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# Chautauqua Lake Central School District

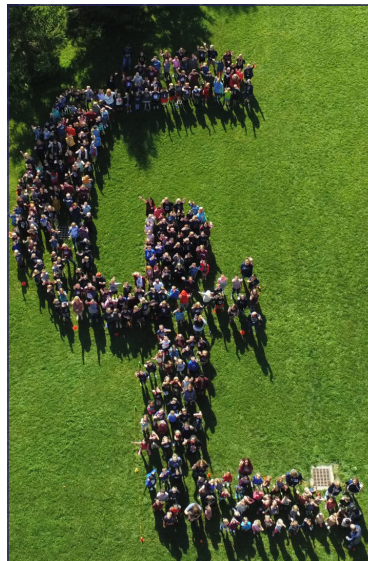
## 2020-2021 Budget Notice

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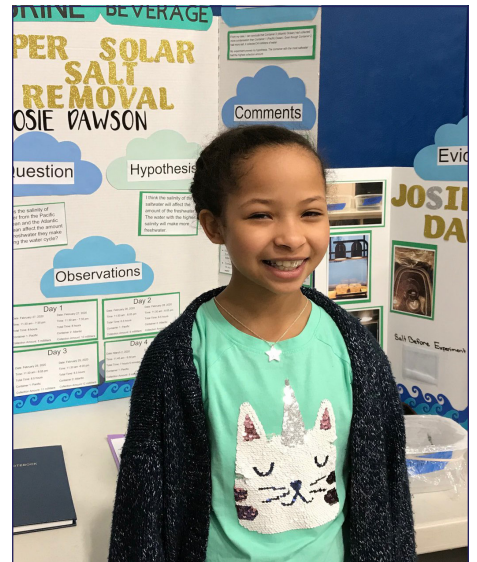
### MISSION STATEMENT



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



**Meet the Candidates:**  
See pages 8 - 12



*Charting a course for the future*

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear CLCS Community,

Every second and fourth Wednesday, the members of the Board of Education meet to discuss the decisions that govern the education of our children. We discuss progressive programming, fiscal responsibility, Special Education, Education Policy, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment, all of which align with our vision and mission for our district. As the budget vote approaches, it may consume the discussion in the spring, however it is developed and constructed carefully since September. Our district's budget should let our stakeholders know our priorities. Our priority is providing resources, programs, and opportunities to our students in order to assist them in achieving their goals. The focus of our budget is always to ensure that our students are civic, college, or career ready as they graduate and look to compete in the global market.

As Thunderbirds, we have a long standing tradition of providing high-quality, instructionally diverse programs in a fiscally responsible manner to our CLCS students. Our students continue to be enriched by our partnerships with Chautauqua Institution, Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene, as well as various other partnerships. Beginning from the early stages, our families have the Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center, to the later stages of education, our students are able to access Jamestown

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*"Our priority is providing resources, programs, and opportunities to our students in order to assist them in achieving their goals."*

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*"The budget has considered the current and future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and our students upcoming needs as we progress through this unknown time"*

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Community College or Rochester Institute of Technology, to support the educational pathways of their choice. Our students have choices to participate in our Project Lead the Way program, Manufacturing program, or our New Visions program. Our choices for the budget have considered the current and future effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our student's upcoming needs and our community's needs as we progress through this unknown time.

We have made the difficult, responsible cuts to ensure our budget is fiscally responsible during this time. We continue to partner with Ripley Central School District and feel that our tuition agreement offers much to all

of our students. The budget for the 2020-2021 school year represents a total increase of 0.4% over the 2019-2020 school year. As the elected Board of Education, we continue to be grateful for the support we receive from our faculty, staff, parents, stakeholders, and community. We enjoy having members of the community attend our bi-monthly meetings and look forward to your future involvement. Please feel free to attend our 7:00 PM Board Meetings and Special Meetings as posted on our website and Facebook page. Our Annual Budget Hearing will be held virtually this year on June 2, 2020, at 7:00 PM. Thank you for your help in creating a promising future for our children.

