



School Gram

May 2021 Budget Information

KENMORE-TOWN OF TONAWANDA UFSD

BUDGET VOTE & BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

**7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday,
May 18, 2021
In-Person**

Hoover Middle School,
249 Thorncliff Road
(use the Sheridan
Drive entrance)

Budget Information:
www.ktufsd.org/budget

Candidate Information:
www.ktufsd.org/candidates

Voting Information:

- **In-person voting will resume this year with the ability to request absentee ballots for qualified reasons.**
- Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at Hoover Middle School (use the Sheridan Drive entrance).
- Anyone not registered to vote will need to complete an affidavit confirming that they are a qualified voter.

See additional voting information on Page 3.

Budget Vote & Board Election: May 18, 2021

On Tuesday, May 18, the Ken-Ton School District community will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2021-22 school year budget at the annual Budget Vote & Board of Education Election. Also on the ballot will be the annual bus purchase and candidates for the Board of Education. **In-person voting will resume this year with the ability**

to request absentee ballots for qualified reasons. Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at Hoover Middle School (use the Sheridan Drive entrance).

The proposed \$172,426,830 spending plan represents a budget-to-budget increase of only 1.98%, which is well below the historical average. The proposed tax levy increase of 1.97% is also well below the historical average and is among the lowest increases in approximately 20 years. The estimated tax bill increase on a \$100,000 full-market-value property will only be \$34.50 annually. Holding the line on spending and keeping the property tax levy below the tax cap was a major priority for the District, as we are always mindful of the impact on taxpayers.

This was a challenging year. We began the budget planning process with a gap of \$3.9 million without any new or expanded programming. Just as a homeowner sees increased costs for many unavoidable expenditures such as utilities, telecommunications and insurance, the District also sees these yearly increases in countless costs that we have little to no control over. Although we were pleased to see a moderate gain in New York State Aid, it was not enough to offset the increases in all of those costs.

Despite years of underfunding by the state and federal government, the District consistently



**Sabatino Cimato,
Superintendent of
Schools**



**Matthew Chimera,
Board of Education
President**

closes the budgetary gap with minimal impact on programming and taxpayers. Our finance team worked hard to identify areas of savings in order to achieve a balanced budget and ensure the long-term financial stability of the District. Budgetary decisions can have a detrimental impact on subsequent years' budgets that compound over time, creating greater and

greater fiscal strain and eventually necessitating significant reductions in programming. Budgeting must be sustainable, creating a stable environment and structuring our district to position us and our students for future success.

Thanks to several years of strategic investments and careful fiscal stewardship, our District remains in a strong financial position. This helped us meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in significant unexpected expenditures. For example, in order to ensure student learning in a remote setting, we secured a device for every student, fulfilling a multiyear objective in only a few months. Also, we acquired large quantities of personal protective equipment and other materials to minimize the risk of transmission and ensure the safety of students, families and staff as we reopened schools. We are optimistic about reports that school districts will soon see an influx of funding to cover some of those costs. However, districts are waiting for details such as additional amounts, potential offsets in state aid, timeline for disbursement, and other factors.

We remain in the midst of one of the greatest challenges we have ever faced as a school district community. It has been more than one year since the COVID-19 pandemic first impacted our schools. In the summer and fall, the community came

Continued on Next Page



Proposed Year-to-Year Budget Increase Historically Below Average

Continued from Previous Page
together to carry out an endeavor that was both historic and massive in scope: reopening our schools and bringing students back to the classroom safely during a pandemic. The manner in which this was achieved is a credit to all in our community. We created, from scratch, an extremely effective instructional model that addressed the enormous difficulties of simultaneously educating students at home and in person.

Our entire staff demonstrated extraordinary resourcefulness in meeting the needs of students and families. Administrators and teachers did an exceptional job modifying their teaching strategies and integrating a multitude of technological resources and applications. As a result, classroom instruction will be even more strategic and dynamic in the future.

We encourage all residents to learn about the budget and vote on May 18. The

future is unpredictable, but we will be prepared and will continue the mindset that we can achieve anything together. Our focus as a school district has shifted to include not only the future academic success of our students, but also the learning loss created by this pandemic as well as the health and safety considerations it has posed. The proposed 2021-22 budget will help us meet these objectives and continue to position us for future success.

