

**WVCSD EdTalk: May 24, 2023**  
**Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools**

Voters approved the Warwick Valley Central School District's \$109,140,179 budget proposal by a vote of 2,578 to 999. Additionally, voters approved a bus proposition and three community members were elected to the WVCSD Board of Education.

The 2023-24 approved budget includes a tax levy increase of 3.49%, which is below the state's allowable tax cap. The average tax levy increase in Warwick over the past three years has been 0.74%, and this budget marks the eighth time in 12 years that the tax levy increase has remained below the tax cap. The District has never exceeded the tax cap.

"I would like to thank the community for supporting our 2023-24 budget, which will allow us to continue providing an outstanding educational experience for every Warwick student," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Leach. "Careful planning and a return to full state foundation aid funding for the first time in years have helped us preserve student opportunities while once again staying below the tax cap."

"Thank you to my fellow Board of Education members and our administration, whose primary motivations are always the well-being of our students as well as the fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers," said Board President Keith Parsons. "I would also like to extend my gratitude to our Warwick neighbors for recognizing the vital role that quality education and strong schools play in our community."

Voters also considered a proposition to purchase five new buses – two 65-passenger propane buses and three 65-passenger gas buses – at a maximum cost of \$830,000. The proposition passed by a vote of 2,474 to 1,092. The District will use \$330,000 of its bus reserve fund toward the purchase. Of the total cost, \$512,100, or 61.7%, will come back to the District in state transportation aid, meaning no additional taxes will be required for the transportation purchase at a net cost of approximately \$500,000.

Six candidates, including three incumbents, vied for three open Board of Education seats. The three receiving the most votes will serve three-year terms beginning July 1:

- **John Garcia (incumbent) - 2642 votes**
- **Dory Masefield (incumbent) - 1985 votes**
- **Robert Howe (incumbent) – 1980 votes**
- Angel Maysonet - 1491 votes
- Adrienne Tveter - 1528 votes
- Luis Abramson - 457 votes

***Here are some highlights from our schools this week:***

### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

First grade students visited Museum Village and enjoyed the opportunity to travel through time, learning how people in our area lived during different historical periods. Students were treated to guided tours of the General Store, broom shop, school house, blacksmith, drug store, cabin and candle making shop. It was an experiential opportunity connected to second grade "Then & Now" centers, as well as an outcome of quarterly visits from the Warwick Historical Society's "Traveling Trunks" program.

Second grade students from Ms. Dolan and Ms. Theologis' classes enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Turtle Back Zoo, where they had the opportunity to observe and learn about more than 200 species. They learned about conservation and gained an understanding of and appreciation for protecting the complex web of all living things. Some favorite animals were the red panda, the bald eagle, the flamingos and the cheetahs. Students fed the giraffes some lettuce, interacted with exotic rays, and took a ride on the endangered animals carousel.

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Incoming kindergarten students and their parents were welcomed to orientation on May 16 and 17 by Principal Maraia. They met teachers, the school counselor and psychologists, the nurse, SRO and the administrative professionals. Students toured the building, learned about the cafeteria, and were treated to a snack. They also reviewed bus safety and took a quick spin on a bus. The WVHS Class of '36 can't wait for September!

Ms. Carter's Author's Tea was the culminating event to a year's worth of writing for her class. Each student author displayed their work from the entire year and spoke about their favorite pieces and things they'd learned about writing this year. Every child displayed a nonfiction writing piece, a narrative piece, a written speech that they did at our adaptation safari, a book of poems and the first chapter of their chapter book series. Schoolmates and parents were all invited to take part in the event and see the work of our class.

Fourth graders took to the WVHS stage to perform live for their friends, families and teachers. The audience was excited and impressed with the talented students as they sang and played their instruments. It is hard to believe these students have only been playing their instruments for nine months! Congratulations to Ms. Echevarria's fourth grade chorus, Ms. Blaikner's fourth grade orchestra, and Mr. Muehlbauer's fourth grade

band! Thank you to Ms. McGourty for welcoming the audience and kicking off the evening!

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

At the annual STEAM Fair, WVMS students demonstrated their understanding of the scientific method and problem solving through interactive, hands-on investigations and inventions. WVHS students in Ms. Touw's Science Research class served as mentors and judges for the STEAM participants.

Sara Marina and Eva Chuckran won first prize with a "Does the 5-Second Rule Really Work?" project. Devin Torino-Margolis and Milla Perry placed second with their display of "The Battle of Yeast." Jaxsen Mita earned third place with his "Solar Ovens" project.

We are so proud of all of the students who participated in the event this year. These students started these projects all the way back in December and to see them all on display was an absolute pleasure. We would also like to thank the wonderful WVHS research students who volunteered their time throughout the year to assist our participants with their projects.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

Students were recognized and celebrated in a number of events last week, including the Art Show and STEAM fair, the spring musical concerts and the annual Student-Athlete breakfast.

Under the direction of Ms. Kristen Spano and Mr. Chris Radon, the annual Art Show and STEAM fair displayed the artistic creation of hundreds of students in various media. The show included student drawing, painting, pottery, 3-D media, digital and black and white photography. The highly anticipated fashion show took place during the evening, using the aisles of the art displays as the runway. Students created and wore gorgeous dresses and evening attire made out of newspaper! The chair auction offered beautifully painted and decorated chairs, stools and tables. The money raised from the auction is put toward senior scholarships. The technology students were on hand to demonstrate their robotics, 3-D printing, and engineering projects that were designed and created throughout the year.

The choral, orchestra, and band ensemble groups performed their annual spring concerts this week under the direction of Ms. Noreen Hanson, Ms. Elissa Maynard, and Ms. Megan Shafer, respectively. At each event, the senior musicians are recognized for their contributions over their high school careers, many of whom are given the stage to perform solos in their last performance. Each night, the auditorium was packed with

family, friends, and music lovers, who came out to hear the incredibly talented student ensembles perform classical and modern pieces.

The annual Student-Athlete Breakfast and Awards Ceremony recognized 368 single and multi-sport student-athletes that maintained a weighted average of 90 or better during their season. Students were also honored as All-American Student Athletes for maintaining averages of better than 100 during their seasons. The girls' varsity softball team took top team honors by earning the highest overall average during their season. Meghan Desrats and Joey Krasniewicz were named Scholar-Athletes of the Year.