

# BUDGET NEWSLETTER

2020-2021

## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION

June 9, 2020

By absentee ballot

Absentee ballots must be received at the District Office by 5:00 pm June 9, 2020.

Please contact Ms. Tamara Whooten, Board Clerk, at (315) 829-7425 if you have any questions.

Please visit our website for more information on the school budget and board election.



5275 State Route 31,  
Verona, New York 13478



Phone: (315) 829-7425  
Fax: (315) 829-5959



[www.vvsschools.org](http://www.vvsschools.org)



[Facebook.com/VVSDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/VVSDistrict)



[@WeAreVVS](https://twitter.com/WeAreVVS)

## Superintendent's Message

### VVS – A District of Distinction

As I write for this issue of the Budget Newsletter, I'm overwhelmed by the many examples of community we've experienced in the past few months. As we entered this school year, we had no idea the challenges awaiting us this spring. Throughout history, our country, and therefore our community, has faced challenges, some more significant than others. How we respond to these challenges reveals our character and our ability to come together as a community.

We are all familiar with the vision of the district, how the VVS School District aspires to be valued as a district of distinction by our community. There are so many examples of how VVS has achieved this aspiration. This community has distinguished itself in so many ways by the manner in which we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have come together to celebrate important milestones for our children whether they be young children, those beginning adolescence, achieving honors, or graduating from high school to begin their journey into adulthood. We have collaborated to bring food, bring access to remote learning, and provide resources for internet access, mental health, childcare, and a listening ear. We have worked together to stay positive and support each other throughout this challenging time. No one can do this alone, it is a community effort, one in which we all play an important role. Thank you for all you've done personally and in partnership with others to sustain our community.

The mission of the VVS School District is to nurture and support students for success in life, preparing them to embrace challenges, learning opportunities, diversity, and civic responsibility. The academic, social-emotional, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities provided to our children in a safe environment conducive to the task are essential to our mission. We have all worked hard as a community to continue our mission throughout this health crisis, and we will continue to do so regardless of the challenge. We are strong, resilient, caring, innovative, and compassionate. We are VVS! This experience has revealed our character and I could not be more proud to serve as your superintendent. We can all be proud to be members of the VVS School District; a great place to learn, to work, and to live.

With great pride and humility,

Martha K. Group  
Superintendent of Schools  
#VVSPRIDE

# VVS Board of Education President's Message

Dear VVS Community,

I am writing this letter to you, not only as the Board President, but also as a parent of two children in the VVS School District. As we enter into the 12th week of remote learning, I am in awe of how our community, administration, faculty, staff, and students have faced each and every challenge placed in front of them. The response to each challenge has been "Let's do it!" never "We can't!" You truly are the "Best of the Best."

Many "Points of Pride" are outlined on page 7 of this newsletter, but I wanted to highlight a few and say thank you to all who have helped and continue to help make the following possible:

- 45,000+ meals prepared and delivered by school lunch staff, bus drivers, and community volunteers to date and will continue throughout the summer
- 100% of our families are online and able to access remote learning
- 1:1 Chromebooks for all students in grades 2-12
- Chromebooks for K-1 families as requested
- Free wifi devices for families in need
- 147 seniors honored at drive-thru pancake breakfast, cap and gown pick-up, and lawn sign delivery celebrations with more to come.

The Board of Education and VVS administration has been challenged with providing a proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year that will help us to sustain our academic programs and extra-curricular activities including athletics, the arts, and clubs. The Board and administration are mindful of the effect that the pandemic has had on state aid to education, unfunded mandates, the tax levy limit, and most importantly, your burden as taxpayers. This budget represents thoughtful consideration to the needs of our students, particularly as we plan for their return to in-person instruction and the effect of being away from teachers, peers, and support services. Please take the time to review the proposed budget newsletter and the highlights noted below. We have made use of fund balance, savings from retirements, and a salary freeze offered by our superintendent and upper administration to maintain programs for students, to stay under the tax levy limit, and to mitigate the impact on our taxpayers. I am grateful for the support this community has for its school. I encourage you to participate in the June 9th budget vote and board election by absentee ballot.

My daughter, who is a member of the Class of 2020, was recently gifted a sign that said, "You Got This!" It means so much to her as she continues to face her challenges. The VVS School District is a great place to learn, to work, and to live because together...."We Got This!"

