

Fayetteville-Manlius

SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET NEWSLETTER



District’s budget proposal maintains all student programming and staffing levels

TAX LEVY SET TO INCREASE BY 3.49%

On Tuesday, May 21, Fayetteville-Manlius School District residents will vote on a proposed \$111,254,879 budget for the 2024-25 school year, which would maintain all existing student programming, staffing levels, and mental health support resources across all school district buildings.

“In a year when many school districts are being forced to make difficult decisions due to a decrease in funding from the state, we feel very fortunate here at F-M to put forth a budget to voters that meets the needs of our students and staff, while also taking into account necessary building

upgrades that will enhance the student experience,” explained Superintendent of Schools Craig J. Tice.

The proposed budget represents a spending increase of 5.99 percent, or \$6,288,033, and carries a 3.49 percent tax levy increase. The tax levy increase sits below the tax cap as established under New York State law. That means a simple majority (50 percent of votes plus one) is needed to approve the budget.

Reasons for tax levy increase

This year’s proposed tax levy bump is primarily due to:

- Salary increases caused by contractual agreements
- Higher insurance premium costs
- Building security upgrades as deemed necessary by recent building condition surveys
- Higher BOCES costs related to increased prices and district needs
- Higher gas and electric costs

Building security upgrades covered in the proposed budget would include updated emergency notification software at elementary schools, additional security cameras, and further safety measures in the doorways of each school building.

A portion of the proposed budget also accounts for an increase in

▶ Please see “Budget Plan” on Page 6

2024 - 2025

BUDGET

at-a-glance

Proposed Budget

\$111,254,879

Proposed school tax levy

\$72,547,830

School tax levy increase

\$2,445,197 or 3.49%

Proposed budget increase

\$6,288,033 or 5.99%

Also on the ballot:

- Capital Project Proposition
- Bus Bonding Proposition
- 3 Open Seats on the BOE
- Ex Officio Student Board Member Proposition
- Fayetteville Free Library Tax Levy
- Manlius Library Tax Levy

VOTE

7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Wellwood Middle School

www.fmschools.org

Stay Connected:

Scan the code for access to the district’s budget webpage, www.fmschools.org/budget-finance



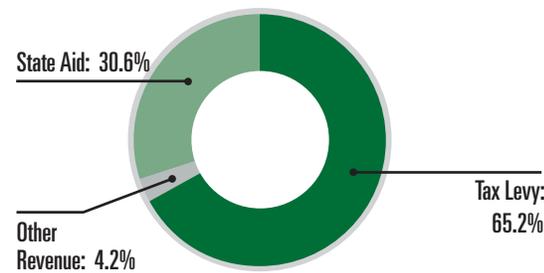
F-M School District officials will include a capital project proposal on the ballot during school budget vote day. The proposed \$15.4 million project would address critical aging infrastructure needs, including leaking roofs, as seen in this photo, plus safety and security upgrades at every school building.

For more information, please turn to page 4.

Proposed 2024-2025 revenue summary

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed	Dollar Change
State Aid Revenue			
Foundation aid	\$18,334,737	\$19,404,814	\$1,070,077
BOCES aid	\$3,006,130	\$3,429,703	\$423,573
High cost aid	\$618,687	\$844,771	\$226,084
Instructional materials aid	\$430,226	\$430,529	\$303
Transportation aid	\$4,701,677	\$5,357,115	\$655,438
Building aid	\$4,837,203	\$4,545,899	(\$291,304)
Total State Aid Revenue	\$31,928,660	\$34,012,831	\$2,084,171
Tax Levy	\$70,102,633	\$72,547,830	\$2,445,197
Other Revenue			
Charges for services	\$95,000	\$60,000	(\$35,000)
Interest income	\$700,000	\$1,000,000	\$300,000
Rental/Sale of surplus materials	\$127,100	\$141,000	\$13,900
Insurance claims/misc. revenue	\$90,000	\$90,000	0
Admissions and fees	\$125,000	\$125,000	0
County sales tax	\$175,000	\$190,000	\$15,000
Medicare/Medicaid	\$515,000	\$465,000	(50,000)
Prior year refunds	\$400,000	\$400,000	0
Pilot payments	\$4,302	\$39,565	\$35,263
Interest and penalties	\$20,000	\$17,000	(\$3,000)
Donations	\$365,000	\$0	(\$365,000)
Use of debt service reserve	\$250,000	\$1,099,048	\$849,048
Appropriated fund balance	\$69,150	\$1,067,605	\$998,455
Total Other Revenue	\$2,935,552	\$4,694,218	\$1,758,666
TOTAL REVENUE	\$104,966,845	\$111,254,879	\$6,288,034

Revenue Summary



What are capital transfer funds?

