



School Gram

May 2017 Budget Edition

KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA UFSD

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

**7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday,
May 16, 2017**

Hoover Middle School,
249 Thorncliff Road
(use the Sheridan Drive
entrance and Door 14 for
easy access)

BUDGET HEARING

**6:30 p.m.
Tuesday,
May 9, 2017**

Philip Sheridan Building
Community Room, 3200
Elmwood Ave.

CONTENTS:

Budget Information
Page 2-3, 12

Voter Information
Page 3

**2016-17 Highlights &
Achievements**
Page 4

District News
Page 5-7

Elementary School News
Page 8-9

Middle School News
Page 10

High School News
Page 11

Message from the Superintendent & Board President

On April 4, the Ken-Ton School District Board of Education approved a 2017-18 school year budget that includes no increase in the property tax levy. This budget will be presented to voters for their consideration on Tuesday, May 16, and all residents are encouraged to cast their vote.

The Board of Education and district administration worked hard to create a fiscally responsible spending plan that not only keeps the tax levy flat but also preserves and enhances educational programming for students. Ken-Ton is an exceptional district with a proud history, rich tradition, and long-standing reputation for excellence. Despite years of devastating cuts to state aid, the Ken-Ton School District is proud to offer an array of outstanding art, music, athletic, and core academic programs as well as exceptional opportunities at the high school level such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pre-engineering program, and New York State-certified Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs through our Career Academies. Our most important responsibility is to provide the students of the district with the very best education possible, and the 2017-18 budget maintains, and in some cases enhances, educational opportunities for students.

Many school districts faced challenges this year, and Ken-Ton was no exception. Unlike many districts, Ken-Ton's tax levy growth cap is 0% for the 2017-18 school year for the first time. School districts can exceed the tax cap but only with a supermajority vote by the community,



**Stephen Bovino,
Interim
Superintendent**



**Dr. Jill O'Malley,
Board of Education
President**

and this was not considered. At the same time, New York State aid has not kept pace with rising costs. In fact, the current 2016-17 school year was the first year that state aid exceeded pre-recession levels eight years ago.

Ken-Ton was able to meet these challenges because of continued progress in achieving long-term financial stability. For years now, the district has been finding ways to operate more efficiently and reduce costs wherever possible. In recent years, these efforts helped the district navigate the loss of tens of millions of dollars in cuts to Foundation Aid and from the Gap Elimination Adjustment, as well as the loss of revenue from the Huntley plant. With state aid finally exceeding pre-recession levels, the district is able to meet the challenge of a 0% tax cap without compromising the quality of educational programs.

The \$160,656,978 budget for 2017-18 represents a budget-to-budget increase of 2.26%, which is below the 19-year average, as the district keeps pace with rising costs and makes strategic investments to better support our students. Also on the ballot will be the annual bus purchase. This initiative seeks to replenish the district's aging fleet incrementally each year to ensure safety and reliability for the school buses that transport thousands of our students to and from school every day.

You can find more information on the budget at www.ktufsd.org/budget. The vote will take place from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on May 16 at Hoover Middle School. As always, thank you for your support of Ken-Ton schools and students.

Candidates for the Board of Education

There are two three-year terms open on the Board of Education that will begin July 1, 2017 and end June 30, 2020. Voters will have the opportunity to elect the two candidates who receive the largest number of votes during the May 16, 2017 Budget Vote and Board of Education Election. Due to time constraints, information about the official May 16, 2017 candidates will be posted to the District website and accessible from the District homepage at www.ktufsd.org.

The SchoolGram is published in e-newsletter format throughout the school year. To view past editions or to join the SchoolGram mailing list, visit www.ktufsd.org/schoolgram.

2017-18 Budget Information

Item	Amount	Item	Amount
Budget	\$160,656,978	Estimated Tax Rate	\$49.24
Budget Increase	\$3,546,245	Tax Rate Increase	\$0.00
Budget-to-Budget % Increase	2.26%	Tax Rate % Increase	0%
Tax Levy	\$82,390,409	Fund Balance & Reserve Use	\$6,850,000
Tax Levy Increase	\$0	Increase on \$100K Full Market Value House	\$0
Tax Levy % Increase	0%		

2017-18 Revenue Comparison

	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Proposed	2017-18 Increase
State & Federal Sources	\$56,377,762	\$58,830,000	\$2,452,238
Real Property Taxes	\$82,390,409	\$82,390,409	\$0
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$6,575,000	\$6,850,000	\$275,000
Sales Tax	\$8,200,000	\$8,100,000	-\$100,000
Other	\$3,567,562	\$4,486,569	\$919,007
Total Revenue	\$157,110,733	\$160,656,978	\$3,546,245

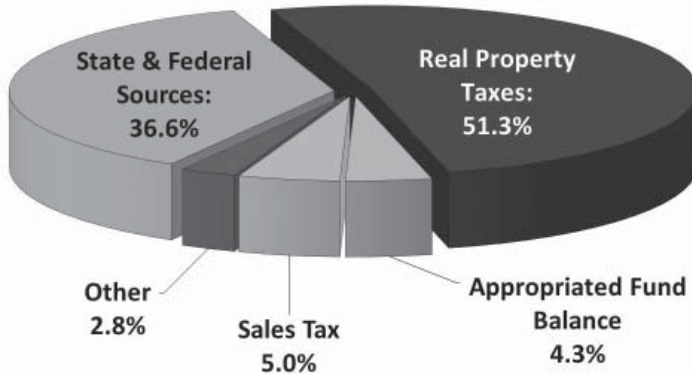
Budget-to-Budget Percentage Increase: 2.26%

