



Enlarged City School District

# Budget 2019-2020 PROPOSAL

Each year, the school budget process becomes more and more difficult due to a number of factors that have affected the state, local, and national levels. Albany continues to shift the tax burden to the local level while federal financial support for public education is decreasing.

We began this budget process with an increase in health care costs, contractual obligations, and a large increase in out-of-district placements of students requiring specialized programming. As you are aware, the Board of Education made the difficult choice to close two elementary schools and move to grade centers in an effort to reduce and eventually eliminate our dependence on reserves. Reserves are similar to your own savings account and should be used sparingly as they are finite resources. As we reduced costs we remained mindful of student needs as we worked to control spending. We are, after all, here to educate children in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

**62%**  
of the 2018 graduating  
class had at least ONE  
college course  
completed prior to  
graduation

The 2019-20 budget being proposed to the voters has a modest 2% increase in the tax levy with a 0% increase in the overall budget. This is after two years of 0% tax increase in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years and 1.2% in 2018-19. These increases are not enough to keep up with inflation or the spiraling costs mentioned above. The only option has been to reduce expenditures across the board. Over 70% of our costs involve employees. We were able to eliminate several positions through attrition and by not back-filling retirements. This would not have been possible without reconfiguring our elementary buildings and moving to grade centers. There were difficult choices that the Board of Education and our community considered to remain fiscally responsible and to provide a sound education in a responsible manner. I want to thank the community for their continued support of our efforts. Thank you!

Michael J. Hoose, Superintendent

**0%**  
BUDGET  
INCREASE

**2.0%**  
TAX LEVY  
INCREASE

## Budget Vote

May 21, 2019  
12-9 p.m.



## YOUR VOTE COUNTS. 5.21.19

Polls are open 12-9 p.m.  
See page 8 for polling locations.

### At-A-Glance

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Visit our website at [www.cortlandschools.org](http://www.cortlandschools.org)

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING • DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 • TIME: 6:30 p.m. • LOCATION: KAUFMAN CENTER •**  
**A meeting of the Board of Education to present the proposed 2019-20 budget to the public.**

## Proposition #1 – 2019/2020 Budget

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit: RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Cortland Enlarged City School District (CECSD) be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the amount of \$49,576,887 and to levy the necessary tax therefore.

**What this means:** This yearly budget has not increased in three years, meaning no budget increase for 2019-20 and a modest 2.0% tax levy increase.

## Proposition #2 – Transportation



Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Cortland Enlarged City School District on March 12, 2019 authorizing the acquisition of student transport vehicles, including all necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment, and the expenditure of a total sum not to exceed \$575,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and further authorizing the issuance of \$575,000 serial bonds to pay the cost thereof; providing that the sum of \$575,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of such School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District, including installment purchase contracts, may be issued; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; determining that the period of probable usefulness thereof and maximum maturity of the serial bonds therefor is five years; delegating the power to authorize and sell bond anticipation notes and to fix the details of and to sell serial bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?

**What this means:** If the proposition is approved, the District will replace a combination of large buses, and smaller vehicles that carry up to 6 passengers, through a purchase program. The anticipated cost of \$575,000 is eligible for approximately \$474,218 in state aid reimbursement. Replacing older, heavily used vehicles that are utilized for student transport, the proposed purchases are part of a five-year replacement plan designed to ensure our students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards. Eventually the plan will preserve the resale value of our buses. All large buses are part of a warranty plan that will reduce parts purchases and repair expenses.

## Proposition #3 – Cortland Free Library

Shall Cortland Free Library tax previously approved by the voters of the District be increased from the current \$383,570 to \$392,298 beginning July 1, 2019, to be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the District in each year for general library purposes and to continue from year to year until modified or repealed by a subsequent vote?

**What this means:** Funding for the library passes through the District but has no impact on school taxes or finances. The library determines the amount of the proposition.





## Transition to Three Elementary Schools

Last year, the Board of Education decided to close two of our elementary schools and to reorganize the remaining three elementary schools. It was not financially possible to continue without this move. Preparation for the transition to three elementary schools is in full swing. Assisted by the work of a District Transition Committee and Building Transition Committees, the Board of Education and District administrative team have been planning and scheduling the arrangements. The Board of Education has renamed the District's elementary schools. The new names were based on the recommendation of the District Transition Committee:

- Franklyn S. Barry Primary School (Barry Primary)
- Ferdinand E. Smith Intermediate School (Smith Intermediate)
- Randall Middle School (Randall Middle)