Capital transfer funds are to be used for building and/or reconstruction projects of immediate need in any of the district's buildings or grounds.

In May 2023, voters authorized the district to spend up to \$2 million in capital transfer funds to cover work that included heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system improvements, including air conditioning system installation at Mott Road Elementary School. That work is expected to begin in June 2024.

If voters approve the proposed 2024-25 budget, the district would be authorized to spend up to \$1,510,000 to fund the remaining (HVAC) system work at Mott Road not covered by the capital transfer funds authorized in 2023. Completing the remaining HVAC system work would mean all student occupied rooms at Mott Road would be air conditioned.

New York state building aid will cover approximately 81% of the cost.

The project, pending voter and New York State Education Department approval, would begin in summer 2025 and would be expected to be completed in fall 2026.



Proposed 2024-2025 expenditure summary

Program: 74.8% of proposed budget

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed
Instructional Program		
Professional Development	\$312,185	\$309,565
K-12 Instruction		
Instructional salaries	26,904,616	28,078,450
Substitute teaching	876,200	921,081
Non-Instructional salaries	1,092,994	1,252,663
Equipment	642,279	501,188
Contractual	1,562,721	1,305,390
Materials and supplies	505,165	524,995
Tuition	60,000	60,000
Textbooks	356,492	359,794
BOCES services	1,168,109	1,211,754
Subtotal	\$33,480,761	\$34,524,880
Student Support Services		
BOCES career and technical education	\$308,246	\$407,506
Special education	7,444,965	8,191,185
Summer school	192,032	185,082
Instructional media	3,939,206	4,173,960
Guidance/Health Services/ Social Worker/Psychologist	2,551,876	3,232,932
Co-curricular activities	397,777	416,679
Athletics	1,656,205	1,791,341
Transportation	5,475,876	5,804,086
Transfer to special aid	70,000	70,000
Subtotal	\$55,516,944	\$58,797,650
Benefits Allocation	22,920,633	24,382,121
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$78,437,577	\$83,179,771

Administrative: 9.0% of proposed budget

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed
Administrative		
Board of Education/Superintendent	\$414,765	\$454,864
Business office	1,117,120	1,209,856
Legal fees	125,000	125,000
Personnel	129,045	150,767
Public information & central services	606,064	676,970
Insurance	246,638	254,037
BOCES administration	447,939	456,160
Curriculum development & supervision	3,355,185	3,533,971
Subtotal	\$6,441,756	\$6,861,625
Benefits Allocation	2,846,759	3,148,848
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$9,288,515	\$10,010,473

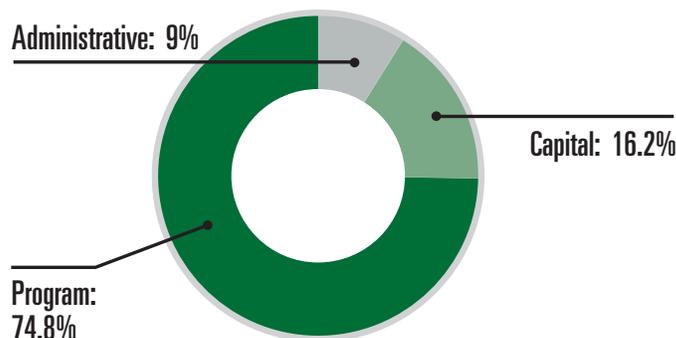
Capital: 16.2% of proposed budget

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed
Capital		
Operations & maintenance	\$6,976,833	\$7,627,254
Long-term debt	4,990,506	4,656,757
Bus bond debt	772,445	924,628
Bus bond anticipation notes	-	715,258
Capital bond anticipation notes	-	-
EPC debt	138,648	-
Transfer to capital	2,000,000	1,510,000
Subtotal	\$14,878,432	\$15,433,897
Benefits Allocation	2,362,321	2,630,738
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$17,240,753	\$18,064,635

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET

\$111,254,879

Spending Summary



Breakdown of employee benefits

	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Proposed
Employees Retirement System	\$1,525,732	\$1,997,655
Teachers Retirement System	3,748,488	4,105,286
Social Security	3,849,409	4,094,136
Workers' Compensation/ Unemployment/Disability	456,992	535,430
Health, dental & vision insurance	18,229,092	18,864,900
Retirement incentive/403b	320,000	564,300
Total Employee Benefits	\$28,129,713	\$30,161,707

Benefits Allocation

Program	\$24,382,121
Administrative	3,148,848
Capital	2,630,738

Three-part budget summary

All public schools in New York state are required by law to report their spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital.

