



ROME

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ROME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER  2020-21

0% TAX INCREASE

2020-21 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET INFORMATION

YOU WILL SEE 4 PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION #1 – SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET - \$122,607,537

That the proposed budget of expenditures of the Rome City School District for the 2020-21 school year be, and the same hereby is, approved in the amount of \$122,607,537 and that the necessary tax therefore shall be levied after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as approved by law.

PROGRAM (74%) - \$91,260,990

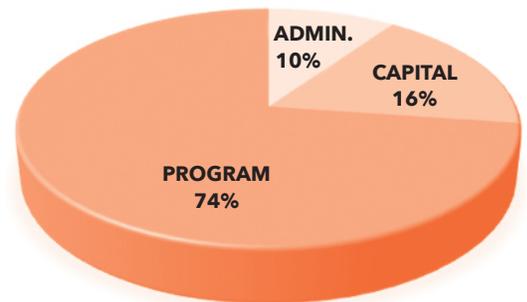
Textbooks, classroom supplies and equipment, field trips, transportation, sports, salaries, benefits and other curriculum related expenses, such as art, music, libraries, physical education, in-service training of teachers, and special education services.

CAPITAL (15%) - \$18,569,927

Operation of buildings, maintenance and repairs, equipment, debt service, salaries and benefits for custodial and maintenance staff.

ADMINISTRATION (10%) - \$12,776,620

Expenditures for the operation of board meetings, superintendent, business office, auditing, personnel, legal expenses, school supervision, salaries, administrative clerical and employee benefits.



PROPOSITION #2 – SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES - PAGE 3

There are three (3) at-large positions on the Board of Education that will be available on July 1, 2020. These three positions are for full three-year terms, to expire June 30, 2023.

PROPOSITION #3 – STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Yes or No on the creation of a student Board of Education Member.

PROPOSITION #4 – SALE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY (FT. STANWIX SCHOOL)

Yes or No on the sale of district property (Ft. Stanwix School)

DATE OF THE ELECTION: JUNE 9, 2020 (VIA ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY)
MORE BUDGET DETAILS AVAILABLE AT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.ROMECS.D.ORG

PROJECTED TAX RATES

*Per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

MUNICIPALITY	2019-2020 ACTUAL	2020-2021 PROJECTED	\$ CHANGE IN RATE	PERCENT INCREASE	PERCENT OF TAX BASE
Rome	\$31.95	\$32.47	\$0.52	--	74.09%
Annsville	\$40.50	\$39.99	\$(0.51)	--	0.46%
Lee	\$748.11	\$710.48	\$(37.63)	--	20.11%
Verona	\$31.79	\$33.74	\$1.95	--	0.30%
Western	\$41.99	\$40.74	\$(1.25)	--	5.29%

ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT ON A TYPICAL HOME

City of Rome - Based on a Home Assessed at \$100,000

	2019-2020 ACTUAL	2020-2021 PROJECTED
Assessed Value @ 100%	\$100,000	\$100,000
Tax Rate	\$31.95	\$32.47
Tax Amount	\$3,195	\$3,247
Basic STAR Reduction	(\$684)	(\$684)
Net Taxable Value	\$2,511	\$2,563
Difference	0	\$51

SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 2019-2020	PROPOSED 2020-2021	PROPOSED CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
Appropriations	\$116,692,438	\$122,607,537	\$5,915,099	5.07%
Revenues & Applied Reserves	\$78,996,542	\$77,796,161	(\$1,200,381)	(1.52%)
Tax Levy	\$35,159,690	\$35,159,690	\$0	0%
Projected Fund Balance Used	\$2,536,206	\$9,651,686	\$7,115,480	280.55%
Projected Fund Balance Remaining	\$6,381,839	\$3,772,192	(\$2,609,647)	(40.89%)

DATE OF THE ELECTION: JUNE 9, 2020 🗳️ (VIA ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY)
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BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

KAREN FONTANA

This pivotal moment in our District, as well as in our country, has prompted me to run again for the Board of Education. Throughout my 32 years as an educator, I worked diligently to improve the educational outcomes for Rome students. As a past board member, I was active on committees and engaged with staff to implement and evaluate research-based programs. In addition, I aided in the development of a curriculum writing system for all levels and subjects; examined data to guide decisions; and updated policies to guide current practice. My Doctorate in Education gives me the knowledge to provide input towards enhancing student outcomes. I am devoted to the children of Rome and my granddaughter will be starting Kindergarten in the Fall.

I am acutely aware of the necessity of asking for, listening to and acting upon input from all stakeholders. In the coming months, critical decisions will need to be made for the safety and well being of our students. If elected, any decision I make as a Board member will have student considerations front and center.

STEPHEN HAMPE

How quickly three years pass and times change. When elected in 2017, even with a background in teaching, how much more there is to know about running a 5,800-student school district was a surprise. I since attended multiple workshops bringing new ideas back to Rome. As promised, I lent my voice to securing equitable funding and resources by building relationships with officials at the local, county, state, and national levels.

Embracing transparency, I maintain specific Facebook and Twitter feeds, participated in multiple open forums and community initiatives, worked to address issues of diversity, and attended many district events, advocating that a board member was present at every open house last fall. The proposition on the ballot to add a student to the BoE was a priority.