Thank you, Melissa Palmer

## Budget Highlights

District Stays Under Tax Levy Limit for 9<sup>th</sup> Straight Year

District's Top Administrators to Take a Voluntary Salary Freeze



### Maintains All Academic & Extra-curricular Programs

This includes advanced course offerings, Special Patrol Officers, and 1:1 Chromebooks



### Administrative Budget Remains Flat

No increase to the percentage of the budget for administrative functions, salaries, and expenses



### No Layoffs

Despite possible cuts to aid looming, we will be able to retain all district employees



### Voluntary Salary Freezes

No increase to salaries for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, and Director of Pupil Services and Personnel Development

# Budget Organization

The budget is organized into three basic parts, which include Administrative, Program, and Capital



The **Administrative Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with district-wide supervision and administration. Examples of these costs include: school and business administration, district clerk, auditing, treasurer, tax collection, purchasing, legal services, personnel services, regular school supervision, etc. A complete listing of administrative functions and their associated costs can be found below.



The **Program Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with the delivery of instruction. Examples of these costs include: teachers' salaries, programs for students with special needs, career and technical education, school library, guidance counseling, health services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic sports, etc. A complete listing of program functions and their associated costs can be found below.



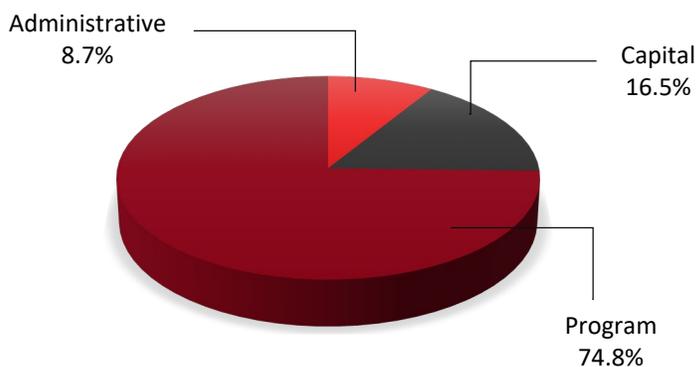
The **Capital Component** of the budget includes all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the physical plant and equipment. Examples of these costs include: maintenance and operations salaries, materials and supplies, bus purchases, debt service for capital projects, etc. A complete listing of capital functions and their associated costs can be found below.

## Budget Summary Tri-Part Budget for VVS Central School 2020-2021

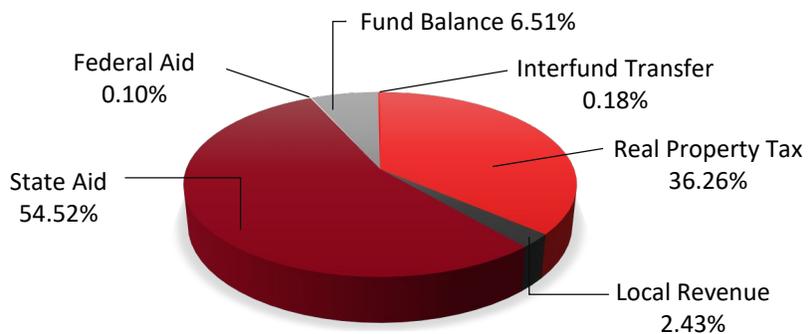
DESCRIPTION	ADMINISTRATIVE	PROGRAM	CAPITAL	TOTAL
Board of Education	\$ 48,696.00			\$ 48,696.00
Central Administration	\$ 230,262.00			\$ 230,262.00
Finance	\$ 397,304.00			\$ 397,304.00
Legal Services	\$ 8,000.00			\$ 8,000.00
Personnel	\$ 87,134.00			\$ 87,134.00
Records Management	\$ 6,863.00			\$ 6,863.00
Public Information	\$ 68,371.00			\$ 68,371.00
Total Central Services	\$ 92,478.00			\$ 92,478.00
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital	\$ 407,101.00			\$ 407,101.00
Curriculum Dev. & Supervision	\$ 270,767.00			\$ 270,767.00
Supervision - Regular School	\$ 1,032,929.00			\$ 1,032,929.00
Research & Planning	\$ 255,084.00			\$ 255,084.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 660,152.00			\$ 660,152.00
Finance			\$ 2,937.00	\$ 2,937.00
Operation of Plant			\$ 1,727,580.00	\$ 1,727,580.00
Maintenance of Plant			\$ 477,823.00	\$ 477,823.00
BOCES Rent, Admin. & Capital			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Transportation			\$ 335,800.00	\$ 335,800.00
Employee Benefits			\$ 892,222.00	\$ 892,222.00
Debt Service			\$ 3,234,491.00	\$ 3,234,491.00
Transfer to Capital Fund			\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Finance		\$ 6,985.00		\$ 6,985.00
Legal Services		\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
Total In-Service Training		\$ 155,025.00		\$ 155,025.00
Regular Instruction		\$ 18,783,107.00		\$ 18,783,107.00
Total Transportation		\$ 1,804,921.00		\$ 1,804,921.00
Employee Benefits		\$ 9,838,825.00		\$ 9,838,825.00
Transfer To Special Aid Fund		\$ 33,500.00		\$ 33,500.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,565,141.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,624,363.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,771,353.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,960,857.00</b>
DOLLAR AMOUNT CHANGE FROM 2019-20	\$ 127,656.00	\$ 838,561.00	\$ 493,448.00	\$ 1,459,665.00
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2019-20	3.7%	2.8%	7.9%	3.7%
<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET</b>				<b>\$ 40,960,857.00</b>

