



School Gram

May 2020 Budget Edition

KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA UFSD

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

**June 9, 2020
All Voting by
Absentee Ballot
(No In-Person
Voting)**

Voters will receive their absentee ballot and a postage-paid envelope in the mail.

**Ballots Must Be
Received by 5 p.m.
June 9, 2020**

Find information on the budget, propositions, and Board of Education candidates at:

www.ktufsd.org/budget

BUDGET HEARING

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday,
June 2, 2020**

Meeting will take place via videoconferencing.

View the meeting and learn how to participate at:

www.ktufsd.org/BOELive

COVID-19 & 2020-21 Budget Vote Update

New York State has delayed the annual school district Budget Vote and Board of Education Election, which normally takes place the third Tuesday in May, to Tuesday, June 9, 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. All voting will take place by absentee ballot (no in-person voting). The Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District is providing each voter with an absentee ballot and a postage-paid envelope so residents can still take part in this election without any danger of exposure. Our highest priority is keeping our community safe.

It is hard to believe how profoundly this public health crisis has impacted our school district community. School buildings have been closed since March 16, though all students have engaged in online and remote learning for the duration of the closure. Teachers had to adapt quickly, adjusting their lesson plans and strategies to engage students remotely. Other staff had to adapt as well to ensure that critical operations continue uninterrupted and students are supported at home. Although students have been able to continue their academic progress, they have missed out on so many educational experiences and milestones.

Teachers and staff had very little time to prepare for the coronavirus closure, and their efforts have been nothing short of extraordinary. It is truly inspiring to see the creativity and dedication demonstrated by our staff and the exceptional efforts of our students and families at home. It is also truly inspiring to see all the ways our community has come together in the face of this public health crisis, from donating personal protective equipment for our brave health care workers and first responders to lending a helping hand to families in need in the community.

The coronavirus pandemic, and the



**Stephen Bovino,
Superintendent of
Schools**



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

Proposed Budget Increase of only 1.08%

*Among the lowest budget-to-
budget increases in 20+ years*

extraordinary measures that have been taken to contain it, have significantly impacted school district budgets. School districts across New York State have had to achieve significant cost savings and scale back programming due to the economic impact of the virus and projected losses in New York State Aid. Ken-Ton, unfortunately, was no exception. As with any year, the district was already facing significant increases in many fixed costs that school districts have little or no control over, as well as unfunded mandates imposed by New York State.

Even before the crisis began, the district was facing a \$4 million budget gap.

The district had to identify ways to significantly reduce spending and achieve savings in many key areas in order to close this gap, which was only exacerbated by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Very difficult decisions had to be made including reductions in staffing, but it was critical in order to craft a responsible budget for our property taxpayers. With a year-to-year increase of **only 1.08 percent**, which is significantly below the 20-year average, the proposed 2020-21 school district budget remains under the New York State Property Tax Cap. This was a priority for the Ken-Ton School District, because we are always mindful of the impact on property taxpayers and because of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the local economy. The district's strong financial position is helping us weather this difficult time and minimize the impact on student programs. However, we are facing the very real possibility that further cuts to spending will be necessitated by additional reductions in New York State Aid as the year progresses.

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Year-to-Year Budget Increase of 1.08% (Among Lowest in 20+ Years)

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In addition to the proposed 2020-21 school district budget, residents will also vote on the annual bus replacement purchase, and a proposition to create a capital improvements reserve fund. It is important to note that this third proposition does not entail any spending or expenses, and is similar to how an individual might open a bank account. You will find more information on the proposed 2020-21 budget and propositions in these pages and on the website at www.ktufsd.org/budget. You will also find information on each of the Board of Education candidates. Each voter will receive his or her absentee ballot and postage-paid envelope through the U.S. mail. Completed ballots must

be received no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, so voters are encouraged to mail their ballots several days before this date. We are pleased to offer our community the opportunity to participate in this election through absentee balloting, and we encourage all voters to take part in this important election.

Our hearts go out to all the families in our community who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. We are proud of our entire school district community as we continue to see everyone rising to this unprecedented challenge. We are all in this together – students, families, staff, residents, and neighbors – and as we all work together through the pandemic and its aftermath, we wish for all of you and your loved ones to remain healthy and safe.

