



CHAUTAUQUA LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024 BUDGET NEWSLETTER
“A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE”



BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 | 7 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Rotunda Lobby at the Main Entrance

MISSION STATEMENT

Chautauqua Lake Central School, in partnership with family and community, will provide educational opportunities for all students to achieve their highest potential in a safe, caring environment that prepares them to live, adjust and enjoy life in a changing world.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear CLCS Community,

On behalf of the Board of Education, we are pleased to present the latest edition of our school budget newsletter. As a board, we are committed to ensuring that our students receive the best education possible while being fiscally responsible and mindful of our budgetary regulations.

We understand that providing the necessary resources for our students is crucial to their success. Our goal is to provide all students with the tools and resources they need to achieve their highest potential in a safe and caring environment. Our recent capital project has improved the safety and longevity of our overall building through the installation of a new emergency alarm system, make-up air units, generator, and windows. Additionally, we've been able to make school building improvements including a renovated cafeteria, new playground, revamped large group instruction room, new multi-purpose room and upgraded athletic facilities.

Preparing our students for their future careers is another priority for us. One of the highlights of Chautauqua Lake CSD is the Manufacturing/STEM program. We recognize the importance of ensuring that our students are prepared to succeed in a rapidly evolving job market. By providing access to training and resources that prepare students for success in college and the workforce, we are helping to ensure that they have the tools they need to achieve their goals.

We are very proud that our resources have aided in enabling our school to be one of the top academic performing districts in the county. This year, the proposed budget aligns with a tax levy increase of 1.61%. This increase is below the 2.4% maximum tax cap and allows the district to meet its contractual obligations as well as continue to provide an effective educational experience considering the above-average inflationary environment that has taken place over the last year.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the support of our community. Without your support, we would not be able to provide the high-quality education that our students deserve. We look forward to continuing to work together to provide our students with the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Yours in Education,

Michael Ludwig, President
Travis Bensink, Vice President
Jessup Baker
Andrea Munsee-Wellman
Melissa Putney
Kenneth Shearer
Zach Stahlsmith



PROPOSITIONS FOR VOTE

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the budget for the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 as presented by the Board of Education is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of \$24,337,410 and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

LONG-RANGE GOALS

District Goal #1

School Culture & Climate

All students and staff will contribute to a supportive and positive environment that promotes integrity, tolerance, and respect for self and others. A focus will be placed on constructive community interaction and strengthening student interactions.

District Goal #2

Student Safety & Quality of Life

All students and staff will model and encourage safe, socially appropriate skills and healthy lifestyles. A balance of social, emotional, physical, and mental awareness aligned learning activities will lead to a comprehensive understanding of independence and empathy.

District Goal #3

Student Achievement & Leadership

All staff will provide highly effective, engaging, differentiated instruction, and extracurricular activities in which students will actively participate to their fullest potential. Students will graduate with the life skills, leadership qualities, and technological abilities necessary to succeed in their future endeavors.

District Goal #4

Real-World Applications & Citizenship

All staff will develop curriculum and instruction that enables students to explore, learn, and grow as individuals. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences that reinforce a successful transition to college and/or career while properly preparing them to be good citizens.

District Goal #5

Collaboration & Communication

All students and staff will engage in activities that promote collaboration and foster positive communication and growth. Opportunities will be provided for students to work together using active listening and effective communication skills that embrace diverse perspectives.

District Goal #6

Innovative Programs & Opportunities

All students will participate in programs that are dynamic and relevant to the demands of the outside world. The staff will actively design and integrate opportunities and partnerships that employ relevant learning experiences for students while furthering our destination district status.



