

COPENHAGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL



Home of the Knights

May/ June 2024 Newsletter

From The Desk of the Superintendent:
Scott N. Connell



Dear District Residents:

I'd like to share with you a few pieces of news about our district.

School Budget:

Since January, the Board of Education has been meeting twice a month to present a budget that is both best for the students and fiscally responsible. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a group of people who are committed to the future of the students of Copenhagen. The 2024-2025 budget was adopted at the April 17th Board of Education meeting. As I'm sure most are aware, post-COVID-19 funding is no longer available; therefore, it has become difficult to maintain programs and staff with decreasing revenues. We will be presenting the budget to the public on Tuesday, May 7th, at the annual budget meeting. The vote will take place on Tuesday, May 21st. Please remember to come out and vote.



Teacher & Staff Appreciation:

May 6th - May 10th is Teacher Appreciation Week. Each year, we dedicate a week to showing our appreciation for the outstanding teachers at CCS. At Copenhagen Central School, we are blessed to have a dedicated staff willing to face all challenges and continue to provide a quality education to every student who walks through our doors. It is because of their dedication and commitment that we have an outstanding school. Please take time during this week to say thank you to your child's teacher.

Similarly, we are very fortunate to have an equally committed and dedicated group of people who provide services to our students. The transportation department, custodians, office professionals, food service department, teaching assistants, and aides all play an integral role in the education of each child at Copenhagen. It is because of these individuals, along with our teaching staff, that we have a school that is second to none.



Celebrations of Accomplishments:

May and June are times of year when celebrations of accomplishments become part of our schedules. The academic awards program will be held on Friday, May 17th. The Prom is on Saturday, May 11th, and the spring band and chorus concerts will take place on May 7th (Band) and May 14th (Chorus). The Athletic Awards program will take place on Wednesday, June 5th, to honor the student-athletes for their hard work and accomplishments on and off the field during the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, many of our BOCES career and technical students will be recognized at a ceremony at South Lewis CSD on Thursday, June 11th, at 9:30 a.m. The middle school awards program is slated for Friday, June 14th, at 1:30 p.m., and my all-time favorite is Kindergarten Graduation. This will be held on Thursday, June 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

The Alumni Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, June 22nd, and finally, the Copenhagen Central School 2024 commencement exercises will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23rd, in the main gymnasium. At this time, we will honor and send off 36 seniors heading for college, technical schools, the military, and careers after 13 years of formal education. I congratulate each member of the class of 2024 for their achievements and wish them the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Congratulations to our graduates:

the CCS Senior Class of 2024 and the Kindergarten Class of 2036!

As always, thank you for the continued support of our district.

Sincerely,

Scott N. Connell
Superintendent of Schools



Enclosed: The Proposed 2024-2025 Annual Budget Document

Public Hearing: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 6:00 PM, School Cafeteria

School Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Gym A Foyer



COPENHAGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lynn Murray
President
Alfred Tomaselli
Vice President
Koreen Freeman
James Harter
Keith Lee
Robert Stackel
Gabrielle Thompson

SCOTT N. CONNELL SUPERINTENDENT

PO BOX 30
Copenhagen, NY 13626
(p) 315-688-4411
(f) 315-688-2001
www.ccsknights.org

Nadine O'Shaughnessy
Building Principal
Pamela Ratliff
Elementary Principal
Scot Luther
Business Manager
Logan Spaulding
Athletic Coordinator
Lukas Sullivan
District Clerk

April 2024

Dear District Residents,

The purpose of this document is to provide the taxpayers of the Copenhagen Central School District with an overview of the proposed school budget for 2024-2025.

The 2024-2025 proposed school budget is \$12,368,425, an increase of \$342,001, or 2.84%. We are proposing a tax levy increase of 2.88%, or \$53,062. We are able to balance the budget by appropriating \$648,191 of fund balance and \$150,000 of reserves. Please refer to page 12 of this document to view a comparison of the tax levy trends for the past fifteen years. We would like to use the remainder of this document to explain highlights of the next fiscal year budget.