2017-18 Expenditure Comparison

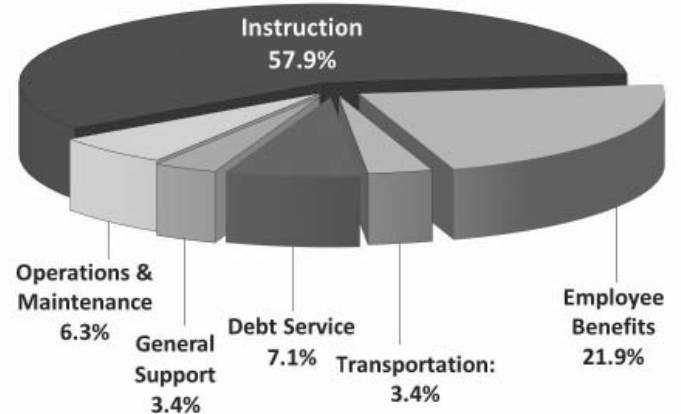
	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Proposed	2017-18 Increase
General Support	\$5,341,966	\$5,414,832	\$72,866
Operations & Maint.	\$10,170,361	\$10,085,598	-\$84,763
Instruction	\$90,881,961	\$92,996,214	\$2,114,253
Transportation	\$5,442,769	\$5,484,249	\$41,480
Employee Benefits	\$35,215,923	\$35,231,614	\$15,691
Debt Service	\$10,057,753	\$11,444,471	\$1,386,718
Total Expenditures	\$157,110,733	\$160,656,978	\$3,546,245

Budget-to-Budget Percentage Increase: 2.26%

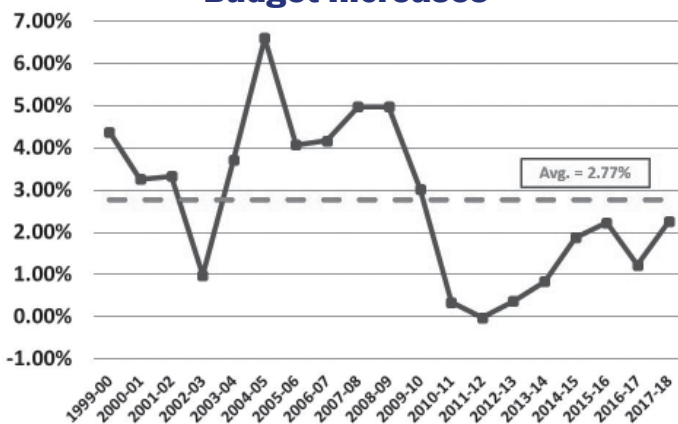
2017-18 Revenue Budget by Function: \$160,656,978



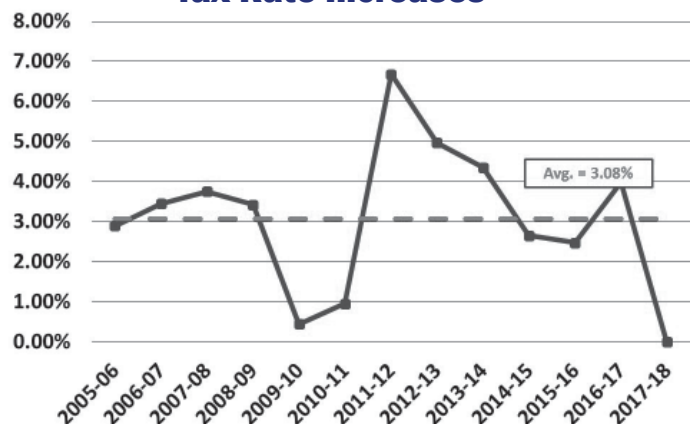
2017-18 Proposed Expenditures by Function: \$160,656,978



Historical Comparison of Ken-Ton UFSD Budget Increases



Historical Comparison of Ken-Ton UFSD Tax Rate Increases



2017-18 Propositions

Proposition 1: 2017-18 Budget (\$160,656,978)

Proposition 2: Bus Purchase

10-Year Replacement Cycle:

- 8 65-Passenger Buses \$950,520
- 6 30-Passenger Buses \$373,793

Total Proposition: \$1,324,313

*State Transportation Aid: Approximately 70%
District Share: Approximately \$397,294*



Sample Ballot

PROPOSITION 1: 2017-18 BUDGET

RESOLVED, That the basic budget of \$160,656,978 for the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 as presented by the Board of Education, is hereby approved and adopted and the required funds therefore are hereby appropriated and the necessary real property taxes required shall be raised by a tax on the taxable property in the District to be levied and collected as required by law.

Yes No

PROPOSITION 2: BUS PURCHASE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, in the County of Erie, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase the following vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the District: six (6) 65-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$116,331 each, two (2) 65-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$126,267 each, five (5) 30-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$60,411 each, one (1) 30-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$71,738, for an aggregate maximum cost of \$1,324,313, and to expend therefor, including for preliminary and incidental costs relating thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of \$1,324,313 and that the sum of \$1,324,313 (or so much thereof as may be necessary, plus an amount necessary for the payment of interest thereon) shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, bonds or other obligations (including, without limitation, obligations arising under leases, lease/purchase contracts or installment purchase contracts having a term of not more than five years) of the District shall be issued or entered into in accordance with applicable provisions of New York State law.

Yes No

Voter Qualifications

Voters must be:

- Registered to vote by five days prior to May 16, 2017
 - U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older
- Resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote
 - Proof of citizenship, age, and residency required

You do not have to register if you are already registered with the Erie County Board of Elections or have voted within the past four years.

Absentee Ballot Information

Contact the District Clerk at (716) 874-8400 ext. 20342 for an absentee ballot application. Those who already receive absentee ballots do not need to apply. Applications must be received no later than seven days prior to May 16, 2017. Absentee ballots must arrive no later than 5 p.m. on May 16, 2017.



