



## < BUDGET VOTE >

Tuesday, May 19, 2015  
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
MED Elementary School

### What will I be voting on?

#### A \$29,901,041 BUDGET FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

- This budget is \$432,611 (1.47 percent) more than the 2014-2015 budget
- This budget carries a projected 1.8 percent tax levy increase that is under the limit set by the NYS property tax cap.

#### PROPOSITION #1 CAPITAL RESERVE:

Allows for the District to create a Capital Reserve Fund where money, not to exceed \$2 million, could be set aside for construction and buildings/grounds upkeep projects.

#### PROPOSITION #2: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Allows for a Chatham High School student to be appointed to the Board of Education to serve as a non-voting member.

#### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Selection of three candidates for the Board of Education who will appear on the ballot in the following order:

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sebastian Trienens | 4. Denise Barry   |
| 2. Beth Hover         | 5. David O'Connor |
| 3. Steve Gilger       | 6. Wayne Coe      |

## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE ON MAY 19?

To be eligible to vote you must be...

- A citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older,
- A resident of the Chatham Central School District for a period of 30 days or more preceding the day of the vote,
- Registered to vote with either the School District or the Columbia County Board of Elections.

If you have not previously registered and you would like to vote, you must register with the School District Board of Registration. The next **Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, May 12** from 2:00-7:00 p.m. in the MED Elementary School Lobby.

## 2015 – 2016 BUDGET:

# Maximizing Resources

Chatham Central School District voters will head to the polls on May 19th, 2015 to decide on a \$29,901,041 budget for the 2015-2016 school year. This budget carries a projected tax levy increase of 1.8 percent, which is below the limit set by New York State's property tax cap. Because this budget is under the cap and because Chatham CSD has achieved savings through shared services as prescribed by the state, most District homeowners should be eligible for NY State's Property Tax Freeze Credit in the fall.

Voting on the budget will take place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Mary E. Dardess Elementary School gymnasium. Voters will also be asked to elect three candidates to the Board of Education as well as decide on a proposition that would allow the District to create a capital reserve fund and a proposition allowing a student representative to sit on the Board of Education as a nonvoting member.

The budget is up a total of \$432,611, a 1.47 percent increase from this year's budget, the result of inflation, contractual obligations, rising health insurance premiums, and an increase in the number of students needing special education services.

The 2015-2016 budget is part of a five-year fiscal plan designed to balance the financial stability of our school with the needs of students and taxpayers. In building the budget, District officials focused on providing a strong educational program that prepares students for success in our rapidly evolving world while remaining sensitive to taxpayers. The district offset new spending with budget reductions and sought savings through efficiency measures. The District also applied reserves and appropriated fund balance to reduce the impact of cost increases and low state aid on the tax levy.

Staffing levels were adjusted to match declining enrollment, program needs, efficiency measures, and state mandates.

"We reallocated resources to strengthen what is offered to students and looked for ways to achieve savings through additional efficien-



cies," said Superintendent of Schools Cheryl Nuciforo. "As a result, the 2015-16 budget has a tax levy that is less than the permissible tax cap yet provides students with a strong academic program."

The budget includes exciting new opportunities for students with the addition of a mobile website programming class and distance learning courses at CHS, an eighth grade enrichment class and funding to support the mentoring program at the Middle School, as well as increased academic intervention services in math for students at MED Elementary School.

Included in the budget are the purchase of two large school buses and two Suburban buses. These buses will replace older, high mileage vehicles as part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to keeping our transportation fleet in safe, efficient working order. An additional medium bus will also be purchased to meet an increase in special education transportation needs.

**A Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for May 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chatham High School library.**

More information on the 2015-2016 budget and educational plan can be found at [www.chathamcentralschools.com](http://www.chathamcentralschools.com).

## CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

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Proposition #1 on the ballot would create a Capital Reserve Fund to assist the District in financing future construction projects and reduce the total borrowing needed for these projects. The maximum amount of money the District could place in the fund would be a total of \$2,000,000 over ten years.