2020-21 Budget Information

Item	Amount	Item	Amount
Budget	\$169,079,474	Tax Levy	\$88,262,900
Budget Increase	\$1,803,313	Tax Levy Increase	\$2,226,086
Budget-to-Budget % Increase	1.08%	Tax Levy % Increase	2.59%
Fund Balance & Reserve Use	\$8,400,000	Increase on \$100K Full Market Value House	\$44.06

2020-21 Revenue Comparison

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Increase
State & Federal Sources	\$59,704,000	\$59,555,000	-\$149,000
Real Property Taxes	\$86,036,814	\$88,262,900	\$2,226,086
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$8,750,000	\$8,400,000	-\$350,000
Sales Tax	\$8,150,000	\$8,300,000	\$150,000
Other	\$4,635,347	\$4,561,574	-\$73,773
Total Revenue	\$167,276,161	\$169,079,474	\$1,803,313

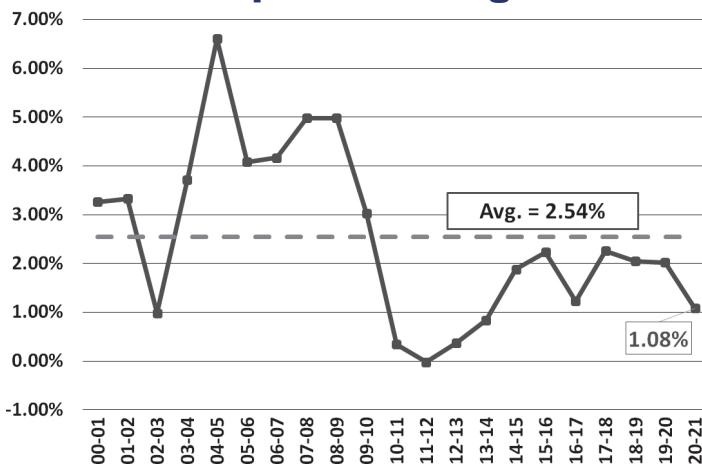
Budget-to-Budget Percentage Increase: 1.08%

2020-21 Expenditure Comparison

	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Increase
General Support	\$5,662,593	\$5,887,057	\$224,464
Operations & Maint.	\$10,151,063	\$10,220,035	\$68,972
Instruction	\$99,405,502	\$99,816,838	\$411,336
Transportation	\$5,812,681	\$6,194,346	\$381,665
Employee Benefits	\$35,511,897	\$36,682,645	\$1,170,748
Debt Service	\$10,732,425	\$10,278,553	-\$453,872
Total Expenditures	\$167,276,161	\$169,079,474	\$1,803,313

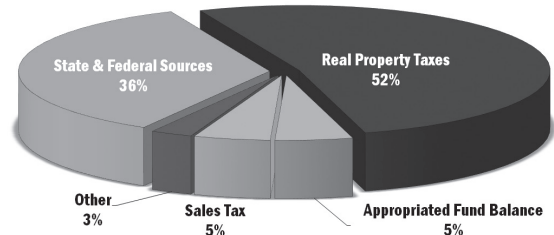
Budget-to-Budget Percentage Increase: 1.08%

Historical Comparison of Budget Increases

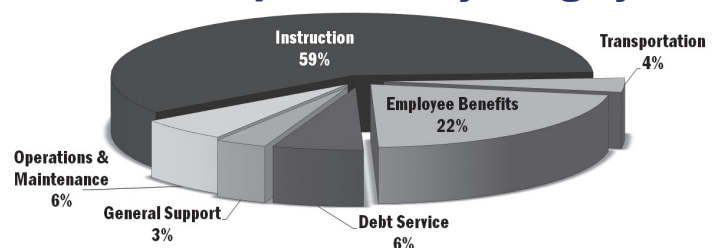


The proposed year-to-year budget increase of 1.08% is among the lowest increases in 20+ years.

2020-21 Revenue by Category:



2020-21 Expenditures by Category:



Propositions & Ballot Information

Proposition 1: 2020-21 Budget

Total Budget: \$169,079,474 (1.08% Increase)

The school district budget funds all District-operated public schools/educational programs as well as services provided for all non-public/private schools located in the District as required by law

Vote Yes or No

Proposition 2: Routine Bus Replacement Purchase

Replaces 8 (eight) 65-Passenger + 2 (two) 35-Passenger Buses: \$1,163,500

NYS Aid: Approx. 70%; District Share: Approx. \$349,050

Vote Yes or No

Proposition 3: Establishment of Capital Improvements Reserve Fund

Authorizes the establishment of a Reserve Fund for capital improvements (maximum \$20 million/15 years). The proposition only authorizes the creation of the reserve; it does not authorize any new capital expenses or projects.

