

# Willsboro

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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7. PROPOSED BUDGET 2022-23

**Budget Hearing**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**  
**6:00pm**

**Budget Vote & School Board Election**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**12:00pm to 8:00pm**

### DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

On April 12, 2022, the Willsboro Central School District Board of Education adopted the proposed budget of \$10,479,884 for the 2022-2023 school year, which will be voted on by the community on May 17, 2022. This budget results in a tax levy increase of 2.69% which falls within the district's allowable state-calculated tax cap limit.

The proposed budget honors the district's responsibility to the community to use its resources as effectively and efficiently as possible while also focusing on academic excellence. The proposed budget continues all existing programs and services while expanding student opportunities and academic interventions. Additional social-emotional and mental health supports for students are also included in the proposed budget.

Our community will also vote on a capital project proposition to allow for a new fire alarm system to be installed throughout the school building. The current system is in danger of failing and is a safety concern if not addressed.

After you read the information within this newsletter, we encourage you to review the additional financial information available on our website. The detailed budget will also be available to the public on May 3rd in the District Office.

We greatly appreciate the community's ongoing support of our students and staff and hope to see all eligible voters on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

Together in education,



Justin Gardner  
 Superintendent of Schools

*“The proposed budget continues all existing programs and services while expanding student opportunities and academic interventions.”*

### Key Facts & Figures

Tax Levy Increase	2.69%
Tax Rate	\$12.64
Budget Increase	3.61%

For more information on the 2022-23 Budget



Visit our district website

<https://www.willsborocsd.org/>



## GIRLS SOCCER CAPTURES SECTIONAL CROWN

When a team believes, even when others may not, the internal confidence is all that matters.

That's how the Willsboro girls soccer team approached its 2021 season, and the Warriors ended up being champions.

Willsboro captured the Section VII Class D crown with a 2-1 victory against Chazy this past fall and took home many accolades along the way.

The sectional championship was the first for Willsboro girls soccer since 2004. The Warriors finished the season with a 16-2-1 record, which was the most wins in program history.

This group built toward being a championship-caliber team for years.

A young core started to emerge four seasons ago and blossomed under the leadership of Head Coach Chris Ford.

One of the underlying narratives for Willsboro all season was its level of competition. The Warriors played most of their games against Northern Soccer League Division III opponents, which made others think they were not ready to take on bigger schools in the playoffs.

Willsboro had its doubters throughout the season, but when the lights shined the brightest during the Class D championship, the Warriors had no problem stepping up.

"They are a very mentally tough group," Chris Ford said. "We had a conversation about the whole small school thing, and they knew people doubted us. They always believed in themselves. They are a very intelligent group of girls, and I am so proud of them."

In the championship, Jenna Ford got Willsboro on the board first when she took

a pass from McKinley Belzile and buried a goal with 29:31 left in the first half.

That lead did not last long, however, as the Eagles stormed right back and scored 25 seconds later to even matters at 1-all.

From there, the intensity escalated. Warriors keeper Abby Bruno made a huge save on a breakaway to keep the match tied a few minutes after Chazy scored, and eventually, the two squads went into halftime tied.

"I got a little worried when I saw her coming there, but you have to put the nerves aside," Bruno said about her big save. "We really wanted this, and there was no way that I was going to let that go. We all wanted to win so bad."

Jenna Ford found the back of the net for the eventual game-winner at the

**Soccer Story Continues | Page 3**



Senior captain Jenna Ford (13) became Section VII's all-time leading goal scorer late in the season, breaking Chazy's Helen Giroux's record of 149.

Ford finished her varsity career with 163 goals and 43 assists and earned Most Valuable Player honors for Division III of the Northern Soccer League.



# BACKPACK PROGRAM HELPING PROVIDE FOOD SECURITY IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Willsboro Student Wellness Committee worked to identify ways to address food insecurity for students in need, and as a result, the district's Backpack Program was created. It began modestly last year, filling five backpacks with food for selected students to bring home every Friday to ensure a regular supply of nutrition over the weekend.