Yours in Education,  
Your Board of Education

Amy Webb, President  
Mary Lee Talbot, Vice President  
Jay Baker  
Travis Bensink  
Michael Ludwig  
Andrea Munsee-Wellman  
Kenneth Shearer



## SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

<b>Overall Budget Proposal</b>	<b>Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year</b>	<b>Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year</b>	<b>Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year*</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</b>	\$23,099,235	\$23,202,347	\$22,613,736
<b>Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year</b>		\$103,112	\$588,611
<b>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</b>		.04%	-2.54%
<b>Change in the Consumer Price Index</b>		1.81%	
<b>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	\$12,015,988	\$12,316,388	
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>	\$-0-	\$-0-	
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**</b>	\$-0-	\$-0-	
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>	\$-0-	\$-0-	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C + D)</b>	<b>\$12,015,988</b>	<b>\$12,316,388</b>	<b>\$12,015,988</b>
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>	\$219,190	\$271,240	
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>	\$12,041,256	\$12,064,356	
<b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>	\$11,796,798	\$12,045,148	
<b>I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**</b>	\$244,458	\$19,208	
<b>Administrative Component</b>	\$1,878,295	\$1,972,388	\$1,878,295
<b>Program Component</b>	\$15,986,370	\$16,126,017	\$15,631,499
<b>Capital Component</b>	\$5,234,570	\$5,103,942	\$5,103,942

\* 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

	<b>Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year</b>
<b>Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$270</b>

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Chautauqua Lake Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York, will be held by mail-in ballot on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Ballots must be received by 5 PM, prevailing time in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District.

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

*A detailed copy of the proposed 2020-21 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](http://www.clake.org) and at the June 2 Public Hearing.*

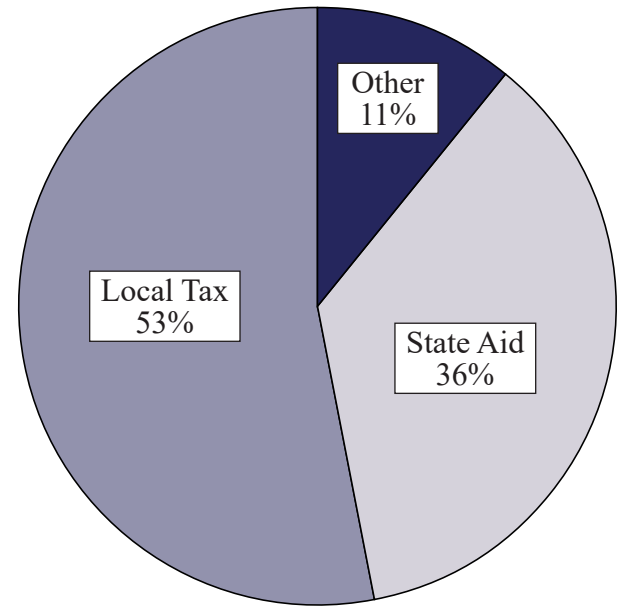
## SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED REVENUES 2020-21

To meet the **Proposed Operating Budget** of \$23,202,347 the district has projected the following anticipated revenues:

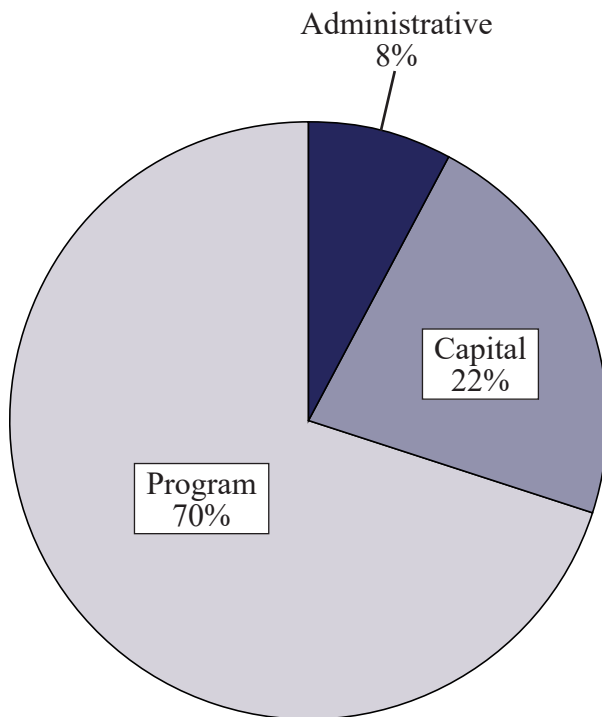
**State Aid** includes Basic Operating Aid as well as a number of categorical aids, including BOCES Aid, Transportation Aid, Excess Cost Aid, Textbook, Building and Miscellaneous Aids.