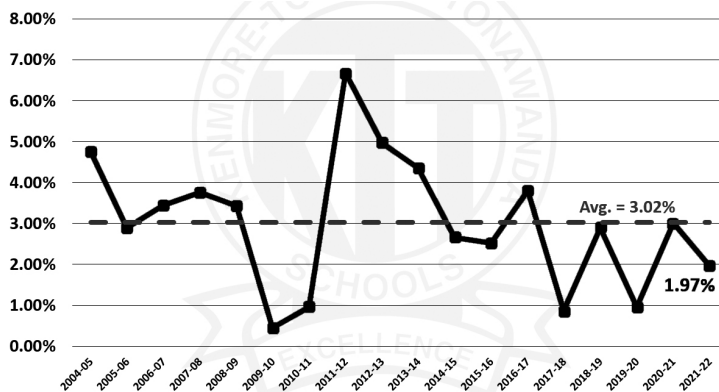
2021-22 Budget Information

| Item | Amount | Item | Amount |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| Budget | \$172,426,830 | Tax Levy | \$89,998,791 |
| Budget Increase | \$3,347,356 | Tax Levy Increase | \$1,735,891 |
| Budget-to-Budget % Increase | 1.98% | Tax Levy % Increase | 1.97% |
| Fund Balance & Reserve Use | \$8,200,000 | Increase on \$100K Full Market Value House | \$34.50 |

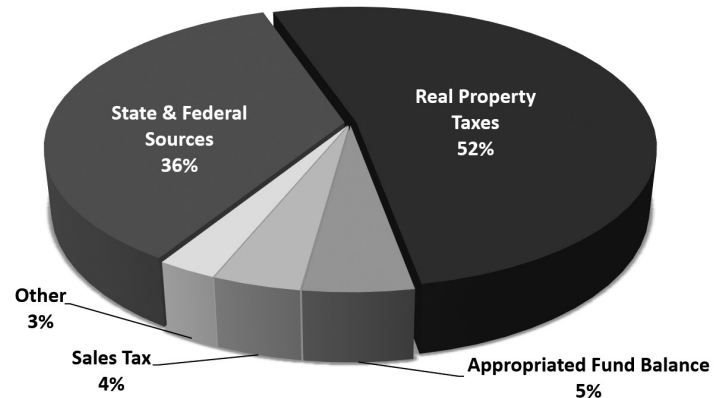
| 2021-22 Revenue Comparison | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | 2020-21 Budgeted | 2021-22 Budget | 2021-22 Increase |
| State & Federal Sources | \$59,555,000 | \$61,562,839 | \$2,007,839 |
| Real Property Taxes | \$88,262,900 | \$89,998,791 | \$1,735,891 |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | \$8,400,000 | \$8,200,000 | -\$200,000 |
| Sales Tax | \$8,300,000 | \$8,000,000 | -\$300,000 |
| Other | \$4,561,574 | \$4,665,200 | \$103,626 |
| Total Revenue | \$169,079,474 | \$172,426,830 | \$3,347,356 |
| Budget-to-Budget Percentage Increase: 1.98% | | | |

| 2021-22 Expenditure Comparison | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | 2020-21 Budgeted | 2021-22 Budget | 2021-22 Increase |
| General Support | \$5,887,057 | \$6,998,788 | \$1,111,731 |
| Operations & Maint. | \$10,220,035 | \$10,304,798 | \$84,763 |
| Instruction | \$99,816,838 | \$100,989,725 | \$1,172,887 |
| Transportation | \$6,194,346 | \$6,346,664 | \$152,318 |
| Employee Benefits | \$36,682,645 | \$37,747,921 | \$1,065,276 |
| Debt Service | \$10,278,553 | \$10,038,934 | (\$239,619) |
| Total Expenditures | \$169,079,474 | \$172,426,830 | \$3,347,356 |
| Budget-to-Budget Percentage Increase: 1.98% | | | |

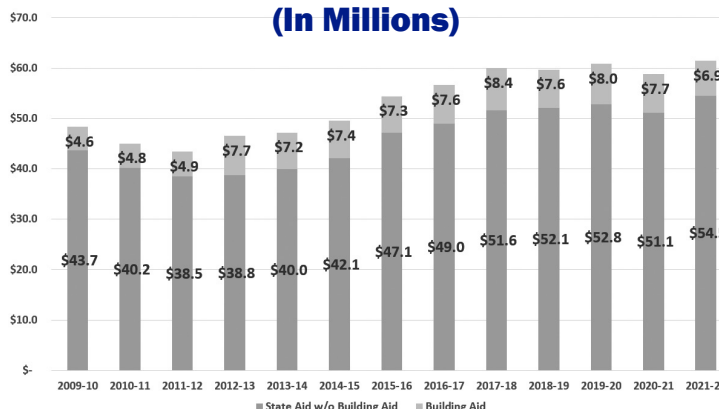
Historical Comparison of Tax Rate Increases