Highlights & Achievements

These are just some highlights of the many accomplishments and achievements of Ken-Ton School District students, schools and staff over the past year:

- In December, Kenmore East won 1st place at the **WNY Physics Olympics** in the high school division out of approximately 30 teams, and Franklin Middle School won 2nd place in the middle school division.
- Kenmore West senior **Colin Lynch**, WIVB Channel 4's Scholar Athlete for November, was appointed to West Point.
- Kenmore East sophomore **Christina DeRosa** placed 2nd in the U.S. in the 2016-17 Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.
- Kenmore West senior **Rachel Janish** was honored for her volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.
- A Kenmore East student, **Andrew Edwards**, published a book, "Dream of Utopia," through Green Ivy Publishing.
- Most recently, 3 students were selected for **Conference All-State** and 25 for **Area All-State** ensembles. At least 82 Ken-Ton students from Gr. 4-12 were selected for **All-County** ensembles.
- The Ken-Ton School District was once again designated as a **Best Community for Music Education** by the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding K-12 music programs. (See story on Page 5)
- Middle/high school bands and orchestras earned numerous "Outstanding with Distinction," "Best Of" and "Grand Master" designations at the **2016 Darien Lake Music Festival**.
- Kenmore East chorus ensembles were selected to take part in Disney World's popular **Candlelight Processional** at Epcot.
- The **French Quarter Hounds**, comprised of Kenmore East students Kyle Michaels, Nate Kalnitz, Jacob Aguglia, Matt White, Ryan Stoll and alumnus Evan Miller, have enjoyed enormous success including performances at the Buffalo Niagara Blues Festival, Lewiston Jazz Festival, Night Lights Festival, and Music is Art Festival.
- Music teachers Lisa Hasselback, Phil Aguglia and Laura Anderson were **JazzBuffalo Poll** winners. (See story on Page 5)
- Last spring, 4th-grade students of art teacher Elaine Korczykowski were the 2nd-place winners in the **Albright-Knox Art Gallery Art'scool Contest**.
- The Class of 2016 included 29 Multimedia students who had earned **Adobe Certification** through Adobe Digital Learning Services. Ken-Ton maintained a 100% pass rate.
- So far this year, despite more challenging standards, an impressive 16 teams from the fall season and 12 teams from the winter season were recipients of the **Scholar Athlete Award**. (See story on Page 6)
- **Christina Wende** from Kenmore West won the Section VI Triple Jump Championship and the Section VI 55m Hurdles Championship, and she placed 3rd at states in the Triple Jump.
- The combined **Rifle Team** (Kris Aleksandrov, Holly Kaiser, Chris Donn, Devon Eleey, and Austin Orlowski) won the Section VI Championship and placed 3rd in states in Three Position.

Achievements of the Class of 2016:

- 213 Kenmore East/Kenmore West graduates earned an **Advanced Regents** or **Advanced Regents with Honors**.
- 61 graduates were students in the **International Baccalaureate (IB) Program**; 47 were Diploma Candidates and 14 were Course Candidates. IB students were accepted into some of the most selective and prestigious colleges in the U.S., and Ken-Ton's diploma pass rate exceeded the U.S. and NYS average.
- 22 graduates successfully completed the requirements of Ken-Ton's **Career Academies**, earning a special Technical Endorsement on their Regents Diploma.
- The innovative **Big Picture Program**, which helps students get on track to graduate through specialized learning and internships, celebrated its 2nd graduating class of 12 students.
- **Kenmore West Boys Hockey** ended the season as Division IV Champions and made it to the Section VI final at KeyBank Center.
- **Kenmore East Girls Basketball** clinched the Niagara Frontier League (NFL) Championship.
- **Kenmore West Girls Basketball** was honored by the referee's organization as the Most Sportsmanlike Team in Section VI.
- **Kenmore West Boys Basketball** ended the season as NFL Co-Champions.
- Kenmore West swimmer **Matthew Walker**, a sophomore, qualified for states in the 100 Breaststroke.
- The spring season is ongoing. Last spring, **Kenmore West Softball** ended the season as NFL Co-Champions, Ken-Ton had individual NFL **Cross Country** champions in 7 events (3 from Kenmore East, 4 from Kenmore West), and the combined **Rugby** team finished 3rd in NYS.
- 8 outstanding Kenmore West student athletes were honored on March 8 during a signing ceremony after committing to play at the **collegiate level** in 5 different sports. (See story on Page 11)
- Matt Chimera, Big Picture Program teacher and softball coach at Kenmore West, was named **NYS Softball Coach of the Year**.
- During the summer, Franklin Middle School teacher Andy Lueth received praise from organizers of the U.S. Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory **2016 Collegiate Wind Competition** for his role facilitating the event.
- Heather Ratka, PE teacher at Hoover Elementary, received an **"Amazing Person" Award** from the NYS Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance.
- Of the 20 professionals who were honored at the 2016 **WNY Education Service Council Awards for Excellence**, 5 were from the Ken-Ton School District: Board President Dr. Jill O'Malley, Food Service Director Kim Roll, teacher aide Dianne Shadden, elementary teacher/math coach Kari Fiutak, and 3rd-grade teacher Kathleen Santa Maria.

Ken-Ton Music Teachers Among WNY Jazz Winners

Approximately 25 WNY musicians and performing groups were distinguished as winners in the 2016 JazzBuffalo Poll, and three are members of the Ken-Ton School District music faculty.

The poll honored one winner and one runner-up in each of approximately 30 categories. The 2016 Jazz Baritone Saxophone winner was Laura Anderson, band teacher at Hoover Elementary School who also teaches at Kenmore West High School. The 2016 Jazz Piano winner was Lisa Hasselback, vocal music teacher at Hoover Middle School. Anderson and Hasselback were award

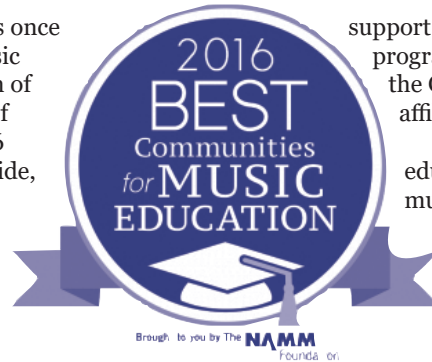
winners last year as well. The 2016 Jazz Middle School/High School Educator winner was Phil Aguglia, band director at Kenmore East High School. Also, the runner-up in the Jazz Traditional Group category was the Hot Club of Buffalo, which includes E.J. Koepfel, string teacher at Franklin Elementary and Franklin Middle.