**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 2020-21



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.

*The New York State Department of Education has released the 2018-19 School Report Card for publication. It is available in each school office and is included in the complete 2020-21 budget document, now available in the District Office, at [www.clake.org](http://www.clake.org) and at the June 2 Public Hearing.*

## 2020-21 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

### BUDGET TOTAL \$23,202,347

EXPENDITURES	
Salary/Benefits	\$14,532,444
Equipment/Supplies	\$1,073,336
Contractual/BOCES	\$4,557,448
Debt Service (Capital Improvements)	\$3,039,119
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,202,347</b>

REVENUES	
Local Funds	\$1,526,816
State/Federal Aid	\$8,309,143
Designated Fund Balance	\$1,050,000
Tax Levy/Tax Items	\$12,316,388
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,202,347</b>

## 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 the higher 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 2020-21 budget was formulated over many months to take into consideration the various elements of school programming, while keeping the taxpayer in mind. For the ninth 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.

With that in mind, this budget provides the resources to preserve and enhance the programs and services at the center of the district's mission. While spending is only up a fraction of a 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 Mandarin Chinese, Television Production, Project Lead the Way (pre-engineering) and rigorous manufacturing courses as well as 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.

## UNDERSTANDING THE NYS PROPERTY TAX CAP

### Chautauqua Lake Central School

#### Calculation: 2020-21 Tax Levy Limit and Maximum Allowable Tax Levy

Per NYS State Education Department / NYS Comptroller guidelines

Prior year tax levy	\$12,015,988
Tax base growth factor, if any	x 1.0062
Subtotal	\$12,090,487
Plus Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) 2019-20	+ \$1,734
Less Taxes levied for exclusions during 2019-20	- \$240,057
Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy	Subtotal \$11,852,164
Allowable levy growth factor (lesser of 2% or CPI)	x 1.0181
Subtotal	\$12,066,688
Less Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) 2020-21 (projected)	- \$1,734
Available carryover (if any)	+ \$25,268
"Tax Levy Limit" or Tax Levy	Subtotal \$12,090,222
Plus 2020-21 School Year Exemptions	+ \$271,241
<b>Maximum Allowable Tax Levy</b> <i>(requiring simple majority approval of more than 50% of voters)</i>	<b>\$12,361,463</b>

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 2020-21 School Budget. The calculated \$12,361,463 "Maximum Allowable Tax Levy" is a \$345,475 (or 2.88%) increase over the 2019-20 tax levy of \$12,015,988. (Note: The Board's proposed budget is **below** the maximum allowable tax levy at \$12,316,388.)

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.



## LONG-RANGE GOALS

### Focus on Individual Student Achievement

Goal #1 – All students will be self-sufficient to their fullest potential through diverse instruction, technology integration and multiple educational opportunities to ensure successful transition into adulthood.

### Focus on Individual Student Quality of Life

Goal #2 – All students will model an active healthy lifestyle through independence, socially skilled communication, tolerance and empathy.

### Focus on School Climate and Culture

Goal #3 – All students will contribute to a safe, supportive and positive environment that promotes honesty, integrity, and respect for self and others, while cultivating community interactions and strengthening traditions.

### Focus on Real World Applications

Goal #4 – All students will be self-motivated to seek the relevance and future application of learning in order to adapt to an ever-changing world.

*The district goals were developed in 2011 by a team of teachers, administrators, non-instructional staff and parents and adopted by the Board of Education in 2011 and 2015. Teams use the goals to establish building-level priorities each year.*

## 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.

In accordance with NY Governor Executive Order 202.26, all voting shall be done by mail-in ballot. The district will be mailing ballots to all registered voters within the Chautauqua Lake School District community.