A Capital Reserve Fund is similar to a savings account and helps the District plan for long-term needs with little impact on the general budget. The District can use it to set aside money for future buildings and grounds improvements. Voter approval is required to create the fund.

Money for the Capital Reserve Fund would primarily come from rebates or other one-time revenues the District receives. If there is excess money left at the end of the school year, due to projected revenues being greater than expenditures, money may be put in the Capital Reserve Fund.

The District projects the need for capital work (construction and maintenance) to keep our facilities updated and maintained, as well as address safety. Before the District can spend any money from the Capital Reserve Fund, it must receive voter approval. The District would provide details on such spending, and community members would decide on it in future budget votes or possibly a capital referendum.

With voter approval, the District created a Capital Reserve Account in 2008 for \$3,500,000, which has reached its maximum limit approved by voters and which currently holds \$2,079,267. Projected capital work costs at Chatham CSD are greater than this amount, and therefore, the District is asking voters to decide on a proposition that would create an additional Capital Reserve Fund to help cover expenses.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Proposition #2 on the ballot asks voters to reapprove a provision that allows a Chatham High School student to be appointed to the Board of Education. The student representative serves a one-year term as a non-voting member and acts as a liaison between the student body and the Board of Education.

The provision was first approved by voters in 2009 and a student representative currently sits on the Board. This school year that representative is Carly Rippel, a senior.

"I'm the student representative to the school board, but I'm also the school board's representative to the students. I allow my voice to be heard on both sides," she said in explanation of her position. "I'm not only telling the school board what the students want, I'm informing the students on what issues are relevant to the school board."

Education Law requires the District to seek voter approval of this provision every two years. The current voter-approved provision will expire June 30, 2015.

## WHY IS THE DISTRICT USING RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE TO LOWER THE TAX LEVY?

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For the past several years, the District has used money held in reserve accounts and fund balance to help keep the tax levy down. For the 2015-16 budget, the District has allocated \$212,671 in reserves to offset expense increases. School officials will also use further reserves to cover any unexpected costs in the areas of health insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and tax certiorari, as costs commonly fluctuate in these areas.

The District also allocated \$1,341,600 of fund balance to reduce the tax levy increase. Fund balance is a reserve much like a savings account. When District expenses are less than what was expected,

or revenues are higher than expected, the money is held in the fund balance. The District utilizes fund balance each year as revenue in the budget to minimize spending cuts and hold down tax increases.

Use of reserves and fund balance in this manner are part of the District's five-year fiscal plan designed to provide for the financial well-being of the District in a time of limited financial resources for schools. By utilizing these reserves, the District was able to hold the projected tax levy increase to 1.8% , which is below Chatham's 2015 property tax cap of 2.02%.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED?

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If voters do not approve the proposed budget on May 19th, the Board of Education has the following options: put the same budget or a revised budget up for vote on June 16th, or adopt a contingency budget. If the budget is again defeated on June 16th, the Board must adopt a contingency budget.

NY State's property tax cap law holds a contingency budget's tax levy increase at 0%. This means the District would be required to levy the same amount of taxes or less as in 2014, regardless of inflation, contractual obligations, and other cost drivers. A contingency budget prevents spending on new

equipment, except concerning safety. It also limits public use of District facilities. However, all state mandated programs, whether funded by state aid or not, would need to be retained.

These regulations mean that in a contingent budget, the Board would need to make an additional \$557,693 in cuts from the current budget proposal. Therefore, the District would be required to eliminate any projected purchases of new equipment from the budget, including replacement buses, and would consider other cuts to our instructional and non-instructional budgets.