As many of you are very aware, the majority of the revenue of the district is New York State and Federal aid. As the state and federal aid from the pandemic relief funds comes to an end, school districts across the state are managing the challenging return to pre-pandemic operations. We continue to strategically plan expenditures to maintain a safe, healthy educational environment for our students, staff and community. While those additional funds have been a blessing to our district, students, and community, they have ended, and we must navigate ways to responsibly balance our budget while striving to maintain the influx of services and supports that our district has grown accustomed to. In doing so, many of the supports incorporated into our educational process are now being covered by district monies, thus accounting for a significant portion of the budget increase year over year.

Another budget component that is important to be aware of is New York State's property tax cap law, which is a calculation that establishes a tax levy limit for each school district. The tax levy limit allows school districts to change their property tax levy from one year to the next by two percent, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, based on a multi-step formula. In the multi-step formula, school districts must apply inclusions and exclusions into the formula, which may boost the district tax levy limits to more than two percent or the inflation rate. However, such inclusions and exclusions may also reduce the tax cap of the district to figures that are not sustainable or realistic to implement. If a school district's proposed tax levy increase is within its calculated limit, a simple majority (50% or more) of voters is needed for budget approval. If a school district's proposed tax levy increase exceeds the tax levy limit, a supermajority of voters (60% or more) would be required for budget approval.

The tax cap this year is 2.88%, which aligns directly to the tax levy increase proposed to support the district budget this year.

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Building Principal
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Scot Luther
Business Manager
Logan Spaulding
Athletic Coordinator
Lukas Sullivan
District Clerk

The 2024-2025 Annual Budget Review meeting will be held on **May 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the school cafeteria. There will be an opportunity to ask questions during that time. The budget vote and election will take place at school on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the gym foyer.** If you would like an absentee ballot, please notify the District Clerk.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact the Superintendent's office at 315-688-4411.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COPENHAGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

There are two vacancies on the Copenhagen Central School Board of Education due to the expiring terms of Koreen G. Freeman and Keith Lee, both of whom are seeking reelection. The following individuals have submitted petitions for candidacy for a five-year term as Member of the Board of Education.

Koreen G. Freeman

It has been my privilege to be part of your school board for 20 years. During that time, there have been countless challenges: keeping talented teachers; encouraging bright and fresh newcomers to join our team; providing innovative learning strategies to engage our kids; and slogging through new rules, regulations, and testing procedures implemented by state and federal agencies. We have navigated these challenges by working together as a community. We kept kids in school during COVID while others closed or were only virtual. We continue to excel and grow our school while carefully steering through state mandates that often seem to clash with our common sense.

If you grant me the continued honor to serve as a member of the CCS BOE, I promise to continue asking questions, getting answers, and standing my ground when something does not make sense to me. I want the school to continue to provide a well-rounded education in a safe environment for my grandchildren and yours (three now, and two more waiting in the wings). Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Lee

Valued Members of the Copenhagen Community:

My name is Keith Lee. I am up for re-election and aiming for another 5-year term for Copenhagen's School Board. I have been an active member of Copenhagen Central's Board since 2014, and I believe my contributions have positively impacted the educational experiences and career-enhancing opportunities of our community's young men and women. My foremost priority for our district is to ensure that we work together "as a whole" to provide a safe and prosperous learning environment in our school.

As a father of two young ladies who attend our school, I expect our education system to foster intellectual growth and critical thinking while instilling core moral values. Children should learn how to think independently, not just what to think. Education must remain free from all types of "agendas" that can undermine our national pride, childhood innocence, and parental rights.