An absentee ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk no later than

5 PM 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 on our website, [www.clake.org](http://www.clake.org). 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 qualified voter who is not registered to vote with the Chautauqua County Board of Elections may request a ballot by contacting the District Clerk's Office for further details.

### District Clerk's Office:

100 North Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

(716) 753-5808



## CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT

NYS Law provides that a district may receive building aid in the following aid year for one project each year in the district not exceeding \$100,000. Voter authorization for these projects is obtained by inclusion of funding in the budget presented to and approved by the voters, and such projects must be paid by budget appropriation. Districts may not use borrowed money for these projects. Project components planned for this year's proposed budget include:

- Interior Finish Improvements
- Technology Infrastructure Upgrades
- Building Generator Repairs
- Building Envelope Improvements



## Travis Bensink

*Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?*

I wish to be re-elected to the Chautauqua Lake School Board to be a voice and positively impact the daily lives and learning of our children in the CLCS community. With the programs we have started, the future is bright for our school district. I wish to continue to have input to help the process of shaping and molding the opportunities for our children. I have been part of shaping and initiating new programs, leading Chautauqua Lake towards an even brighter future. Upon re-election, I will continue to promote programming and curriculum that benefits our children.

1. Continuing to expand our program offerings beyond the liberal arts to include technical fields and the creative arts.
2. Focusing on budgeting and personnel relations.
3. Ensure after school activities continue in athletics, technology and the arts.

*As a current school board member, what are your views of regionalizing education in Chautauqua County?*

I believe regionalization is inevitable. As school districts get smaller, the need to combine resources is going to become a necessity. Combining not just finances, but faculty and staff as well. There are several advantages for our communities.

1. Strengthening the learning opportunities for our students by expanding our course offerings.
2. Chautauqua Lake has become a leader in Regionalization ideas leading presentations, offering support to other districts in Chautauqua county.
3. Regionalization offers combined opportunities that districts on their own would normally be unequipped or unable to offer.

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

As a current board member, I have had the opportunity to learn the “ins and outs” of our school. It has given me the opportunity to build relationships with students, community members, as well as faculty and staff at CLCS. This has allowed me to communicate and share ideas from the community with our administration and help open new and exciting doors to programs and opportunities at Chautauqua Lake. I also have many years of experience in managing budgets, labor and production by meeting deadlines and timelines that are put in front of me. I have been involved in day to day personnel decisions.



This will allow me to help give input on decisions presented to the board when hiring prospective candidates that will help mold the students in our school.

### *School/District Activities*

I am deeply involved in area athletics. I am a Tball Coach and Coordinator and I also coach Pitch Baseball. Currently, I am the president for Chautauqua Lake Youth Football where I have coached both Flag Football and Rookie Tackle. I am known as the voice of Chautauqua Lake Football, having announced for Youth, Modified and High School levels. I have also assisted in coached WRCL Novice Green Room and am the current vice president for WRCL Youth Wrestling. Outside of athletics, I have volunteered for various school presentations and field trips, such as career day with third grade and teaching a cooking class to high school students for a day.

### *Community Activities*

I've participated in community activities throughout Chautauqua County, including cooking demonstrations for the children's school at the Chautauqua Institution, coaching youth soccer for Southwestern Area Youth Soccer program, Independent Party representative for District Attorney Patrick Swanson's campaign, and supporting local 4-H students through livestock sales. I have also held various leadership roles in Lakewood Baptist Church that include Nursery volunteer, Annual Sportsman's Dinner volunteer, Adult and Youth Sunday school teacher and Chairman for Local Outreach Missions.

*Travis Bensink resides in Mayville with his wife, Tawn Bensink. They have four Thunderbirds, Thandon (Class of 2027), Tatum (Class of 2029), Tripp (Class of 2031) and Talia (Class of 2033).*





## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### Gina Hardenburg

*Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?*

I am running for the school board to be more active and involved in the direction that CLCS is currently taking children's education. My priorities lie within the foundation of education at each level. First, I feel that third grade and under needs to be encouraged to learn, but also to be *young* and explore the different styles and environments that will most benefit their developing minds. I also think there lies an urgent need for additional help in each classroom, especially at the younger level (Kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade). Our teachers need more support in the classroom, as there are many more children today with special needs and varying levels of learning that require more than one adult in the room. I think it is important to start encouraging the parents and voting public back into the process of school board matters. Parents should be more aware of what the classroom environment looks like and be encouraged to be active, not only in the sports programs; but the education process.