## HOW IS THE DISTRICT STRENGTHENING PROGRAM?

The District is continually updating our academic program to provide students with the educational experiences we feel are necessary for success in the modern world. Below are highlights of the program initiatives included in the 2015-2016 budget:

**Developing and Programming Mobile Websites** class will be introduced at Chatham High school next fall. Students with an interest in computer science can now learn how to design and build websites that match how modern web users access the Internet, be it on a smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer.

**Distance Learning** at the High School will be expanded to offer as many as four new courses. Video conferencing and the Internet connect Chatham students to classrooms in other school districts, giving them ready access to courses that otherwise would not be available in Chatham. Offerings being explored are an Advanced Placement in Statistics class at Cohoes, Anatomy & Physiology and Introduction to Aerospace courses at Coxsackie-Athens, and an Agriscience class at Taconic Hills.

**Eighth Grade Enrichment** at Chatham Middle School includes a new co-taught course focusing on the Vietnam War Era through non-fiction and fiction, poetry, music, photography, as well as through community based oral history. Students will seek to answer the essential question, "How does war impact the individual and society?"

**Mentoring** at Chatham Middle School will receive \$1,000 in funding from the budget. This highly successful, volunteer driven program pairs students in need of academic, social, and emotional support with adults from the community who serve as their personal mentors. In previous years, the Mentoring Program relied on grant money for funding.

**Academic Support Services** at MED Elementary School that provide assistance for students in the area of math will have their delivery strengthened with the addition of an academic intervention support teacher.

**District-Wide Teacher Leader Coach** works closely with educational staff in all three buildings to incorporate innovative new ideas and foster continuous improvement of teaching methods. The position was previously funded by a grant. Having proved its effectiveness, the position has been made a permanent part of our program and is now funded through the budget.

*Through restructuring of our program delivery and efficiency measures, these program additions will have minimal impact on overall spending.*

## HOW IS THE DISTRICT REDUCING COSTS?

The District is continually looking for ways to keep budget increases to a minimum through efficiency measures, adjusting program and staffing to match declining enrollment, and other cost saving initiatives. Examples of cost reduction measures Chatham CSD took this budget cycle include:

### Personnel

- Administrative restructuring which resulted in a savings of \$26,000.
- Teaching staff reduced or reorganized to match program needs and declining enrollment, providing \$14,000 in net savings.
- Transportation staff restructured to reduce overtime, resulting in a \$5,000 savings.

### Cafeteria

- Kitchen staff will produce more food items in our kitchens rather than purchase ready-made items from vendors (such as pizza). This will provide fresher options for students and an estimated annual savings of \$5,000.

### Energy

- Chatham CSD participates in an energy consortium which combines the buying power of multiple school districts to lock in lower electric rates.
- Solar panels installed on the roof of MED in 2011 have provided the District with approximately \$20,000 in energy savings to date. The panels were paid for entirely through a grant from NYSERDA.
- Reduced heating oil budget by \$20,000 & transportation fuel budget by \$20,000 to reflect lower oil prices.

### Contracts

- Fire alarm inspections and maintenance was switched from a private vendor to a BOCES provider resulting in \$5,000 of savings.
- BOCES public information service was reduced for a savings of \$15,000.
- BOCES data entry service was reduced for a savings of \$31,800.
- New Affordable Care Act reporting requirements will be carried out by existing District staff rather than private contractor, providing \$15,000 in cost avoidance.



Students learning about animal tracks and traces, one of fifteen afterschool enrichment programs sponsored by the MED PTA this March. Parent groups, community organizations like the Chatham Education Foundation, and Chatham Central Schools work closely together to provide students with fun, exciting educational experiences both in class and afterschool.

## HOW WILL THE NYS PROPERTY TAX FREEZE CREDIT AFFECT MY TAXES?

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In 2014, New York State established a two-year program referred to as the “Property Tax Freeze Credit” for NYS homeowners. Because Chatham CSD’s proposed 2015-16 budget stays within the District’s tax cap of 2.02% and because the District achieves savings through efficiencies, homeowners should expect to be eligible to receive this credit again in 2015.