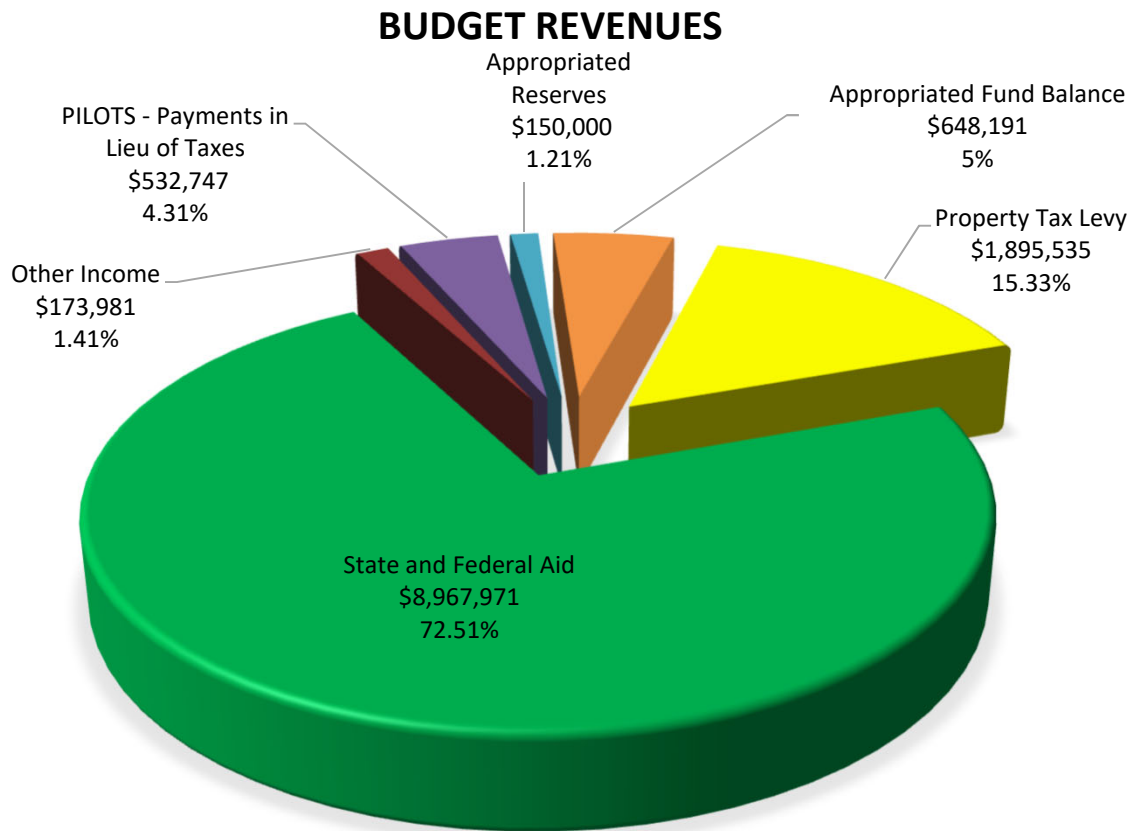
As a Board Member, my focus is guiding our district towards these values. We must protect our children's educational environment from bias and hidden agendas.

As a community member, I am always available to speak with anyone at any time to share more about me and my relationship with our community.

WHERE THE SCHOOL DOLLAR COMES FROM

Revenue Sources	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Property Tax Levy	\$ 1,842,473	\$ 1,895,535	\$ 53,062
State and Federal Aid	\$ 8,603,677	\$ 8,967,971	\$ 364,294
Other Income	\$ 121,000	\$ 173,981	\$ 52,981
PILOTS - Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 509,019	\$ 532,747	\$ 23,728
Tax Certiorari	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 200,000	\$ 150,000	\$ (50,000)
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 750,255	\$ 648,191	\$ (102,064)

Total Budget - Revenues	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
	\$ 12,026,424	\$ 12,368,425	\$ 342,001