Voters to decide on \$15.4 million capital improvement project

On the May 21 ballot, voters will be asked to authorize a capital improvement project. The proposed project would address critical aging infrastructure needs and safety and security upgrades at every school building.

The \$15.4 million project proposal includes work at each of the district's six school buildings, as well as the District Office, Support Services Maintenance Building, Transportation Center, and Conference Center.

PROJECT SCOPE:

- Partial roof replacements at F-M High School, Wellwood Middle School, Eagle Hill Middle School, and the District Office
- Safety and security upgrades across all school district buildings
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) control upgrades at Fayetteville Elementary School, F-M High School, Support Services Maintenance Building, Transportation Center, and Conference Center

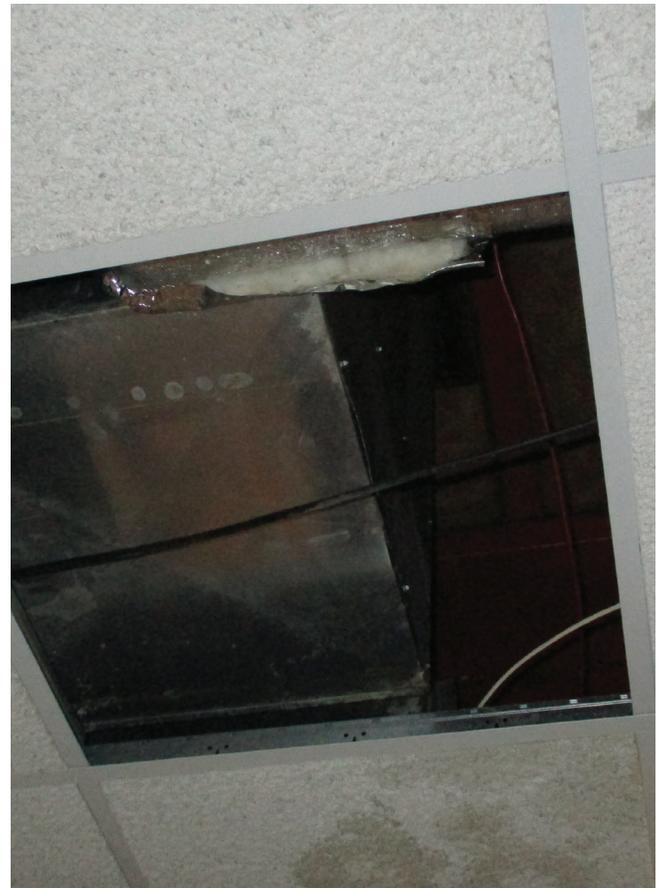
Aged, cracked roofing allows rain and melting snow to leak through the ceilings of classrooms and hallways. In an effort to mitigate the impacts on students and staff, the district's maintenance staff have installed temporary roof patches, but the leaks have persisted. As a result, maintenance staff have needed to redirect leaks to drain into garbage bins.

In addition to the roof repairs, the project proposal would fund safety and security projects, including school building public announcements systems, which are outdated and failing. Used for announcements, the school bell schedule and emergency notifications within the school buildings, the PA system is an integral part of the district's safety and security communications system. These safety and security updates will also provide uniformity between the school buildings.

If district residents approve the proposed project on May 21, district officials expect that work would begin in summer 2025 at the earliest and be completed by September 2026.



Pieces of the ceiling in Eagle Hill Middle School are warped and damaged due to leaking.



Pieces of the ceiling in Wellwood Middle School had to be removed after persistent roofing leaks caused water damage.



A pipe in the high school art wing is nearly rusted through due to consistent leaking from the roof.

Frequently Asked Capital Project Questions

Q: How would the proposed capital project affect my taxes?