The credit applies to residential property owners who are eligible for a STAR exemption and who live in school districts that

pass budgets within their tax levy limit and demonstrate to the state that they achieve savings through efficiencies. The District must submit an efficiency savings plan to the state by June 1, 2015. Pending state approval of Chatham’s efficiency plan, eligible property owners will receive a tax credit equal to the greater of either the 2015-16 increase in school taxes or 1.62% of the 2014-15 school tax bill. The credit will be in the form of a rebate check issued to the homeowner in the fall by the NYS Tax Department.

## HOW WAS THE BUDGET DEVELOPED?

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Chatham CSD utilizes long-term fiscal planning to manage the financial well-being of our school. School officials carefully weigh how a decision will affect not only the current budget year, but also how it will impact District finances over the next five years.

Chatham follows several basic guiding principles when developing its annual budget: provide a strong educational program that prepares students for college and career success; remain sensitive to the current economic climate and to taxpayers; maximize available resources; seek savings through efficiency measures; offset new spending with budget reductions; base staffing on enrollment and program needs; and do not use one-time funding sources for ongoing expenses.

In January, the District began to develop revenue projections for the coming school

year, which were complicated this year by the state withholding its aid information until after the legislature adopted the state budget on April 1st. Without state aid numbers available, District officials planned for no state aid increase when balancing the 2015-16 budget.

In February, the District calculated its tax levy cap at 2.02%, using the formula provided by the state. This number was submitted to the state prior to March 1st.

District officials completed a line by line review of the budget to identify where reductions could be made and efficiencies realized. Staffing, equipment, and supplies were adjusted to meet program needs, enrollment, efficiency measures, and state mandates. The District also applied money from reserve accounts and allocated fund balance to reduce the tax levy to the limit set by the cap.

On April 1st, the legislature adopted a

state budget that included a state aid increase totaling \$221,809, or 3.31 percent, for Chatham. The District applied this additional revenue to reduce the amount of reserves it used to balance the budget, as well as used the money to lower this year’s tax levy increase from 2.02 percent to 1.8 percent.

The Board of Education adopted a proposed 2015-16 budget on April 21 that called for \$29,901,041 in spending, an increase of 1.47 percent.

Public budget presentations were made at regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings beginning in December. Copies of these presentations and other budget information were posted to the school website as they became available.

A Public Hearing on the proposed budget and educational plan is scheduled for May 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chatham High School library.

## HOW HAS STATE AID AFFECTED THE BUDGET?

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For the 2015-16 school year, Chatham CSD will receive a total of \$6,920,667 in aid from NY State, an increase of \$221,809, or 3.31 percent, over this year.

This year, NY State withheld school aid numbers from schools until after the state budget was adopted on April 1st. This meant when school officials began balancing the budget in January, they

had to use this year’s state aid numbers, meaning they budgeted for no increases in state aid. When state aid information was made available in early April, Chatham used the additional revenue to reduce the amount from reserve accounts it uses to balance the budget, as well as used the money to lower this year’s tax levy increase from 2.02 percent to 1.8 percent.

## WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO STAFFING LEVELS?

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Based on current program needs, Chatham Central Schools made a number of position changes for the 2015-2016 school year. These staffing adjustments reflect efficiency measures, fewer numbers of students attending our schools, and new state mandates.

Due to declining enrollment, one first grade teaching position, one sixth grade teaching position, and one high school math position were eliminated from the budget. One French position was reduced to part-time (.8) to reflect 7th grade French being discontinued because too few students elected to study French.