Vote Yes or No

Board of Education Candidates: 2 (two) 3-year terms

☐ Lesley Battaglia ☐ McKinley Falkowski
☐ Jennifer Morrow ☐ Dawn Stinner

Candidate Information at www.ktufsd.org/candidates

Vote for Any 2

Voting Information

Voter Qualifications:

- Registered to vote by five days prior to June 9, 2020
- U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older
- Resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote
- 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.
- Qualified voters will automatically receive an absentee ballot and a postage-paid return-address envelope by mail.

Absentee Ballot Information:

- Ballots are expected to be mailed out around May 26, 2020. If you do not receive a ballot and you are a qualified voter, please contact the District Clerk at 874-8400 ext. 20342.
- Absentee ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the vote (June 9, 2020) to be counted. We recommend that voters mail their ballots no later than June 2, 2020 to ensure that they are received in time.
- Voters will have the ability to drop off unmailed ballots by 5 p.m. the day of the vote (June 9, 2020).

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD News & Updates

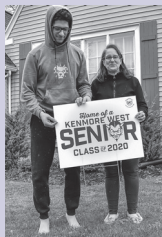


KE, KW Named 'Best High Schools' by U.S. News & World Report

Ken-Ton's two high schools, Kenmore East and Kenmore West, were among the top high schools in the U.S. to earn the "Best High Schools" designation in the U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best High Schools rankings. Both schools received high marks for College/Career Readiness and College Curriculum Breadth, placing in the top 25th percentile of 17,790 high schools nationwide.

High Schools, Athletics Programs Honor Class of 2020 Graduating Seniors

While observing safe social distancing practices, Kenmore East and Kenmore West faculty and staff surprised their high school seniors with special "Class of 2020" lawn signs delivered to their homes. The Athletics Department honored its senior spring athletes with special lawn signs as well.



District Addresses Needs of Students/Families During Pandemic

Schools and staff have worked hard to meet the needs of students and families throughout the COVID-19 closure, from access to instructional resources to social-emotional support. Breakfast/lunch services continued at

five different locations in the community, and students were provided with iPads and Chromebooks to use at home.

Students Continue Learning During Closure

School buildings may have closed beginning March 16, but students have continued their learning and academic progress. Teachers and staff worked fast to adjust educational strategies and lesson plans to engage

students in remote learning at home. Throughout the closure, students, families, and teachers have been able to stay connected many different ways including Google Classroom, FlipGrid, YouTube, Class Dojo, videoconferencing, email, phone calls, and regular mail. Guided by their teachers, students have been engaged in remote learning using online instructional resources such as IXL, Scholastic, Padlet, Quizlet, and KAHOOT! as well as independent work, projects, and paper-and-pencil tasks.



Teachers Coordinate PPE Donation for Kenmore Mercy

In April, Ken-Ton School District teachers came together to donate a shipment of personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospital workers at Kenmore Mercy Hospital. The effort was led by the Kenmore

Teachers Association which gathered together PPE supplies such as masks, gloves and goggles to assist the doctors and hospital staff who are on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic in our community.



KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA UFSD
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 Andrew Gianni, Vice President
 Matthew Chimera, Trustee
 Dr. Thomas Reigstad, Trustee
 Michelle Tarbox, Trustee

Stephen Bovino,

Superintendent of Schools

SchoolGram Editor:

Patrick Fanelli, Community
 Relations Coordinator,
 pfanelli@ktufsd.org
 www.ktufsd.org/SchoolGram



Budget Vote & Board of Education Election: Absentee Ballots Must Be Received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2020-21 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$167,276,161	\$169,079,474	\$168,053,388
Increase (decrease) for the 2020-21 school year		\$1,803,313	\$777,227
Percentage Increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		1.08%	0.46%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$86,036,814	\$88,262,900	
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 Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C + D)	\$86,036,814	\$88,262,900	\$86,036,814
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$1,045,469	\$859,374	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Exclusions	\$84,991,345	\$87,403,526	
H. Proposed School Year Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$84,991,345	\$87,403,526	
Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval)	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$15,090,169	\$15,507,098	\$15,414,782
Program Component	\$128,981,125	\$130,619,198	\$129,929,479
Capital Component	\$23,204,866	\$22,953,178	\$22,709,126

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 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 tax levy increase would have to be \$0 through cuts to programs and staff (including non-contingent items that would have to be removed in accordance with New York State Law) and additional use of fund balance and reserves.

List of Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:	Description	Amount
	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		\$544

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD, Erie County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, all voting will be by absentee ballots (no in-person voting). Qualified voters will automatically receive an absentee ballot and a postage-paid return-address envelope by mail. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the vote to be counted. Call the District Clerk's office with questions at 874-8400 Ext. 20342.

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