A: District officials expect that state building aid would reimburse the district for about 75% of the proposed construction costs. For taxpayers with the basic STAR exemption, the estimated impact on \$100,000 of taxable household value would be approximately \$12.93.

Q: How was the scope of the project decided?

A: The proposed capital improvement project would fund the highest priority projects as identified by:

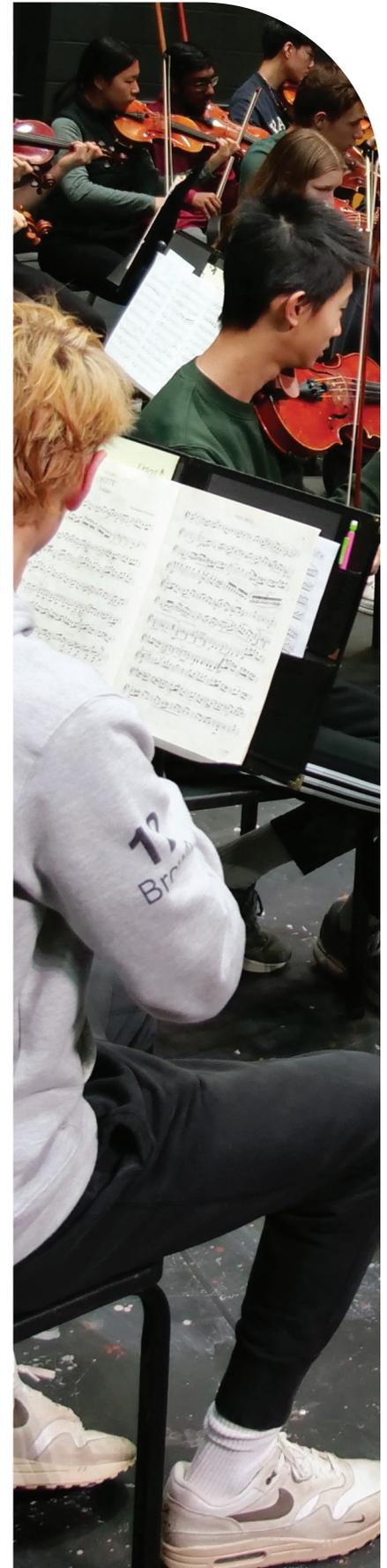
- Two safety and security audits, conducted in spring 2023, which included recommendations for improvements.
- The district’s Building and Grounds Department, which cited urgent roofing needs beginning in December as several leaks became persistent across multiple buildings.
- The district’s most recent building condition survey, completed in February 2024, which indicated several needs throughout the district, including roofing.

Q: The most recent capital projects included Wellwood and the High School. Why do they need more work?

A: The capital project work at Wellwood (approved by voters in 2017) and the high school (approved by voters in 2021) did not include the portions of roofing that would be replaced under the current proposal. At the time those projects were proposed, the district’s building condition survey revealed more pressing concerns at both buildings.

Each instructional building in the district has a maximum cost allowance set by the New York State Education Department. The maximum cost allowance only allows a set amount of spending per building over a 5-year timeframe in order to qualify for state building aid. Any costs that exceed the maximum cost allowance are not eligible for state funding and must be covered by the taxpayers.

The district planned to include the roof work in a future capital project, when the district would be eligible for more state aid to reduce the impact on taxpayers. However, given the current state of the roofs, it was recommended that they be addressed as soon as possible to avoid further damage.



IMPACT ON TAX RATES

Estimated taxes per household *Town of Manlius *Tax rate per \$100,000 of assessed value	Estimated Budget Impact \$37.00	Estimated Capital Project Impact \$12.93
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*The Town of Manlius is the largest part of the Fayetteville-Manlius School District and pays approximately 84% of the district’s tax levy. Portions of Cazenovia, DeWitt, Fabius, Pompey and Sullivan pay the remaining 16%.
**Dollar figures used here have been rounded. The actual tax rate is calculated out to the sixth decimal place. Estimates are based on assessment values and equalization rates from the prior year.

Ballot includes school bus purchase proposition

This year's school budget ballot will include a school bus purchase proposition. On the ballot, voters will be asked to authorize the purchase of six school buses as part of the district's long-term replacement plan.