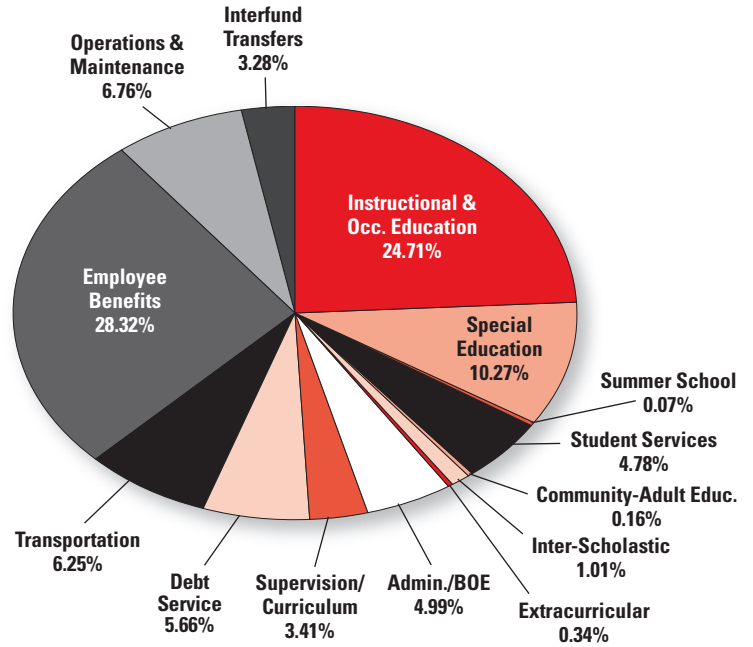
To provide additional support services for students at MED in the area of math, one full-time elementary academic intervention teacher was added. To meet new state requirements, one full-time English as a New Language teaching position was added.

As an efficiency measure, the District also reduced its BOCES public information support twenty percent to four days per week and reduced its BOCES data entry support fifty percent to one day per week.



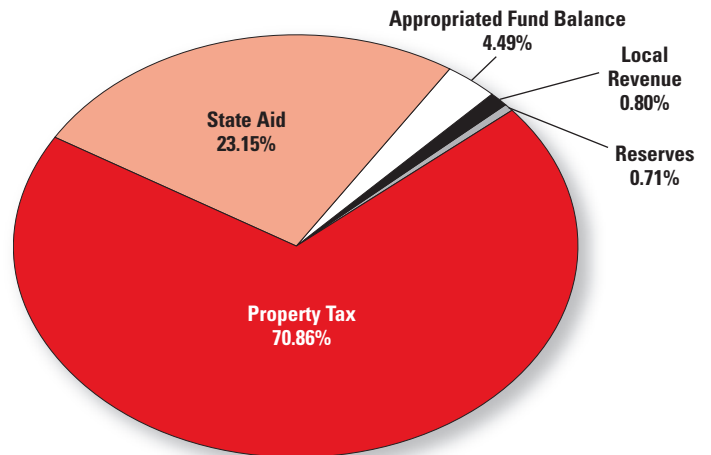
# 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

|                                | <b>BUDGET<br/>2014-2015</b> | <b>PROPOSED<br/>2015-2016</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Instructional & Occ. Education | \$7,167,773                 | \$7,389,704                   |
| Special Education              | \$2,788,382                 | \$3,070,613                   |
| Summer School                  | \$22,275                    | \$22,275                      |
| Student Services               | \$1,458,230                 | \$1,428,513                   |
| Extracurricular                | \$100,900                   | \$100,900                     |
| Inter-Scholastic               | \$301,309                   | \$301,039                     |
| Community-Adult Education      | \$49,668                    | \$47,718                      |
| Administrative/BOE             | \$1,496,980                 | \$1,490,921                   |
| Supervision/Curriculum         | \$1,049,024                 | \$1,018,895                   |
| Transportation                 | \$1,798,799                 | \$1,867,616                   |
| Operations & Maintenance       | \$2,020,006                 | \$2,022,356                   |
| Employee Benefits              | \$8,533,012                 | \$8,468,075                   |
| Debt Service                   | \$1,753,583                 | \$1,692,755                   |
| Interfund Transfers            | \$928,758                   | \$979,660                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>\$29,468,429</b>         | <b>\$29,901,041</b>           |