This year, through the efforts of Student Support Counselor Darcey Hurlburt, the program has greatly expanded its outreach, increasing to 22 backpacks. Each week, these bags are packed by students in Willsboro's Job Target class.

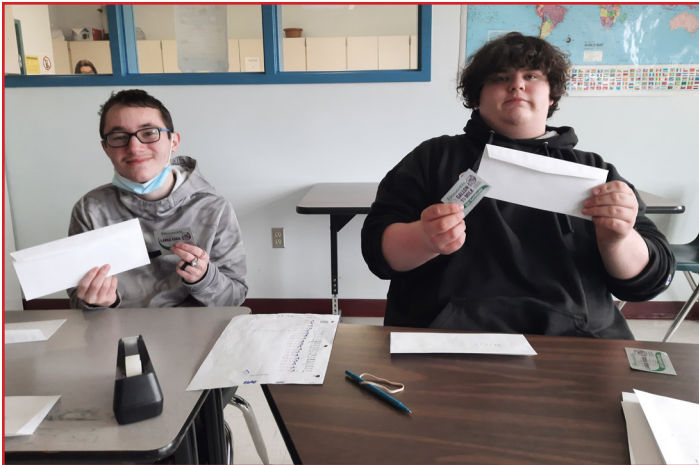
There are two workstations for the Job Target students, and they rotate each week to learn the entire operation. During one day in class, 9th graders Joseph and Donovan filled envelopes with Stewart's gift cards for foods such as eggs and



milk and kept track to ensure that there was one envelope for each backpack. Joseph said, "When I'm filling the backpacks, I like to think about the students we are helping and their families."

In another room, 11th graders Laura and Brooke organized 22 sets of boxes, cans, and packages of food items ranging from mac & cheese to muffins and cereal. Brooke was adamant that they provide the necessary ingredients to complete a meal, saying, "We put in pasta and tomato sauce because you need both of them. The same goes for cereal, they need milk for that. We make sure that the items in the backpacks go together."

High school teacher Charmaine Flynn works directly with these students to organize the items that go home in the backpacks each week, "Our students are learning how to organize the available food items into 22 groups, and to substitute comparable items when necessary. They are excited to participate in giving back to our community, and are dedicated to learning the math and organizational skills that will help them in future employment opportunities."



## ...MORE ON OUR SECTION VII CLASS D CHAMPIONS

28:18 mark of the second half with a beautiful goal. She then was lifted off the ground by Cleo Lobdell and eventually swarmed by the rest of her teammates as they celebrated.

But even with all the celebration, Willsboro knew there was more work to be done. Despite some tense moments for the remainder of the game, the Warriors

finished on top.

"We have not had a game like this ever for this team," Chris Ford said. "It was up and down like crazy. It was like a basketball game. Both teams left it all out there."

After the Warriors' sectional championship victory, they nearly advanced to the NYSPHSAA Class D final

four but came up just short after a 1-0 loss to Chateaugay

in a regional final.

But as much as the team would have loved to keep playing, the season Willsboro had will be remembered forever.

The smiles on their faces when raising their sectional championship trophy, holding the title banner and getting to celebrate together following a long journey will always be what matters the most for these Warriors.



### Willsboro Team Roster

Emma Becker	Jenna Ford	Emily Mitchell
McKinley Belzile	Bella Harrison	Lexi Nolette
Maddison Benway	Dakota Harrison	Danielle Reithel
Kaili Bourdeau	Cleo Lobdell	Ava Sucharzewski
Abby Bruno	Lynae MacDougal	
Tekla Fine-Lease	Gabby Marble	

# MOVING FORWARD

## THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE GETS TO WORK



The Strategic Planning Committee started last spring, when as a district, it was decided that a refresh of the district's mission statement, vision and values was needed. The district partnered with Education Elements, K-12 education consultants, to help develop the plan and facilitate the strategic planning process.