The buses include five 71-passenger buses and one 71-passenger bus with a cargo compartment. The total purchase would not exceed \$1,201,885. This proposition authorizes the district to issue debt for the bus purchase and is not in addition to the proposed budget, as the financing is already factored in.

If voters approve the proposition, the state would reimburse the district over a five-year period for approximately 75% of the cost. Local property taxes would pay the remainder of the cost, which means residents would be responsible for approximately \$60,575

annually for five years beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

F-M normally replaces its buses after 10 years, when it is no longer cost effective to make the repairs needed to meet state inspection standards. Maintaining an aging school bus presents potential safety, maintenance and financial issues for the school district. The replacement plan helps maintain a safe and efficient bus fleet. All school buses in New York State are subject to inspection by the New York State Department of Transportation. If a bus does not pass inspection, it cannot be used and the defect must be repaired or the bus replaced.

F-M's bus fleet is comprised of 64 buses. The district is required by the state to have enough buses to transport every student in the

district in the event of an emergency, regardless of the number of students who walk or receive parent/guardian transportation to school.

The buses included in the proposition are diesel and would complete a useful lifespan before the district is required by law to fully transition to a zero-emission fleet by the year 2035. The law also requires all school bus purchases be electric starting July 1, 2027.

If the bus purchasing proposition is defeated, no new buses, diesel or electric, will be purchased by the district. The district would need to continue utilizing its oldest and least efficient buses for another year, which could require more costly repairs to maintain the fleet.

Budget > *continued from page 1*

services used through BOCES, including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for all F-M staff members, and ten additional seats for students in the BOCES Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. CTE programming prepares students for real-world challenges, and includes programs such as automotive technology, computer technology, health occupations, construction, and much more. These programs are seeing a rise in student interest at F-M.

The budget proposal would also support the expansion of the district's Universal Pre-Kindergarten program (UPK). There are approximately 116 students enrolled in F-M's UPK program. Under the proposed spending plan, the district

would be able to accommodate up to 145 students.

District revenue sources

The district has two primary revenue sources: state aid and the tax levy. Other smaller revenue sources, such as interest income, make up the district's revenue sources.

State aid accounts for approximately 30.6 percent of the district's 2024-25 budget revenue. The state's proposal shows F-M receiving a total allocation of \$34,012,831 for 2024-25, which is a \$2,084,171 increase in state aid compared to the current 2023-24 school year. This increase is largely due to a \$1.1 million increase in Foundation

Aid, a district's primary source of funding for daily school operations.

The tax levy accounts for 65.2 percent of the district's 2024-25 proposed budget revenue. The tax rate impact on a property in the Town of Manlius, using assessment values and equalization rates from the prior year, would be approximately \$37 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

The budget proposal was adopted by the F-M Board of Education on April 15. The public budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 13 during the regularly scheduled board of education meeting.

Bus Purchasing Proposition



If I vote yes:

Six new buses will be purchased to maintain a safe and efficient bus fleet.

If I vote no:

No new buses, diesel or electric, will be purchased. The district will utilize its oldest and least efficient buses for another year.

District continues to research electric buses

District officials have been preparing for the transition to electric buses since 2022, when the state enacted the mandate.

In December 2022, F-M hosted an electric bus informational session, which was attended by school district leaders from across Central New York. In 2023, National Grid completed a “Fleet Assessment” to evaluate the district’s current electrical infrastructure capacity. Most recently, the district hosted a community Electric Bus Town Hall in October 2023 to provide district stakeholders with updated information on the purchase of electric school buses.

The district estimates the cost of a 71-passenger electric bus to be approximately \$509,000 (without additional funding), more than two and a half times the cost of the

district’s current diesel buses of similar size, priced at approximately \$200,000. The district would also need to purchase charging stations, estimated at \$2 million (without additional funding) to service an entire electric fleet at F-M.

At this time, F-M does not qualify for need-based funding, and is not eligible for most funding opportunities from New York School Bus Incentive Program.

In addition to the expense of electric buses, other challenges facing the district include:

- Insufficient electrical infrastructure to power charging stations
- Insufficient space at the bus garage to incorporate charging stations

- Battery/mileage limitations - a fleet and route analysis study conducted by a third-party, Polara, determined that 63% of F-M’s bus routes (32 out of a total of 51 routes) are feasible for electric vehicles. To attain 100% feasibility, the district would need to increase its fleet size.
- Cold climate constraints - charging capacity is severely limited when temperatures dip below 32 degrees

The district continues to conduct research and plans to gather more information on funding and grant options to minimize taxpayer impact for future electric bus purchases.



