



The SPARTANA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 3 • SPRING/BUDGET 2020

STARPOINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Board Election and Budget Vote

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020
by Absentee Ballot**

**Ballots due by 5:00 p.m.
on the day of the vote.**



2020 School Budget Vote to be Held Entirely by Absentee Ballot

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.26 that the 2020 School Budget Vote & Board of Education Member Election will be held entirely by absentee ballot. All eligible district residents will receive an absentee ballot with instructions and a postage paid return envelope in which to cast their ballot to vote.

For specific instructions and details on voting by absentee ballot, please refer to the article "Submitting Your Absentee Ballot" on page 4 of this Spartana newsletter or visit our website for information.

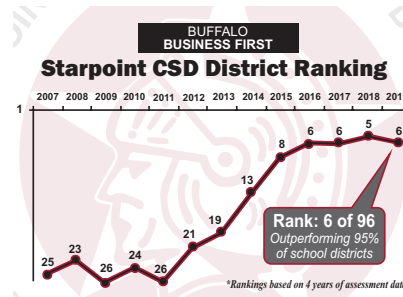
Message from the Superintendent

Dear Residents:

In a year of uncertainty and unpredictability for Starpoint, Western New York, and the United States, one thing remains constant: the Starpoint Board of Education continues to place a very high value on quality educational programs while keeping a constant eye on its fiscal responsibility. We continue to make tremendous strides in improving student achievement while becoming more fiscally efficient each school year. For example, Starpoint is ranked #6 of 96 school districts in Western New York in both student achievement and cost effectiveness.



Sean M. Croft, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



In addition, for the first time in over a decade, Starpoint, as well as every school district in NYS, received a 0% increase in State aid. This has forced us to become even more cost effective and do more with less. But rest assured, the safety of your children and the integrity of our educational program will not be compromised.

All of our energy and resources are focused on providing the safest environment for your children once they are allowed to return to school in-person.

Our Re-Opening Task Force comprised of staff, Board of Education members, and parents is diligently working on plans to address issues such as:

- daily sanitizing of classrooms and buses
- social distancing while in school
- addressing the social emotional wellness of our students and staff as they return to school
- adjusting instruction to avoid large gatherings of students

Our 2020-21 budget is projecting an average tax rate increase of 1.37%. See the chart below for what the changes will be in certain tax bills:

Home Assessment	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000
Average Annual Tax Increase for 2020-21	\$22.81	\$32.31	\$41.81	\$51.31

In addition, the proposed 2020-21 school budget is **UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX CAP LIMIT** of 2.97%:

Total Budget 2020-21	BUDGET-to-BUDGET % ↑	Tax Levy % ↑	PROPERTY TAX CAP	Tax Rate % ↑↓
\$55,100,792	↓ 3.84%	↑ 2.97%	2.97%	↑ 0.81%

Budget: The District's budget decrease of 3.84% is due to the District fully paying off a large bond issue during the 2019-20 school year.

Tax Levy: The total amount of taxes to be collected from all district taxpayers.

Property Tax Cap: The allowable amount of taxes to be collected from all district taxpayers.

Tax Rate: The amount of taxes each taxpayer is projected to pay per \$1,000 of assessed value of their home.

Budget Hearing Date: June 1, 2020 – For directions to attend the meeting via live stream and ask questions, please visit our website at starpointcsd.org.

This year's budget vote will be unlike any previous vote, as it will be **held entirely by absentee ballot**. Please become an informed voter. Detailed information about the budget is available in this publication or on Starpoint's website at www.starpointcsd.org or upon request by calling the Superintendent's Office at 716.210.2352. Your vote is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT as we strive to work together to meet the safety and educational needs of our children.

