



Phoenix Central School District

Proposed 2015-16 Budget Information

Dear Phoenix Central School District Residents,

We are pleased to present Phoenix community members with the enclosed 2015-2016 budget information. Within this budget bulletin you will find a breakdown of comparative information regarding the 2015-2016 proposed budget revenues and expenditures. The enclosed proposed budget maintains all student programs and overcomes many fiscal challenges.

This year's budget process was difficult as the Governor refused to provide projected aid data based on the executive budget. However, I am pleased with the legislature's efforts to restore aid to schools that has been withheld in the past. Through the additional State aid, use of reserves, the Board and administration is able to present a budget that provides students with the best educational experience possible while at the same time being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

In this brochure you will see the projected tax rates per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The Phoenix Central School District budget results in a 0.49% increase on the tax levy that is below the legal tax cap. Therefore qualified STAR properties will qualify to be refunded the increase from the State of New York.

The 2015-2016 proposed budget represents a 2.79% increase in spending from the 2014-2015 school year. The Board of Education and I are pleased to restore the summer reading program at Maroun Elementary and that this budget maintains all academic, extracurricular and athletic programs in 2015-2016.

This year's budget vote will include three additional propositions besides the budget proposal. We will be asking to continue our bus/van replacement schedule by replacing two (2) 60-passenger buses and three (3) 8-passenger vans which are 90% aided by New York State upon voter approval.

We are also asking voters to consider the re-authorization of the building capital and bus reserve funds that assist us in minimizing local costs in making building improvements and bus purchases.



I would like to thank the Board of Education for all the hard work and

countless hours dedicated to making every opportunity possible available to our students. In spite of the challenges we face, we maintain our commitment to student achievement and success. We believe this proposed budget demonstrates the balance between education and school taxes.

The Board of Education and I encourage you to take part in the budget process by attending the Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 5th at the JCB High School and by coming out to vote at the EJD Middle School on May 19th between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Phoenix Central School District
Superintendent of Schools

Budget Quick Facts:

- ▶ **Public Hearing**
May 5th, 7:00 p.m.
John C. Birdleough High School
- ▶ **Budget Vote**
May 19th Noon to 9:00 p.m.
Emerson J. Dillon Middle School
- ▶ **Total Budget**
\$43.74 million, +2.79% or \$1,188,418
- ▶ **Tax Levy**
\$16.83 million, +0.49% or \$82,085
- ▶ **Propositions**
 - #1 - Budget Adoption
 - #2 - Bus Purchase - 90% aided
 - #3 - Capital Reserve
 - #4 - Bus Reserve
- ▶ **Five Open Board Seats**
Candidates listed inside brochure

Budget Vote

May 19th Noon to 9:00 p.m.
Emerson J. Dillon Middle School

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Represents the Supervisory, Clerical & Business Operations support for Program & Capital Services.

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Board of Education	\$ 24,888	\$ 27,568	\$ 2,680	+10.77%
Board of Education, School Association Dues, District Clerk, Annual Meeting, and Elections				
Central Administration	\$ 207,505	\$ 218,840	\$ 11,335	+5.46%
Superintendent's Office				
Regular School Supervision	\$ 1,257,720	\$ 1,375,974	\$ 118,254	+9.40%
Building Offices, Principals & Clerical, Directors of Athletics and Curriculum				
Finance	\$ 471,009	\$ 504,350	\$ 33,341	+7.08%
Business Administration, External Auditor, Internal Auditor, Tax Collection, and Treasurer				
Personnel	\$ 147,083	\$ 149,953	\$ 2,870	+1.95%
Legal Services, Personnel Office, and Public Information				
Data Processing & Central Printing	\$ 321,620	\$ 380,228	\$ 58,608	+18.22%
Student Information & Financial Systems, Printing				
Liability Insurance & Unclassified	\$ 131,497	\$ 140,215	\$ 8,718	+6.63%
BOCES Administrative Charges	\$ 645,000	\$ 650,229	\$ 5,229	+0.81%
Local Share of BOCES Administrative Expenses				
Employee Benefits	\$ 824,500	\$ 693,811	\$ (130,690)	-15.85%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 4,030,821	\$ 4,141,168	\$ 110,347	+2.74%

PROGRAM BUDGET

Represents the Instructional, Support & Extracurricular Needs of Students.

