



PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

MAY 2021

PROPOSED COVID-19 BUDGET VOTE & BOARD ELECTION SLATED FOR MAY 18, 2021

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 18th
Peru High School
Gymnasium
12-9 p.m.



Peru Central School District's Board of Education has established a **\$49,982,897 proposed expenditure plan** for voters to consider by **voting in person or requesting an absentee ballot because of a qualifying condition. Absentee Ballots must be received by the District by NLT May 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** The proposed budget calls for an **increase in overall spending of 2.25%**. The **tax levy is forecasted to increase 1.74%** which doesn't exceed the tax levy limit. This modest tax levy increase reflects a sensitivity to the

extremely challenging period everyone is experiencing. Details regarding the budget proposal are featured within this Community Report.

"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

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
7:00 p.m.

See www.perucsd.org for info.

WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
Noon - 9:00 p.m.

High School Gymnasium
17 School Street
Peru, NY

WHAT AM I VOTING ON

2021-22 Budget
Bus Proposition No. 2
Board of Education Election

For more information on the 2021-22 Budget

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

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PROPOSED 2021-22 BUDGET SUMMARY

The Board of Education and the community of Peru Central School District worked diligently during a very demanding period to craft the Proposed 2021-22 Annual Budget. The uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the school district daily and makes planning for the future extremely challenging. The proposed budget attempts to preserve existing programs and prepare the District to begin closing the academic gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic. A few modest additions were made to

the Proposed 2021-22 Budget to improve instruction or operations:

1. Restoration of a Special Education Teacher Position
2. Addition of a Teaching Assistant to the English as a New Language (ENL) Program
3. Replace Obsolete Telephone Servers to support the Phone System



ESTIMATED SCHOOL TAX BILL INCREASE

Based on estimated assessed values remaining constant and no change in the equalization rates from last year, the following tax table outlines the estimated tax rate impact of the proposed budget.

A Budget Notice will be released prior to the budget vote which should reflect updated figures from Clinton County Real Property Office. The updated assessed values and equalizations rates were not available when this Community Report was printed.

Town	2020-21 Tax Rate	Est. 2021-22 Tax Rate	Est. State Equalization Rate	Amount per \$1,000 Chg.	% Chg.
Ausable	\$19.69	\$20.06	95%	\$0.37	1.88%
Black Brook	\$18.71	\$19.06	100%	\$0.35	1.87%
Peru	\$18.71	\$19.06	100%	\$0.35	1.87%
Plattsburgh	\$20.79	\$21.18	90%	\$0.39	1.88%
Saranac	\$18.71	\$19.06	100%	\$0.35	1.87%
Schuyler Falls	\$19.69	\$20.06	95%	\$0.37	1.88%



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Desk of Dr. Thomas Palmer

The Peru Central School is always committed to providing a quality education to our students and one that can and has been supported by our community. I stated last year that it was a very unique year as a society; we have struggled with COVID-19 both economically and emotionally.

As I look back on this past school year of 2020-2021, finishing 2019-2020 was nothing compared to what we faced with the number of quarantines and alternating between hybrid and remote learning as the number of cases fluctuated around the holidays. Understanding that the district could have lost up to 20% of its state aid during 2020-2021, we prepared for the worst and hoped for the best during a year filled with financial uncertainty.

In this year's budget, the allowable tax levy limit increase for the 2021-2022 school year is 1.74%, or \$315,067 from the 2020-2021 school year. This year's increase is within the allowable tax levy limit formula which was implemented in 2012. If the Board of Education had proposed a budget exceeding this limit, a super majority (60% or above) percentage of voters would have to approve the budget. Since the Board did not elect to go above the allowable limit, 50% +1 of the voters is what is needed to pass the budget.

There was also an increase of \$547,561 in Foundation Aid for the 2021-2022 school year. Foundation Aid was first enacted in 2007-2008. Foundation Aid reflects the average per pupil cost of general education instruction by a statistical analysis of the costs of general education.

With the additional resources, the district is looking to maintain current programs for the Peru Central School District students. We have been slated to receive additional financial resources through the Federal American Rescue Plan where the district is intending to use those resources to support a new program, "Power Up." The focus of the plan is going towards critical evidence-based interventions, targeted intensive tutoring, high-quality extended learning time, and building strong relationships between students and families with the school district during the summer of 2021 and during the next two school years. We will have additional information on the particulars of the program in the upcoming weeks. Our goal is to build back our students' instructional competencies to fill gaps where needed and continue to grow programs and opportunities for them. We will be prudent in our planning and responsible in our decision making as we prepare these new programs for students.

This is a year of uncertainty as we do

"Our goal is to build back our students' instructional competencies to fill gaps where needed and continue to grow programs and opportunities for them.."

Dr. Thomas Palmer - Peru CSD Superintendent

not know what the parameters will be for reopening in the fall, but we are committed to our students and their families and we will continue to develop plans for the reopening of all of our schools. I will be inviting parents to be apart of the process to gain a better understanding of the strict scrutiny Districts are placed under during the planning processes and continue to build strong relationships in the Peru Central School District.

Voting will be taking place on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, in the High School Gymnasium, from 12 to 9 p.m. The Budget that will be put before the taxpayers for the 2021-2022 school year is \$49,982,897. This is an increase of 2.25% over the 2020-2021 school year. This is a very responsive budget that is committed to finding the right balance between educating our children, sustaining the future for the district and the fiduciary responsibility to our taxpayers.

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 1.74% - this is at Peru's 2021-22 Tax Levy Limit.** The Board of Education has worked to maintain programs and class sizes during this challenging period.



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 three (3) standard 65-passenger school buses, including related and ancillary equipment, at a maximum estimated cost of \$**130,120** each for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$**390,360**, 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

Peru Central School District
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Peru, NY 12972-0068

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