Frequently Asked Budget Questions



Q: What is the difference between the tax levy and tax rate?

A: The tax levy is the total amount of money a school district raises in taxes each year from all property owners in the district. The tax rate is used to calculate what each property owner actually pays in school taxes.

Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value in a community.

Tax rates are affected by changes in municipal assessments and state equalization rates, which are finalized in the summer.

Q: What's driving the levy increase?

A: The tax levy increase is driven by several factors. The tax levy increase is based upon a formula that includes an inflation factor (Consumer Price Index) and growth in the tax base from new construction.

Q: How would the proposed budget affect my taxes?

A: The proposed tax levy increase of 3.49% is within the district's tax levy limit. While final tax rates cannot be determined until the summer, when assessment and equalization rates become available, the district estimates the tax rate will increase by approximately \$37 per \$100,000 of assessed value for most properties, using prior year assessment equalization rates.

Q: What is a tax levy limit, or tax cap?

A: The tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget for which a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) would be required for authorization. Any proposed tax levy amount above this limit would require budget approval by a supermajority (60% or more) of voters.

The tax levy limit sets a threshold requiring districts to obtain a higher level of community support for a proposed tax levy above a certain amount. F-M's tax levy limit for 2024-25 is 3.52%, and the district is proposing a tax levy increase of \$2,445,197 or 3.49%, which is below the district's tax levy limit.

 <p>School Budget Proposal</p>	<p>If I vote yes, the district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains all student programming and staffing levels. • Adds 10 more Career and Technical Education seats for F-M students at BOCES to accommodate rising student interest. • Implements safety and security upgrades. • Completes HVAC system work at Mott Road (capital transfer funds). • Increases the school tax levy, while staying below the tax cap as established under New York State law. 	<p>If I vote no, the board may:</p> <p>Put the same or a modified budget up for another vote on June 18, 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a contingent budget, which would mean no school tax levy increase and therefore, cuts to programming and/or staff. • If the proposed budget is defeated during a second vote, the board must adopt a contingent budget.

District residents have options for voting ahead of school district budget vote

F-M district residents have the option to vote ahead of the Tuesday, May 21 budget vote date. Qualified voters may apply for an absentee ballot or, new this year, are also allowed to vote early by mail.

Voters may apply for an absentee ballot if they are a patient in the hospital or unable to appear personally at the polling place due to illness; required by duties, studies, occupation or business to be outside of the county on the vote date (a brief description of such duties, studies, occupation or business that requires such absence would need to be provided on the ballot application); on vacation outside of the county; detained in jail awaiting grand jury action; confined in prison after conviction of an offense other than a felony; detained in jail awaiting trial, and accompanying a spouse, parent or child outside of the county on the vote date. Absentee ballots are not automatically mailed to all registered voters.

Early mail voting is available due to the new Early Mail Voter Act, effective Jan. 1, 2024. Early voting is possible without any reasons needed for voting early. Similar to absentee ballot voting,

you must fill out an application to vote early. There are separate applications for early voting or absentee ballot voting, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

All ballot applications are available on the district website, or at the F-M District Office: 8199 E. Seneca Turnpike, Manlius. Residents can also contact District Clerk Sarah Gridley at sgridley@fmschools.org or by phone 315-692-1200 to request a ballot application.

Applications must be received at the F-M District Office by 4 p.m., May 14 if the ballot is to be mailed, or 4 p.m., May 20 if you plan to pick up your ballot. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024.

Voter Qualifications

In order to be legally qualified to vote in the annual school district budget vote and Board of Education election, you must be:

- A United States citizen
- A district resident for 30 days prior to the vote
- At least 18 years old
- Registered to vote

Voters to decide on library propositions

New York state education law allows libraries to place a funding proposition on school district ballots and requires school districts, at the libraries' requests, to levy and collect taxes for libraries.

The libraries are separate legal entities from the school district, with their own funding and budgets. The amount of the tax levy collected by a school district for a library remains the same each year until the library requests a proposition to change that amount.

The school district does not endorse, control or recommend any aspect of how the libraries spend money.

On May 21, when Fayetteville-Manlius School District residents vote on the proposed 2024-25 school budget, they will also have the opportunity to vote on two library propositions: one to levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$2,043,278 for the Fayetteville Free Library and the other to levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,470,568 for the Manlius Library.

