JUNE 9, 2020
ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

MAY 28, 2020
VIRTUAL BUDGET HEARING

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

ALSO INSIDE
CAPITAL AND ENERGY PERFORMANCE
BALLOT VOTE
EXPRESS STRONG
Dear Friends,

We have many great things to look forward to in Elmira! As the spring season suggests, we are planting many new seeds for a bountiful future. I am pleased to present to you the 2020-2021 school budget. Additionally on June 9, 2020, Elmira City School District residents will be able to vote on the $68 million 2020 Capital Improvement Project and $8.75 million Energy Performance Contract Project. As we keep moving forward, this project represents the District’s continued investment in our facilities and the opportunity to experience savings to the District through future energy efficiencies. This project will result in no additional tax impact for Elmira City School District residents.

The District and the Board of Education have developed this Capital Project with the priority of health and safety improvements, instructional programming and technology, site remediation, and energy efficiency. Renovations will take place across the District to repair aging infrastructure and elevate our facilities.

Each building will have new secure entrances, classroom and corridor security improvements, window and door replacements, fire alarm upgrades and handicapped accessibility improvements to ensure our students and staff are safe. Instructional programming improvements include renovations to the technology classrooms at the High School, reconstruction of the classrooms in the 2004 addition at Fassett Elementary, and instructional technology upgrades across the District. To promote our physical education and athletic programs, the District is proposing to address much needed maintenance on the turf field, track and pool at Ernie Davis Academy.

At the High School, the concern of soil contamination will be addressed with state-regulated site remediation. After several studies conducted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) the NYS Department of Health, Elmira CSD has reached a $7.5 million settlement with the site’s previous owner Unisys Corporation to fund the restoration of the High School stadium after the site remediation. Following the cleanup, the District will be left with a clean-slate to build a new athletic complex on, including a new turf field, track replacement, new bleachers, scoreboards, bathrooms and sound system.

Across the District, energy saving building improvements, including all new LED lighting and modern utility controls, will be added as part of an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) completed by Day Automation. The EPC allows for the District to cover the costs of energy efficiency upgrades by using the savings generated by these upgrades. The energy savings and incentives offered by New York State will end up saving the District more than it initially spends, in addition to lowering tax rates over time. These numbers are guaranteed as well, if the utility targets are not met, Day Automation corporation will make up the difference.

The project will result in no additional tax impact for Elmira residents as it is funded completely by leveraging New York State Building Aid, managing debt service payments, using capital reserve funds, integrating the Energy Performance Contract and utilizing funds from the settlement with Unisys Corporation.

This is an unprecedented situation that we are all dealing with right now, and we’ve taken that into consideration as we move forward with this project. The District administrators, financial advisors, teaming architects, and members of the community have expressed the importance of this project for several reasons; the immediate need for the remediation and site work at the High School, the financial savings for the District and community, and the ability to boost our local economy by hiring local contractors and suppliers.

Community members are invited to learn more about the proposed project by attending a ‘virtual budget hearing’ on Thursday May 28th at 5 pm online. More details can be found at elmiracityschools.com. Voting will be by absentee ballot and qualified voters will cast their absentee ballots on the propositions (proposition details on page 4). Absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9th, 2020.

We are #ExpressStrong!

Hillary J. Austin
Superintendent of Schools
Elmira City School District

VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Voting will be by absentee ballot and qualified voters will cast their absentee ballots on Propositions (proposition details on page 4). Absentee ballots will be mailed to every qualified voter in the Elmira City School District. Absentee ballots must be received back to the District no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020. Please email info@elmiracityschools.com with questions about absentee ballots.
CLASS OF 2020, WE ♥ YOU!

As the school closure continues through the remainder of the academic year, our seniors are sadly missing out on many of the time-honored traditions that take place throughout the last few months of senior year.

Our Elmira High School faculty and senior parents are planning special recognitions to honor this special class. While we know nothing can replace things like the Senior Parade, Prom, the Senior Class trip, the Spring Musical, and more, we do hope that other gestures will provide a sense of pride for them.

Pictured above is a large message, which is now displayed above the entrance of our Elmira High School stadium entrance for our Class of 2020! Pictured below are a group of seniors holding yard signs that were provided for free to each senior by Elmira High School! We hope seeing these signs sprinkled throughout our community will provide a positive reminder of the many accomplishments of our senior class!
**PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY**

**ANTICIPATED REVENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Aid</td>
<td>$91,588,760</td>
<td>$93,169,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>$34,613,009</td>
<td>$35,264,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$744,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$4,507,640</td>
<td>$4,143,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$130,709,409</strong></td>
<td><strong>$133,322,023</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROPOSED EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$5,904,740</td>
<td>$5,832,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$56,390,066</td>
<td>$59,676,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter School</td>
<td>$5,100,000</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Plant</td>
<td>$12,288,235</td>
<td>$8,588,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$4,923,590</td>
<td>$5,057,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>$32,748,457</td>
<td>$34,674,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$12,532,781</td>
<td>$13,634,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$821,540</td>
<td>$858,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$130,709,409</strong></td>
<td><strong>$133,322,023</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION**

A proposed 2% tax levy increase is included in this year’s budget in order to maintain current programs and services.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?**

- $50,000 house = $21.24
- $100,000 house = $42.48

**ANNUAL CAPITAL OUTLAY**

- Ernie Davis Academy
- Maximum $100,000
- Mechanical Upgrades
- Technology
- EDA Pool
- Classroom Renovations
**PROPOSITION 1 | APPROVAL OF BUDGET**

Shall the following resolution be adopted?