This was the third year the poll has been conducted by the Greater Buffalo Jazz Society (JazzBuffalo) based on ballots submitted by readers, audiences, fans, musicians and jazz supporters.

Ken-Ton Recognized as ‘Best Community for Music Ed’

This year, the Ken-Ton School District was once again designated as a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation in recognition of its outstanding K-12 music programs. Only 476 districts, out of approximately 14,000 nationwide, earned this designation.

The NAMM Foundation singles out school districts across the U.S. for the efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders to make music education part of the core curriculum. The NAMM Foundation surveys school districts on funding, graduation requirements, participation, instruction time, facilities,



support for the music program, and community music programs. The findings are verified and reviewed by the Center for Public Partnerships and Research, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

In the Ken-Ton School District, music education is led by approximately 30 full-time music teachers. Music education begins in kindergarten for all students, and vocal and instrumental education begins in fourth grade. There are numerous ensemble opportunities in middle and high school as well as music electives such as Music in Our Lives, Music Theory I and II, Advanced Placement (AP) Music, and International Baccalaureate (IB) Music.

Student Artwork Displayed at Medical Campus Gallery

In December, Kenmore West High School students and art teachers celebrated the opening of an interdisciplinary exhibit at the Connect Gallery on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus through a partnership with the University at Buffalo Art Galleries. Students of art teachers Keri Schlageter and Amy Veltri and English teacher John Rigney collaborated on the exhibit, entitled “Exquisite Connections.”

For the project, the human shape was divided into three sections, one for the head, torso, and legs. They were brought to life through students’ chosen method of media, be it painting, drawing, or collage, and then exchanged and assembled into 15 arrangements. Creative writing students composed descriptive words and phrases that conceptualized the images in a visually unifying way.

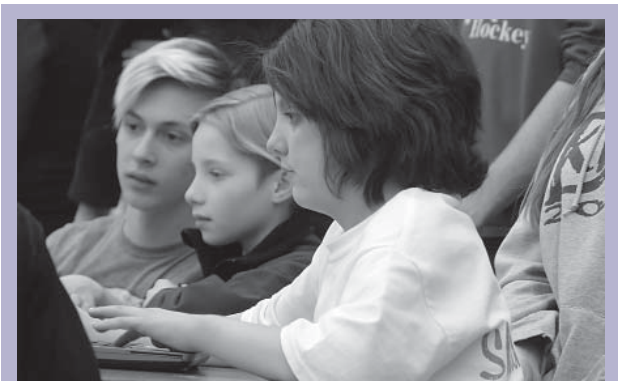
The project began with lessons in Veltri’s and Schlageter’s classes based on Surrealism, a 20th century art and literary movement that draws upon



Kenmore West sophomore Emma Hartz.

elements of surprise, unexpected juxtapositions, and dream-like subject matter. Inspiration for the project came from “Exquisite Corpse,” a game invented in 1925 in which participants contribute to an artistic or literary composition in turns. Inspiration for the written part by Rigney’s students came from poet Anselm Berrigan, whose poetry forms rectangles framing the pages in the book “Come In Alone.”

Ginny O’Brien, UB Art Galleries Curator of Education, was the Project Curator. The project originated from seminars by UB Art Galleries that Ken-Ton teachers have had the chance to take part in.



Elementary Students Learn 3D Modeling & Printing

The Kenmore West multimedia arts program is introducing Lindbergh Elementary fourth-graders to 3D modeling and printing. Art teachers David Rogalski (Kenmore West) and Lavinia Kirdani (Lindbergh) are piloting the framework to spark interest in multimedia arts. During the sessions, the teachers and high school students help the fourth graders harness their creativity using sophisticated modeling software, and they will receive a real model of their design generated by one of the high school’s 3D printers. Kirdani’s students are also using Sketchbook Express to explore digital design. Pictured above are, from left, Sabastien Bowen (Kenmore West) and Olivia Orcholski and Isabelle Bourgeault (Lindbergh).

28 Fall, Winter Teams Earn Scholar Athlete Award

Despite new, more challenging standards that took effect this year making it more difficult for teams to qualify, a total of 16 Ken-Ton School District varsity teams competing in the fall season and 12 teams competing in the winter season qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletics Association Scholar Athlete Team Award.

Earning the distinction were varsity boys and girls teams from both Kenmore East High School and Kenmore West High School, as well as combined district teams.

From Kenmore East, fall teams were Cheerleading, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis, and Girls Volleyball, and winter teams were Cheerleading, Girls Basketball, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Indoor Track, Boys Swimming, and Bowling.

From Kenmore West, fall teams were Boys Golf, Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis, Girls Cross Country, and Cheerleading, and winter teams were Cheerleading, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Indoor Track, and Boys Swimming/Diving.

Combined Kenmore East and Kenmore West teams were Girls Gymnastics and Field Hockey in the fall, and Girls Ice Hockey and Rifle in the winter.

At the end of each season, NYSPHSAA honors those teams that excel in the classroom. Certificates will be given to the coach whose team met the criteria: a combined 90 percent average for at least 75 percent of the roster. Individual students with a 90 percent average or better, including those whose team did not earn the team award, will also be distinguished as an individual Scholar Athlete and receive a pin in recognition of their achievement.



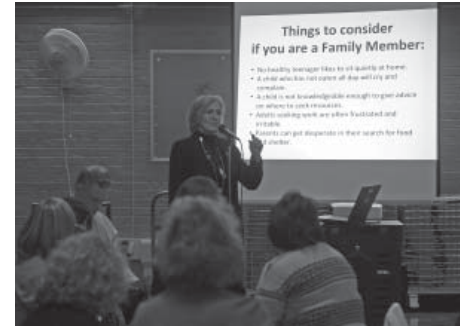
Workshop Provides Insight Into Daily Challenges of Impoverished Families

In the Ken-Ton School District, 13.4 percent of children live in poverty. Through a unique Poverty Simulation Workshop organized by the Ken-Ton Staff Development Center on March 2, teachers and staff had an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the many struggles and hardships families living in poverty face on a daily basis.