2023-24 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Budget Total

EXPENDITURES	
Salary/Benefits	\$15,523,844
Equipment/ Supplies	\$1,008,911
Contractual/BOCES	\$5,108,849
Debt Service (Capital Improvements)	\$2,695,806
TOTAL	\$24,337,410

REVENUES	
Local Funds	\$1,690,886
State/Federal Aid	\$8,907,978
Designated Fund Balance	\$995,000
Tax Levy/Tax Items	\$12,743,546
TOTAL	\$24,337,410

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SCHOOL TAXES

These Three Numbers Affect Your Tax Rate:

1. The Tax Levy from the school district
 - From the budget approved by district voters
 - The greater the levy, the higher the tax rate
 - Set by district voters at the May Budget Vote
2. The Equalization Rate set by New York State
 - Brings the assessed value up to full value if no re-evaluation has been done by the township
 - The lower the equalization rate, the higher the full value and your tax rate
 - Fixed in August by New York State Property Tax Division
3. The Total Assessed Value of the District set by the tax assessors of the towns
 - From home improvements, new construction, etc.
 - The more improvements, the higher the assessed value and the lower the tax rate
 - As set by town assessors in June



Fiscal Responsibility with Program in Mind

The proposed 2023-24 budget was formulated over many months to take into consideration the various elements of school programming, while keeping the taxpayer in mind. For the eleventh year in a row following the enactment of the tax cap law, the proposed budget does not exceed the Maximum Allowable Tax Levy. In fact, this budget results in a tax increase of less than the maximum allowable amount. This budget provides the resources to preserve and enhance the programs and services at the center of the district's mission. While the increase in spending is less than two percent, we continue to keep our commitment to maintain a quality facility that houses robust educational opportunities for our students. This budget is designed, among other things, to:

- Offer a vibrant elementary school experience that provides learning support as well as enrichment opportunities.
- Provide unique secondary school offerings including television production, Project Lead the Way (pre-engineering), rigorous manufacturing courses and numerous college credit-bearing choices.
- Meet all state and federal mandates.
- Support building and facility improvements as guided by the district's rolling five-year plan.
- Keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible.
- Provide co-curricular and athletic options that align with our goals and priorities.

UNDERSTANDING THE NYS PROPERTY TAX CAP

Calculation: 2023-24 Tax Levy Limit and Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

Per NYS State Education Department / NYS Comptroller guidelines

Prior Year Tax Levy	\$12,541,220
Tax Base Growth Factor, if any	x1.0054
Subtotal	\$12,608,943
Plus Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) 2022-23	+2,316
Less Taxes levied for exclusions during 2022-23	-22,602
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy Subtotal	\$12,588,657
Allowable Levy Growth Factor (lesser of 2% or CPI)	x1.0200
Subtotal	\$12,840,430
Less Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) 2023-24 (projected)	-2,316
Available Carryover (if any)	+\$0
"Tax Levy Limit" or Tax Levy Subtotal	\$12,838,114
Plus 2023-24 School Year Exemptions	+\$0
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy (requiring simple majority approval of more than 50% of voters)	\$12,838,114

Property Tax Cap: Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011

Understanding the Calculation: Tax Levy Limit and Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

The Calculation of the "Tax Levy Limit" and "Maximum Allowable Tax Levy" worksheet above has been used in developing the proposed 2023-24 School Budget. The calculated \$12,838,114 "Maximum Allowable Tax Levy" is a \$296,894 (or 2.38%) increase over the 2022-23 tax levy of \$12,541,220. (Note: The Board's proposed budget is below the maximum allowable tax levy at \$12,743,546.)

Additionally, tax rates paid by individual taxpayers may differ greatly from one household to another, based on such factors as equalization rates and updated assessments.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

JESSUP BAKER

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

The role of an elected school board member is first and foremost to collaborate and work in tandem with the other members of the board to develop a shared vision for the district and set policies that align with the districts resources and budgetary constraints, while advocating for all students of the district and their education. As a 2008 graduate of CLCS and now parent of 2 young children, I know firsthand how the many unique educational and extracurricular activities offered at CLCS have a positive impact on our students. If elected, my top five priorities will be: (1) Ensuring that the district continues to offer a wide breadth of educational opportunities to best prepare students for whatever path they choose to follow post-graduation. (2) Ensuring that students continue to test highly on standardized tests, as well as other measures of student achievement (3) Ensuring the district stays fiscally responsible and is a good steward for taxpayer's dollars. (4) Assisting the district in collaborating with various local manufacturers and alliances to build support for the districts incredible STEM & Manufacturing Lab with a focus on allowing as many students as possible across the county access to the educational opportunities offered within CLCS. (5) Help maintain the upbeat culture of positivity and community that is present at CLCS.



Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

CLCS has become a destination district due to extensive and varied academic, extracurricular, and athletic opportunities offered at the world class campus and facilities.

How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

I spent the first ten years of my career working in various roles involved in the machining and manufacturing realm, from entry level through tool & die work involving both CAD design and CAM aided CNC programming, before transitioning into a manger of that department and engineering team. Since July of 2021, I have been President of Jamestown Plastics and am responsible for overseeing all facets of an organization that encompasses 140 full-time employees across 3 divisions in 3 states. This includes oversight of day-to-day operations, financial aspects & budgeting, personnel management, building improvements, equipment capital expenditures, regulatory and legal compliance, and contract review. As well as developing a forward-looking business plan that ensures continued growth and prosperity. Many of these skills and experiences directly correlate with the ability to support the district's students and goals.

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

The most important areas to consider when developing the district budget are ensuring that there is an efficient allocation of resources to offer students the best educational experience possible while verifying there are no wasteful or overlapping expenditures. As well as limiting increases in the tax levy when possible. Shared services can play an important role in reducing the districts expenditures and/or bring in additional revenue and should be supported and implemented in instances where it is mutually beneficial.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

Being a graduate of CLCS, in combination with the professional experiences and skills listed above, speak to my familiarity with the district and qualifications to serve as board member.

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

I was involved at the inception of the Manufacturing Club supporting the efforts of Randy Stuart and Jay Baker in making their vision a reality at CLCS. I have been serving since December of 2022 as a board appointed member of the CLCS school board after expressing my interest in filling a board vacancy.

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

Serving on the CLCS school board has been a wonderful introduction to serving this great community thus far, and as my young children grow I look forward to becoming more involved in other facets of community activities.



Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

My wife, Christina and I are proud parents of Jack (9 months) and Noelle (5, Pre-K).



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

TRAVIS BENSINK

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

My desire to run for school board is based on my genuine interest in the education of today's children, including my own four children, while also understanding the financial responsibilities that the school board has to its district. If I am to be Re-elected as a school board member, I hope to further develop these areas inside our district to make us a destination district.

Some of my top priorities include:

- 1) Focusing on budgeting and personnel relations.
- 2) Providing learning opportunities beyond the liberal arts including technical fields and the creative arts
- 3) Continue to offer opportunities to our students inside our district to better prepare them for their next steps after school. Whether it be college or the workforce.
- 4) Work to keep our financial promises to our district residents by reviewing budgets and keeping our tax base as low as possible.
- 5) Explore opportunities for shared services with other districts that provide our students with the most optimum learning opportunities and to expand on our district as a destination location.

Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

Chautauqua Lake is one of the premier districts to send children to school for multiple reasons. First and foremost our next level curriculum provides our students with the opportunity to learn, grow and advance themselves before every entering the workforce. We also offer various extracurricular activities that afford our students to branch in our athletics, arts, music, and science to just name a few. We are constantly listening to both the student body and district residents for new and forward thinking opportunities that we can incorporate into our school.



How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

As a current Chautauqua Lake School Board Member, I'm excited to share many 6 years of experience in helping to manage budgets, hiring decisions, approval of adding curriculum, and helping to see our school through two major occurrences which were covid and a building project. While Operating as a senior level manager I have also be part of the budgeting process, labor, and production, including schedules and timelines. I'm also able to make personnel decisions and utilize my negotiating skills. I have an interest in communicating ideas, coming to a consensus as a group, and reaching a common goal.

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

As a candidate for school board, it is my conviction to use every taxpayer dollar efficiently to provide the highest quality educational experience for our students. Our student's education is our #1 priority. Local taxpayers provide the resources to meet this goal. We are accountable to taxpayers to use these resources efficiently. I feel shared services help us to offer our students more opportunities both internally and externally while helping to keep the taxpayers dollar contribution lower because the cost is shared between school districts.



MEET THE CANDIDATES



What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

Travis Bensink has participated in community activities throughout Chautauqua County, including cooking demonstrations for the Chautauqua Institution Children's School, coaching soccer for Southwestern Area Youth Soccer program, Coaching youth football, coaching youth baseball, member of Mayville's Ice Castle Committee, and supporting local 4-H students through livestock sales.