## Estimated Revenues

|                           | <b>BUDGET<br/>2014-2015</b> | <b>BUDGET<br/>2015-2016</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Property Tax              | \$20,814,123                | \$21,187,925                |
| Local Revenue             | \$238,177                   | \$238,177                   |
| State Aid                 | \$6,698,858                 | \$6,920,667                 |
| Reserves                  | \$375,671                   | \$212,671                   |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$1,341,600                 | \$1,341,600                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$29,468,429</b>         | <b>\$29,901,041</b>         |



## Property Tax Report Card

|   | <b>2014-2015</b> | <b>2015-2016</b> | <b>% Change</b> |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Total Proposed Budget   | \$29,468,429     | \$29,901,041     | 1.47%           |
| Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy,<br>Including Tax Levy to Support Library Debt                              | \$20,814,123     | \$21,187,925     | 1.80%           |
| Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit   | \$833,271        | \$849,621        |                 |
| Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Not including Levy for<br>Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt | \$19,980,952     | \$20,384,817     |                 |
| School Tax Levy Limit Not including Levy for Permissible Exclusions   | \$19,980,852     | \$20,338,304     |                 |
| Difference  | 100              | \$46,513         |                 |
| Public School Enrollment  | 1,147            | 1,100            | -4.10%          |
| Consumer Price Index  |                  |                  | 1.62%           |

# 2015 Board of Education Candidates

Six candidates are running for three open seats on the Board of Education. All seats are for three-year terms that run July 1st, 2015 through June 30, 2018. The candidate who receives the most votes will begin serving May 20th, 2015 to complete the remainder of the unexpired term of James Marks, who resigned from the Board. Candidates were asked to write a brief article about themselves.



## SEBASTIAN TRIENENS

I am running for the School Board for two reasons. First, and foremost, is I have two children enrolled at the MED Elementary School. I strongly believe in the importance of their education and in the education of the children of this district. How our academic goals can adapt to a rapidly changing world is a subject I would

look forward to discussing with the Board members, teachers and the community.

Secondly, I am running because I am a property owner in the district and am directly affected by the decisions our school district makes. I believe it is critical to the fiscal health of our community that the Board's financial decisions are made with full disclosure of the economic facts and debate of their ramifications.

I believe it should be the goal of the Board to bring transparency to future academic and fiscal issues, and to invite participation by the diverse voices of our community in debating and solving them. If elected to the Board I intend to see this goal fulfilled.



## BETH HOVER

My name is Beth Hover and I write to express my interest in serving you as a member of the Board of Education for the Chatham Central School District. A good board member is one who is able to address all of the issues of the District while being conscious of the needs and concerns of the individual community

members. My experience as an educator in the District for 35 years allows me to address concerns from a teaching perspective while raising three sons through the District allows me to see issues through a parent's eyes. And finally, as I have entered retirement and begun a second career as a real estate agent, I am able to share the views of the senior citizens living on fixed incomes while being conscious of the second home owners. The education system as a whole is in a period of great turmoil and is facing significant challenges in the immediate future. I believe my experience outlined above will allow me to serve you, the Community, effectively and productively.



## STEVE GILGER

I am your neighborhood "concerned taxpayer". My wife and I have supported and been part of this community for 19 years. My 13 year old attends the CMS. My degree from the University of Nebraska and NYU diploma in Construction Management, along with extensive experience in building and

facility management are useful for the BOE. I am running for the School Board because I want to assist in creating more transparent and open public BOE meetings and workshops. I want to assist in removing the "closing the renovated Chatham Middle School agenda". I want to help create a common sense administration working for the children and community. I want to reduce unnecessary spending. I want to be part of a plan for change and I believe my education and experience will help with positive, reasonable, sustainable change. [www.chatham-ny-watchdogs.com](http://www.chatham-ny-watchdogs.com)