## Auditorium Renovation Project

The transformation of our auditorium into a performing arts center is continuing, even though there are no physical indications so far. The project was approved by voters in December of 2017. Now that the State has reviewed and approved the plans, the Board of Education recently approved the contracts for the project. Work will begin on or about the first of July and is expected to conclude by the end of the 2019-20 school year. Here are some of the highlights:

- Most of the work will occur inside the shell of the auditorium, with the exception of the raising of the roof over the stage.
- All of the seats will be removed, renovated, and reinstalled. They'll be purple when they return, rather than the orange they are now.
- The interior ceiling will be removed, reinforced, and replaced with a modern, acoustically and aesthetically superior design.
- The sound and lighting systems will be upgraded and improved.
- The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems will be replaced.
- A handicap-accessible seating section will be established on one side of the auditorium.

Because the work will take place so close to the the bus circle and front courtyard, foot traffic and vehicular traffic patterns will be impacted during construction. Large and clear signs will be employed to direct new traffic patterns.

## Junior Senior High School Door and Entrance Way Projects

Two small projects are underway to repair and replace several doors at the Junior Senior High School. This is due to normal wear and tear over the years -- the building first opened in 1965 so these repairs are not unexpected. This work is being paid for with the State's \$100K annual project allowance. The 2019-2020 \$100K will be used for additional safety repairs at the Junior Senior High School.

The number of students who graduated in June of 2018 from  
CECSD with an Associates Degree

12

## Mission Statement

*CECSD values all community members as partners in creating a positive learning environment for all students. This environment prepares all students to reach their fullest potential in becoming life-long learners, and successful, contributing members of the society in which they live.*

20

out of 24 Athletic Teams  
were designated by  
NYSPHSAA Section III as  
"Scholar Athlete Teams"



**Are you interested in joining our team? We're hiring!**

Substitute bus drivers, substitute cafeteria workers, substitute teachers, substitute cleaners and more!  
Please visit our website at [www.cortlandschools.org/employment](http://www.cortlandschools.org/employment) for up to date information.

Budget Vote  
May 21, 2019  
12-9 p.m.

For more CECSD news and information, visit the district website: [www.cortlandschools.org](http://www.cortlandschools.org)

# Investing In Our Students' Futures



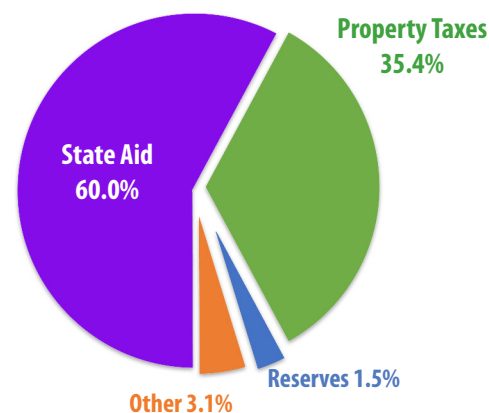
## How is the \$49,576,887 utilized?

	2018-19	2019-20
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>	\$26,687,294	\$26,153,083
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	\$13,125,394	\$13,598,688
<b>OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE</b>	\$2,917,338	\$2,817,048
<b>DEBT SERVICE/TRANSFERS</b>	\$4,347,128	\$4,439,524
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	\$1,143,623	\$1,159,203
<b>DISTRICT SUPPORT</b>	\$1,356,110	\$1,409,341
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,576,887</b>	<b>\$49,576,887</b>

## Sources of Revenue

	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Percent	2019-20 Proposed	2019-20 Percent	Dollar Change
State Aid	\$28,929,978	58.4%	\$29,702,387	60.0%	\$772,409
Other Revenue	\$1,555,650	3.1%	\$1,550,650	3.1%	-\$5,000
Reserves	\$1,875,887	3.8%	\$764,171	1.5%	-\$1,111,716
Property Taxes	\$17,215,372	34.7%	\$17,559,679	35.4%	\$344,307
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,576,887</b>		<b>\$49,576,887</b>		<b>\$0</b>

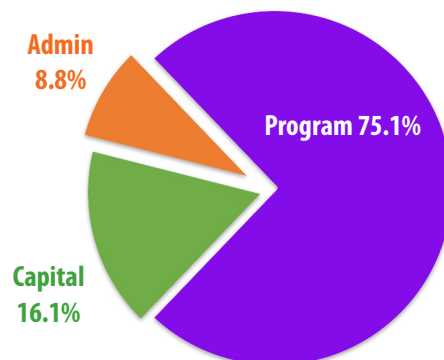
### 2019-20 Revenue Summary



## Three Part Budget Summary

	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Percent	2019-20 Proposed	2019-20 Percent	Dollar Change
Administration	\$4,419,298	8.9%	\$4,368,143	8.8%	-\$51,155
Program	\$36,930,304	74.5%	\$37,206,691	75.1%	\$276,387
Capital	\$8,227,285	16.6%	\$8,002,053	16.1%	-\$225,232
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,576,887</b>		<b>\$49,576,887</b>		<b>\$0</b>