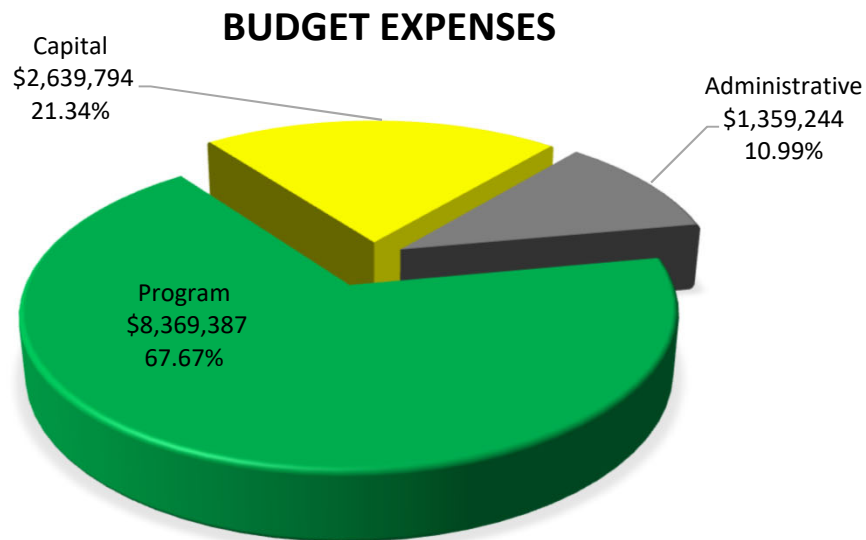
WHERE THE SCHOOL DOLLAR IS SPENT

Administrative	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Board of Education	\$ 20,950	\$ 18,587	\$ (2,363)
Central Administration and Finance	\$ 397,300	\$ 420,301	\$ 23,001
Curriculum Development and Supervision	\$ 292,200	\$ 313,268	\$ 21,068
Legal and Personnel	\$ 135,000	\$ 100,661	\$ (34,339)
Other Central Services	\$ 194,500	\$ 192,509	\$ (1,991)
Employee Benefits	\$ 282,509	\$ 313,918	\$ 31,409
Total	\$ 1,322,459	\$ 1,359,244	\$ 36,785

Program	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Interfund Transfers	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -
Teaching (Regular and Special Education)	\$ 5,137,293	\$ 5,451,766	\$ 314,473
Transportation	\$ 785,735	\$ 689,157	\$ (96,578)
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,128,465	\$ 2,153,464	\$ 24,999
Total	\$ 8,126,493	\$ 8,369,387	\$ 242,894

Capital	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
BOCES Capital Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ 1,338,763	\$ 1,346,238	\$ 7,475
Interfund Transfers	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ (100,000)
Operations and Maintenance	\$ 790,900	\$ 783,716	\$ (7,184)
Transportation Equipment	\$ 195,491	\$ 327,135	\$ 131,644
Employee Benefits	\$ 152,318	\$ 182,705	\$ 30,387
Total	\$ 2,577,472	\$ 2,639,794	\$ 62,322

Total Budget - Expenses	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
	\$ 12,026,424	\$ 12,368,425	\$ 342,001



Administrative

Board of Education	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,837	\$ 137
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,500	\$ (500)
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ -
BOCES	\$ 11,000	\$ 9,000	\$ (2,000)
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 20,950	\$ 18,587	\$ (2,363)

- Portion of a salary for a District Clerk
- Board policy update management via BOCES
- Annual meeting and vote, BOCES workshops, legal notices

Central Administration and Finance	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ 343,800	\$ 363,707	\$ 19,907
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 34,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 4,000
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000
BOCES	\$ 18,000	\$ 16,094	\$ (1,906)
Total	\$ 397,300	\$ 420,301	\$ 23,001

- Salaries for Superintendent Office, Business Office, portion of Secretary to Superintendent, Tax Collector
- Independent Financial Audit, State Aid Planning, Cooperative Purchasing (BOCES)

Curriculum Development and Supervision	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ 283,200	\$ 305,341	\$ 22,141
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
BOCES	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,927	\$ (1,073)
Total	\$ 292,200	\$ 313,268	\$ 21,068

- Salaries for principals, secretaries to principals
- Professional memberships, supplies to operate the school offices

Administrative

Legal and Personnel	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 60,000	\$ 37,500	\$ (22,500)
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BOCES	\$ 75,000	\$ 63,161	\$ (11,839)
Total	\$ 135,000	\$ 100,661	\$ (34,339)