Participants formed small groups representing different families, and each participant played a different role within the family. Groups had to complete tasks related to basic everyday living and necessities during four 15-minute sessions, each representing one week.

Volunteers represented various agencies and entities such as school, work, bank, grocery store, pawnbroker, social services, doctor, child care, and a faith-based organization. The everyday challenges of the impoverished were uniquely captured in the simulation. During each of the four 15-minute sessions, participants had to accomplish as much as they could to meet their most basic needs. They had to pay their bills, buy groceries, meet their health care needs, and pay their rent or mortgage. Any time a participant arrived at a station, they had to have a transportation pass; if they didn't, they would not be served. Getting transportation passes not only cost participants money but time as well.

Participants had to make strategic



use of their time while losing precious minutes at work or trying to get a job, moving from station to station, waiting in line, and having to supervise children. They could request assistance from social services or sell precious items at the pawnshop. They could get money by working if they were employed but were always in danger of losing their job if they were late or couldn't report, which happened often.

The experience gave participants insight into aspects of everyday life for a family living in poverty. Participants grew frustrated during the simulation, finding it extremely difficult if not impossible to meet all of their financial needs despite working as much as they could or trying to get assistance and selling off what little property they owned. In the end, just like in real life, transportation, child care and health care were the three biggest challenges.

Assemblyman Schimminger Secures Grant for Innovative Big Picture Program

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger recently secured \$125,000 for the Ken-Ton School District to renovate space in the former Kenmore Middle School that now houses the innovative Big Picture Program.

The Big Picture Program helps students get on track to graduate with a Regents Diploma through hands-on, project-based learning; a specially designed educational environment; and internship opportunities. Last year, the Big Picture Program celebrated its second graduating class with 12 graduating seniors.

The Big Picture Program had previously been located at the Philip Sheridan Building. As part of the district



consolidation process, it was moved to Kenmore Middle School, where it has full access to facilities such as science labs and a gymnasium. Due to the age of the building, however, the space needs renovation and Kenmore Middle is no longer eligible for regular state building aid. Renovations will likely include new lighting, locker restoration, and classroom improvements.

The program is based on a national design through Big Picture Learning, which was founded in 1995 and comprises approximately 65 schools nationwide in its network. Ken-Ton introduced the Big Picture Program in 2012 with the first graduates celebrated at the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year.

'Purple Pinkies' Raises Record Amount for Polio Effort

A record \$2,100 was raised to support Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio through the Purple Pinkie Project. With matching programs through the Kenmore Rotary and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this will result in a total of \$12,600 for the effort to eradicate polio.

Paige Phillips, a senior at Kenmore West enrolled in the school's rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, decided to complete an IB requirement by working to make the Purple Pinkie Project even more successful than ever before.

With the help of Paige's coordination, students in the Kenmore West Challenge/Interact Club and the Kenmore East Interact Club visited a total of six schools: Hoover Elementary, Hoover Middle, Franklin Elementary, Franklin Middle, Edison Elementary, and Lindbergh Elementary, as well as Kenmore West.

Paige expressed gratitude for all students and staff who



Franklin Elementary student Emersyn Parks has her pinkie finger painted by Kenmore East student Sarah Burhans.

donated in order to have their pinkie finger painted purple as a sign of solidarity behind the effort to eradicate polio.

Coon also credited Kenmore East senior Taylor Nash for assisting in making the effort such a success by rallying support from students at Kenmore East.

There was a time when hundreds of thousands of children each year were diagnosed with the polio virus. Some died from the disease while others faced life-changing disabilities. A worldwide effort by Rotary International, the World Health Organization and

UNICEF has come so close to making the disease a thing of the past.

A purple pinkie is an international symbol for those administering polio vaccines to keep children from being immunized too frequently. As soon as a child under 5 years of age receives the drops of the oral vaccine, their pinkie is coated with indelible purple dye.

Students and Staff Make 30th SleepOut a Huge Success

More than \$7,500 and countless donations of food, personal care and other items were donated as part of the 2017 Jerry Starr Ken-Ton Schools' SleepOut.

February 3 marked the 30th time that students, staff, family members, and others from the Ken-Ton community have slept outside in refrigerator boxes to help the less fortunate, or have supported the homegrown effort in other ways. All donations are distributed to local organizations like the Ken-Ton Closet and the district Family Support Center.

Guests included County Executive Mark Poloncarz; representatives of Crystal Peoples-Stokes, who represents the 141st State Assembly District; Dr. Jill O'Malley, Board of Education president and founder/director of the Ken-Ton Closet; Joseph Emminger, Town of Tonawanda Supervisor; and many others in the Ken-Ton community.

There were many ways the students and staff of the Ken-Ton School District supported the SleepOut, such as a school-wide food drive and "Hats for the

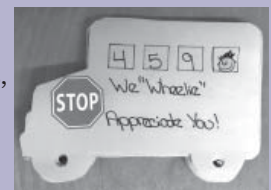


Homeless" fund drive coordinated by William Foote's fourth-grade class at Lindbergh Elementary; a dress-down day at the Administration Building; a food drive at the Administration and Buildings & Grounds buildings; a food drive at Hoover Middle School; and Edison Elementary School's unique Links for Love/Links of Hope initiative.

The first SleepOut was organized in 1988 by the late Samuel "Jerry" Starr, a longtime teacher at Kenmore West High School, as well as his colleagues, Steve Ash and Charles Kohler. Through the tireless efforts of Ash and his organization, Educators Totally Committed (E.T.C.), the SleepOut has made a difference in the lives of countless people in the community.