He has been involved with church activities that including nursery volunteer, Annual Sportsmen's Dinner volunteer, women's luncheon volunteer, adult Sunday school teacher, Missions team member, and chairman for Outreach local missions ministries. He has also been a Member of the school board for the last 6 years and is currently serving as the Vice President.

Travis has 4 Children who currently attend Chautauqua Lake: Thandon age 14 in 8th grade, Tatum age 12 in 6th Grade, Tripp age 9 in 2nd Grade, and Talia age 7 in 2nd grade.



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$23,585,665	\$24,337,410	\$23,818,233
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$751,745	\$232,568
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.19%	0.99%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$12,541,220	\$12,743,546	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$12,541,220	\$12,743,546	\$12,541,220
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$22,602	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$12,520,886	\$12,838,114	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$12,518,618	\$12,743,546	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval -See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$2,268	\$94,568	
Administrative Component	\$1,922,119	\$1,985,284	\$1,936,389
Program Component	\$16,867,238	\$17,398,443	\$16,978,160
Capital Component	\$4,796,308	\$4,953,684	\$4,903,684

* Items which are statutorily considered non-contingent expenses include: student supplies; community use of building and grounds; and certain equipment purchases (pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law).

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
N/A	N/A

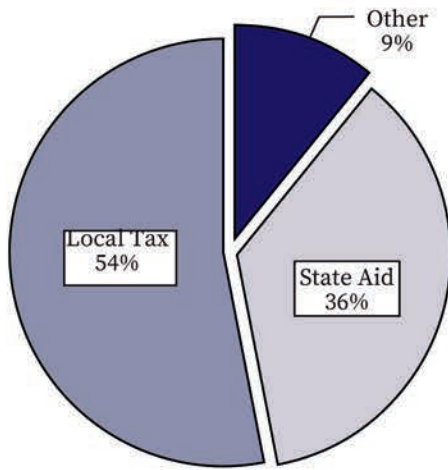
Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹
\$253

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held at Chautauqua Lake Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., prevailing time in the Chautauqua Lake Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

A detailed copy of the proposed 2023-24 budget, which includes the School Report Card and Tax Exemption Report, is available in the District Office by appointment (call 753-5808), at www.clake.org.

SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED REVENUES 2023-2024



To meet the **Proposed Operating Budget** of \$24,337,410 the district has projected the following anticipated revenues:

State Aid includes Basic Operating Aid as well as a number of categorical aids, including BOCES Aid, Transportation Aid, Excess Cost Aid, Textbook, Building and Miscellaneous Aids.

Other Revenues include Charges for Services, Tuition, Student Fees, Interest Earnings, Sale of Excess Property and Equipment, Prior Year Refunds, and Interfund Revenues.

Local Tax includes Real Property Tax Payments in Lieu of Taxes, and Interest/Penalties on delinquent tax payments.

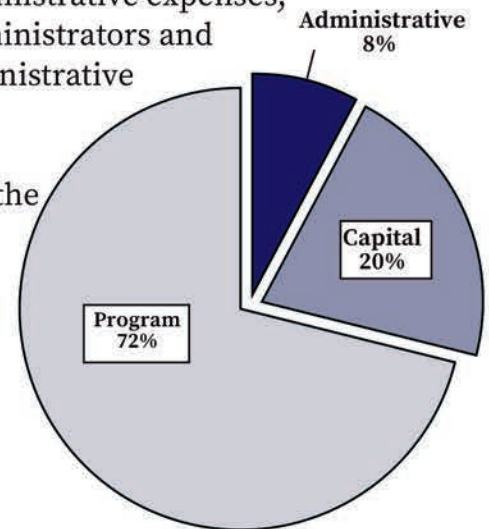
SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED EXPENSES 2023-2024

The **Administrative** component includes office and central administrative expenses, travel expenses, salaries and benefits for all certified school administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing administrative or supervisory duties.

Also included are expenditures associated with the operation of the Board of Education, Superintendent's Office, general administration, the school business office, any consulting costs not directly related to district services or programs, and all other administrative activities.

