

# Prattsburgh Central School and Franklin Academy

## Annual Budget Vote, School Board Election

### And Capital Project Referendum

#### A message from the PCS Board of Education:

At a special meeting on Tuesday, May 12, the PCS Board of Education approved the 2020-2021 general operating budget to be submitted for voter approval on June 9, 2020. **The operating budget proposal of \$10,313,306 represents a 1.62 % change from the current year budget.**

For 2017-2018 school year, there was a tax levy decrease of \$50,000. For 2018-2019 school year, there was a 0% change in the tax levy, and for the 2019-2020 school year, the tax levy decreased by approximately \$12,000. **For the 2020-2021 school year, we are estimating a 0% tax levy increase. This means that the levy will be lower than it was in the 2013-2014 school year. We understand that communities have been hit hard by the COVID-10 pandemic and made it a priority to keep taxes flat for residents.**

The budget proposal maximizes our use of almost 65% BOCES aid for shared services and for almost 90% state aid on transportation costs. The budget allows the school district to meet state mandated programming requirements and provides for the necessary opportunities and services for our children.

PCS is also proposing a \$7,495,000 capital project. This project addresses needs that were outlined in the state required Building Condition Survey. Those needs include updates to our current HVAC systems, school health and safety improvements, updates to classrooms to meet Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives, and improvements to our athletic fields. **All these improvements can be done at no additional tax impact to our community. The use of \$150,000 out of our capital reserve and the utilization of state building aid make this all possible.**

Lots of people may be asking “why now?” for a capital project since we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. For one, this situation will get better and we have to continue to plan long range in order to maintain our facilities. Second, passing this referendum now allows us to “lock in” the current state aid formula that is governed by law. We will continue to share more information about the capital project on our website at [www.prattsburghcsd.org](http://www.prattsburghcsd.org).

*This is also a reminder that voting this year is by absentee ballot ONLY. Ballots are being mailed to all qualified voters (a citizen of the United States of America, eighteen years of age or older, and a resident of the School District for a period of thirty days preceding the annual vote and election). Included with the absentee ballot will be a self-addressed stamped envelope that needs to be returned to the school district by June 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM.*

**Anyone who feels they are a qualified voter and DOES NOT receive an absentee ballot can call Roxy Elward at 607-522-6211 to get one.**

*Board Members: Brian Robbins, Joel Sanford, Amy Dlugos, Mark Bristol, Stephanie Randall*