

# PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

MAY 2020

## PROPOSED COVID-19 BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION SLATED FOR JUNE 9, 2020 BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY

**Tuesday, June 9th  
Absentee Ballot Only  
Received at District  
NLT 5:00 p.m.**



Peru Central School District's Board of Education has established a **\$48,880,908 proposed expenditure plan** for voter consideration **by absentee ballot only**.

**Ballots must be received by the District not later than June 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

The proposed budget calls for **an increase in overall spending of less than 1% (0.7%)**. This

modest increase reflects the extremely challenging period everyone is experiencing and a drop in forecasted revenues from the State.

Despite the modest increase in the budget, the **tax levy is forecasted to increase 2.09%** which doesn't exceed the tax levy limit. Details regarding the budget proposal are featured within this Community Report.

### VIRTUAL BUDGET HEARING

**Monday, June 1, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

See [www.perucsd.org](http://www.perucsd.org) for information.

### WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

**Absentee Ballot Only**

**Mailed or Delivered to a Drop Box by the H.S. Entrance.**

*Receive by June 9, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.*

### WHAT AM I VOTING ON

2020-21 Budget

Bus Proposition No. 2

Board of Education Election

For more information on the 2020-21 Budget



Visit our district website  
<http://www.perucsd.org>



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## PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education and the community of Peru Central School District faced a significant challenge in crafting the Proposed 2020-21 Annual Budget. The uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the school district's ability to plan for the future made preparing a budget extremely difficult. The proposed budget attempts to make some initial reductions based on current state aid projections. However, additional reductions may be required if state aid is further reduced by the State.

The following are a list of initial reductions as reflected within the Proposed 2020-21 Budget:

1. Eliminating a Nurse Position (through attrition)
2. Eliminating a Library Aide/Typist Position (through attrition)
3. Eliminating the School Resource Officer Position
4. Eliminating a Special Education Teaching Position

**Significant additional reductions will be necessary if the State reduces revenues from the projected amounts.**

## ESTIMATED SCHOOL TAX RATES

Based on estimated assessed values and different equalization rates between towns within Peru Central School District, **estimated tax rates will be different between towns.**

This means, for example, that although many **Town of Peru residents** saw an increase in the assessed value of their property, they **will realize a decrease in their tax rate from \$20.28 this year to an estimated tax rate of \$18.69 for next year (7.8%**

Town	2019-20 Tax Rate	Est. 2020-21 Tax Rate	Est. State Equalization per \$1,000 Rate	Amount Chg.	% Chg.
Ausable	\$20.28	\$19.68	95%	-\$0.60	-2.96%
Black Brook	\$20.28	\$18.69	100%	-\$1.59	-7.84%
Peru	\$20.28	\$18.69	100%	-\$1.59	-7.84%
Plattsburgh	\$20.28	\$20.77	90%	\$0.49	2.42%
Saranac	\$20.28	\$18.69	100%	-\$1.59	-7.84%
Schuyler Falls	\$20.28	\$19.68	95%	-\$0.60	-2.96%

**decrease**). However, the Town of Plattsburgh will see an estimated tax rate increase of 2.4%. The equalization rate attempts to level the value of each municipality so that school taxes can be fairly distributed.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*From the Desk of Dr. Thomas Palmer*

The Peru Central School District is always committed to providing a quality education to our students and one that can be supported by our community. This is a very unique year as we as a society struggle with the aftermath of COVID -19 from an economic and emotional lens.

The allowable tax levy limit increase for the 2020-2021 school year is 2.09%, or \$371,050, from the 2019-2020 school year. This is the amount the Board has determined as an increase for this school year's proposed tax levy. This increase falls within the allowable tax levy limit formula which was implemented in 2012. If the Board had proposed a budget exceeding this levy limit, a super majority (60% or above) percentage of voters would have to approve it. There is no increase in Foundation Aid at this time. We have remained at the 2019-2020 Foundation Aid revenue level of \$18,252,045. Currently, we do not know what our final revenue numbers are from state aid as we are waiting on those numbers from Governor Cuomo.

The Board is acting responsibly during this very difficult budget season of uncertainty. The budget is being based on the values the Board was given by the State. However, the Board of Education is prepared to make additional reductions if the State reduces state aid in the future. There are currently a few reductions for the proposed 2020-2021 budget. The

cuts total \$256,868 and were made in an already conservative budget in an effort to balance expenditures and revenues. These reductions include: a special education teaching position as per the current needs of our student programs; a nurse-teacher position through retirement (the District will still maintain one nurse in each of the four buildings to serve our children); a library aide/typist position through retirement and the School Resource Officer Program.