Students Express Bus Driver Appreciation

During the month of February, at part of their "Kindness Month" activities, students at Holmes Elementary and Hoover Middle School expressed their appreciation for the critical work of Ken-Ton bus drivers.



Upwards of 100 bus drivers transport thousands of Ken-Ton students to and from school safely each and every day. It is a difficult job and an incredible responsibility, and they play an integral role in public education.

February was not only Kindness Month, but it also included Bus Driver Appreciation Week from February 13-17. On Feb. 17, students at Hoover Middle School gave each afternoon bus driver a 10-pack of Tim Bits and a special student-made school bus cut-out with the bus number on it to hang in their window.

And at Holmes Elementary, bus drivers received a candy bar and a letter of gratitude with contributions from students on what they appreciated about their driver. The letter was also read to the whole school at the final "Stepping It Up" assembly.

"Being a bus driver is one of the toughest jobs there is, and often one that goes without thanks," the letter stated. "They manage our students' behaviors, listen to their stories, show kindness and compassion, and all the while watch the road. ... It takes a village to 'raise' these students and we hope you all know we appreciate you being part of our village!"

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Hoover Elementary Artwork Featured at Albright-Knox

Hundreds of students, families and staff visited the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on February 16 for the opening reception of a display in the museum's education wing featuring approximately 250 works by Hoover Elementary School students.

The opportunity was nearly two years in the making. Hoover Elementary art teacher Jennifer Lynch reached out to the Albright-Knox in October 2015 for the opportunity to display her students' work at the high-demand space inside the museum.

Lynch and Gina McCartney, who also teaches art at Hoover Elementary, were excited and proud to show off what students have been creating in the art rooms. Coordinating the display was an enormous undertaking. Between eight and 12 pieces from each class in grades K-4 and special education classrooms were featured, representing a wide range of different themes and projects. The night of the reception, the line of guests extended well into the parking lot.

For many, it was the first time they had ever been to the Albright-Knox. The event gave them free admission to the entire



Student Riley Day poses beside her artwork.

gallery, including the special Picasso exhibit that was on display until just a few days later.

The event, a highlight of Lynch's career, coincided with her 20th year as an art teacher with the district and at Hoover Elementary.

"This is the coolest thing I think I have been involved with in my career," Lynch said. "It's an amazing space. Albright is a world-class museum."

The opportunity to see their work on display at a real art museum meant a lot to the students, many of whom came to the event in formal wear. It meant a lot to their families as well.

"The art exhibit at the Albright Knox was wonderful," said Claire Pennell-Hall, whose grandson was featured. "To have the students' art displayed at an actual museum made the students feel proud. It was a perfect venue. It even sparked an interest in some students to want to see the permanent art work in the museum. It was a great evening and it made us proud to be a three-generation Ken-Ton School District family."



From left, Layla Dio, Olivia Miles, Sophie Poeller, author Cynthia DeFelice, Aiden Haas, Robert Vail and Alexander Stinner.

Award-Winning Author Visits Lindbergh

Cynthia DeFelice, an award-winning author, visited Lindbergh Elementary on March 2. During the author's presentations, students learned how she developed her love of reading, how she generates ideas for her books, and how a book is published.

The students were also entertained when DeFelice read some of her stories such as "Casey in the Bath," "Old Granny" and the "Bean Thief and the Three Perfect Peaches."

Special thanks went out to the Lindbergh PTA for generously supporting this wonderful event.

DeFelice writes novels for young readers as well as picture books. Her books have won numerous honors including nomination for the Edgar Allan Poe Award, and American Library Association Notable Children's Books and Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year distinctions.

Elementary Teachers Pioneer 'Flexible Seating' in Ken-Ton

Three teachers at Hoover Elementary School have brought flexible seating to their classrooms to create a more customizable and engaging learning environment. Students of teachers Kerry Smith, Maryann Mercer and Lisa Chiavaroli can try out alternatives to the traditional classroom chair such as cubes, exercise balls and innovative seating options that make them less restless and more engaged in their learning.

Smith, Mercer and Chiavaroli began the project last spring. They used Donors Choose, which allows individuals or organizations to donate directly to public school classroom projects, to raise money for the initiative. With donations from Target, the Gates Foundation, Craigslist founder Craig Newmark, and Pam Wickham, vice president of corporate affairs and communication at Raytheon, as well as fellow teachers, friends, and families, they raised more than \$2,600 to purchase new seating options for their classrooms. The three teachers also spent a great deal of their own money and time, especially over the summer, to make their goal a reality.

In the end, they were able to invest in five "Wobble" chairs, five "Carry Me" cubes, an inflatable



"Twist Massage" balance board, five additional balance boards, four balance ball chairs, three "Zenergy Ball" chairs, a peanut-shaped ball, and six "Bouncy Bands" that connect to regular school desks allowing students to move while they sit even in a regular chair.

The response from students and their parents was extremely positive. Students have reported being less restless, more engaged in classroom instruction, and able to focus better. Different seating options can also be healthier by providing the opportunity for students to burn more calories, improve metabolism, create better oxygen flow to the brain, and improve core strength and overall posture.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Partnership With Praxair Helps Holmes Students Thrive

For more than 20 years, a mentoring partnership between Holmes Elementary School and Praxair has been helping students thrive. Not only does the program provide an invaluable mentoring framework for young students, but it also facilitates a multitude of special activities and opportunities throughout the year.

Most recently, Holmes Elementary students raised \$1,200 through a bake sale at Praxair to support the Buffalo & Erie County Library's summer reading programs. Thanks to the effort, a very special afternoon program has been planned for the students at the downtown library facility in April. Earlier in the year, the students and their mentors partnered to pack book bags with school supplies for children in need. Praxair employees also spent the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday assembling literacy kits for first- and second-grade students at Holmes Elementary to support



A Holmes Elementary student learns about the properties and applications of liquid nitrogen during a visit to Praxair.

their learning at home.

