts state-wide would be forced into a community-rated plan and see a substantial increase in their health care costs. Specifically, Hartford Central School District would have had a base increase of almost \$300,000, which does not include any impact negotiations that would have had to take place due to the change in cover and plan. We are very grateful to our representatives and Governor Cuomo for their support."



Superintendent Andrew Cook addresses attendees at legislative priorities meeting

STUDENTS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.



Back row: (l-r) Mr. Farley, Trent Paradis, Brianna Getty, Jacob Nix, Xavier DuFour, Josh Yattaw, Trevor Graham, Donovan Farley, Miss Harke
Front Row: (l-r) Bailey Hasemann, Corrin Baker, Alexandria Boucher, Janice Whiting, Sophia Olsen, Timerra Lamoureux

Students enrolled in Organization of American States class (OAS) recently visited Washington, D.C. The purpose of the trip was to learn about Uruguay's foreign policy positions on several topics ranging from: General; Juridical and Political Affairs; Hemispheric Security; Integral Development; and Conflict Resolution in the Americas. The countries are randomly assigned and Hartford was assigned Uruguay. The students were divided into five sub-committees and met with diplomat Minister Counsellor

Estela Queirolo de Tealdi. The students will then draft resolutions based on the information they learned.

The resolutions will be sent to Dr. Stuart Voss of SUNY Plattsburgh to review for form, substance, and whether or not the resolutions address the topics. If all the criteria are met, the resolutions are placed in a binder, along with resolutions from other participating schools in the region. Otherwise, they are returned to the students for revisions. The mock forum is held in Plattsburgh, NY in early June.

The students also had the opportunity to visit historical landmarks and museums including the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

Although the students traveled to Washington D.C. by school vans, they relied on the metro and buses to move within the city. For many students, this was a learning experience, as it was their first time relying on public transportation. Travel expenses were kept to a minimum by contributions from the PTA, and other small fundraisers. They were chaperoned by their history teacher, Mr. Sean Farley, who teaches the OAS class, and Miss Rebecca Harke, 6th grade math and science teacher.

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL MANNIX

Happy spring to all! It is hard to believe we are nearing the last quarter of the school year. As students, faculty, and staff continue to work hard to rise to the expectations of Common Core Standards, your continued support at home is vital for the success of your child/children. Reading with your child/children is one of the most important activities you can do at home to help support success in school. Currently, a large percentage of our students receive additional academic interventions in the areas of ELA and/or math. Just 15 minutes per day of reading outside of school can have a positive impact in the classroom. Together, I am confident our students can meet the rigor of higher standards, better preparing them with college and career readiness skills.

Beyond the academics, elementary students are enjoying some after school clubs and activities in addition to special activities within the school day. In addition to The Hartford Star Newspaper Club and Learning Club, many classes have paired with a younger grade level to "buddy read" throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who attended our Parents' Breakfast in February and to PTA and Hartford Staff for supplying parents with delicious breakfast treats. March was Parents as Reading Partners Month (PARP) and students were "Wild About Reading!" Many

families participated in Family Fun Night activities on March 9, which coincided with PARP Month. It was a fun-filled evening and great to see so many families participating together. Thank you to our PARP Committee and volunteers who made this night such a success.

Congratulations to the 4th, 5th and 6th graders who participated in "Battle of the Books." Many schools participated and our 5th and 6th graders brought home the gold. All participants are commended for their dedication and preparation to participate in the "Battle." The story on page 11 includes more details.

With spring comes exciting end-of-the-year activities. I hope you will be available to join us for some of our many events. Remember, time is the best gift you can give your children. We appreciate your support throughout the school year. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the education of Hartford students. Our goal is to provide children with a solid foundation for future success!

Beth Mannix
Elementary School Principal
bemannix@hartfordcsd.org

HARTFORD WELL REPRESENTED AT BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Over 350 students from 47 teams throughout the region competed in the 5th Annual Battle of the Books held at Skidmore College.