# Proposed Budget for 2020-2021

## Budget Appropriations for 2020-2021



## Estimated Revenues for 2020-2021



SOURCE	\$ AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
REAL PROPERTY TAX	\$ 14,852,590	36.26%
LOCAL REVENUE	\$ 997,043	2.43%
STATE AID	\$ 22,332,657	54.52%
FEDERAL AID	\$ 40,000	0.10%
FUND BALANCE	\$ 2,666,459	6.51%
INTERFUND TRANSFER	\$ 72,108	0.18%
TOTAL	\$ 40,960,857	100.00%

## Average Per-Pupil Expenditures

The most recent data available from the New York State Education Department is for fiscal year 2019-2020, which shows per-pupil expenditures in VVS to be \$8,248 lower than the state average and \$2,886 less than regional districts.

\$20,638

VVS

\$23,524

Regional District Average

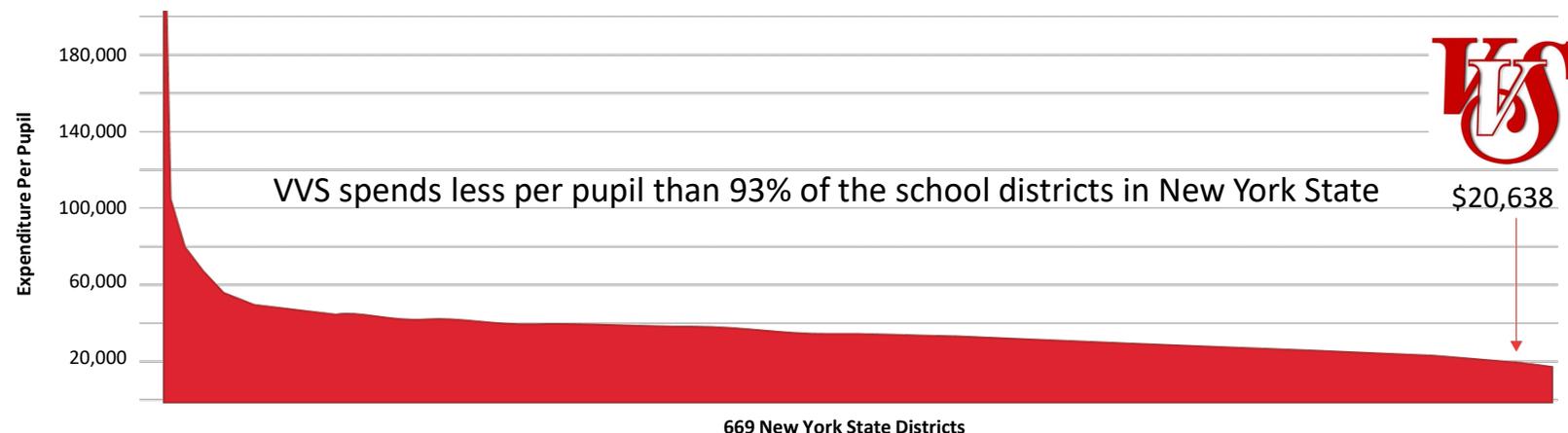
\$28,886

New York State Average

## What is Value?

Value is measure of what you get compared to what you pay for it. Value can be expressed in many ways. One way in which to express value is through a district's per pupil expenditure. Per pupil expenditure is calculated by dividing the total budget by the total student enrollment. It communicates the average cost to provide education and services to students. As demonstrated by the information to the left, VVS' per pupil expenditure is far below the New York State average, and lower than the regional average of 25 surrounding school districts.