If voters approve the propositions, the school district would annually levy and collect taxes in the new amount for the libraries beginning in the 2024-25 fiscal year. The amount authorized for library services is listed as a separate line on residents' tax bills.

Library Budget Information

More information about each library and its budget is available at their respective websites.

Fayetteville Free Library

315-637-6374; extension 307
www.fflib.org

Manlius Library

315-682-6400
www.manliuslibrary.org/about/board-of-trustees/



More than 300 F-M students participated in the 2024 Dance Marathon fundraiser on March 23, raising over \$100,000 for Camp Good Days and Special Times. This money will allow at least 125 children to attend Camp Good Days this summer. The camp strives to improve the quality of life for families affected by cancer or sickle cell anemia.

Eight running for board of education; three seats available

On May 21, district residents will elect three members to the Fayetteville-Manlius School District Board of Education.

The board is the official policy-making body of the school district. It is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the education of the community's children.

It adopts school district policy, curriculum and programs of study, approves the hiring of all personnel and establishes the conditions of employment.

In addition, the board has the responsibility of maintaining facilities, establishing an annual budget and setting a tax levy. The school board adopts a proposed operating budget each year at a public meeting. Eligible residents then have the opportunity to vote upon the proposal.

The F-M Board of Education is comprised of nine school district residents who are elected by voters to three-year terms in an annual election. Terms are staggered so that three members are elected each year. Board members are not compensated for their work.

The available seats are for three-year terms. Photos and candidate profiles that were submitted to the district are available on the district website: fmschools.org.

Eight candidates filed nominating petitions for the three available seats:

- Daniel Toolan
- Anne Marie Voutsinas
- Sarah R. Pinsky
- Ann K. Bersani
- Marissa Joy Mims
- Daniel Seidberg
- Gavin Goodwin
- Christopher P. McKee

(Candidates' names are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.)



Twenty-eight Eagle Hill Middle School students in grades 5 and 6 participated in Battle of the Books, a reading competition organized by OCM BOCES School Library Systems. The fifth-grade team of Betsy Sympson, Ella McKee and Justine Kuchera won the district battle and advanced to compete in the regional battle against other students in Central New York.

Voters to decide on student board member position

Fayetteville-Manlius School District voters will decide whether the F-M Board of Education will continue the practice of including a non-voting student member, also referred to as an ex-officio board member.

The board approved a policy in 2015 that allows the board to add a student member, pending voter approval. In 2016, voters approved the proposition, and eight students, including the 2023-24 school year member, have held the position.

Voters must reauthorize the measure every two years. There is no financial compensation for any board member, including a student member, for serving on the board of education. The student member attends all public board meetings and is allowed to participate in all public discussions and voice their opinions.

The student member is not allowed to attend executive or exempt sessions, which are portions of the meeting in which the law allows board members

to privately discuss such matters as proposed, pending or current litigation.

If voters approve the proposition, F-M High School students would annually elect an ex-officio member at the end of the school year. The elected student would serve a 1 year term during the subsequent school year. To qualify, a student must be in grade 12 during the term served and have attended the school for at least two years.

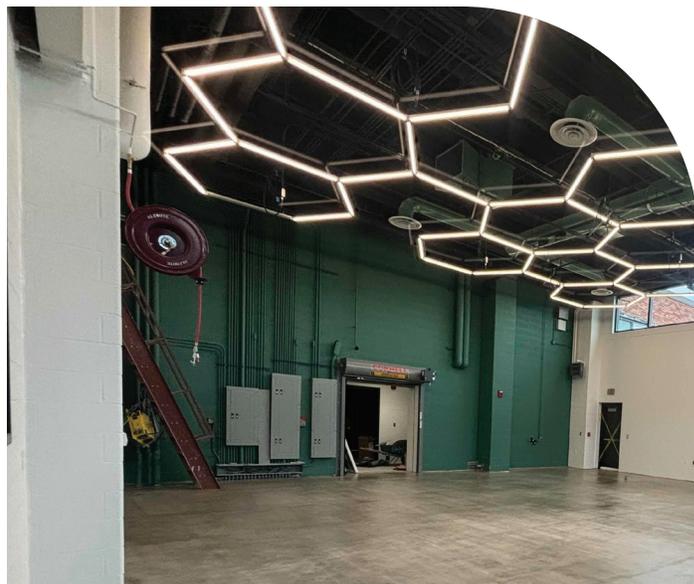
STEM wing addition leads to new opportunities for students

Fayetteville-Manlius High School students have a lot to look forward to in the years ahead, as work wraps up on the new science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) wing being added to House 2.