Board of Education member and parent Heather Sheehan shared that, "We've had board discussions about taking stock of where we are and how to move forward to where we want to be. We thought that a Strategic Planning Committee would be a good path for Willsboro. It will enable us to gather input from stakeholder groups about what the community is looking for in a school district."

The committee created surveys that went out to the entire school community followed by focus groups that targeted students, faculty and staff, parents, and community members. The input that was collected from these groups is being used by the Strategic Planning Committee to develop new mission and vision statements and to define the district's core values. Stakeholder feedback will also help the committee create a set of goals and initiatives for the future of the district.

"I find value in this effort, and I was immediately interested in being part of the planning process," said parent and Willsboro

alumna Tierra Jaquish. "So far, I truly believe that we are on a good path to making some positive changes in the district."

Fifth grade teacher Tara Valachovic worked on gathering student input on what they feel is working at Willsboro CSD, and how we could make a great school even better. She said, "The student feedback sessions were really positive. We purposely looked for input from a variety of students to make sure that we heard from many different types of voices."

Superintendent Justin Gardner continued, "We thought it was important to prioritize the creation of a new mission and vision for the district since it hadn't been done in quite some time. Gathering as much input from the school community as possible was a focus from the start of this process. Our hope is that the district will be unified behind the new mission, vision, and goals that are being developed as part of the strategic planning process."

From the perspective of the two students on the Strategic Planning Committee, Koert and Mallory, students are generally satisfied by the current academic programs at Willsboro but would like to explore possible additions to future course offerings.

**Strategic Planning Story Continues | Page 5**





# SMILES FROM OUR WILLSBORO STUDENTS



## ...MORE ON OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP

“For high schoolers,” said Mallory, “it’s about having a more diverse array of classes to choose from, whether it be higher level academic classes, more electives, or more classes for students who are not planning on going to college. Students feel they could benefit from life classes and hands-on experiences, as well as focusing more on the mental health aspect of school life.”



Koert agreed, “We get together and discuss the trends and problems that we see around the school and how we are going to overcome and make it better for everybody.”

The district’s new strategic plan is on target to be completed by the end of the current school year. The new mission, vision, and values will be released to the community and implemented in the 2022-2023 school year.





## WILLSBORO PRIDE PROGRAM RECOGNIZING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Over the past few years, the Willsboro Pride program has recognized students for demonstrating positive behavior in school. Students who are “caught being good” receive a Pride ticket to take home to their family and are entered into a drawing for prizes that include pencils, school t-shirts, and gift cards. Community organizations and local businesses

have participated by donating prizes and funds for this program. For example, Stewart’s provided ice cream for a school-wide party celebrating the 100th Day of School.

Principal Michael Douglas heads the Willsboro Pride Committee that



coordinates the program. Committee members represent all levels of the school and include Student Council members to give students a voice in encouraging school spirit and setting a positive school climate. Faculty members include Andrew Lee (4th grade), Marie Blatchley (HS French), Keith Stone (HS Social Studies/Student Council Advisor), Pam Drollette (2nd grade), and Tara Valachovic (5th grade).

One elementary student, Ben, was one of the first to be recognized this year for displaying positive behavior in school.



At an assembly, Principal Douglas asked for two volunteers to hold the flag. Three students rushed up to help, and Ben unselfishly stepped aside to allow a classmate the honor of holding the flag. Ben said, “I was going to do it and then I let someone else do it and then I got a ticket and I was so happy. I put it up on the Willsboro poster in the hall. It was kind of like a competition to see if we could fill up the big W.” On behalf of the Willsboro Pride Committee, Principal Douglas awarded Ben with a school t-shirt, which lit up his face.

Willsboro Pride has spread throughout our school. “Kids are going out of their way to do positive things, and our teachers are doing a great job of supporting this program,” said Douglas.

## PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT

A \$455,500 capital project to replace and upgrade the district’s fire alarm system is also included as a proposition on this year’s ballot. Superintendent Justin Gardner explained, “Our fire alarm system is now over 20 years old, and at this point we can no longer find replacement parts and are unable to receive service updates. We are concerned that without these necessary upgrades we could soon reach a point where the system will no longer operate safely.”