Per Pupil Expenditure of School Districts in New York State 2019-2020



# 2020-2021 School District Budget Notice

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2019-2020	PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021
Total Budgeted Amount, not including separate propositions	\$ 39,501,192.00	\$ 40,960,857.00
Increase/Decrease over prior year	\$ 2,290,343.00	\$ 1,459,665.00
% Increase/Decrease in each proposed budget	6.20%	3.70%
Change in Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.44%	1.81%
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$ 14,421,390.00	\$ 14,852,590.00
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)	\$ 14,421,390.00	\$ 14,852,590.00
F. Permissible Exclusions to the school tax levy limit	\$ 727,501.00	\$ 593,042.00
G. School Tax Levy Limit, excluding levy for permissible exclusions	\$ 13,920,538.00	\$ 14,261,113.00
H. Total proposed tax levy for school purposes, excluding permissible exclusions and levy for library debt, plus prior year tax cap reserve (E-B-F+D)	\$ 13,694,502.00	\$ 14,259,548.00
I. Difference: (G-H); A negative value requires 60% voter approval	\$ 226,036.00	\$ 1,565.00
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$ 3,437,485.00	\$ 3,565,141.00
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$ 29,785,802.00	\$ 30,624,363.00
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$ 6,277,905.00	\$ 6,771,353.00

*Statement of Assumptions: The proposed budget includes all contingency and necessary expenses to operate the school district. Should the proposed budget be defeated, the proposed levy amount can be no greater than the prior school year tax levy and all non-contingent expenses must be removed from the proposed budget. Items which are considered non-contingent expenses are student supplies, certain equipment purchases, such as buses, and community use of school buildings and grounds.*

## School Board Proposition: Budget Vote

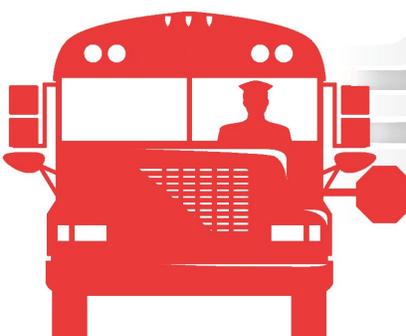
“Shall the Board of Education of the Vernon Verona Sherrill School District, Verona, New York, be authorized to expend the sum set forth in its proposed budget for 2020-2021 in the total amount of \$40,960,857 and to levy the necessary tax?”

## Contingent Budget Information

If a school district’s proposed budget is defeated, the district has the option of putting the same or revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a school district must adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, the tax levy can be no greater than the current school year tax levy. Additionally, a district must remove any equipment and non-contingent expenses from the budget and must charge for community use of the school district facilities. Under a contingent budget, VVS would not be able to purchase the replacement vehicles included in the proposed budget.

## School Vehicle Purchase Information Included in Budget

The school district is committed to a long-term vehicle replacement cycle, which allows for continual maintenance of a current fleet of school vehicles. The 2020-2021 purchase plan proposes the purchase of two 65-passenger gasoline-powered vehicles, and one 59-passenger wheelchair-accessible bus. The total estimated cost for the three replacement buses is illustrated below. Based on the current transportation aid rate, New York State will reimburse the District an estimated 90% for the cost of these vehicles, leaving a local share of \$23,080 after trade-ins. Any increase to the tax rate will be offset significantly by lowered maintenance costs.



Two (2) 65-Passenger Gasoline Buses, 2 @ \$109,546	\$219,092
One (1) 59-Passenger Wheelchair Bus, 1 @ \$116,708	\$116,708
Less Transportation Aid @ an estimated 90%	(\$302,220)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,580</b>
Less Trade-ins	(\$10,500)
<b>Net District Cost After Aid</b>	<b>\$23,080</b>

### PROPOSED TRADE-INS

**Bus # 173**  
Year: 2009  
Mileage: 184,125

**Bus # 174**  
Year: 2010  
Mileage: 165,471

**Bus # 175**  
Year: 2010  
Mileage: 172,602



# VVS Budget: By the Numbers

**\$40,960,857**  
Proposed 2020-2021 VVS  
School District Budget

**1.80%**  
Average annual tax levy  
impact over the previous 9  
years (includes a 1.4% levy  
decrease in 2014-2015)

**2.99%**  
Proposed 2020-2021 Tax  
Impact - less than the state  
allowable levy limit

**3.00%**  
2020-2021 New York  
State Allowable Levy  
Limit

**3**  
There are three Board of Education  
vacancies, and two incumbent  
candidates have filed petitions to  
run. See pages 8-10 for more  
information on all candidates.