### 2019-20 Spending Summary



# Tax Bill Changes to September 1

Tax Bills will arrive by September 1, 2019. This is a change from previous years. The first installment will need to be paid by September 30th. Most school districts begin tax collection as of September 1, 2019. This allows time to ensure the property tax rolls are available and the bills can be prepared.

## Q & A

### What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated in May, the CECSO Board of Education may present another budget – revised or not – for a vote in June or immediately adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated twice, CECSO would have to adopt a contingent budget.

If CECSO adopts a contingent budget, administration and capital will be reduced by \$344,307 for 2019-2020. The tax levy will remain the same as 2018-2019.

### What is the three part budget composed of?

#### Three-part budget

School districts must, by law, divide their budgets into three parts: administrative, capital and program. Each year districts must show how much each part has changed in relation to the whole budget. The three parts are as follows:

#### Administrative Budget Component

These expenditures include office and administrative costs, salaries and benefits for certified school administrators, legal fees, insurance, school board expenses, the business office, and recruitment.

#### Program Budget Component

This portion includes salaries and benefits of teachers and staff that directly work with students daily, such as instructional costs including supplies, technology, textbooks, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation.

#### Capital Budget Component

This includes all school bus purchases, debt service on buildings, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs, facility costs (including salaries and benefits of the custodial and maintenance staff), service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment, and utilities.

### What is a “tax levy limit” and is CECSO below its limit?

The tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy a school district can propose for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus one) is required. The limit is calculated using a multi-step formula that takes into account any allowable exclusions (such as pension costs and capital expenditures). Any proposed tax levy above this limit requires budget approval by a super majority of voters (60 percent). The CECSO Board of Education has proposed a budget that includes a tax levy below its limit. This requires passage by a simple majority of voters.

### How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

The tax levy is the total amount of money the District raises from local taxpayers. The tax rate is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of property value. The 2019-20 budget proposes a tax levy increase of 2.0%.

### How is my tax bill calculated?

Individual tax bills are calculated using:

- The assessed value of each property
- Any applicable exemptions (e.g. current homeowner STAR)
- The current school tax rate

### Example of a tax bill

If my property has an assessed value of \$70,000, and the projected tax rate is \$18.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value my tax bill will be approximately \$1,266 not including exemptions.

Formula:

$$(\text{Tax rate/thousand}) \times \text{assessed value} \\ (\$18.08/\$1,000) \times \$70,000 = \$1,266$$

Over 75% of K-6 students participate in band, chorus and orchestra!

Budget Vote  
May 21, 2019  
12-9 p.m.



# DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## District Highlights

1. All students grades K-12 now have breakfast and lunch provided for them due to the District's participation in the Community Eligibility Program.
2. The character education program, The Positivity Project, has been implemented in almost all schools across the District.
3. Randall School hosted "Science Night," a collaboration with the Syracuse University Physics Department.
4. The Unified Sports program offerings expanded to include bowling as well as basketball.
5. The high school demonstration classroom is now open for teachers to bring classes to, and "try out" a 21st century learning space.
6. Students at Barry School, in collaboration with Cortland Kiwanis Club, collected over 200 jars of peanut butter and jelly to donate to local food pantries.
7. Fourth graders came together to sing with Ithacapella in January. Students learned to sing acapella and beatbox during the school day with sessions taught by members of Ithacapella.
8. The high school journalism class launched a new website for the CHS Voice and published their first paper copy in years.
9. Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students are all using Chromebooks this year as part of an initiative to provide 1 to 1 computing to our students.
10. Learning block, time for extra help, reinforcement, or acceleration started in November at the high school. Teachers put in requests for students each week, and during this 20 minute built in time, students go visit the teacher that requested them.
11. ARTNITE!, a collaboration between the art and music departments, had a show in January.



*Looking for more information on CECSD?*

*Check out [www.cortlandschools.org](http://www.cortlandschools.org) for some of the latest events around the area and in our schools.*

## STAY CONNECTED

### FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR, CECSD will utilize several ways to keep in touch!

**schooltool** -- schooltool is a program that allows students and parents online access to personalized information about a student's academic program and progress. From student attendance to report cards and progress reports, schooltool will allow for better communication from school to home.