The **Capital** component includes debt service payments and maintenance costs, and BOCES capital/rent costs.

The **Program** component of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers and any school administrators and supervisors who spend a majority of their time performing teaching duties. All transportation operating expenses are included, as well as all instructional costs, such as textbooks, classroom supplies, field trips, instructional equipment, student support services, extracurricular and interscholastic sports programs.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

JENNIFER OBERT

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

The role of an elected school board member is to oversee the education of the youth, the personnel of the district, the school district's property, and to help prepare a budget. The school board member should also be available for both the members of the community, the students and the staff to listen to suggestions and problems.

I am running for school board because I feel that we need to offer all of our students a better educational experience. Many of our students could use extra help and broader experiences to improve their future. I feel that we should be preparing our youth for life after school no matter what their plans are. We need to support both the youth that would like to attend college, trade school as well as the youth that would like to enter the workforces. We need to continue to provide the experience that we currently offer our youth but also look for opportunities to improve the students' experiences and grow their love of education no matter what their interests are. I would like to see more community involvement in our educational experiences as well as better and quicker forms of communications.

If elected my top five priorities are:

1. Education
2. Community Involvement
3. Fiscally Responsible Budgets
4. Community Activities
5. Better prepare our students for the future



Chautauqua Lake strives to be a "destination district" for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

Chautauqua Lake school district is a great school district for families with students that are looking for a place to reside because of the options that are available to our students.

How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

I have been employed at the Village of Mayville for the past 11 years. My job includes the preparation of the yearly budget, filing the tax cap and the constitution tax limit. I prepare the monthly financial reports for the Board of Trustees. I feel these skills and experiences would help prepare me to be a school board member.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

The most important areas to consider when developing the school budget are to provide the best education and experiences to our youth while being fiscally responsible to our tax payers. It is important to keep the community involved and allow them to benefit from the taxes that they are paying.

I feel that shared services are vital for our district to allow us to offer a broad range of experiences for our youth while keeping the costs at a responsible cost for our tax payers. With the current fiscal environment that we are living in it's important to try to keep our budget balanced and not sacrifice on services. We need to be creative to make this distract competitive and focus on educational experiences for our youth.

What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

I have lived in the Chautauqua Lake school district for the last 24 years. I have seen many changes over the years and I feel that my experiences in life as well as my experiences working for the Village of Mayville have provided experiences and education that I could use to help me serve as a school board member.

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

The school district activities that I have been involved with include attending athletic events, concerts and other school functions.

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

The community activities that I am involved in include being the treasurer for the Chautauqua Lake Cub Scout Pack 126. I also attend 4-H events and Boy Scout events with my son, Grady.

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

My husband, Scott, and I have a son, Grady Obert, who is currently in the 8th grade and a daughter Mercedez Obert that was a graduate of Chautauqua Lake's Class of 2022. She is currently a freshman at Jamestown Community College.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

MELISSA PUTNEY

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

Being a school board member for the past three years has been an honor. It is a privilege to be part of a growing school with strong community ties and a positive and ambitious outlook for the future. My top priorities would be to continue the work I have seen over the past three years. It is important to provide the very best education to our children. This includes giving our students challenging opportunities that prepare them for an ever-changing world. Our school should continue to grow in the advanced courses we are offering, our manufacturing facility, and our rigorous standards and graduation rates. I am proud of the capital project and our commitment in continuing to give our students the very best place to learn. Our improvements help to make us a destination district with our new cafeteria, turf field, playground as well as replacing windows and making necessary improvements to keep our school safe. Being able to provide all of this and stay committed to the taxpayers with a responsible budget while planning for the future is always a top priority for the board of education.



Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

I believe Chautauqua Lake is a destination district for families. Our facility is impressive especially with our capital project, our graduation rates and our assessment results being at the top of the county. Most importantly, we have an extremely caring staff and administrative team. This is obvious from the culture that is seen and felt on campus and in the school community.