**1,886**  
VVS student enrollment for  
the 2019-2020 school year



# Vernon Verona Sherrill

# POINTS of PRIDE

**147**

Seniors honored at our pancake breakfast, cap and gown pickup celebration, and lawn sign delivery



**Lowest 7%**

Per-Pupil Expenditure in New York State (out of 669 school districts)



**93%**

Graduation rate after four years (New York State average is 83%)



**8.70%**

The percentage of the proposed 2020-2021 budget for administrative functions; no increase over current year

**1,000+**

College credits earned by high school students in Advanced Placement and dual-credit courses



**100+**

Local businesses and organizations we've partnered with to bring opportunities to students and families



**45,000+**

Meals our school lunch staff and transportation department have prepared and delivered to VVS homes during the school closure



**4<sup>th</sup> Lowest**

Per-Pupil Expenditure among 25 regional school districts

**100% of VVS Families Online**

and able to join us for remote learning

- 1:1 Chromebooks for all students grades 2-12
- Chromebooks for K-1 families as requested
- Free wifi devices and broadband data for any family in need



**3**

Number of years VVS has been recognized as a "Best Community for Music Education"



**3**

Sharing Stations installed to provide books, non-perishable food, and basic care items to community members in need



**Level 4**

NYS Indicator of VVS students' college, career, and civic readiness on a scale of 1 to 4 (4 being highest)



# VVS Board of Education Election

## Five Candidates - Three Vacancies



### Matthew Cole

Hello, my name is Matthew Cole. I grew up in Rotterdam, NY just outside of Schenectady. I graduated from Mohonasen High School before attending Utica College, where I earned a bachelor's degree in both history and education.

Following graduation, I worked for the Utica City School District and New York Mills Union Free School District as a substitute teacher before beginning a career in juvenile justice. I began working for the House of the Good Shepherd as a case manager for youth and families of Oneida County who struggled with truancy and incorrigibility or who had already been adjudicated PINS. Here I developed skills to network with all the resources available to youth and families in our communities, including our school districts. Here I got to know many of the costs and benefits of school programing in many different districts across the county.

Following my time with The House of the Good Shepherd, I began working for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services at the Taberg Residential Center for Girls. Here I have acted as an administrator and maintained the day to day operations of the facility. For the last three years, I have been working hand in hand with our education coordinator as the school administrator. We have worked together on all aspects of curriculum, scheduling, staffing, and management of a state accredited education program. I have learned a great deal in this short time working with state regulatory bodies and managing the challenges that any school system would encounter.

At this time, I have four children in the school district and will add a fifth in the fall. My wife is also the school secretary at J.D. George Elementary. Service to the school district and the towns that it encompasses has been a family affair. My wife and I have been involved in many of the local youth sports associations and have had children or a spouse in every VVS School District school. We have learned a great deal about the schools and their workings throughout this time.

I believe my knowledge, experience, and work ethic would make me an ideal candidate for the school board, and that, if elected, I would put my skills to work for the benefit of our children and community.

### Valerie Marris



My name is Valerie Marris and I am a candidate for the VVS Board of Education. I have resided in the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill City School District my entire life. I spent my early childhood in Sherrill, lived briefly in Verona and now reside in the Village of Vernon. My husband and I have been married for 23 years and are the proud parents of two wonderful children. My daughter, Katerie, is attending graduate school at LeMoyne College. My son, Kadin, is a sophomore at VVS. I am currently employed at the Holland Patent Central School District as the secretary to the Superintendent and School Board Clerk. Previously, I was the proud secretary at W.A. Wetzel Elementary for over 4 years. While working in Vernon, I also volunteered as the PTSO secretary. I am involved in the VVS Drama Department and volunteer as the ticket manager for all productions. All of the ways I am and have been connected to the VVS District (former student, former employee, parent of former as well as a current student), as well as my current position, provide a unique skill set and perspective to offer the members of our special community. Having older children allows me the flexibility to devote the time I feel is necessary to be a productive Board of Education member. I look forward to being part of a process which will allow our school District to excel both currently and into the future. Areas I am passionate about include fiscal responsibility and maintaining programs currently offered to our students. If elected, I pledge to listen to members of our community and represent their interests, not my own. I would be honored if you showed your support by voting for me via absentee ballot on June 9, 2020.