- Expenses related to personnel record retention, legal fees related to personnel, access to legal counsel from BOCES

Other Central Services	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 78,500	\$ 78,500	\$ -
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -
BOCES	\$ 115,000	\$ 113,009	\$ (1,991)
Total	\$ 194,500	\$ 192,509	\$ (1,991)

- School insurance, school dues, postage expenses
- BOCES provided services for data processing and administration, student management services

Employee Benefits	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Employee Benefits	\$ 282,509	\$ 313,918	\$ 31,409
Total	\$ 282,509	\$ 313,918	\$ 31,409

- For all employees listed in this section, costs for Employee Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System, Social Security, Medicare, Worker's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance

Program

Interfund Transfers	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Transfer to School Lunch Fund	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Transfer to Special Aid Fund	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Total	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -
- Interfund transfers to other funds			

Teaching (Regular and Special Education)	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ 3,390,386	\$ 3,753,890	\$ 363,504
Equipment	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,000	\$ (20,000)
Contractual	\$ 266,391	\$ 190,018	\$ (76,373)
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 103,016	\$ 131,307	\$ 28,291
Textbooks	\$ 92,000	\$ 77,000	\$ (15,000)
BOCES	\$ 1,255,500	\$ 1,289,551	\$ 34,051
Total	\$ 5,137,293	\$ 5,451,766	\$ 314,473
- Salaries for all instructional and non-instructional employees, including teachers, aides, assistants, substitutes, health services and counselors, advisors, coaches, chaperones, tutors - Instructional equipment and hardware, service and maintenance contracts, medical services, dues, fees, subscriptions, field trips, conferences, employee professional development - Textbooks, library books, materials and supplies for instruction, leveraging the cooperative purchasing via BOCES to eliminate family contributions for supplies - Students attending BOCES programs, health, medical, special education services, technology support			

Transportation	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ 482,882	\$ 460,257	\$ (22,625)
Equipment	\$ 58,353	\$ -	\$ (58,353)
Contractual	\$ 97,500	\$ 86,500	\$ (11,000)
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 144,000	\$ 124,000	\$ (20,000)
BOCES	\$ 3,000	\$ 18,400	\$ 15,400
Total	\$ 785,735	\$ 689,157	\$ (96,578)
- Salaries for transportation director and all transportation related employees - Services and supplies to support the operation and maintenance of the transportation department and related equipment			

Employee Benefits	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,128,465	\$ 2,153,464	\$ 24,999
Total	\$ 2,128,465	\$ 2,153,464	\$ 24,999
- For all employees listed in this section, costs for Employee Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System, Social Security, Medicare, Worker's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance			

Capital

Interfund Transfers	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ (100,000)
Total	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ (100,000)
- Pause our Annual Capital Outlay Program			

Debt Service	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Principal - Bond	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 50,000
Interest - Bond	\$ 288,763	\$ 246,238	\$ (42,525)
Principal - Bond Anticipation Note BAN	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest - Bond Anticipation Note BAN	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,338,763	\$ 1,346,238	\$ 7,475
- School bond principal and interest payments			

Operations and Maintenance	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Salaries	\$ 317,900	\$ 320,219	\$ 2,319
Equipment	\$ 27,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 3,000
Contractual	\$ 341,000	\$ 309,000	\$ (32,000)
Materials, Supplies, Parts	\$ 90,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 20,000
BOCES	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,497	\$ (503)
Total	\$ 790,900	\$ 783,716	\$ (7,184)
- Salaries for supervisor of buildings and grounds and custodial staff - Services and supplies to support the operation and maintenance of the facility			

Transportation Equipment	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Equipment	\$ 195,491	\$ 327,135	\$ 131,644
Total	\$ 195,491	\$ 327,135	\$ 131,644
- Purchase of 2 regular buses.			