How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

I believe that my experience as a teacher brings value to the school board. I attempt to listen, search, question, and try to see all angles of the situation. I would like to think one of my greatest strengths is always trying to find what is “best for kids.” In my classroom, this is the question that I use to guide my decisions, my instruction, my plans, my ideas, and my course of action; I have tried to use this same thought pattern as a board member. In education we are always pivoting and changing to each new obstacle, challenge, and new day.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

In developing the school budget, I have learned a lot as a school board member. It is a delicate process as the board tries to balance the budget in order to meet the educational needs of today, plan for the future, and be responsible to the taxpayer. All three of these ideas need to be at the forefront of any budget planning session. I am very proud of the advanced work the school has done in shared services. In today's society, we need to continue to be progressive in this area.

What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

I believe my years in education have benefited me as a school board member. I hope I bring an educator's insight to the board. When one can see a problem from many different perspectives, I believe more solutions are possible. I try to see the issues from a board member's point of view, community member, parent, and educator. I hope this brings a unique point of view to the board and our school community.



What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

In what school/district activities have you been involved? In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

My family has been involved in the school and community. We have always been active in attending school events and supporting the events that the school and parent committees sponsor. These range from academic events, sporting events and parent lead activities.

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

My son, Devin, is a 2022 graduate from Chautauqua Lake, and he attends college at the University of Hartford in Connecticut. My daughter, Quinn, is currently a junior here at Chautauqua Lake.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

ROBERT REYNOLDS



If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

The role of the school board is to assure that every attempt is made to help All students to achieve to the best of their abilities and to partner with each other in decision making to continue to improve all aspects of the District.

5 priorities

1. To strive to give all students and staff opportunities to grow and succeed not only during school and work hours, but afterward and after leaving the District.
2. To offer all involved peace of mind that they do matter and that their safety and well-being are of utmost importance
3. To offer all staff what they need to grow in their positions through trainings
4. Make sure that all employees of the District are held to high standards and held accountable for their actions and rewarded for their success
5. Present yearly budgets and all capital projects that first and foremost focusses on our students.

Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

We are fortunate to offer extra programs that help students explore further than what the state mandates. Moving forward I hope we are able to expand these offerings.

How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

With over 25 years maintenance experience, including over 20 at CLCS, I believe I offer experiences that will help in building projects.

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

In these times of high costs out of our control we need to keep our costs minimal with as little negative impact on education, including all staffing, as possible.

What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

My past and current board service, Habitat for Humanity, have given me opportunities to become acquainted with board procedures.

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

I have been involved with the Thunderbird Club and help with multiple youth sports

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

- Served over 15 years in local fire departments including positions as Assistant Chief, Chief and EMT.
- 12 years involvement with Habitat for Humanity, currently serve on Board.
- Current member of Mayville 4th of July committee
- Past member of Friends of Midway Park committee
- Current volunteer with Special Spaces

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

Son Jordan Graduated in 2010



PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk (or board designee) to provide absentee ballots to qualified district voters. Absentee ballots may be used for the election of school board members and for adoption of the annual budget and referenda.

A district voter must request in advance an application for an absentee ballot. The voter must complete the application and state the reason he/she will not be able to appear in person on the date of the district election. The application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the voter will be picking up the ballot in person. Pursuant to the provisions of Education Law, a district voter may vote by absentee ballot if during all the hours of voting on the day of an election he or she will be:

1. absent from the county of his or her residence; or
2. unable to appear at the polling place because of illness or physical disability, or duties related to the primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled, or because he or she will be or is a patient in a hospital, provided that, for purposes of this subparagraph, "illness" shall include, but not be limited to, instances where a voter is unable to appear personally at the polling place of the school district in which they are a qualified voter because there is a risk of contracting or spreading a disease that may cause illness to the voter or to other members of the public; or
3. an inmate or patient of a veteran's administration hospital; or
4. absent from his or her voting residence because he or she is detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial, or confined in jail or prison after a conviction for an offense other than a felony, provided that he or she is qualified to vote in the election district of his or her residence.

An absentee ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued shall be maintained by the District Clerk and made available for public inspection. Any qualified voter challenging the acceptance of an absentee ballot must file a written statement with the District Clerk or inform the election inspectors on the day of the district election. Any district resident who needs an absentee ballot and is qualified to vote in this election should contact the District Clerk's Office, 100 N. Erie Street, Mayville, NY 14757 (716-753-5808) to request an application.