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Regular School Program	\$ 13,154,852	\$ 13,479,042	\$ 324,190	+2.46%
Instruction, Library & Media, Instructional Technology				
Special Education Program	\$ 4,085,667	\$ 4,371,515	\$ 285,848	+7.00%
Instruction for Students With Disabilities				
Special Schools	\$ 328,386	\$ 463,357	\$ 134,971	+41.10%
Reading Summer School, Home Bound Instruction, BOCES Summer School & Multi-Occ Programs				
Pupil Services	\$ 1,363,312	\$ 1,420,555	\$ 57,243	+4.20%
Guidance, Health and Psychological Services Extracurricular, Athletic & Performing Arts Activities				
Transportation	\$ 1,989,808	\$ 2,108,171	\$ 118,363	+5.95%
Student Transportation Services				
Interfund Transfers	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	+0.0%
Employee Benefits	\$ 8,716,292	\$ 8,435,745	\$ (280,547)	-3.22%
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$29,688,317	\$30,328,385	\$ 640,068	2.16%

CAPITAL BUDGET

Represents the Custodial, Maintenance & Capital Improvement Costs for Building & Grounds Facilities.

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Custodial Operation of Plant	\$ 2,293,707	\$ 2,634,025	\$ 340,318	+14.83%
Maintenance of Plant & Grounds	\$ 650,202	\$ 694,354	\$ 44,152	+6.79%
Debt Service	\$ 4,978,752	\$ 5,067,512	\$ 88,760	+1.78%
Loan payments for building projects and bus purchases				
Employee Benefits	\$ 817,250	\$ 782,024	\$ (35,226)	-4.31%
Transfer to Capital	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 0	+0.0%
(Capital Improvement to MAM, EJD, & JCB)				
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$ 8,839,911	\$ 9,277,915	\$ 438,004	+4.95%

TOTAL BUDGET	\$42,559,049	\$43,747,467	\$1,188,418	+2.79%
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REVENUES

	2014-2015	2015-2016	\$ Change
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 25,214	\$ 25,214	\$ 0
Sales Tax	6,500	6,000	(500)
Charges for Services	40,750	30,200	(10,550)
Use of Money	31,200	62,200	31,000
Sale of Property	12,450	10,750	(1,700)
Refund of Prior Year	285,000	300,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	9,500	9,500	0
State Aid - Basic Aid	22,076,242	23,541,086	1,464,844
State Aid - BOCES Aid	2,135,346	1,959,710	(175,636)
State Aid - Textbook Aid	115,000	109,743	(5,257)
State Aid - Tech & Library	119,967	124,100	4,133
Federal Medicaid	45,000	35,000	(10,000)
Interfund Transfers	755,000	700,000	(55,000)
Appropriated Fund Balance	150,000	0	(150,000)
Calculated Tax Levy	16,751.880	16,833.964	82.084
TOTAL REVENUES	\$42,559,049	\$43,747,467	\$1,188,418

Tax Rates per each \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation

Township	Actual 2014-2015	Projected 2015-2016	Projected Change
Clay	\$ 633.09	\$ 636.19	\$ 3.10
Granby	\$ 27.39	\$ 27.52	\$ 0.13
Hastings	\$ 27.39	\$ 27.52	\$ 0.13
Lysander	\$ 27.39	\$ 27.52	\$ 0.13
Palermo	\$ 27.39	\$ 27.52	\$ 0.13
Schroepfel	\$ 32.80	\$ 32.96	\$ 0.16
Volney	\$ 27.39	\$ 27.52	\$ 0.13
Tax Rate on True Value	\$ 27.39	\$ 27.52	\$ 0.13

The information below is intended to help residents understand the estimated effect on property taxes if the proposed budget is approved. An assumption is made that the homeowner has applied for and receives the basic STAR exemption.