The new addition will bolster the technology and design classes currently offered to high school students, making it easier for the math, science, and art departments to collaborate. In addition to adding new, exciting classes to the curriculum, some current classes will also be upgraded so that students will be able to receive credits from Onondaga Community College.

“We will be receiving some new high-tech equipment that will enhance the student learning experience and allow us to do some really interesting and fun projects,” explained Jensen Bergman, FMHS Technology and Design Department Instruction Specialist.

Some of the new classes that will soon be offered to high school students include cyber security, a robotics class, and a computer integrated manufacturing class.



This will become one of the technology labs within the new STEM wing at the high school. Once complete, students will be able to choose from a variety of new classes.

Mad for reading: Enders Road hosts March Madness book event

Enders Road Elementary School revealed its March Madness Book Tournament winner during an exciting assembly at the end of the month.

The tournament takes place throughout the month of March. Classes read 16 picture books, which are matched up in pairs on a bracket, and vote on each round of books to decide which moves ahead in the competition. The two final books to go head-to-head were “Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship” by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes, and “The Tree and the River” by Aaron Becker.

To celebrate the culmination of the competition, on Thursday, March 28, students were asked to wear green if they were supporting “The Tree and the River,” and red if they were supporting “Rescue and Jessica.” At the end of the day, students packed into the gymnasium, where the high school dance team performed, and a fun assembly was held to announce the winning book.

To “crown” the winner, each of the two final books was held up by a teacher, and a gatorade jug filled with confetti was dumped over the winning book. “Rescue and Jessica” won top book this year.

Enders Road has hosted the March Madness Book Tournament for about seven years. The competing books and brackets are set up and published through a national program run by teachers. Once the books are ordered, they are shared between classes so all students have the opportunity to read them. Voting begins in mid-March and continues for two weeks, narrowing the books down to a champion through 4 rounds of voting.

This was the second year the school held an assembly to announce the winning book, and teachers hope to make it an annual tradition.





Community Newsletter
 Fayetteville-Manlius Schools
 8199 East Seneca Turnpike
 Manlius, NY 13104

www.fmschools.org

BUDGET NEWSLETTER 2024

Please Vote

Tuesday, May 21

7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
New Polling Location
Wellwood Middle School

Need a ballot?

Absentee and early mail ballot applications are available online at www.fmschools.org or by calling 315-692-1200.

Applications must be received at the F-M District Office by 4 p.m., May 9 if the ballot is to be mailed, or 4 p.m., May 15 if the ballot is personally delivered.

Budget public hearing Monday, May 13, 2024 6 p.m.

The budget public hearing will happen during the Board of Education meeting. If you cannot attend, the meeting will be livestreamed on the district's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/FayettevilleManliusSchoolDistrict

More budget information

The district's proposed budget is available in the district office.

Contact Assistant Superintendent Bradley Corbin (bcorbin@fmschools.org) or District Clerk Sarah Gridley (sgridley@fmschools.org) to request a copy.



Thanks to the generosity of Fayetteville Elementary School students, staff and families, BEE Council collected and donated more than 300 toiletries to the Samaritan Center in Syracuse. The Samaritan Center is a non-profit organization that provides meals, supports services and self-care items, such as soap, toothpaste, and deodorant, to community members in need.

Budget Questions? Let's Talk!

The district encourages residents to use Fayetteville-Manlius School District's Let's Talk! online platform to submit questions and comments about the May 21 vote.

What is Let's Talk?

Let's Talk! is a web-based, two-way communications tool that allows anyone to share concerns or questions with district administrators at any time. Let's Talk! is available for community members to utilize throughout the year. In addition to sharing questions and comments about the proposed budget, individuals

can also use the online platform to submit general feedback, ask questions, share concerns and to report anonymous tips.

Submissions, which can be sent anonymously or with the sender's contact information, will be reviewed and responded to within two business days (if the sender requests a response).



Let's Talk! is accessible via the district website, or by entering the following URL into a web browser: www.fmschools.org/lets-talk