## Thomas Moats

I am honored that the VVS community has allowed me to be a member of the VVS Board of Education for the last fifteen years. I am the current Vice-President and have previously served as the President of the board. But I really want to talk about how proud I am of the VVS School District, truly a District of Distinction. During my time on the Board, this district has been recognized with numerous state and national awards. The national magazine Newsweek identified our high school as one of the best schools in the country, giving it a top 10% award. The VVS Music Program has been selected as one of the top 5% of music programs in the nation. Our Future Farmers of America program has been selected several times as the top program in the state and recently, the top program in the nation.

While these awards belong to the entire community, they represent countless hours of effort and dedication by so many staff members of the district. But I seldom hear VVS staff members talk about

awards. Instead, they are focused on doing everything possible to make sure that every student at VVS has everything they need to be successful in life. As a board member and resident in the community, I have heard many stories of staff members “swinging for the stars” to make certain that all children know they are valued and then supporting and holding those students to high standards. I know that staff members show up every day, roll up their sleeves and get to work because they care and love the students.

As we all know, the district is currently operating in an extremely challenging environment that requires superhuman effort and dedication from both parents and staff. No one could have predicted the events of 2020, but I see the district rising to the occasion. I see teachers and administrators creatively developing solutions to problems that did not exist weeks ago. I see staff members figuring out how to meet student needs while connecting to them at a distance. I see a community that understands the importance of supporting and educating students.

I appreciate the support this community has always lent to its children. This budget represents value to the district. There have been reductions, however these reductions occurred through attrition and foregone salary increases, rather than layoffs. This budget includes the tools the district requires to continue to support the physical, emotional, and cognitive needs of our children. Finally, I would like to ask for your support and vote for me, Thomas Moats, to continue to work with the district and meet the challenges of tomorrow.

## Samantha Netzband

Dear VVS Community,

My name is Samantha Netzband and I am a resident of the City of Sherrill running for the VVS Board of Education. I have been a lifelong resident of the district (with the exception of college), and I am passionate about education. Without the VVS education I received I would not be as successful as I am today.

I grew up in Verona and was very involved in extra-curriculars during my time at VVS. I served as Class President in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, I was Student Council President, and I even served as a Student Representative to the Board of Education. I also participated in other activities including Drama Club, Indoor/Outdoor Track, Tennis, and Mathletics. I took advantage of dual credit courses offered by VVS. These courses allowed me to receive both high school credit and college credit.

The above experiences earned me admission to Syracuse University where I was able to graduate with my Bachelors in Political Science in two years. I was able to graduate early largely because of the college credits I was able to earn in high school. After earning my bachelors I went onto Syracuse University College of Law where I earned my Juris Doctor. I was also able to simultaneously earn a Masters of Arts in Political Science from the Syracuse University Maxwell School. After law school I successfully passed the New York State Bar Exam and I am currently admitted to practice law in New York. I started my career in government contracts administration in November 2018 at Lockheed Martin. In October 2019, I transitioned to my current job at BAE Systems where I am a Principal Contracts Administrator.

The reason why I share all this is because I understand that my VVS education is the foundation of my success. Not every school has the extra-curriculars VVS does, and not every school has the academic offerings VVS does.



Continued on page 10 →

# Board of Education Candidates

## Samantha Netzband (continued)

I am running for the VVS Board of Education because I want to give back to the community and VVS students. I am a team player, with a variety of experiences that would be valuable to the VVS Board of Education. As a lawyer I have a broad background in not only law, but policy administration. I have substantial knowledge on tax policy and understand the impact the school budget has on the community. I have additional experience writing grants and evaluating terms and conditions of government contracts which will also be valuable to the VVS Board of Education. Lastly, I believe that at 25 I bring a different perspective to the VVS Board of Education. I graduated from VVS only 7 years ago in 2013 and believe that my perspective as a young homeowner will be valuable. After all, one of the main reasons for buying my home in Sherrill is that one day I want my children to attend VVS schools. I believe the VVS Board of Education needs members with a variety of experiences and perspectives. I hope that when you vote by mail you will vote Samantha Netzband for VVS Board of Education. Thank you for taking the time to read this message, I hope I have your support.