Sincerely,  Dr. Sean M. Croft, Superintendent of Schools, #OneStarpoint



EXPENDITURES	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	% of Budget
P1. Training for Instructional Staff on New Standards	\$188,605	\$177,150	
P2. Regular and Occupational Instruction	16,108,093	16,574,435	
P3. Instruction for Pupils with Disabilities	6,231,263	6,290,680	
P4. GED and Community Education Programs	156,029	153,632	
P5. Libraries, Computer- Assisted Instruction	1,178,508	1,205,094	
P6. Guidance, Psychologists, Social Workers	1,487,613	1,520,205	
P7. Health Services	710,133	777,164	
P8. Co-Curricular Activities	263,245	267,920	
P9. Interscholastic Sports	678,319	678,669	
P10. Transportation Services	4,426,197	4,671,838	
P11. Research, Planning & Evaluation	8,000	8,000	
P12. Legal Services - Negotiations & Labor Relations	100,820	101,400	
P13. Central Services: Printing, Mailing, and Data Processing	269,087	274,329	
P14. Employees' & Teachers' Retirement, Unemployment and Health Benefits, Social Security, Workers' Compensation	9,162,744	9,773,652	
P15. Transfer to Other Funds - Summer School for Pupils w/ Disabilities, School Lunch Fund	79,000	85,000	
PROGRAM COMPONENT	\$41,047,656	\$42,559,168	77.24%
C1. Operation of Buildings	\$2,842,147	\$2,879,252	
C2. Maintenance of Grounds and Buildings	680,601	748,011	
C3. Assessments - Town of Pendleton Water & Sewer	44,500	44,500	
C4. BOCES: Administrative Charges for Capital	22,666	22,953	
C5. Employees' Retirement, Unemployment and Health Benefits, Social Security, Workers' Compensation	960,499	1,031,302	
C6. Principal Payments on Bonds	6,624,648	2,637,672	
C7. Interest Payments on Bonds/RAN	15,000	15,000	
C8. Transfer to Other Funds - Capital	100,000	0	
CAPITAL COMPONENT	\$11,290,061	\$7,378,690	13.39%

EXPENDITURES	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	% of Budget
A1. Board of Education, District Clerk, District Meeting	\$35,800	\$45,200	
A2. Superintendent's Office	248,368	254,324	
A3. Business Office	402,247	404,457	
A4. Legal Services, Personnel, Public Information	124,518	185,231	
A5. Central Services: Printing, Mailing, and Data Processing	32,500	32,500	
A6. BOCES: Student/Financial Services and Administrative Charges	829,134	882,489	
A7. Insurance	222,325	237,888	
A8. Curriculum Development, Principals Offices/Operations	1,893,381	1,871,368	
A9. Employees' & Teachers' Retirement, Unemployment and Health Benefits, Social Security, Workers Compensation	1,178,054	1,249,477	
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	\$4,966,327	\$5,162,934	9.37%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$57,304,044	\$55,100,792	

REVENUES	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	% of Budget
R1. Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,550,000	\$2,790,764	5.06%
R2. State/Federal/BOCES Aid	23,911,749	20,423,745	37.07%
R3. Payments in Lieu of Taxes	407,498	557,623	1.01%
R4. Other Revenues	387,500	387,500	0.70%
R5. Real Property Tax	30,047,297	30,941,160	56.15%
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	\$57,304,044	\$55,100,792	

School Budget and Board Member Election Tuesday, June 9, 2020 by Absentee Ballot

PROPOSED BUDGET COSTS					
Based on \$150,000 Assessed Value Home	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Contingent Budget	Current vs. Proposed	Current vs. Contingent
Estimated Tax Rate (Varies by Township) per \$1,000 of assessed value	\$18.37	\$17.98	\$17.46	(\$0.39)	(\$0.91)
Without STAR	\$2,756	\$2,697	\$2,619	(\$59)	(\$137)
Basic STAR (\$30,000 Assessed Value Exemption)	\$2,204	\$2,158	\$2,095	(\$46)	(\$109)
Enhanced STAR (\$50,000 Assessed Value Exemption)	\$1,837	\$1,798	\$1,746	(\$39)	(\$91)
Enhanced STAR with limited income (Calculated with 25% savings)	\$1,378	\$1,349	\$1,310	(\$29)	(\$68)



Board of Education Candidates

Vote for Up to Four

School Board Member Qualifications:

- Must be able to read and write.
- Must be a qualified voter of the district.
- Must be a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election.
- Cannot have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year.
- Cannot reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family.
- Cannot be a current employee of the school board.
- Cannot simultaneously hold another incompatible public office



Danielle M. Alex, Incumbent

Address: 4932 Devonshire Lane, Lockport, NY 14094

Family: Christopher – husband; Joseph, Abbey, Lexis, Hannah, Gabriella – children