**SchoolMessenger** -- SchoolMessenger will allow CECSD and all of the schools within the District to send messages via phone and email to parents and staff, allowing you to stay up to date on school events, emergency situations, closings and delays, etc. Only parents, guardians, or anyone who is designated as an emergency point of contact will receive these notifications.

**Twitter & Facebook** -- We will continue to use twitter and facebook to update the community on exciting things that are happening at CECSD. Our twitter accounts are: @CECSDistrict, @CECSD\_Athletics, @CECSD\_Music, @CECSD\_Theatre, @CECSD\_Art, @CECSD\_HS, @CECSD\_JH, @CECSD\_Randall, and @CECSD\_Smith, and @CECSD\_Barry

# MEET THE BOARD OF ED CANDIDATES

As of press time, the following candidates have submitted their names to run for one of three seats up for election on the CECSO Board of Education. For more information about the Board of Education, please visit our website at [www.cortlandschools.org/BOE](http://www.cortlandschools.org/BOE).

**Peter Rogoff**— Pete has served on the Cortland Enlarged City School Board for the last three years. He spent about 10 years living and working in the New York City area before returning to upstate New York to work within Cornell University's Executive Education division. He lives in Cortland with his wife Carolyn and they have three sons: Luke (14), Sean (10) and Evan (8). Pete has worked hard with his fellow board members and school administrators over the last few years to get a solid understanding of the challenges facing public schools in New York State, as well as the unique challenges we are faced with here in Cortland. If re-elected Pete will continue to advocate for all families and children within the CECSO with an eye toward fiscal responsibility and prudent decision making.



**Christopher Kurelich**— Chris grew up in Mount Vernon, NY where he proudly attended Mount Vernon public schools, graduating from Mount Vernon High School in 1994. Chris attended college at the University at Albany, receiving both a Bachelor of Arts in Communications (1998) and a Master of Science in Education Administration and Policy Studies (2001). After completing his graduate degree, he began his career in higher education. His career journey has taken him to several great stops along the way, eventually bringing his family to Cortland in 2012 when he accepted a position at SUNY Cortland. When Chris and his family relocated to Cortland, he and his wife decided to reside in the City of Cortland so that their children could attend Cortland Enlarged City School District. Over the past few years, Chris has become immensely invested in the future of this school district. Chris has had the privilege of serving as a board member for the current 2018-2019 school year and he would like to continue in that role for a full three year term. He wishes to continue serving all of the families and children in CECSO as the district moves forward into a bright future.



**Judith Murphy** — Judie is the current Vice-President of the Cortland Enlarged City School Board and is completing her sixth year of service. She has lived in the Cortland area all of her life. Together with her husband Tom, Judie has three children: Adrianna (age 16), Kaedyn (age 14) and Thomas (age 11). Judie first became interested in serving as a school board member to better advocate for students with specific and unique educational needs. In her role on the board, Judie has helped to not only advocate for student needs, but also for the needs of families, staff and tax payers. With a diverse professional background, Judie currently works as a School Psychologist in the Ithaca City School District. Her broad knowledge base of educational systems, finance, education law and human behavior and development continues to serve her well as a board member. Should she be re-elected, she hopes to continue to work as a team member with school board colleagues, administration, school staff and families to ensure the highest quality education possible in the most fiscally sound way.



**Donald Chu**— As one teacher said at a recent Board meeting, "Teaching is about relationships". I would add that the relationships are not just between teachers and students but also between schools and the community. The children of today will be running our country tomorrow, and they need to be at the top of their game. We all pay for the schools and should have a say in how they're run. By the same token, we should all do what we can to help the schools succeed. To me, that means teachers and parents working together to help each child find his or her own voice. It means retirees helping children read, write or do math. It means adults organizing extracurricular activities to pass on what they've learned in life. If elected to the Board, I would work to bring the community into the schools and the schools into the community.



**Cortland Enlarged City School District**  
Board of Education  
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Cortland, NY 13045-3297

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## BUDGET VOTE • Tuesday, May 21, 2019 • 12-9 pm

### POLLING LOCATIONS

1. All residents of the City of Cortland vote at the Kaufman Center on Valley View Drive
2. Virgil residents vote at the Virgil Town Hall on Church Street
3. Cortlandville residents vote at the Cortlandville Town Hall on Terrace Road

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### VOTING REQUIREMENTS

All voters must meet the following requirement:

1. At least 18 years of age
2. A citizen of the United States
3. A resident of the District for at least 30 days preceding vote

