



# COXSACKIE-ATHENS Central School District

## PROPOSED 2026-2027 DISTRICT BUDGET

**VOTE TUESDAY MAY 19 | 1PM - 9PM | CACSD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

### 2026-27 Proposed Budget Focuses on Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Future

On Tuesday, May 19, registered voters will head to the polls to vote on the proposed 2026–2027 school budget and to elect three members to the Board of Education.

The Board of Education has adopted a \$38.7 million spending plan for the upcoming school year—a \$1,000,000 increase (or 2.65%) over the current year’s budget. The proposal includes a projected tax levy increase of 2.80%, which is within the state’s allowable tax cap.

New York school districts rely on two primary revenue streams, both of which face severe limitations. State Aid has been effectively capped for the last three years, failing to match rising operational costs. Property taxes have been generally limited to a 2-3% growth range under the state tax cap. Combine these realities with increased costs for health care and transportation contracts that have risen by \$750,000. The District is continuing to experience a sharp decrease in student enrollment thus increasing the costs pressures on operation and management. In response the District has reviewed its class sizes, offerings and staffing levels.

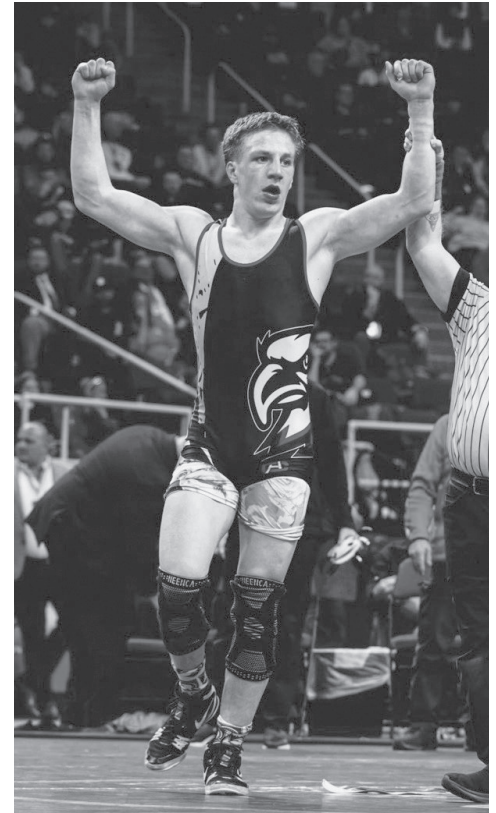
As a result, the district will move forward with a reduction plan that includes the potential elimination of 11 teaching positions along with additional reductions to supplies, staff travel, mental health services and travel to athletic contests. This is not a decision we take lightly,” said Interim Superintendent Dr. Darfler-Sweeney. “We are incredibly proud of our educators and support staff. But with continued declines in student enrollment and rising operational costs outpacing state aid at an accelerated pace, we must make difficult choices to protect our future.”

The district has seen a steady decline in student enrollment over 20 years, which has led to smaller class sizes and reduced staffing needs. At the same time, the costs of employee benefits, transportation, utilities, and educational resources have continued to climb, while state funding has remained largely flat.

“Our goal is to ‘right-size’ the district so we can continue offering high-quality instruction while remaining fiscally responsible,” Darfler-Sweeney added. “These are incredibly difficult decisions, but they are necessary to ensure we are using our limited resources in ways that best support student learning and long-term sustainability.”

Running for the school board’s three vacant seats are: Jamie Dorr, Samuel Mozzillo, Cesar Echavarria. The three candidates receiving the most overall votes will be seated for 3-year terms. This year voters may vote at either polling location.

School budget votes and board elections across New York State are Tuesday May 19, 2026. For more information about this budget proposal and directions on how to access an absentee ballot; please visit our website at [www.cacsd.org](http://www.cacsd.org)



#### BUDGET HEARINGS

**MAY 7, 2026 | EJA CAFETERIA**

Budget Hearing - 6:00 p.m.

**MAY 7, 2026 | CE CAFETERIA**

Budget Hearing - 7:00 p.m.

#### BUDGET VOTE

**TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026**  
COXSACKIE ELEMENTARY  
E. J. ARTHUR ELEMENTARY

1:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m.

# What happens if the Budget is Defeated?

If the budget is defeated on May 19, the Board has two choices. They can put the same, or an adjusted budget, up for a re-vote on June 16th or they can adopt a contingency budget. If the second budget put up for a vote is defeated, the Board must adopt a contingency budget.

A contingency budget requires three things: certain non-contingent expenditures must be removed from the expenditures budget (\$450,088), outside organizations would be charged for using the district's buildings, and the tax levy cannot be higher than the current year's tax levy. This would require reductions of \$131,550.



## Three-Part Budget

### THE SCHOOL BUDGET IS MADE UP OF THREE KEY COMPONENTS:

**Administrative** - This component of the budget includes expenditures for the BOE, Central Administration, the Business Office, Supervision of Regular School and benefits for all associated employees. Also included is the District's share of BOCES administrative costs.

**Program** - This component includes instructional services, extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics, transportation and special education services. Benefits for all associated employees are included.

**Capital** - This component reflects expenditures for operation and maintenance of the district facilities including salaries and benefits. Principal and interest payments on construction bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes are included.