These are just a handful of recent examples. Every year, employees of Praxair get to know Holmes Elementary students, partnering with them on countless academic and philanthropic activities. The partnership was the recipient of the global company's 2015 Chairman's Award for Community Engagement for its ability to develop potential and foster long-term success for Holmes students, which provided the school with a \$15,000 grant to support student programming and hands-on science activities.

Students even have had the chance to tour Praxair, learning about future careers and industries such as engineering, lab research, and product packaging, and discussing the global impact of what is produced by Praxair, such as oxygen for hospitals, fizz for Coca Cola, and air for Doritos bags.

Franklin Elementary Fosters Strong Parent, Community Partnerships

Franklin Elementary School has been finding many ways to foster strong partnerships with parents and the community and to provide students with a multitude of opportunities that have enriched the learning environment.

English as a Native Language (ENL) teachers have been welcoming non-English speaking parents to the school for in-service opportunities once a month to provide important school updates and information on events, curriculum and expectations in parents' native language. Other events have been tremendously successful at supporting parents as partners in education such as Family Literacy Night, Family Math Night, and Wellness Night. A highlight of the year was when third-grade students with the help of their teachers welcomed their parents and other special people in their lives to express why they are thankful for them.

Franklin Elementary students have been able to enjoy the PTA Carnival Night, a magic show with an anti-bullying theme, taekwondo, a visit by the Buffalo Bandits, an author visit and book giveaway, and special programs by firefighters. They have also taken part in numerous initiatives to make the community a better place including Valentines for



Third grader Michael Johnson reads to kindergartener Dexter McCarthy during the Pajama Day/Reading Buddies event.

Veterans, Coats for Kids, Treats for Troops, Pennies for Patients, Jump Rope for Heart, and others.

Also, the School Spirit Committee has been busy planning activities that have fostered a strong school-wide culture and a fun and friendly learning environment. Spirit Week in February included special themed days, a staff hockey game for students to enjoy, and a chance for students to partner as reading buddies and enjoy hot chocolate. Also, March 2 was Read Across America Day with students celebrating Dr. Seuss by wearing crazy socks and hats and reading some of his books.



Student Jack Johnson, portraying Harry Houdini, teaches students and other guests about the famous magician.

Edison Elementary Hosts 'Living Museum'

Edison Elementary School students, staff and other guests had the opportunity to learn about some of history's most influential authors, inventors, and other prominent individuals as part of the 2017 Living Museum event hosted by teacher Lisa Carver and her fourth-grade class.

Students had to write a research paper on an individual of their choosing and prepare a short summary to recite and presentation board. They even dressed the part and were prepared to answer questions as students, staff and other guests visited their station to learn about them.

Individuals chosen included Dr. Seuss, Anne Frank, John Adams, Barack Obama, Theodore Roosevelt, Coretta Scott King, Clara Barton, Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs, Stephen Hawking, Neil Armstrong, and Walt Disney.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Students Take Part in Japanese Cultural Experience

To complement their reading of “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes,” students in reading specialist Dawn Wilkinson’s classes at Hoover Middle School were treated to a special day dedicated to Japanese cultural activities and experiences.

The activities were designed to build background knowledge of Japanese culture as fifth-grade students read the 1977 book by author Eleanor Coerr. The book is based on the true story of Sadako, who survived the Hiroshima bombing but died at age 12 of leukemia after setting out to make 1,000 origami cranes.

Wilkinson had help from her colleague, seventh-grade English teacher Jane Stevens, who taught English in Japan for three years during the early part of her career. Students had the opportunity to enjoy Japanese rice and tea, play with traditional Japanese toys and games such as kendama (a cup and ball game), taketombo (a helicopter rotor toy), Jacob’s ladder, and a special doll that Wilkinson received as a gift from her father when she was a child. Students also had the chance to try on traditional Japanese kimonos.



Students Gracie Crage and Leah Schragel try out traditional Japanese clothing.



Fitness Club Helps Franklin Middle Students Get Fit

The Franklin Middle School Fitness Club is helping fifth- and sixth-grade students stay healthy and get fit.

Twice a week, the 30 dedicated members of the Fitness Club stay after school and break a sweat participating in a series of cardiovascular and muscular endurance exercises.

With the help of Franklin Middle School’s updated fitness equipment, and through the coordination of physical education teachers Kim Leggett and Chris Wright, the students are learning how to train their heart and muscles in a fun, friendly, and healthy environment.

5th Graders Develop Business Skills at ‘Market Day’ Event

As the culmination of a social studies unit on economics, two fifth-grade classes at Hoover Middle School had the chance to become small business owners for a day as part of the first-ever “Market Day” event.

Teachers Wendy Cummins and Amy Stoerr had their homeroom students come up with their own idea for a business operating right there in the classroom. Students would either make their products on the spot or make them at home, and try to sell their products to other students. Products included bracelets, baked goods, slime, stress balls, decorative seashells, elaborate bookmarks, and various trinkets. They had a budget to work with for expenses such as renting a space in the classroom to sell their items.

Other fifth-grade students at the school were given fake dollars so they could browse among the shops and “purchase” whatever



Avery Wyttenbach “sells” bracelets during Market Day.

they wanted. Economic conditions were simulated as the student sellers determined their own prices: if they were selling too fast or too slow or if their inventory was running low, they had to adjust their prices accordingly. They also had to keep track of all sales and expenditures, just like a real small business owner.



Students Explore Diverse Cultures & Languages

During National Foreign Language Week in March, students at Franklin Middle School explored the many languages of the world and the diversity of the Franklin Middle community. Seventh-grade students collaborated on a showcase that included artifacts from all over the world including a coin purse from the Philippines, a teapot from England, a cherry blossom vase from Japan, Lincoln pennies from the United States, and flags from many different countries.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Board Honors Student, Staff Link Crew Leaders

Every month, the Board of Education recognizes outstanding students and staff. In February, the Board recognized high school student Link Crew Leaders from Kenmore East and Kenmore West for their tremendous job welcoming and supporting new students this year.

