

# The Eagles' View

A Publication of the Whitney Point Central School District

Budget Edition May 2025

Dear Community Members,



**Jo-Ann Sexton**  
Superintendent

On May 20, 2025, communities across New York State will participate in the annual school budget vote. This newsletter provides important information about the Whitney Point CSD's proposed 2025–26 budget, including the use of capital outlay funds to address critical facility needs, a proposition for bus purchases to maintain a safe and reliable transportation fleet, and details about the candidates running for the Board of Education.

While some funding streams for the coming year remain uncertain, the proposed budget has been carefully developed to preserve the core educational programs and services central to our district's mission. It reflects a responsible approach that focuses on maintaining:

- Reasonable class sizes
- Critical student support services
- Targeted opportunities for academic growth
- A wide range of athletic and extracurricular programs
- Select summer programming that supports student engagement and learning

The total proposed budget for the 2025–26 school year is \$48,651,344, with approximately 78% funded by NYS aid. The proposed tax levy increase is 2.05%, which is below the allowable limit established by NYS. This fiscally responsible plan was developed with full awareness of the economic pressures facing our community while still ensuring that our students are equipped with the resources they need to succeed.

It's important to note that the budget includes planned capital investments for necessary maintenance and facility repairs to protect the district's investment in this school system.

The Whitney Point CSD is more than a center for education; it is a cornerstone of our community. Our schools enrich the region by partnering with community organizations, serving as a gathering place for events, sustaining local property values, and preparing students to contribute meaningfully to the future of our area.

We encourage all community members to attend the public budget hearing at 6 p.m. on May 6, 2025, in the Whitney Point High School Auditorium. Additional information will be shared, and questions will be addressed.

Voting will occur on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 1 to 8 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. By voting on the school budget, you are investing directly in our students, our schools, and the future of the Whitney Point community. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, and your support helps pave their path forward. Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to educational excellence.

Jo-Ann Sexton, Superintendent

## 2025-26 Budget Snapshot

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District be authorized to appropriate for the budget the sum of \$48,651,344 for the 2025-26 school year and levy the necessary tax therefore with a projected tax levy increase of 2.05%?

<b>Proposed 2025-26 Budget Total..</b>	<b>\$48,651,344</b>
<b>Current 2024-25 Budget.....</b>	<b>\$46,499,802</b>
<b>Budget Increase.....</b>	<b>\$2,151,542</b>
<b>Tax Levy Increase.....</b>	<b>2.05%</b>

**Public Hearing - May 6, 2025**  
**6 p.m., High School Auditorium**

**School Budget Vote &  
BOE Election - May 20, 2025**  
**1 - 8 p.m., High School Cafeteria**

**See page 3 for information on the  
School Bus Purchase Proposition**



## 2025-26 Estimated Revenues

A number of revenue sources are used to build the 2025-26 Whitney Point CSD Budget. State aid amounts to approximately 78.56% of the budget, and funds collected through the local tax levy account for approximately 18.66%. The district allocates about 1.54% of the budget to appropriated fund balance and reserves (used for tax reduction) and the remaining 1.24% comes from other revenue sources.

Revenue Source	2024-2025	2025-2026	Change
State Aid	\$35,063,040	\$38,219,895	\$3,156,855
Tax Levy	\$ 8,895,099	\$ 9,077,449	\$ 182,350
Fund Balance	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 750,000	\$(325,000)
Other Sources	\$ 599,000	\$ 604,000	\$ 5,000
Use of Reserves	\$ 867,663	-	\$(867,663)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$46,499,802</b>	<b>\$48,651,344</b>	<b>\$2,151,542</b>

## Projected Tax Levy

Average Full Value of a Home..... \$100,000

### Includes:

2024-25 Tax Rate per \$1,000..... \$15.35

2025-26 Projected Tax Rate per \$1,000 ..... \$15.66

Projected Tax Rate Increase per \$1,000 .....\$ 0.31

*Averages are based on the average of the 11 municipalities with property in the district and are subject to changes in equalization rates, STAR exemptions and assessments.*

Average Tax Increase for the Year .....\$31.00

Average Tax Increase/Month.....\$ 2.58

Average Tax Increase/Day.....\$ 0.08

## Preliminary Tax Rates for 2025-26

Final tax rates cannot be projected at this time because final assessment rolls from Broome, Tioga, Cortland and Chenango counties, and final equalization rates from the Office of Real Property Services, will not be available until summer.