*As a prospective school board member, what are your views of regionalizing education in Chautauqua County?*

I am strongly opposed to the regionalization of *our* school. The point of Mayville and Chautauqua schools merging 25 years ago was to get ahead of the state from forcing it without the financial support we received. That was the main reason for building Chautauqua Lake Central a new, "all grades in one location" building, instead of utilizing existing facilities and bussing Elementary & High School to different locations. While I think the tuition program with Ripley has benefited both schools and should continue; there are many classrooms being "leased" that could be used if needed in the future. I fully support the added benefit of the shared sports programs with neighboring school, giving the CLCS students more options to compete in sports that might not otherwise be offered.

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

I have lived in Mayville most of my life and strongly value the sense of community that I feel with my neighbors and other parents. I spent over 18 years working with the public in the Grocery and Hospitality business; I am very organized, rational, and my main focus at



this time in my life is my daughter and what is best for her future.

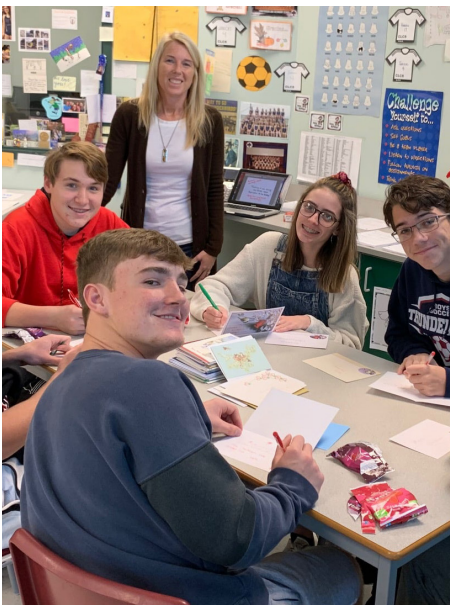
#### *School/District Activities*

I have been an active parent with my daughter's class for the last four years, volunteering whenever asked or needed and also helping with the Accelerated Reading program in the Library.

#### *Community Activities*

My husband, Rusty, is one of the Mayville Volunteer Fire Department's Chiefs, so we often help with functions when needed as a family; which includes the fun of riding in local parades and throwing candy we purchase for the community children, stuffing Easter Eggs annually, etc. I also volunteer as a contact for the Mayville/Chautauqua Loan Closet.

*Gina and her husband live in Mayville with their 8-year-old daughter Mackenna. Mackenna is currently in the 2nd grade with Miss Stevens. She is a kind and loving child, and the future of her education at CLCS and that of her peers is what is most important to Gina for the next ten years.*





## Melissa Putney

*Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?*

Learning is not only a passion of mine, but also a lifetime commitment. I feel this way not only as an educator, but more importantly as an individual. I have been a teacher at Westfield Academy and Central School for over twenty years, and as a family, we are actively involved in our children's education as well as community activities in the Chautauqua Lake district. Attending board meetings regularly has given me an understanding of the process, which is something that I have enjoyed and respected. I truly feel that education is the heart of society, and I would be honored to become part of Chautauqua Lake's Board of Education.

When I think of priorities in the educational world, I immediately think of our students. When dealing with educational decisions, one needs to do what is best for kids. No matter what decisions are made, the last sentence should always be "Is this decision best for kids?" If there is any hesitation in the answer, the decision needs to be re-evaluated. I believe everyone in education needs to be creative, open minded, flexible, and committed to doing what is right for the students. Once again, teachers are facing an ever changing world, new challenges and a changing society. A priority of the school board needs to be a continued commitment to the students, the staff, the district and the community to find the best answers. Today, in the face of this pandemic, the social and emotional priority of students, staff, district and community needs to be at the forefront of the discussion. As a teacher, my motto right now is that "curriculum must provide connection." Our students need to have a direct connection with the curriculum and their educators to stay engaged and motivated. In overcoming challenges, districts are going to be faced with the daunting task of balancing a budget in the shadow of many unknowns. Being responsible to the taxpayer while providing the best possible future to our students is going to be an onerous task. I believe with my educational background, my commitment to education and my deep respect for all of the moving parts in education that I could help facilitate the new direction that districts will be asked to create.