## DENISE BARRY

I consider it an honor to help to plan the education of children in our community. As a graduate of Chatham High School and with advanced degrees in education, I have fond memories of schooling years ago and forty years of experiences as a special education teacher in the Albany and Hudson City School Districts with a

separate thirty-year "summer career" as an administrator and teacher in local prisons. Dealing with challenges including availability of resources, declining enrollment, and rising expectations requires commitment. We must continue to develop and implement policies over the short and long term while building public support and influencing the lives of children through positive impact. As the longest serving member of the Board of Directors of COARC (43 years) and member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene Counties, volunteerism has played an important part in my life. It will be a privilege to work with the other Board members and the school community in fulfilling the vision of Chatham's Board of Education.



### DAVID O'CONNOR

As a school board member, I will endeavor to make Chatham a place of exemplary public education. In addition to college and career readiness, we must have a K-12 wellness program that helps every child achieve the physical and emotional health to meet their full potential in adulthood. I support our robust extracurricular

programs. I value the efforts of all our District employees, and support good pay and benefits contracts for their work and dedication. I am committed to close financial oversight by the Board to ensure our limited funds are spent efficiently and effectively. I believe my experience on the Board -- both successes and failures -- demonstrate my commitment to work in a positive manner for all shareholders -- students, parents, employees, and taxpayers. I will work hard and listen to all sides, but always act in a manner that supports the best possible public education for our community.



### WAYNE COE

It's time for the people to have a vote about what's right for their kids, and not blindly follow a school Board that puts money first.

You may know me by my editorials: "Superintendent Steamrolls Design Disaster" when the CCSD Board tried to steer us into closing the Chatham Middle School, "Consolidation Will Have \$30 Million Tax Impact" and most recently, "Tune In, Turn On and Opt Out."

For years, I've attended monthly Chatham school board meetings, led a community poll requesting public full participation in school consolidation, battled the Board's "closed meeting" policy, designed an alternate plan that would close no buildings while protecting students, and created chatham-ny-watchdogs; concerned citizens who witness every school Board decision that favors Albany contractors, not kids and taxpayers.

Your School Board vote this May will have as much impact as the vote that dropped a bomb on their bond two Novembers ago.

## MEET THE BOE CANDIDATES MAY 14, 2015

A "Meet the Candidates Forum" is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chatham High School Auditorium. Candidates will each have an opportunity to provide a statement and answer questions submitted by the audience. David Colby, president of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, will be the moderator for the event.

## MENTORING PROGRAM

For more than twenty years, students looking for some extra support have found it through their Chatham Middle School mentorship program. The program pairs up students with adult volunteers from the community who lend them their time, friendship, and experience so students won't have to face day-to-day challenges alone.

Having a supportive, trusted adult to talk to and seek advice from contributes to a host of benefits for young people, both immediate and long-term. Studies show students develop higher educational aspirations and do better in school, enjoy increased self-esteem and self-confidence, and are less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol when they have a mentor.

"I once had this boy whose sole ambition was to drop out of school. He would say 'as soon as I'm old enough I'm going to quit.'" said Judy Hollister, a retired teaching assistant who has volunteered as a mentor with Chatham's program for eleven years. It took her time to build his trust, but eventually the two developed a connection that would last not only through his middle school years, but throughout high school as well. "I was there to see him graduate," she said.

Judy says that her role as a mentor is to guide students in tackling challenges and solving problems themselves.

Take, for example, eighth grader Katelyne George who has Judy

for her mentor. She's an honor student and member of her school's National Junior Honor Society. She and Judy meet for lunch once a week, every week, to discuss school and whatever else might be on Katelyne's mind. "When I first started in sixth grade my grades were not good, but after getting Judy I got high honors for all four quarters," Katelyne said. "There have been times when I've had a problem with grades or even a problem with someone else, and I could talk to her about it and she could help me by giving me advice on how to fix it."