There were many very difficult decisions made while crafting the proposed 2020-21 budget. Reductions were selected based on having the least amount of impact on direct instruction within the classroom. Those who watched the budget workshops learned of "other" cuts that were discussed, but not removed from the budget. Those proposed reductions will be made if state aid is reduced from the amount projected on or about April 1, 2020. We continue to monitor our expenditures, examine ways we can share services and change the way we do business to be responsive to the changing times in society. This is a year of enormous uncertainty, but we remain committed to finding the right balance between educating our community's children, sustaining a future for the District and balancing the fiduciary responsibility to our taxpayers.

Voting will take place in a different manner this year – **everyone will be**

*"The Peru Central School District is committed to providing a quality education to our students and one that can be supported by our community."*

*Dr. Thomas Palmer - Peru CSD Superintendent*

**voting by absentee ballot. Ballots will be going out late next week and must be received by the District by 5:00 p.m. on June 9th for your vote to count. If you are a qualified voter of the District and do not receive a ballot, please call (518) 643-6002.**

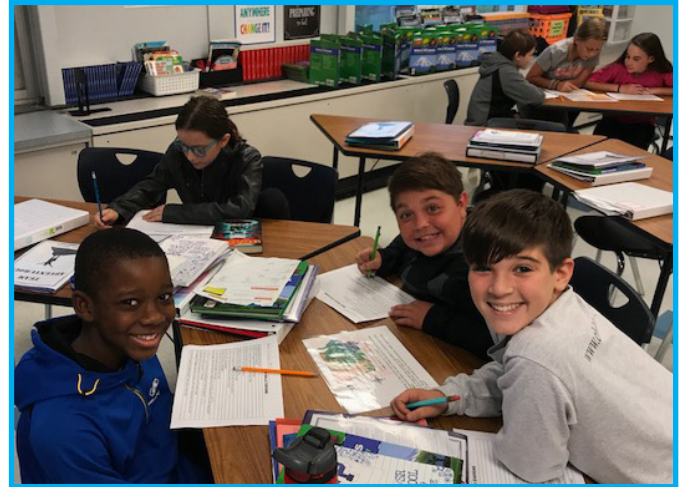
Upon completion of your ballot, you can send it back to the District via mail or deliver it to a drop box located by the Peru High School entrance. In addition to the budget vote, there is a bus proposition and an opportunity to elect two (2) individuals to the Board of Education. The two (2) individuals that receive the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve a full five-year term from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2025. One of our board members, Cindy Mills, has served on the Board for 15 years. I would like to thank her for her years of service on the Board and wish her the best in her future endeavors, wherever they may lead her. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Palmer

## PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT

The property tax cap limit is an annual calculation unique to each school district which accounts for new development within the District and incorporates some exclusions. **The Board of Education has elected an estimated levy increase of 2.09% - this is at Peru's 2020-21 Tax Levy Limit.** The Board of Education has worked to maintain programs and class sizes during this extremely uncertain and challenging period. However, **it is prepared to make additional reductions in positions and programs if state aid or other revenues are further reduced.**



## PROPOSED SCHOOL BUSES

### Bus Proposition No. 2

Shall the Board of Education of the Peru Central School District be authorized to purchase and, at the option of the Board, finance two (2) standard 65-passenger school buses, including related and ancillary equipment, at a maximum estimated cost of \$128,172.52 each, and one (1) wheelchair school bus, including related and ancillary equipment, at a maximum estimated cost of \$143,140.41, for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$399,485.45, and to raise the necessary funds therefor by a tax upon the taxable property of said District to be levied and collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board of Education shall determine, with such tax to be partially offset by State aid available therefor and, in anticipation of such tax, by either the issuance of debt obligations of the said School District or by a lease/purchase financing for such school buses, in either case in an amount not to exceed such estimated aggregate cost?



Peru Central School District

## COMMUNITY REPORT

**Superintendent Dr. Thomas Palmer**  
(518) 643-6000 • [www.perucsd.org](http://www.perucsd.org)

**Business Administrator**  
Randolph B. Sapp

**Board of Education**  
Ms. Bonnie Berry, *President*  
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