*As a prospective school board member, what are your views of regionalizing education in Chautauqua County?*



Although Chautauqua Lake's programming is expansive, it is important to continue to offer and expand on what is offered to our students. In a very competitive world, students need to have the opportunity to be creative, challenged and learn to be resilient. Shared services, long distance learning, and regionalism are all pathways for increased opportunities. Chautauqua Lake has been at the forefront of creative innovations for their students, and I hope this continues.

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

I believe that being an educator for over twenty years has helped me prepare to be a board member. I understand the intricate language and details of the educational world. I have served on numerous committees and received an abundance of educational training.

### *School/District Activities*

My family has lived in the Chautauqua Lake District for 19 years. We are involved in the school community by attending activities such as concerts, plays, athletic events, book fairs, science fairs, teacher appreciation week and work the concession stands to name a few.

### *Community Activities*

In our community, my family has been actively involved in Little League, Boy Scouts, youth basketball, North Lake Soccer, Lakewood Starz Gymnastics and Thundercats Football.

*Melissa Putney and her husband have two children. Their son is a sophomore and their daughter is in eighth grade. Both are responsible students who are active in sports and extracurricular activities.*





## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### Zach Stahlsmith

*Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?*

I am running for the School Board because I want to be a part of the good work that is happening at Chautauqua Lake Central School. As a student at Chautauqua Lake Central School from first grade to twelfth grade, I was immersed in the Thunderbird community. I saw, and was a part of, new ideas such as Sources of Strength and Impact Campus Fellowship, programs like band and chorus concerts, musicals, and talent shows, and classes (both required and elective) that worked and were greeted with enthusiasm by students, faculty and staff, and the community at larger; on the other side of that coin, I saw some aspects of school life that perhaps did not quite work at first, but just needed a push in the right direction by students and school leadership alike. *"Education is the silver bullet. Education is everything."* - Sam Seaborn, The West Wing.

My first priority is to help us fine-tune the educational and programmatic aspects of Chautauqua Lake Central School from a managerial standpoint that have the best positive outcome for the students, staff and faculty so that everyone feels safe and taken care of in our school environment. Furthermore, I want to help students with college prep and direct them to resources that will allow them to be ready to take on the world.

Priority two for me is to make sure that faculty and staff have all the resources they need in order to do their job, effectively and swiftly, while maintaining professional standards expected from an educational institution.

Priority three is technology in the building, particularly with the audio/visual systems. I work as an audio/visual technician and am willing, and able, to use my skills and professional connections in that field to get the school's audio/visual systems upgraded or maintained so that the programs and events we put on for students and the community can continue to be high-quality and enhance the product we are putting out to the community. I would also like to help address any issues with the future of remote classroom work or meetings over Google Hangout, Zoom, or other video-conferencing programs.



*As a prospective school board member, what are your views of regionalizing education in Chautauqua County?*

My views for regionalizing education are that it is an action that will need to happen as we move into the future of education in Chautauqua County, particularly as the size of graduating classes and schools continues to shrink. It will be important for local communities to be as involved as possible in this process, with voice and vote. From a budget standpoint, it makes sense to create a regional school because that would allow the school to have access to even better resources for students.

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

In terms of particular experiences and skills that qualify me to serve as a school board member, I have a bachelor's degree in religious studies and history and am pursuing my master's degree. I also seasonally supervise an audio/visual crew, was a Resident Assistant in college, and am an alumnus of Chautauqua Lake Central School.

#### *School/District Activities*

The school and district activities I have been involved in post-graduation are musical ticket sales, Boys' Soccer concession stand sales and general support of school activities as an active community member.

#### *Community Activities*

I am currently a board member for the Chautauqua Regional Youth Symphony and the Mayville Library, as well as a committee member for the church Staff-Parish committee, which is essentially HR for the local church.