Three teams represented Hartford Central School District in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade levels. The 5th and 6th grade teams took first place and were the only district to claim two victories. The 5th grade team won in dramatic fashion as they headed into sudden death in a three-way tie with Harrison Elementary School/South Glens Falls (placed 2nd) and Warrensburg Central School (placed 3rd). "The team did great under pressure and really pulled together to fight for the win. We are very proud of our three teams in how they prepared and conducted themselves in the competition," said Monica Pollack, School Library and Media Specialist.

How the competition is run - students in grades 3-6 prepare for the Battle of the Books for many months by reading five fiction and five non-fiction books. The teams, consisting of 10 or fewer students each, have tested themselves on every kind of detail imaginable, ranging from the story plot to the book dedication. During the competition they have 20 seconds to answer a recall question, responding in the form of author and title. There are 32 questions per round.

Each grade level competition is set up in a bracket system, and first through third place teams are determined in each. Each of the winning teams is awarded a traveling trophy and banner to proudly display in their schools until the following year when they return to defend their titles.



4th Grade Team

Front (l-r) Kira Booska, Mia Amata
Back (l-r) Nate Fiske, Kassie McNall,
Isabelle Reynolds



5th Grade Team

(l-r) Jade Booska, Kaylin Holcomb, Soleia
Lamoureux, Sophia Anderson,
Mason Forbes



6th Grade Team

(l-r) Luke LaRose, Gabby McFarren, Emma
Wade, Emmaline Barker, Ethan Parker

HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

4704 State Route 149, Hartford, NY 12838
518-632-5222 • www.hartfordcsd.org
@HartfordCSD

Administration

Andrew Cook, Superintendent
Brian George, Middle/High School Principal
Bethellen Mannix, Elementary Principal

Board of Education

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VOCAL AND BAND STUDENTS PERFORM AT ALL-COUNTY FESTIVALS

Eleven of the district's band students performed at the All-County Band Festival Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, where selected students from several school districts joined together to perform as one band. This year's festival was hosted by Greenwich Central School District. Earlier in the school year, 21 of the district's choral students performed with the All-County Chorus Festival hosted by Whitehall Central School District. Choral soprano Bianca Martin was recognized by the Washington County Area Music Teachers Association as a graduating senior who has participated in seven All-County Festivals. She was presented with a pin from her vocal teacher, Mrs. Lynnette Dougher, who was chair of this year's festival. For both festivals, the elementary students were chosen based upon teacher recommendation. The junior and senior high band students were selected based on auditions.

Selected Elementary Band Students

Kailey Gayton (Flute)
Luke LaRose (Trombone)
Seth Sharp (Trumpet)
Camie Volpe (Clarinet)
Jason Wade (Trumpet)

Selected Elementary Choral Students

Kailey Gayton
Paige Hansen
Hannah Mitchell
Sarah Monroe
Camie Volpe

Selected Jr. High Band Students

Alexander Holcomb (Alto Sax)
Thomas MacDuff, Jr. (Trombone)
Abigail Monroe (Tenor Sax)
Hannah Monroe (Flute)
Kathryn Smith (Flute)

Selected Junior Choral Students

Jacob Carpenter
Josh Hemsing
Hannah Lawrence
Thomas MacDuff
Abigail Monroe
Hannah Monroe
Kaleigh Rogers
Alexis Sesselman
C.J. White

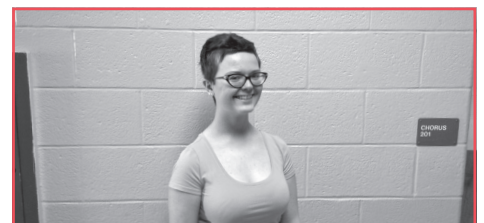
Selected Sr. High Band Students

Adam Mitchell (Tenor Sax)

Mrs. Jillian Schultz is the Instrumental Music Director



Participating band and choral members



Bianca Martin

Selected Senior Choral Students

Mackenzie Casey
Bianca Martin
Abigail Robbins
Janice Whiting
Michael Whitney
Samantha Whitney
Rachel Yattaw

Mrs. Lynnette Dougher is the Vocal Teacher