## Ann Pangburn



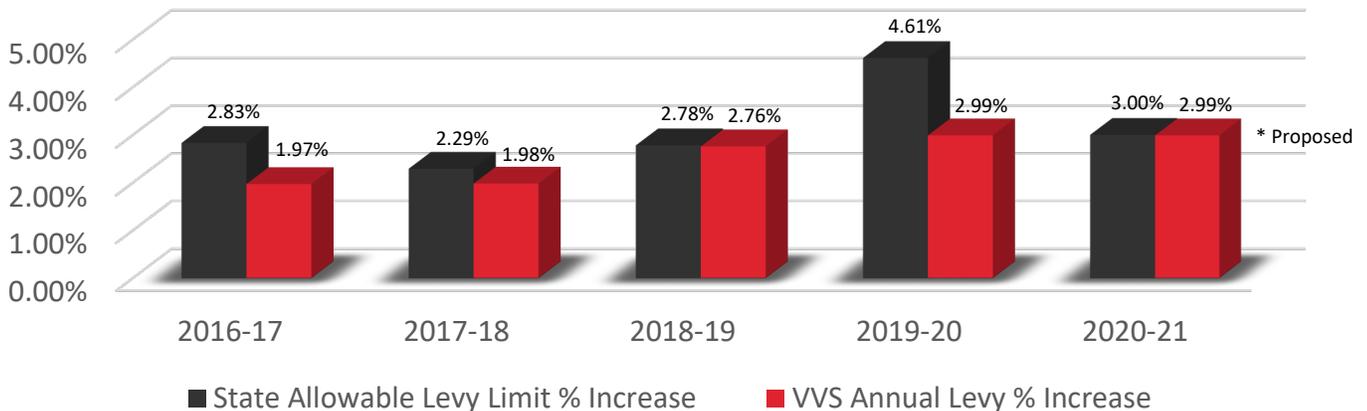
I have been a member of the VVS School Board for the last five years. These five years have been filled with excellent training and experiences in the governance of the district, the budget process, and in how each group does its part. I have seen first-hand the complexities of balancing State Education Department regulations, financial constraints, innovations, changes in technology, the needs of parents and students and now, very new to all of us, a global pandemic. It is not an easy job but one that is worth investing in and I pledge myself to continue maintaining the fiscal health of the district, preserving programs for students and families and being a listening ear to your needs, concerns, and ideas.

For those of you who don't know me personally, I live in Verona with my husband, Bob. Our three children graduated from VVS. I am retired from Madison-Oneida BOCES where I worked as an Early Childhood Coordinator and a Literacy Coordinator. Not long after retiring, I went back to work for BOCES as the Coordinator for the Mentor Teacher Intern Program which trains and supports new teachers. I guess I can't seem to get away from education.

To me nothing is more exciting than seeing students become all they can be and seeing teachers change lives. Although no longer in the classroom, as a Board member, I get to observe this process up front and take a vital part in supporting it.

Our mission in VVS is to help students be successful and meet challenges, to provide the most state-of-the-art learning opportunities we can, and to raise students up to be good people who care about others and take their civic responsibilities seriously. I believe in this and hope to continue serving the VVS students, teachers, families, and community as a VVS Board Member.

## Allowable Levy Limit vs. VVS Adopted Levy



# Capital Outlay Project

## Auditorium Repairs & Reconstruction

Included in the 2020-2021 proposed budget is an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of a capital outlay project to repair and reconstruct the Auditorium at VVS High School.

<b>Repair &amp; Reconstruction Cost</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>State Aid at 86.3%</b>	<b>\$86,300</b>
<b>Net Local Cost After Aid</b>	<b>\$13,700</b>

## Star Program

There are two types of STAR benefits:

### Basic STAR

- Available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the resident owners' and their spouses' income is less than \$500,000
- Based on the first \$30,000 of the full value of the home

### Enhanced STAR

- Provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes (\$86,000 or less for the 2020-2021 school year)
- Based on the first \$66,800 of the full value of the home (for the 2020-2021 school year)

The STAR benefit applies only to school district taxes.

### \* Maximum 2020-2021 STAR Savings

The Department of Taxation and Finance has released maximum STAR savings amounts for each taxing jurisdiction within the school district. Please see those amounts in the chart to the right. Based on State law, the STAR exemption is capped at 2% of the prior year's maximum savings.