The proposed capital project includes the installation of a new system throughout the main campus that meets all

current code requirements as prescribed by the New York State Department of Education. The new fire alarm system includes a voice notification feature, which is now required by code and will provide an additional level of safety in the event of an emergency.

The safety of students and staff is our highest priority. Early detection and a quick response are key to optimum safety, and community support of this proposed capital project will assist the district in continuing to maintain the safest possible school environment.

## PROPOSED BUDGET TAX IMPACT

Assessment	21-22 Taxes	22-23 Taxes	Change
\$100,000	\$1,235	\$1,264	\$29
\$150,000	\$1,852	\$1,896	\$44
\$200,000	\$2,470	\$2,528	\$58

## BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

### Proposition 1:

Adopt the 2022-2023 Budget  
\$10,479,884

### Proposition 2:

Approve a Capital Project  
Replace Fire Alarm System - \$455,500

### Proposition 3:

Elect 1 School Board Member  
Candidate: Kasey Young

2022-23 BUDGET COMPARISON			
EXPENDITURES	2022-23 PROPOSED	2021-22 BUDGET	DIFF
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>			
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Board of Education	\$ 7,100	\$ 4,350	\$ 2,750
Central Administration	201,907	247,321	(45,414)
Finance	199,154	166,340	32,814
Staff	36,803	35,087	1,716
Central Services	14,500	14,500	-
Special Items	180,301	170,789	9,512
<u>INSTRUCTION</u>			
Administration & Improvement	88,100	6,000	82,100
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED</u>			
Employee Benefits	209,758	225,969	(16,211)
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$ 937,623</b>	<b>\$ 870,356</b>	<b>\$ 67,267</b>
<b>PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>			
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Staff	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
<u>INSTRUCTION</u>			
Instructional Improvement	18,240	18,240	-
Teaching Regular School	1,888,955	1,866,714	22,241
Special Apportionment Programs	2,040,046	2,369,779	(329,733)
Instructional Media	269,302	245,720	23,582
Pupil Services	412,836	297,680	115,156
<u>PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</u>			
District Transportation Services	376,605	337,273	39,332
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED</u>			
Employee Benefits	2,597,382	2,293,145	304,237
Interfund Transfer	92,000	15,000	77,000
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$ 7,705,367</b>	<b>\$ 7,453,551</b>	<b>\$ 251,816</b>
<b>CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>			
<u>GENERAL SUPPORT</u>			
Central Services	\$ 498,657	\$ 467,705	\$ 30,952
<u>UNDISTRIBUTED</u>			
Employee Benefits	294,064	250,419	43,645
Debt Service	944,173	972,553	(28,380)
Interfund Transfer	100,000	100,000	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT</b>	<b>\$ 1,836,894</b>	<b>\$ 1,790,677</b>	<b>\$ 46,217</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 10,479,884</b>	<b>\$ 10,114,584</b>	<b>\$ 365,300</b>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Budget documents, with detailed line-by-line delineation, will be available May 3rd in the school's main office, on our website at [www.willsborocsd.org](http://www.willsborocsd.org) or call 518-963-4456, ext.201 to have a copy mailed to you. The budget will be reviewed at the Public Hearing on May 10th.



# PROPOSED 2022-23 BUDGET & COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

## Budget Vote & School Board Election

Tuesday, May 17, 2022  
12:00pm to 8:00pm

**Budget Hearing**  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022  
6:00pm

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT	WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE	WHAT AM I VOTING ON
Community members may request an absentee ballot by contacting the District Office.	<p><b>Tuesday, May 17, 2022</b> <b>12:00pm to 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>School Gym</b></p>	<p>2022-23 Budget Capital Project Proposition 1 Member of the BOE</p>

For more information on the 2022-23 Budget



Visit our district website  
<https://www.willsborocsd.org/>



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Krissy Leerkes

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