Full Value Assessment	Estimated 14-15 Tax With STAR	Estimated 15-16 Tax With STAR	Estimated Increase With STAR
\$ 50,000	\$ 547.80	\$ 550.48	\$2.68
\$100,000	\$1,917.30	\$1,926.40	\$9.10
\$150,000	\$3,286.80	\$3,302.40	\$15.60

Voter Qualifications

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age
- School District resident for 30 days prior to May 19, 2015
- Registered with Oswego/Onondaga County or School District Board of Elections

Board of Education Candidates

There are five open seats for the Board of Education, three of which will each carry a three year term and two of which carry a two year term. The following candidates have completed all the necessary paperwork and will appear on the May 19, 2015 voting machines in the following order:

1. Debra Ragonese-Green
2. Denise Wolniak-Bernard
3. Dr. David J. Isabella
4. Jim Graham
5. Earl Rudy
6. Daniel Dunn
7. Wayne Halstead
8. Brad Tangorra
9. Kevin Dix

Phoenix Central School District Named Best Community for Music Education

For the fifth consecutive year, the Phoenix Central School District (PCSD) has been recognized by the National Association of Music Merchandizers (NAMM) as one of

the country's Best Communities for Music Education (BCME). Now in its 16th year, BCME affirms school districts that have demonstrated exceptional efforts toward maintaining music education as part of schools' core curriculum. The BCME survey requires districts to answer detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.



Please remember to
vote!

▶ Voting Location EJD Middle School



Emerson J. Dillon Middle School
Front Foyer • 116 Volney Street



Phoenix students show heart

By jumping rope, students at Michael A. Maroun Elementary School recently raised more than \$4,000 for the American Heart Association. Pictured in back row from left to right are students Chase Slocum, Gerrad Crofoot, David Halko, Elisabeth Caltabiano, Matthew Caltabiano and Gavin Painter. Pictured in the front row from left to right, students Ethan Mills, Cole Bailer and Eli Bailer.

▶ Propositions

PROPOSITION #1 - Budget Adoption

“BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Phoenix Central School District for the school year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$43,747,467 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law.”

PROPOSITION #2 - Purchase of Buses/Vans

“Shall the Board of Education of the Phoenix Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance two (2) 60-passenger school buses, three (3) passenger vans at an estimated cost not to exceed \$325,845, all to include furnishings, fixtures and equipment required for such purposes and all other necessary costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$325,845, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax which is hereby voted for the foregoing in the amount of \$325,845 which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$325,845, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.”

PROPOSITION #3 – Capital Reserve for Building Improvements

“Shall the Board of Education establish a Project Reserve Fund for capital improvements to the District’s buildings and facilities from time to time approved by the District voters with a term of ten (10) years and a maximum amount of \$7,000,000, to be funded from (a) a transfer of the balance on deposit in the District’s current capital project reserve fund, which has reached the end of its term and will be closed; (b) fund balances as the Board of Education may designate from any general fund balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year; (c) funds from other sources including revenues that are not required by law to be paid into any other fund or account and (d) such amounts as may be authorized by the District’s voters from time to time.”

PROPOSITION #4 – Capital Bus Reserve

“Shall the Board of Education establish a Bus Purchase Reserve Fund with a term of ten (10) years and a maximum amount of \$500,000 to be funded from (a) the balance on deposit in the District’s current bus reserve fund which has reached the end of its term and will be closed; (b) fund balances as the Board of Education may designate from any general fund balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year; (c) funds from other sources including revenues that are not required by law to be paid into any other fund or account; (d) proceeds from the sale of retired vehicles; (e) state aid paid to the District on account of vehicles purchased from the reserve fund and (f) such amounts as may be authorized by the District’s voters from time to time.”

EJD students engage in African drumming and dance workshop



Professional percussionist Biboti Ouikahilo, a native of the Ivory Coast, West Africa, recently visited Emerson J. Dillon Middle School to teach students authentic African drumming and dance. Pictured, Ouikahilo and student Masson Bell team up for a drum solo.

With the power of music and dance, students at Emerson J. Dillon Middle School recently learned the value in understanding culture and diversity.

Biboti Ouikahilo, a professional percussionist and native of the Ivory Coast, West Africa, recently visited the school to lead an African drumming and dance workshop, much to the pleasure of the participating students.

Ouikahilo began the workshop by discussing his upbringing in the Ivory Coast and discussed some of the cultural differences between Africa and the United States, including a significant language contrast.