OPTICAL SCAN VOTING MACHINES

District voters will again use optical scanning machines when they vote on Tuesday, May 16th. The machines are also in use in Chautauqua County for other elections. Poll workers will be available to assist anyone unfamiliar with this voting method. Each voter must affirm legal residency within the Chautauqua Lake Central School District. Photo identification is preferred.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

ZACH STAHLSMITH

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

The role of an elected school board official is to help lead the school district, make students, staff, and faculty feel safe and welcome in an educational environment, and to know the needs and priorities of the district so that learning and socialization of the highest caliber can take place. I am running for a second term for school board because I want to be the person who I needed as a student at Chautauqua Lake. If elected, my top 5 priorities will be: safety, a focus on mental health, inter-district collaboration of educational and athletic services, college prep, and making sure students and teachers have what resources they need to thrive in an educational environment.

Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

What makes Chautauqua Lake a great district is the supportive faculty, staff, and students that all work to nurture creativity and learning in a familial atmosphere. In other words, it's the people that make Chautauqua Lake such an awesome district.



How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

My professional experiences and connections through the local theater community, with other small business owners, and having technical abilities both in the Information Technology and Audio Visual realms can all come together to help Chautauqua Lake students, staff, and faculty achieve the best versions of themselves and show just how important it is to be yourself and follow your own dreams.

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

When developing a school budget, I believe it is important to look at what the needs are in the classroom, followed by extracurricular activities. This knowledge is gained from conversations with the people who are involved in those areas and learning what the priorities are for the most successful outcome. I believe shared services between area school districts is an absolute win for everyone, and a reality that will grow with each passing year.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

In serving as a school board member, I bring to the table my knowledge of the area and it's people and programs, my own higher education that I have received, and my experiences serving in a vast number of leadership roles both at local and statewide levels.

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

I have been involved with concessions stands, teacher appreciation, community forums regarding the most recent capital project, and supporting school musicals.

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

I am a member of the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce, a staff member at my church (serving as the Technical Pastor), a member of the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet board, Mayville Library Board Member, and a Steering Committee member for the Town of Chautauqua and Village of Mayville Joint Comprehensive Plan

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District? If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:



Chautauqua Lake Central School
100 N. Erie Street
Mayville, New York 14757-9798

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School Safety Tip Line	753-5803
Superintendent's Office	753-5808
Elementary School Office, Pre-K-6	753-5841
Secondary School Office, 7-12	753-5881
Counselor, Pre-K-6	753-5846
Guidance Office, 7-12	753-5887
Health Office	753-5819
District Registrar	753-5910
Student Services Office	753-5877
Transportation Department	753-5901
Cafeteria Office	753-5824
Business Office	753-5874
Buildings and Grounds	753-5825

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WHAT YOU WILL BE VOTING ON

BUDGET PROPOSITION: RESOLVED, that the budget for the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 as presented by the Board of Education is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of \$24,337,410 and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

Voting for School Board Members: This year there are three, "three-year terms" to be filled (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026) and one additional seat with the term of office beginning on the certification of the election result by the County Board of Elections, expiring on June 30, 2024. Candidates who have filed the required board petition as of the April 17, 2023, deadline in the order they will appear on the ballot are Robert Reynolds, Jennifer Obert, Melissa Putney, Jessup Baker, Zach Stahlsmith, and Travis Bensink. All candidates are running "at large," and the three candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected to a term ending on June 30, 2026, and the fourth place candidate shall be elected to a term ending on June 30, 2024.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS

According to education law, to be qualified to vote in a school district election, a person must be:

1. A citizen of the United States
2. (At least) Eighteen (18) years of age
3. A resident within the school district for a period of at least thirty (30) days next preceding the day of the election*

*A person may have only one legal residence, which is normally determined by a combination of the following:

1. The place that he or she votes in a federal, state or local election
2. The place where he or she pays income taxes
3. The place where his or her automobile is registered

Each voter must affirm legal residency within the Chautauqua Lake Central School District. Photo identification preferred.

PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

See detailed information on page 17.