MAXIMUM 2020-2021 STAR SAVINGS FOR JURISDICTIONS WITHIN THE VVS SCHOOL DISTRICT		
TAXING JURISDICTION	BASIC STAR	ENHANCED STAR
CITY OF ONEIDA	\$625	\$1,304
CITY OF ROME	\$625	\$1,311
TOWN OF KIRKLAND	\$625	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERNON	\$625	\$1,304
TOWN OF VERONA	\$625	\$1,304
TOWN OF VIENNA	\$625	\$1,304
TOWN OF WESTMORELAND	\$625	\$1,304
ESTIMATED BASIC STAR EXEMPTION SAVINGS	PROJECTED STAR SAVINGS 2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET	
	* \$625.00	

Source: Department of Taxation and Finance, <https://www.tax.ny.gov>

## Assessors



**KIRKLAND**  
**Nina Wallace**  
 PO Box 235  
 Clinton, NY 13323



**ONEIDA COUNTY**  
**Department of Finance**  
 800 Park Avenue  
 Utica, NY 13501



**VERNON & SHERRILL**  
**Frank Laguzza**  
 PO Box 643  
 Vernon, NY 13476



**MADISON COUNTY**  
**Rebecca Marsala,**  
 Real Property Tax Services  
 PO Box 665, Wampsville, NY 13163



**ROME**  
**Joe Surace, Jr.,** Rome City Hall  
 198 N. Washington St.  
 Rome, NY 13440



**VIENNA**  
**Holly Osterhault**  
 PO Box 250,  
 North Bay, NY 13123



**ONEIDA**  
**Holly Osterhault,** City of Oneida  
 109 N. Main St.  
 Oneida, NY 13421



**VERONA**  
**Susan Strain,** Town Office Bldg.  
 6600 Germany Rd.  
 Durhamville, NY 13054



**WESTMORELAND**  
**Bernie Szarek**  
 PO Box 310  
 Westmoreland, NY 13490

## FYI

We want to include all of our families and friends on our mailing list. If you know of someone who has not received this newsletter, or has never been included in our mailing, please call:

Lynda DuChene  
(315) 829-7412



## Vernon Verona Sherrill Central School

City School District of the City of Sherrill

5275 State Route 31, PO Box 128

Verona, NY 13478

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Melissa Palmer

*President*

Thomas Moats

*Vice President*

Steve Adamkowski

Christopher Brewer

David Grover

Ann Pangburn

Nancy Pitman

Catherine Suttmeier

Paul Thompson

## Budget Questions and Answers

### **Q: WHO CAN VOTE ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET?**

**A:** Qualifications of voters for the annual budget vote are as follows. A person may vote who is:

1. A citizen of the United States,
2. Eighteen years of age or older, and
3. A resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the election.

### **Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS VOTED DOWN?**

**A:** In the event that the voters reject a proposed budget, the Board of Education is empowered to levy a tax sufficient to defray the cost of those items specifically authorized by statute and the cost of those items determined by the Board of Education to constitute "ordinary contingent expenses."

The Board of Education must make provisions for (1) salaries; (2) legal expenses; (3) expenditures specifically authorized by statute; and (4) other items necessary to maintain the educational program, preserve prosperity, and assure the health and safety of students and staff. The reason for these provisions is found in the State Constitution, which requires, as interpreted by the courts, that the schools of the State must be kept in operation at all times so that the youth of the State may have access to uninterrupted education. If a school district's proposed budget is defeated, the district has the option of putting the same or revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a school district must adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, the tax levy can be no greater than the current school year tax levy. Additionally, a district must remove any equipment and non-contingent expenses from the budget and must charge for community use of the school district facilities.

### **Q: ARE THERE ANY SCHOOL TAX CREDITS OR EXEMPTIONS?**

**A:** Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption - The VVS Board of Education authorized a partial tax exemption for property owners in the District who have reached the age of sixty-five (65) years (on property owned by a husband and wife, one must be at least sixty-five (65) years of age) and whose net income does not exceed the sum established by Board Policy 4019 - Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption.

Net Income	Exemption
\$18,500 and Under	50%
\$18,501 - \$19,499	45%
\$19,500 - \$20,499	40%
\$20,500 - \$21,499	35%
\$21,500 - \$22,399	30%
\$22,400 - \$23,299	25%
\$23,300 - \$24,199	20%
\$24,200 - \$25,099	15%
\$25,100 - \$25,999	10%
\$26,000 - \$26,899	5%

To access this exemption, senior citizens must contact their local tax assessor for information and an application form.

# DON'T FORGET TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT!

## June 9, 2020

Absentee ballots must be received at the District Office no later than 5:00 pm on June 9, 2020.

Questions should be directed to:

**Mrs. Martha Group**  
Superintendent of Schools

or

**Mr. Mark Wixson**  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance and Operations

**at (315) 829-7487**

VVS - It's a great place to learn, to work, and to live!