We weathered an unexpected reduction in state aid last year, now facing the unprecedented and continuing challenges of the COVID crisis. The Rome CSD has an impressive team of educators and support staff and I ask for your continued support as I look to align with the community to face the uncertainties of "new normal" by avoiding recriminations and rancor and instead emphasizing our shared commitment to make the RCSD the envy of NY.

ANNA MEGERELL

I am just an everyday mom working for the everyday family. I am an RFA graduate that went away to college and pursue my career. I came back home to Rome a few short years ago to raise my family with my other half Eric Kieffer. I don't think I can imagine raising my children anywhere else. Rome is home. I enjoy going to establishments and events with the opportunity to see the same people that I grew up with. Having the ability to raise our children and watch them become life long friends is special. Not every place is like Rome, it has a very special place in my heart. We have a strong sense of community in our city. I have three beautiful children. Levi 10, Eric 3, and Vivian is 1. My children are my world. What happens with their education is of the utmost importance. All parents feel this way about their children. Our children always come first. We cater our schedules for our children. Every child deserves the right to an equal and well rounded education that NY State and our city has always been known for.

JOE MELLACE

The Board of Education has encountered unprecedented and historical challenges over the past three years, from drastic reductions in state aid to a global pandemic. However, instead of reflecting on our bad fortune, we must develop and implement plans, both short and long term, that focus on striking the best balance possible between providing our children with the highest quality education/social experience while keeping them safe, and maintaining fiscal discipline so as to not financially overburden our community. This will require coordination, communication, and compromise among the Board, the superintendent, administrators, staff, parents, students, and local officials.

In my time on the Board, I have striven to achieve this balance, whether it was leading a push to review outside services saving the district hundreds of thousands of dollars, or fighting to save jobs and essential programming during last year's budget crisis. I also used social media to promote transparency, offer insight into board decisions, and provide a forum for intelligent discussions with the community.

I am also proud of the fact that I was able to work effectively with all members of the Board regardless of their political beliefs, and focus on the needs of the district rather than pursuing personal agendas. It has been my honor and privilege to serve this community. If re-elected, you can rest assured that I will continue to be a fierce advocate, and will continue to work hard to make Rome proud of our district.

JOHN NASH

Hello Rome City School District voters. As a lifelong Roman, I am well aware of the ups and downs that our District has experienced over the years. In this very troubling pandemic crisis, it is important to have an individual on the School Board that has the ability to balance finances with education. On the financial side, I have over 20 years of municipal finance experience with Oneida County and the City of Rome (the last 12 years as Rome City Treasurer). I feel I can utilize that experience to assist the School District through the tough times that we are facing. On the educational side, I feel it is important to ensure that every student is equipped with the proper tools, resources, and opportunities to maximize their academic success. We must utilize what we currently have in the Rome City School District and use those resources as wisely as possible to educate our children. In closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to educate yourself on my candidacy and I humbly ask for your vote in this year's election.

CYNTHIA YAGER

Born and raised in Rome, NY, my love of education has always been in my blood. I have 35+ years of experience in public school education with 30 years as an administrator of finance & management. My Master's degree (MS) in education, Certificate of Advance Studies (CAS), NYS certifications in school business and district-wide administration will provide expertise to the districts' stability in finances and tax rates. I'm excited about supporting transparency and community input towards my goal to make Rome a district of choice so we can attract new business and residents. A passion for exceptional educational programs, a passion for what's best for students and maintaining fiscal stability is what my expertise will bring to the board. I hope you will support my efforts with your vote.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stephen Hampe, President
Leigh Loughran, Vice President
Jonathon Matwijec-Walda, Clerk

Joseph Mellace • Paul Hagerty
John Leonard • Tanya Davis
Paul Fitzpatrick • Lisa Herbowy

ADMINISTRATION

Peter C. Blake, Superintendent
Chris Brewer, Assistant Superintendent for
Educational Programs
Robert Mezza, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for
Operations & Management
Alex Rodriguez, Director of Facilities
Jennifer DePerno, Director of Secondary Programs

Dana Benzo, Director of Elementary Programs
Geoffrey Morton, Director of People Operations
David Dreidel, Director of Business & Finance
Jodi Haddad, Treasurer
Patrick Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Amanda Jones, Director of Counseling
Brenna Kosicki, Director of Supported Learning

ROME CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

409 Bell Road
Rome, New York 13440

Non-Profit Org.
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Utica, N.Y.
Permit No. 566

"The Rome City School District is an equal opportunity employer and an equal educational institution."
Compliance Officers for Non-Discrimination: Geoffrey Morton: 315-338-6532 and Amanda Jones: 315-338-6518

ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

2019-2020 ACTUAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY	2020-2021 ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX LEVY	DIFFERENCE	PERCENT CHANGE
\$35,159,690	\$35,159,690	\$0	0%

WHO MAY VOTE:

Voters must be registered in order to vote in this election. In order to vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Rome school district for at least 30 days before the day of the vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, absentee ballots will be mailed by the District to qualified voters. If you believe you should have received an absentee ballot but do not, please contact the District Clerk at 315-338-6541 or jcania@romecsd.org. Completed ballots must be **received** by the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

DATE OF THE ELECTION: JUNE 9, 2020 (VIA ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY)

If you have questions regarding the Budget Newsletter, please call David Dreidel,
Director of Business and Finance at 315-338-6541.



The new official FACEBOOK PAGE of the Rome City School District:

<https://www.facebook.com/romecsdny>

Please like and share for the most accurate and up to date information!

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