RESOLVED, that the proposed $133,322,023 General Fund Budget of the Elmira City School District, Chemung County, New York for 2020-2021 be approved in accordance with Section 2022 of the Education Law and that the balance of said budget, after applying public monies thereto, be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said district.

**PROPOSITION #2 | CAPITAL AND ENERGY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2020**

Shall the following bond resolution of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Elmira be approved, to-wit:

A bond resolution, dated March 18, 2020, of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Elmira, Chemung County, New York (the “District”), authorizing the district to (a)(1) undertake (subject to the approval of the voters of the district) a capital improvements project consisting primarily of the reconstruction and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof), all at a maximum estimated aggregate cost of $68,000,000 (the “capital project”); (2) expend toward the project up to $7,000,000 of the District’s 2015 Capital Reserve Fund and up to $7,000,000 of the District’s 2019 Capital Reserve Fund; and (3) issue serial bonds of the District in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $54,000,000 to finance the balance of the cost of the Capital Project, with such amount to be offset by any federal, state, county and/or local funds received by the District for the Capital Project, including the funds received from the contract with Unisys Corporation; (b) delegate the power to issue bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of such bonds to the president of the Board of Education of the District; and (c) undertake an energy performance improvements project to allow the District (subject to the approval of the voters of the District) to receive an extra 10% measure of building aid from the State of New York for such energy performance project going forward in order to maximize the District’s receipt of building aid from the State of New York, all at a maximum estimated aggregate cost of $8,750,000 (the “epc project”).

**BOARD MEMBER ELECTION**

A total of (4) seats are to be filled at the election on June 9, 2020. Three seats are for three-year terms, which will run from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. One seat is for a two-year plus term from date of election to June 30, 2022.

**2020-2021 BUDGET BOOK**

The 2020-2021 Proposed Budget Book with extensive details about the budget is available at elmiracityschools.com.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Voting will be by absentee ballot and qualified voters will cast their absentee ballots on the Propositions above. Absentee ballots will be mailed to every qualified voter in the Elmira City School District. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

Please email the District Clerk at info@elmiracityschools.com with questions regarding absentee ballots.

**JUNE 9, 2020**

**ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

MAY 28, 2020 | 5 p.m.

**VIRTUAL BUDGET HEARING**

ELMIRACITYSCHOOLS.COM
## 2020-21 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

### ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CONTACT PERSON**  
Melissa Mendolera | ph. 607-735-3057

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions</th>
<th>BUDGETED 2019-20 (A)</th>
<th>PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-21 (B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount ¹</td>
<td>34,165,154</td>
<td>34,849,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable ²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</td>
<td>34,165,154</td>
<td>34,849,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit</td>
<td>1,101,522</td>
<td>1,170,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions ³</td>
<td>33,214,947</td>
<td>33,684,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</td>
<td>33,063,632</td>
<td>33,679,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) ²</td>
<td>151,315</td>
<td>5,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Enrollment</td>
<td>6,899</td>
<td>6,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Price Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2019-20, includes any carryover from 2018-19 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance</th>
<th>ACTUAL 2019-20 (D)</th>
<th>ESTIMATED 2020-21 (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>368,899</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance</td>
<td>5,219,294</td>
<td>5,332,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Type</td>
<td>Reserve Name</td>
<td>Reserve Description *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>CAPITAL RESERVE</td>
<td>To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair</td>
<td></td>
<td>To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>WORKER’S COMP RESERVE</td>
<td>For self-insured Workers Compensation and benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Insurance</td>
<td>UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE</td>
<td>To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve for Tax Reduction</td>
<td>RESERVE FOR TAX REDUCTION</td>
<td>For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>INSURANCE RESERVE</td>
<td>To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Loss</td>
<td></td>
<td>To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability</td>
<td>LIABILITY RESERVE</td>
<td>To cover incurred liability claims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Certiorari</td>
<td>TAX CERTIORARI</td>
<td>To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve for Insurance Recoveries</td>
<td></td>
<td>To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBALR – Employee Benefit Accrued Liability</td>
<td>RESERVE EMPL BENEFITS/ACC LIAB</td>
<td>For the payment of accrued ‘employee benefits’ due to employees upon termination of service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Contribution</td>
<td>RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE</td>
<td>To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Reserve</td>
<td>TEACHER’S RETIREMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ON JUNE 9, 2020, Elmira City School District residents will be able to vote on a proposition for a $68 million 2020 Capital Improvement Project and a $8.75 million Energy Performance Contract (EPC). As we keep moving forward, this project represents the District’s continued investment in our facilities and the opportunity to experience savings to the District through future energy efficiencies. This project will result in no additional tax impact for Elmira CSD residents. The District and the Board of Education have developed this Capital Project with the priority of instructional programming and technology, site restoration and athletic improvements, energy efficiency, and health and safety improvements. Renovations will take place across the District to repair aging infrastructure and elevate our facilities.