REVENUES	Current Budget	2026-2027 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Tax Levy	\$ 20,928,010.00	\$ 21,509,648.00	\$ 581,638.00	2.78%
State Aid	\$ 12,819,105.00	\$ 13,111,796.00	\$ 292,691.00	2.28%
Fund Balance	\$ 1,775,000.00	\$ 2,044,088.00	\$ 269,088.00	15.16%
PILOTS & School Tax Penalties/ Interest	\$ 892,706.00	\$ 765,868.00	\$ (126,838.00)	-14.21%
Local Revenue	\$ 1,285,179.00	\$ 1,268,600.00	\$ (16,579.00)	-1.29%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 37,700,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,700,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	<b>2.65%</b>

EXPENDITURES	Current Budget	2026-2027 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Administration	\$ 3,508,775.63	\$ 3,935,151.12	\$ 426,375.49	12.15%
Program	\$ 29,229,759.84	\$ 29,789,252.88	\$ 559,493.04	1.91%
Capital	\$ 4,961,464.53	\$ 4,975,596.00	\$ 14,131.47	0.28%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 37,700,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,700,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>	<b>2.65%</b>

## Board of Education Seats up for Election

There are three candidates running for three open seats on the Board of Education. Each seat has a term length of 3 years beginning on July 1, 2026. Below are bios written by the individual candidates.

### JAMIE DORR

Jamie is a Teaching Assistant at Ulster BOCES and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Rochester Institute of Technology. She currently serves as Vice-President of the Board of Education and is a member of the Coxsackie Friends of the Heermance Library. In her free time, Jamie enjoys photography and gardening and spending time with her family. She is dedicated to promoting a culture of educational excellence by working closely with parents, teachers, and administrators. Jamie strives to balance traditional learning with the advantages of modern technology while ensuring a safe learning environment and responsible spending for taxpayers. As a parent whose children attended C-A schools, she encourages the district's efforts to continuously improve.

Jamie supports ongoing initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes for students, including the New York State Portrait of a Graduate, the new framework that defines the essential skills and attributes, such as critical thinking, innovation, and global citizenship, that students should possess upon graduation. She is committed to working collaboratively with community partners, staff, and families to address the challenges facing today's students, seek consensus, and ensure everyone's voice is heard.

Jamie was first elected to the school board in 2014.

### SAMUEL MOZZILLO

I am running for the Coxsackie-Athens School Board to bring a common sense approach to decision-making and to help ensure our schools continue moving in a positive direction for students, families, and the community. I believe that strong schools are built through thoughtful leadership, open communication, and a willingness to listen. As a board member, I will approach every issue with an open mind and a commitment to working collaboratively while keeping the best interests of our students at the center of every decision. I strongly support student involvement in school and community organizations, athletics, and extracurricular activities that help build leadership, character, and real-world skills. These opportunities play a vital role in preparing our students for success beyond graduation. Transparency and communication are also essential. I will do my best to maintain open lines of communication with parents, students, staff, and community members whenever possible and within the guidelines that school board members must follow. Our schools are a cornerstone of our community, and I believe that by working together with respect, accountability, and common sense, we can continue to provide opportunities for every student to succeed.

### CESAR ECHAVARRIA

Cesar Echavarría lives in the Village of Coxsackie with his wife, Tasara. His two stepdaughters are proud graduates of the Coxsackie-Athens School District. Cesar earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature, with a minor in Biology, from St. John Fisher College.

From 2001 to 2013, Cesar served honorably in the U.S. Army as a Staff Sergeant and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He now works as a licensed insurance adjuster in New York, Florida, Texas, and Louisiana. Cesar is an active member of the First Reformed Church of Coxsackie and the Earleton Sportsman's Club.

Cesar is committed to maintaining a high-quality education system that is fiscally responsible to taxpayers. He believes in fostering a rigorous curriculum that promotes student achievement while expanding opportunities in areas such as career and technical programs.

Understanding the importance of balancing tradition with thoughtful progress, Cesar will work collaboratively with fellow Board of Education members to make decisions that uphold student success and reflect the values of our community.



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- Michael Donahue**, Board President
- Jamie Dorr**, Board Vice President
- Sam Anderson**
- Tara Bachner**
- Nicole Canning**
- Kyle Garland**
- Ina Griffin-Guilzon**
- Bart Wallace**
- Shelly West**



**Coxsackie-Athens**  
Central School District

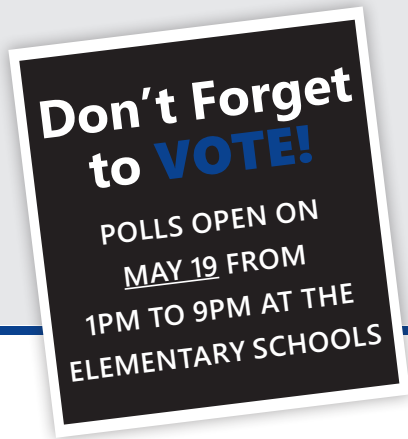
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**COXSACKIE-ATHENS CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**2026-27 School District Budget Notice**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted 25-26	Budget Proposed 26-27	Contingency Budget 26-27*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 37,700,000	\$ 38,700,000	\$ 38,118,362
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 418,362
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.65%	1.11%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 20,928,010	\$ 21,509,648	
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)	\$ 20,928,010	\$ 21,509,648	\$ 20,928,010
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 770,884	\$ 606,427	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 20,157,126	\$ 20,903,221	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 20,157,126	\$ 20,903,221	
I. Difference: (G - H) Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,508,775	\$ 3,935,151	\$ 3,558,425
Program Component	\$ 29,229,760	\$ 29,789,253	\$ 29,584,341
Capital Component	\$ 4,961,465	\$ 4,975,596	\$ 4,975,596
Est. Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount		
	Desc:	Desc:	Desc:
\$	\$	\$	\$

\*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. Contingency budget removes equipment, capital expense, certain non-instructional raises, and programmatic adjustments

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027 by the qualified voters of the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District, Greene County, New York, will be held in the Coxsackie & Edward J. Arthur Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine

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

\*\*Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.