### Mary Lee Talbot

*Why are you running for the school board? If elected, what will be your top three priorities and why?*

I am running for the school board because I believe that public education is a hallmark of a strong democracy and that our schools deserve the care and support of all people, not just parents. My first priority is to see that our New Visions program grows so that, with our efforts in STEM education like Project Lead The Way and a classic academic program, all children are developing life-long skills. My second priority is to continue to look ahead and see what kinds of job skills and life skills our children will need and be sure that we are educating our children for a future that we only see dimly at present. My third priority is to continue to advocate for regionalism so the school districts in Chautauqua County work together, with financial incentives from the state, to provide the best education for all children in the county.

*As a current school board member, what are your views of regionalizing education in Chautauqua County?*

In a county with just over 135,000 residents we will not be able to afford 18 school districts in the near future and we need to use our resources wisely to insure a good education for all our children. The agreement to work with Ripley to tuition in their students has allowed us to keep programs we need for all our students. I have been advocating for regionalism since I first came to the Board and have taken the lead in getting the Chautauqua County School Board Association to advocate for financial incentives to create tuition agreements among all our schools.

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

I have been a member of the school board for the past six years. I have been a member of the budget and audit committees for each of those years. I have served on the committee that coordinated the search for a new superintendent. I represent CLCS on the County School Board Association. Before becoming a member of the school board, I attended board meetings for three years to get an understanding of the issues facing the district.



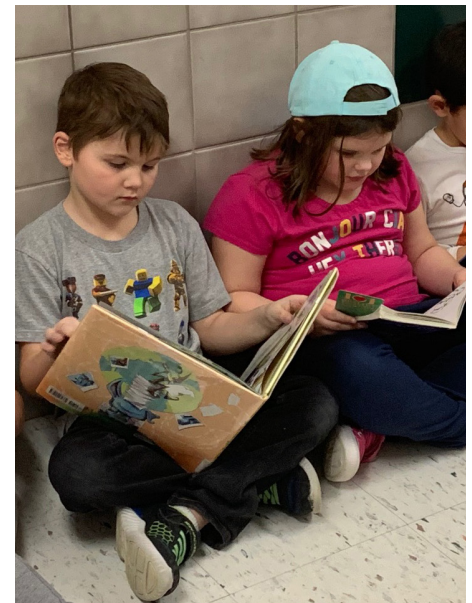
#### *School/District Activities*

I am deeply involved in the playwriting program with grades three and four. I come to the school and help the kids when they write their plays and then I read the plays so students hear them for the first time. It is always a joy to attend the school musicals and the grade school science fair.

#### *Community Activities*

I am a Presbyterian minister and preach twice a month at Wright Memorial Church on the Cattaraugus Territory of the Seneca Nation. I am a member of the American Association of University Women in Jamestown and served eight years as the co-chair of the annual What's New Fair that raises scholarships for JCC and JBC women who are going on for a four-year degree.

*Mary Lee Talbot believes her six years of involvement with the board and the understanding of the issues facing our schools qualifies her to serve another term on the board. She has had a passion for public education and its necessity for a strong democracy since she was in high school. She has a PhD in the history of education and has written curriculum for the Presbyterian Church (USA).*



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

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*Area Code 716*

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

*www.clake.org*

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**QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS**

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

1. At least 18 years of age
2. A legal resident of the school district for 30 days prior to the date of the vote\*
3. A citizen of the United States

**\*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.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Budget Hearing & Candidates Introduction**

**Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 7 PM**

Virtual Live Stream at [www.clake.org](http://www.clake.org)

**Budget Vote**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

Ballots must be received by 5 PM

**WHAT YOU WILL BE VOTING ON**

**Budget Proposition:** Resolved, that the budget for the Chautauqua Lake Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of \$23,202,347 and the required funds therefor are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the said District to be levied and collected as required by law.

**Voting for School Board Members:** Three (three-year term) board seats will be filled this year. Candidates who have filed the required board petition and met the May 11, 2020, deadline will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order. They are: Travis Bensink, Gina Hardenburg, Melissa Putney, Zach Stahlsmith and Mary Lee Talbot. All candidates are running "at large," and the three candidates with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

**PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

*See detailed information on page 7.*