September was unique. Instead of welcoming one class of students, the high schools welcomed two, since both the eighth and ninth grade classes were new to the schools this year. Link Crew was a new program implemented at the high schools this year not only to provide a specially designed welcoming and orientation program

for new students, but also to provide a mentoring and support framework for the entire year.

The certificate was presented to Kenmore West students Eve Vitello and Rachel Janish and Kenmore East student Abriah Baker on behalf of all Link Crew Student Leaders at Kenmore East and Kenmore West. A second certificate was also presented to Darcy France, Elizabeth LaPorta, Mike Meetze and Mary White, Kenmore West High School Link Crew Advisors.

Information on Board Recognitions such as these can be found on the website at www.ktufsd.org under "Board."

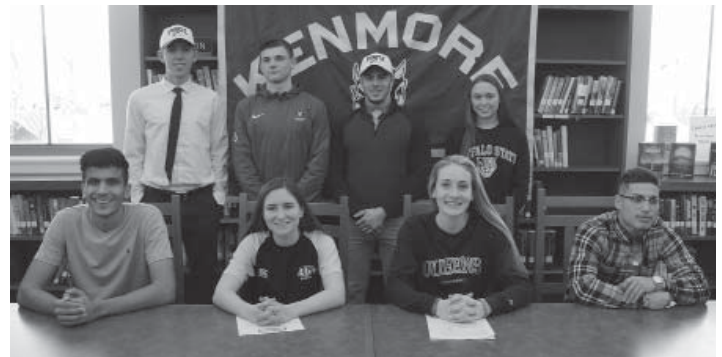
Ken-West Athletes Sign Intent to Play at Collegiate Level

Eight outstanding Kenmore West High School student athletes were honored on March 8 after committing to play at the collegiate level in five different sports.

Moamal Flayh and Joseph Patrick will be playing soccer at Daemen College, Eleanor Fumerelle will be playing rugby at Lindenwood University, Hannah Gallivan will be playing soccer at Queens College, Erriono Giardina will be playing football at Erie Community College, Kyle LaPlante and Ben Serrano will be playing baseball at Niagara University, and Olivia Smith will be playing ice hockey at Buffalo State College.

These athletes represent the best of the best. Only a fraction of high school athletes go on to compete at the collegiate level.

The library was crowded with friends, teammates, family members, coaches, teachers and administrators there to support the eight students. A brief description was given of each student and his or her accomplishments.



Front row, from left, Moamal Flayh, Eleanor Fumerelle, Hannah Gallivan, and Erriono Giardina. Back row, from left, Kyle LaPlante, Joseph Patrick, Ben Serrano, and Olivia Smith.

Students Get Inside Look at Manufacturing Technology

On March 8, students from Mike Sierzchula's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering Design & Development (EDD) class traveled to Buffalo Manufacturing Works in Buffalo for an inside look at state-of-the-art manufacturing technology and to get feedback from professionals on their own work.

The visit included a tour of the Buffalo Manufacturing Works facility, where students learned more about cutting edge technology and processes such as additive manufacturing. Additionally, student groups had the opportunity to sit one-on-one with engineers to go over student design projects, receiving feedback from industry professionals.

The PLTW EDD course is a capstone learning experience that all Pre-Engineering



Students learn about manufacturing technology at Buffalo Manufacturing Works.

Academy students complete in their junior or senior year. Students work within a design group where they research, design, and build a prototypical project that solves a problem or meets a particular need. Groups display their final projects at a district-wide engineering showcase each spring.

Team Manager Scores 1st Points as a Bulldog

Tuesday, February 7 was a day that Kenmore East High School senior Brock Kowalski and the entire Kenmore East community will not soon forget.

Brock is the team manager for the Kenmore East Boys Varsity Basketball Team. He is an invaluable asset to the team, but he is unable to play due to limitations from cerebral palsy. During the Senior Night game against North Tonawanda, though, Coach Jay Robbins put Brock in his first ever game with 1:40 left on the clock.

The stands were filled with Brock's friends, classmates, family, teachers, and Kenmore East staff, all of whom were cheering him on. One of his teammates caught a rebound and passed it to Brock. He calmly took the shot and made it, scoring his first points as a Bulldog. The gym erupted, with everyone on their feet for Brock.

Shortly after, Brock was featured by WIVB Channel 4. To view the story, visit www.wivb.com and search for "Brock's Big Shot."



Brock Kowalski during his interview with WIVB Channel 4.



KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA UFSD
1500 COLVIN BLVD.
BUFFALO, NY 14223-1196

Board of Education

Dr. Jill O'Malley, President
 Andrew Gianni, Vice President
 Christine Cavarello, Trustee
 Christopher Pashler, Esq., Trustee
 Dr. Thomas Reigstad, Trustee

Stephen Bovino,

Interim Superintendent

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and usually begin at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Call 874-8400 ext. 20342 to confirm time and location.

SchoolGram Editor:
 Patrick Fanelli, Community Relations Coordinator



Budget Vote & Board of Education Election: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Hoover Middle School

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$157,110,733	\$160,656,978	\$160,250,590
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$3,546,245	\$3,139,857
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.26%	2.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$82,390,409	\$82,390,409	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$82,390,409	\$82,390,409	\$82,390,409
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,637,705	\$1,153,969	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$80,752,704	\$81,236,440	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$80,752,704	\$81,236,440	
Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$14,904,630	\$14,595,982	\$14,536,332
Program Component	\$119,507,876	\$122,039,770	\$121,913,106
Capital Component	\$22,698,227	\$24,021,226	\$23,801,152

*Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

The Board of Education will review the expenditure budget and make decisions on those items to be included based on Education Law Section 2023. The budget would have to be reduced through cuts to non-contingent items that would have to be removed in accordance with New York State Law.

**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)	Description	Amount

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$598

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 by the qualified voters of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, Erie County, New York, will be held at Herbert Hoover Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM, prevailing time in the Herbert Hoover Middle School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.