**CAPITAL AND ENERGY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS**

**HEALTH & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**
- Secure entrance upgrades
- Classroom and corridor security improvements
- Window and door replacements
- Fire alarm upgrades
- ADA accessibility improvements

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING & TECHNOLOGY**
- Classroom instructional technology upgrades
- Technology classroom renovations at Elmira High School
- Classroom reconstruction at Fassett Elementary School
- Classroom renovations

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY (EPC)**
- District-wide LED lighting
- Building insulation improvements
- HVAC upgrades
- Boiler replacements
- Electrical upgrades
This is an unprecedented situation that we are all dealing with right now, and we’ve taken that into consideration as we move forward with this project. The District administrators, Board members, financial advisors, teaming architects, and members of the community have expressed the importance of this project for several reasons:

- Immediate need for the remediation and site work at the High School
- Financial savings for the District and community
- Ability to boost our local economy by hiring local contractors and suppliers

The proposed project is a needs-based plan that was developed to address health and safety issues as well as building infrastructure needs. Plans include replacement of items that have the potential to fail and/or are substandard as they are at the end of their warranties or expected useful life. Upgrading these items now will not only provide better experiences for students and staff, it will allow for our facilities to run at maximum efficiency. The District has also dedicated a large portion of this project to safety and security improvements, including upgraded secure entrances at several buildings.

If these items are not addressed through this Capital Project, the District will need to use the general budget to accomplish some of the immediate health, safety and system life cycle needs, which may impact taxes. In addition, we would need to find another way to meet the educational goals of our District.

This project is funded completely by leveraging New York State Building Aid, managing debt service payments, using capital reserve funds, integrating the Energy Performance Contract and utilizing funds from the $7.5 million settlement with Unisys Corporation for the High School stadium restoration. It will have no additional tax impact on Elmira residents.

**Remediation and Site Work at Elmira High School**

Our District has been faced with soil contamination at the High School stadium for over 20 years and we currently have the opportunity to clean-up the site, and provide our students with new, safe athletic facilities. Postponing this project, would prolong this process, something we want to avoid.

**Financial Savings**

With the timing of existing debt being paid off, we are able to replace it with funds for this project and in turn help stabilize the budget and maximize state aid. This, along with the capital reserves contribution and energy performance contract cost savings, we are able to complete all of this work with no additional tax impact to the community.

**Boost to the Local Economy**

Moving ahead now will allow the District to leverage State aid and use that money to hire local companies with approved bids to design, supply and construct these renovations. The State Aid is only available to fund school renovation projects and approving this project now would give Elmira CSD the chance to put it right back into our local economy.
WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2034!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Contact-Free Registration

We are now enrolling Pre-K students for the 2020-2021 school year! The program is open to children who will be 4 years old by December 1st. There is no fee for participation. Learn more at elmiracityschools.com or call our Registration Offices at 607.735.3055.

GO EXPRESS

Due to the extended school closure, we have organized an efficient and safe contact-free Pre-K registration and Kindergarten registration process. Parents can choose to register their students using one of the three methods listed below.

1. Submit Registration Documents through our Online Secure Document Portal.
2. Full Registration Packets can be printed from District website.
3. A Registration Packet can be mailed to your home for completion.

Please contact Shauncey Lowe, District Control Clerk, by email at register@elmiracityschools.com with questions.

#GoExpress
EXPRESS STRONG

Ernie our Elmira Express Engineer knows that playing outside is the best for a healthy and fun mood-meter reset!

Restorative Practices and Building Relationships for At-Home Learning

As we finish the school year with at-home learning, our resident Restorative Practices experts Mrs. Cook and Mr. Roe have provided some tips to maximize success and help make it a positive experience for all.

- Develop Routines
- Choose a Dedicated Area for Learning at Home
- Minimize Distractions
- Take Brain Breaks
- Provide Bright Lights
- Practice Good Posture
- Provide Appropriate Supports
- Focus on Life Skills

Check out their thorough presentation:

https://sway.office.com/UaJ8PU0YP2ZXRH8q?ref=Link

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Hillary J. Austin
Elmira City School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sara Lattin
President

Ruth Bruning
Scott Moore
Josh Palmer
Ron Shaw
Kevin Sullivan
Deborah White

Randy Reid
Vice-President

Jaden Burchard
Student Representative

Kaylee Hassen
Student Representative
FAMILY, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY: TOGETHER WE SUCCEED