Judy represents just one of many mentors currently helping students find their path to success at CMS. All are volunteers from our community; they include retirees, a health care worker, tradesmen, a lawyer, and educators.

In addition to weekly one-on-one meetings between students and their personal mentors, the Middle School's program provides four annual events for all the mentors and mentees to get

together as a group.

"Mentoring is an integral part of our guidance program," said CMS counselor Jackie Hoffman. "It matches students' developmental needs of belonging and purpose, and that's why it's so important, because they are developing their identity in middle school."

The program currently serves eighteen students and more mentors are needed. If you would like to become a mentor to a CMS



## CAR-RT SORT POSTAL CUSTOMER

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### ADMINISTRATORS

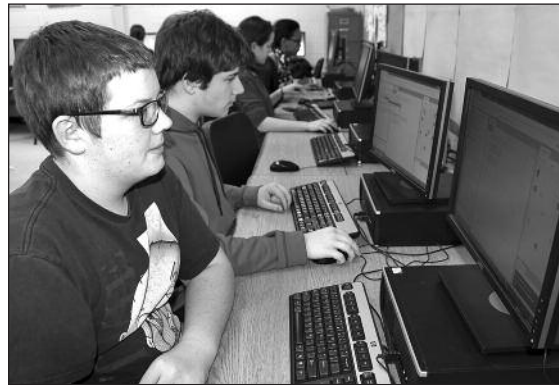
|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Cheryl Nuciforo<br><i>Superintendent</i>   | 392-1501 |
| Michael Chudy<br><i>School Business Administrator</i>                              | 392-1534 |
| Brian Simon<br><i>Director of Special Education</i>                                | 392-2417 |
| Kristen Reno<br><i>Mary E. Dardess<br/>Elementary School Principal</i>             | 392-2255 |
| Lindsay Morris<br><i>Mary E. Dardess<br/>Elementary School Assistant Principal</i> | 392-2255 |
| Amy Potter<br><i>Chatham Middle School Principal</i>                               | 392-1560 |
| John Thorsen<br><i>Chatham High School Principal</i>                               | 392-4142 |
| Terry Bordell<br><i>Chatham HS Assistant Principal</i>                             | 392-4142 |

### BOARD MEMBERS

|   | <i>Term Expires</i> |
|---|---------------------|
| Melony Spock<br><i>President</i>              | 2016                |
| Jennifer Lindberg<br><i>Vice President</i>    | 2015                |
| Michael Clark                                 | 2015                |
| Teri Conte                                    | 2017                |
| Muriel Faxon                                  | 2016                |
| Chris Kelly                                   | 2017                |
| Edward Knight                                 | 2017                |
| David O'Connor                                | 2015                |
| Craig Simmons                                 | 2016                |
| Carly Rippel<br><i>Student Representative</i> | 2015                |

## CHS to Offer Mobile Website Course

With smartphones, tablets, and other mobile computers now pervasive in our society, knowing how to design interfaces and create applications for these devices has become a very marketable skill. Next school year, Chatham High School will begin offering students a new computer science course called Developing and Programming Mobile Websites. Students will learn how to solve responsive website challenges using web apps, which allow websites to display and interface appropriately with a variety of online devices.



“The goal of responsive website design is to have websites that will look good on any device, be it on a tablet, cell phone, or a full-sized computer screen,” said computer science teacher Jim Flanagan, who developed and will be teaching the course. “More

cell phones are being made than computers. Our students get their information from cell phones. The logical step is to begin creating websites specifically designed for smartphones.”

Chatham High School will be offering the new elective as a semester-long course this fall. Students will learn how to build mobile friendly websites utilizing HTML and JavaScript libraries like jQuery, animate navigation, stream native audio and video, apply styling, and more.

## BUDGET DETAILS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Information about the 2015-2016 budget is available on the Chatham Central School District webpage at:

[www.cathamcentralschools.com](http://www.cathamcentralschools.com)