Employee Benefits	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
Employee Benefits	\$ 152,318	\$ 182,705	\$ 30,387
Total	\$ 152,318	\$ 182,705	\$ 30,387
- For all employees listed in this section, costs for Employee Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System, Social Security, Medicare, Worker's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance			

2024-2025 Property Tax Report Card

230201 - Copenhagen Central School Contact Person: Scot Luther Telephone Number: 315-688-4033	Budgeted 2023-2024 (A)	Proposed Budget 2024-2025 (B)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	12,026,424	12,368,425
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount *1	1,842,473	1,895,535
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable *2	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)	1,842,473	1,895,535
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	154,866	164,985
G. School Tax Levy Limit , Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions *3	1,565,440	1,730,550
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	1,687,607	1,730,550
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) *2	-122,167	0
Public School Enrollment	491	495
Consumer Price Index		4.12%

*1 Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

*2 Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

*3 For 2024-2025, include any carryover from 2023-2024 and exclude any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

	Actual 2023-2024 (D)	Estimated 2024-2025 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	2,122,307	2,615,087
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	902,207	748,191
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	601,773	684,081
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	5.00%	5.53%

Schedule of Reserve Funds

Reserve Type	Reserve Description	3/31/2024 Actual Balance	6/30/2024 Estimated Ending Balance	Intended Use of the Reserve in the 2024-2025 School Year
Capital	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	896,488	1,096,488	Referendum planned for December 2024 with intentions of utilizing all of the reserve to support a project
Workers' Compensation	To pay for Workers Compensation and benefits.	77,855	77,855	No current planned use for next FY, but available for worker's compensation consortium expenses
Unemployment Insurance	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.	103,862	103,862	No current planned use for next FY, but available for the reimbursement of UI fund
EBALR – Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	116,485	116,485	Pay for liabilities at termination of service of employees
Retirement Contribution - ERS	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	464,255	664,255	Appropriate a portion for next FY, and replenish with surplus at the end of this FY, if possible
Single Other Reserve - TRS	To fund employer retirement contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS.)	291,051	375,051	No current planned use for next FY, but available for TRS contributions when needed
Single Other Reserve - Other Restricted Fund Balance - Wind Energy Systems Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund	Offset impact of PILOTs decreasing or terminating - To lessen or prevent increases in the school district's real property tax levy resulting from decreases in revenue due to changes in the amount of, or termination of, the payments in lieu of taxes receivable by the school district	172,312	181,092	No current planned use for next FY, but available when needed
Repair	To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.			
Reserve for Tax Reduction	For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.			
Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service	To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.			
Insurance	To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.			
Property Loss	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.			
Liability	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.			
Tax Certiorari	To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements			
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries	To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			

FIFTEEN-YEAR COMPARISON OF TAX LEVY CHANGES ACTUAL DOLLAR INCREASES (DECREASES)

Year	Budget Delta	Levy Delta
2024-2025	\$ 342,001	\$ 53,062
2023-2024	\$ 40,901	\$ 36,127
2022-2023	\$ 310,601	\$ 17,884
2021-2022	\$ 467,301	\$ 17,708
2020-2021	\$ 210,935	\$ 34,721
2019-2020	\$ 521,281	\$ (17,536)
2018-2019	\$ 116,969	\$ 34,384
2017-2018	\$ 98,115	\$ 33,709
2016-2017	\$ (224,490)	\$ 33,048
2015-2016	\$ 10,710	\$ 32,400
2014-2015	\$ 241,109	\$ 45,657
2013-2014	\$ 67,045	\$ 44,370
2012-2013	\$ 1,184,003	\$ 43,120
2011-2012	\$ 111,187	\$ 29,155
2010-2011	\$ (7,960)	\$ 42,457



Copenhagen Central School District Annual Budget Meeting and Vote

The Copenhagen Central School District Board of Education will hold a Public Meeting on the proposed 2024 - 2025 School District Budget on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in the School Cafeteria. An overview of the budget to be voted on May 21, 2024, will be provided at the meeting.