Education: Starpoint Graduate Class of 1995: NCCC and University of Buffalo

Occupation: Medicare Insurance Agent - United Healthcare



Jeffrey D. Duncan, Incumbent

Address: 6650 Sheetram, Lockport, NY 14094

Family: Jacqueline – wife; Joslynn & Jordan – children

Education: Pioneer CSD – 1991 Graduate; Ohio Auto Diesel Tech – 1992 Graduate

Occupation: Client Services Manager – Siemens



Shawn P. Riester, Incumbent

Address: 5454 Irish Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14210

Family: Kimberly – wife; 2nd grader, two preschool age – children

Education: Doctorate in Physical Therapy – SUNY Buffalo

Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership – UB School of Management – 2018 Graduate

Occupation: President of Riester Physical Therapy Services since 2010

2011-2017 – Professor in the DPT Program – SUNY Buffalo

Attending Member of the Starpoint Community Health and Wellness Committee – since 2017



Kelley A. Swann, Incumbent

Address: 4978 Junction Road, Lockport, NY 14094

Family: Jim – husband; Jamie, Hannah, Mikayla, Grace – children

Education: BA in Psychology from SUNY Cortland; MA in Social Policy from Empire State College

Occupation: Chief Operating Officer – Pinnacle Community Services

Proposition 1

Shall the general fund budget totaling \$55,100,792 as adopted by the Board of Education for the school year 2020-2021, be approved and the required funds be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, to be levied and collected as required by law?

Vote for Four (4) Board Member Election

Per Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 202.26, candidates will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order. Elections will be for four members of the Board of Education. Three seats for 3-year terms and one seat for a 2-year term. The three highest vote getters will each receive 3-year terms; the candidate that receives the least votes will get the two-year term.

Budget Public Hearing Date

Monday, June 1, 2020 – 6:00 pm via a livestream. Starpoint residents who wish to view the meeting and ask questions should visit the school website at starpointcsd.org to click on a link which will allow you to watch and ask questions regarding the budget vote in real time.





STARPOINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

4363 MAPLETON ROAD
LOCKPORT, NY 14094

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 2

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael Zimmerman

President

Danielle Alex

Vice President

Gregory Brehm

Jeffrey Duncan

Nicholas Kwasniak

Anthony Perez

Shawn Riester

Kelley Swann

Dennis Toth

Sean M. Croft, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools

www.starpointcsd.org



Why Vote?

Because you can.

Because you set an example.

Because you show respect for what educators do.

Because your response is needed.

Because your community and its children depend on you.

From 4/28/08 On Board published by the New York State Schools Boards Association.

School Budget and Board Member Election Tuesday, June 9, 2020 by Absentee Ballot Only



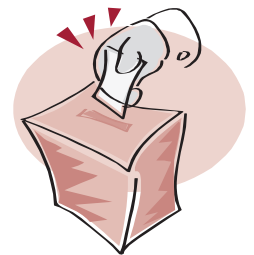
Submitting Your Absentee Ballot

As part of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.26 issued on May 1, 2020, voting for school district budgets and election of school board members will be done entirely by absentee ballot. An Absentee Ballot packet containing a postage paid return envelope, an official ballot envelope, and a ballot with instructions on one side and the ballot on the other will be mailed to each registered voter in the District.

If you have voted in either of the last two major presidential elections, your name will be listed in the Niagara County Board of Elections (NCBOE) voter registration poll book. You are considered a registered voter and you will automatically receive an absentee ballot packet which includes a postage paid return envelope addressed to Starpoint CSD, an official ballot envelope and the ballot itself. Fill out your selections on the ballot, place the ballot inside the absentee voter envelope and then place both inside the postage paid envelope addressed to the Starpoint CSD District.

You can check to see if you are registered by visiting our website and checking the voter registration poll book. If your name is not listed on the NCBOE registered voter list, you may obtain an absentee voting packet if you meet the following criteria on the day of the vote:

- a. 18 years of age or older.
- b. A United States citizen.
- c. A district resident for 30 days immediately preceding the vote.
Owning property in the district does not qualify an individual to vote.
- d. Has been returned to full rights of citizenship if previously convicted of a felony.



If you meet all of the above criteria and have not received an absentee ballot packet by June 1, 2020, please contact the District Clerk, Dorothy Szpaicher at dszpaicher@starpointcsd.org or by calling 716-210-2352 to have a ballot mailed to you.

Ballots will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.