“The Ivory Coast was actually colonized by the French, so I actually grew up speaking the French language,” Ouikahilo said. “When I moved (to the United States) in 1997, I started to learn English. I lived in New York City for many years and then moved to Syracuse.”

Wearing bright colored traditional clothing, Ouikahilo captivated his audience by showcasing African dancing and drumming. Ouikahilo displayed his talents as a percussionist, playing as many as six different kinds of drums throughout the workshop.

Students were then afforded the opportunity to play the drums. Under the direction of Ouikahilo, students utilized techniques such as rhythms, melody, harmony and basses to create authentic African drumming.

Ouikahilo then showcased some traditional African dances, and had the students mimic his movements. The goal of the dances, according to Ouikahilo, is to inspire individuals to move their body to the beat of the drums.



Professional percussionist Biboti Ouikahilo leads Emerson J. Dillon Middle School students in authentic African drumming and dance.

Phoenix students earn awards for academics and character

Nearly five dozen John C. Birdleough High School students were recently in the spotlight for exhibiting academic excellence, work ethic, effort and discipline during the second marking period.

According to JCB Principal Greg Molloy, who presented the awards, the honorees each displayed qualities and character traits that had a positive impact on students and staff alike. To be considered for the honor, students had to be nominated by a teacher, classmate or staff member for exhibiting one of the characteristics cited in the school’s mission statement.

Each award recipient received a certificate and a coupon for a free ice cream from the school cafeteria.

In addition to the 59 Blaze Awards presented during the ceremony, Molloy also announced the top two students for the JCB Class of 2015. After four years of studying, hard work and discipline, Olivia Uttamsingh earned the title of valedictorian with an overall average of 106.197. Senior Ashley Centner, who posted an average of 102.68, was named the class salutatorian.



Class of 2015 valedictorian Olivia Uttamsingh, left, and salutatorian Ashley Centner, were named during the Blaze Awards Ceremony.



Phoenix Central Schools

District Office
116 Volney Street
Phoenix, NY 13135
(315) 695-1555

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Mission Statement:

The Phoenix Central School District is committed to a challenging educational program that promotes academic and personal growth for all students. Each student will become a confident, productive, responsible individual with a strong academic foundation, and the ability to make positive ethical choices. Our goal is to cultivate a sense of pride, character, and accountability in our students and community. The Board of Education, staff, parents, students, and community share responsibility for this mission.

Phoenix freshmen showcase research on climate change

Climate change was in the spotlight recently as nearly two dozen Phoenix high school freshmen showcased their research during an annual symposium.

The event, held at John C. Birdleough High School, highlighted students' scientific findings regarding global warming. Each student in Susan Sharp's ninth-grade earth science honors course created a trifold display and presented their research to a panel of judges.

"The symposium and presentation are requirements for the class, and the students put a lot of work into their projects," Sharp said.

That hard work translated into accolades for several of the students. Gold medals were presented to Alisa Trudell, Julie Yates, Catherine Musumeci and Haley Stellingwerf for exhibiting exceptional quality and superior effort. Taking home silver medals were Zoe Heckert, Gabrielle Crandall, Morgan Gravlin and Emily McDonald. Bronze medalists included Alexis Smith, Ben Vienneau, Jordan Cole and Lauren Schmidt.

In addition to the first, second and third-place medals, three special awards were handed

Catherine Musumeci displays the Principal's Award plaque she received recognizing her trifold and presentation as best of show.



John C. Birdleough earth science honors students gather for a group photo after presenting their research findings on climate change during a recent symposium.



out to students who excelled in different aspects of the project. The Principal's Award went to Catherine Musumeci for all-out effort, presentation and best of show. Hannah Grabowski earned the Scientific Method Award, which recognized her for science literacy, strong knowledge and use of the scientific method; and Zoe Heckert rounded out the winners by gaining the public's vote for best poster.

While some students took home awards, all walked away with a greater understanding and appreciation for the planet, Sharp noted. She said that the students must realize they are the future caretakers of our planet.

"Climate change is a major issue that kids need to know about for the future," Sharp said. "The symposium allows them to examine, study and learn how things happen, why things happen. They are really learning what science is all about."