The following resolutions to be voted on are as follows:

- 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Appropriations
- Transportation of Head Start Pupils for 2024-2025
- Establishment of new Capital Reserve Fund (2024 Capital Reserve)
- Election of two (2) School Board Members

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

Individuals eligible to vote at the Annual District Vote are those who possess all of the following qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least eighteen (18) years of age
- A resident within the Copenhagen Central School District for a period of at least thirty (30) days preceding the date of the vote

* Note that no previous voter registration is necessary and according to state law, property ownership cannot be required as a qualification for voting.



Six-Day Budget Notice

State law requires school districts to send to district residents a Six-Day Budget Notice. This notice will be sent following the district's budget hearing and at least six days prior to the district vote. The Copenhagen Central School District Budget Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in the School Cafeteria. Voting will take place on the statewide voting day, **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**, in the gymnasium foyer from **12:00 PM (noon) to 8:00 PM**.



The Six Day Budget Notice will contain the following information:

- A comparison of budget appropriations for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years
- Percent of change between budgets
- Percent of change in Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Basic STAR Savings

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the annual budget vote and school board election will be available for eligible voters. A qualified voter is eligible for an absentee ballot when he or she is:

- Absent from the district when polls are open due to business, occupation or studies
- Confined in a hospital or jail
- Chronically ill or has a physical disability
- Absent due to vacation, whether actively working or retired

Qualified voters desiring an absentee ballot will need to complete an application. Applications are available in the Copenhagen Central School District Office and may be obtained by contacting Lukas Sullivan, District Clerk, at 315-688-4411 or at lsullivan@ccsknights.org.



- Absentee ballot applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued in person to the voter.
- Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, for the ballot to be counted.
- Qualified voters with disabilities and military absentee ballots who are named on the county list, will automatically be sent an absentee ballot.



**COPENHAGEN
CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Volume 59, Issue 5

3020 Mechanic Street
Copenhagen, NY 13626
Phone: 315-688-4411
Fax: 315-688-2001
www.ccsknights.org

Board of Education

Lynn A. Murray
President

Alfred E. Tomaselli
Vice President

Koreen G. Freeman

James Harter

Keith Lee

Robert F. Stackel

Gabrielle M. Thompson

Administration

Scott Connell
Superintendent

Nadine O'Shaughnessy
Building Principal

Pamela Ratliff
Elementary Principal

Scot Luther
Business Manager

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NON PROFIT
PERMIT NO. 2
COPENHAGEN, NY 13626**

BUDGET VOTE 2024 – 2025 INFORMATION

BUDGET HEARING: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
School Cafeteria

BUDGET VOTE: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 – 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Gym Foyer

WHAT DOES THE BALLOT LOOK LIKE?:

PROPOSITION 1:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Copenhagen Central School District, be hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth in the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and to levy the necessary tax for the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

Shall the voters approve the 2024 – 2025 Budget of \$12,368,425.00 as presented by the Board of Education?

PROPOSITION 2:

Shall the District be authorized to provide transportation of Head Start children from Copenhagen Central School to Lowville Head Start and return on an existing BOCES bus route? Shall the District be authorized to provide transportation of Head Start children from Copenhagen Central School to their homes in the afternoon on an existing p.m. bus route? This will demand no additional costs to the District.

PROPOSITION 3:

Should the Board of Education be authorized to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund (2024 Capital Reserve) not to exceed \$5,000,000, to be funded by the District from budgetary appropriations, or existing unappropriated fund balance on hand, and to be expended only upon future voter approval(s), for the purpose of financing either the full or partial costs of any capital or capital outlay addition, improvement, or other object or purpose for which the District would otherwise be able to seek and issue bonds pursuant to the local finance law, and to replenish payments therefrom for subsequent years by annual budgetary appropriations of the District, or from existing unappropriated fund balance on hand, at a rate not to exceed \$750,000 per annum, with the proposed term of such fund being ten (10) years?

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Term of Office, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029

- Five year term to replace term of Koreen G. Freeman
- Five year term to replace term of Keith Lee

Please Vote for Two

_____ Koreen G. Freeman
_____ Keith Lee
_____ Write in candidate