However, based on the information available at this time, the preliminary tax rates below have been projected.

Despite differences in projected tax rates, houses with the same full value (market value) in different parts of the school district should be taxed at nearly the same amount if equalization rates work as designed. Equalization rates are established to insure equitable property tax allocation among different taxing jurisdictions.

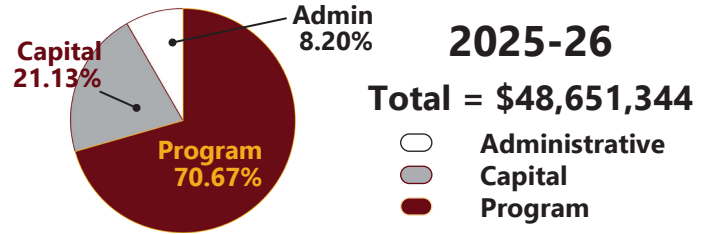
Municipality	2024 Tax Rate*	2025 Tax Rate*	Increase
Barker	\$19.93	\$20.34	\$0.41
Chenango	\$31.01	\$31.65	\$0.64
Lisle	\$19.58	\$19.98	\$0.40
Maine	\$34.11	\$34.81	\$0.70
Nanticoke	\$37.81	\$38.58	\$0.77
Triangle	\$20.47	\$20.89	\$0.42
Greene	\$23.61	\$24.10	\$0.49
Smithville	\$31.33	\$31.97	\$0.64
Lapeer	\$21.62	\$22.06	\$0.44
Willet	\$25.73	\$26.26	\$0.53
Richford	\$20.60	\$21.03	\$0.43

\*Per 1,000

## Budget Summary

By law, school districts must divide their budgets into three components: program, administrative, and capital, and compare them to last year's amounts. Whitney Point's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

### 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY



PROGRAM	2024-25	2025-26
Amount	\$32,402,911	\$34,382,274
% of Total Budget	69.68%	70.67%

### Includes:

- Salaries and benefits of teachers, guidance counselors, aides, monitors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, etc.
- Programs for students with disabilities and special schools
- Mandated training and professional development
- Library/media/computer services
- Instructional hardware & software
- Textbooks, materials, supplies & equipment
- Student transportation
- Athletics
- Co-curricular activities

ADMINISTRATIVE	2024-25	2025-26
Amount	\$3,699,733	\$3,987,583
% of Total Budget	7.96%	8.20%

### Includes:

- Salaries & benefits of administrators, supervisors and support staff
- Public information & central printing
- Research, planning & evaluation
- Central data processing
- Legal services & insurance
- Board of Education administrative costs
- Financial operations
- BOCES administrative and capital costs

CAPITAL	2024-25	2025-26
Amount	\$10,397,158	\$10,281,487
% of Total Budget	22.36%	21.13%

### Includes:

- Salaries & benefits of custodial staff
- Operations, maintenance & security
- Debt service on Capital Projects
- School bus purchases
- Capital outlay improvement project

## Voter Information

### Eligibility

No prior registration is required. The Voter must be: a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

### Absentee Ballots

- The District Clerk must receive the actual absentee ballot by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2025 in order to be counted.
- Call the District Clerk's office at 607-692-8313 to obtain an application for an absentee ballot.
- Fill out the application for an absentee ballot and return to the District Clerk's office at least seven days prior to the vote, in order for the ballot to be mailed to the voter, or one day before, if it is to be personally delivered or picked up.

## Annual Bus Vote

The Whitney Point Central School District is asking voters to approve the purchase of four (4) new 71-passenger diesel buses at a cost not to exceed \$814,176, and to expend therefore not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$814,176.

The transportation fleet currently includes 31 large passenger buses, 10 smaller passenger buses, three wheelchair buses, five SUV vehicles, and two minivans for a grand total of 51 DOT vehicles. A few spare vehicles, a necessary part of the fleet, are used for sports trips, field trips and for rotating other buses through regularly scheduled maintenance.

### How will we pay for the new vehicles?

**State aid will reimburse the district at 90%**

Total principal cost on vehicle purchases: \$814,176

Five-year (borrowing period) total local share: \$81,418

Average annual impact to tax levy: \$16,283.52

Average annual cost for \$100,000 property value: \$2.81

## Capital Outlay Improvement Project

We will continue our \$100,000 capital-outlay improvement projects, which are included in the capital component of the 2025-26 budget. This is a small-capital improvement project for under \$100,000. The scope of this year's project will be focused on responsible stewardship of our facilities with masonry and brick repointing to be performed at the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy. As a reminder, the district invests \$100,000 in these facility upgrades, and the following year the district receives approximately 98% of the project cost back in the form of NYS building aid.

## Proposed Budget Document

The Proposed 2025-26 Budget Document includes the Budget Statement, Property Tax Report Card, School Academic Report Cards, District's Fiscal Accountability Summary, Salary Disclosure Notice and Exemption Reports for Tax Jurisdictions.

The Proposed Budget Document is available for public inspection in the main office of each school of the Whitney Point Central School District, the District Office, the District website, the Mary Wilcox Public Library and the Lisle Free Library.

School offices are open weekdays during normal business hours.

## Contingency Budget Information

If the proposed budget is defeated at the polls on May 20, state law provides the school board three options:

1. Put the same budget before the voters, or
2. Put a revised budget before the voters, or
3. Go directly to a contingent budget

If voters defeat a budget a second time, the school board must go to a contingent budget. A district that adopts a contingent budget cannot increase its tax levy from the prior year. For Whitney Point Central School District, that would mean reducing \$507,000 from the budget. This amount also includes the required reductions for equipment spending. In addition, the district would be required by law to charge fees for public use of school facilities.



*Newly reconstructed pool at Caryl E. Adams Primary.*

# WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Whitney Point, New York 13862

[www.wpcsd.org](http://www.wpcsd.org)

## Board of Education

Stephanie Champney, President  
Dr. Christine Widdall, Vice President  
Benny Hodkinson, Trustee  
Tyanna Moseman, Trustee  
Aubrey Nawrocki, Trustee  
Thomas Tasber, Trustee  
Molly Willis, Trustee

## Superintendent of Schools

Jo-Ann Sexton

## Assistant Superintendent

Shannon Koehler

## School Business Executive

Zachary Woodard

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Binghamton, NY  
Permit No. 237

## Current Resident or

## Propositions

### Proposition #1, Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District be authorized to appropriate for the budget the sum of \$48,651,344 for the 2025-2026 school year and levy the necessary tax therefore with a projected tax levy increase of 2.05%?

### Proposition #2, School Vehicles

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District be authorized to purchase four (4) new 71-passenger diesel buses at a cost not to exceed \$814,176, and to expend therefore not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$814,176?

### Proposition #3, Election of Board of Education Candidates

The Whitney Point Central School District has a seven-member Board of Education. This year, Whitney Point residents will fill the following vacancies:

Two (2) three-year terms ending June 30, 2028 (presently held by Dr. Christine Widdall and Tyanna Moseman.)

## Candidates for the Whitney Point CSD Board of Education

There will be two candidates on the ballot this year, and voters may vote for up to two (2) people by using the write-in candidate space(s).



**Dr. Christine Widdall**

A long time Whitney Point resident Dr. Chris Widdall has been a board of education (BOE) member seven years. Besides being an active parent and grandparent, she has taken on other duties, like coach, volunteer, chaperone, and student advocate for both school and community. She uses her 26 years of experience as a SUNY Cortland professor to advocate for educational initiatives in the district. As a BOE member, her goal is to help ensure equitable education for all students and continue the betterment of services in our district for students, families, and the community.



**Michelle Sanford**

Michelle Sanford has been a life-long resident of Whitney Point, is a Whitney Point alumnus, and a parent with two small children that attend the Whitney Point PreK program. Michelle and her husband enjoyed coaching the Whitney Point U6 soccer team last fall and the connections they have made with local families and their children. She is currently involved in BUCS LIFE, a family and community engagement project with WPCSD and Binghamton University. Michelle values giving back to the community that gave her so much growing up.

For more information, visit our website: [www.wpcsd.org](http://www.wpcsd.org)