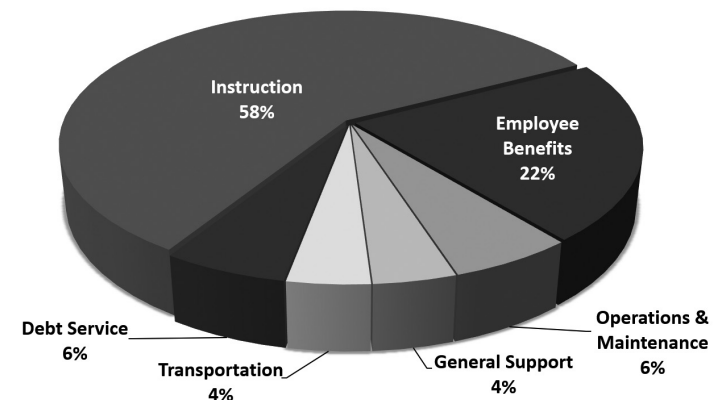
2021-22 Revenue by Category:



Historical Comparison of NYS Aid (In Millions)



2021-22 Expenditures by Category:



Propositions & Ballot Information

Proposition 1: 2021-2022 Budget

Total Budget: \$172,426,830 (1.98% 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 5 (five) 65-Passenger Buses, 4 (four) 35-Passenger Buses & 1 (one) Full-Size Wheelchair Bus: \$1,020,000

NYS Aid: Approx. 70%; District Share: Approx. \$306,000

Vote Yes or No

Board of Education Candidates:

(Vote for One)

☐ Christine Cavarello ☐ Todd Marquardt

Candidate Information at www.ktufsd.org/candidates

Voting Information

Voter Qualifications:

- In-person voting will resume this year with the ability to request absentee ballots for qualified reasons.
- Voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.
- Those who are not registered to vote will need to complete an affidavit confirming that they are a qualified voter.
- Photo identification and proof of citizenship, age, and residency are required for those who are not registered.

Absentee Ballot Information:

- Contact the District Clerk at (716) 874-8400 ext. 20342 for an absentee ballot application.
- Those on the permanent absentee ballot list do not need to apply for an absentee ballot.
- Applications must be received no later than seven days prior to May 18, 2021.
- Absentee ballots must arrive no later than 5 p.m. the day of the vote on May 18, 2021.

Sample Ballot (Propositions)

PROPOSITION 1: 2021-2022 BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the basic budget of \$172,426,830 for the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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: ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL BUSES AND SIMILAR VEHICLES (AND RELATED EQUIPMENT)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, Erie County, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase school buses and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the District, at an estimated maximum cost of \$1,020,000 (with such estimated maximum cost reflecting the value of any trade-ins), and to expend therefor an aggregate sum not to exceed \$1,020,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$1,020,000 (which may include certain up-front financing costs), plus an amount for interest thereon, shall be funded 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 be it further

RESOLVED, that 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State Transportation Aid funds expected to be received by the District are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

☐ Yes

☐ No



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

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT #4321

Board of Education

Matthew Chimera, President
Andrew Gianni, Vice President
Lesley Battaglia, Trustee
Jennifer Morrow, Trustee
Dr. Thomas Reigstad, Trustee

Sabatino Cimato,

Superintendent of Schools

SchoolGram Editor:

Patrick Fanelli (pfanelli@ktufsd.org)

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Ken-Ton Weekly Connection,
a weekly update
for the community, at
www.ktufsd.org/connection



Budget Vote & Board of Education Election: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at Hoover Middle School

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD
Overall Budget Proposal

| | Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year | Contingency Budget for 2021-22 School Year |
|---|--|---|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$169,079,474 | \$172,426,830 | \$170,301,913 |
| Increase (decrease) for the 2021-22 school year | | \$3,347,356 | \$1,222,439 |
| Percentage Increase (decrease) in each proposed budget | | 1.98% | 0.72% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 1.23% | |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$88,262,900 | \$89,998,791 | |
| 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) | \$88,262,900 | \$89,998,791 | \$88,262,900 |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit | \$859,374 | \$927,824 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Exclusions | \$87,403,526 | \$89,070,967 | |
| 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) | \$87,403,526 | \$89,070,967 | |
| Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval) | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Administrative Component | \$15,507,098 | \$16,739,206 | \$15,676,806 |
| Program Component | \$130,619,198 | \$132,869,429 | \$132,146,912 |
| Capital Component | \$22,953,178 | \$22,818,195 | \$22,478,195 |

Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 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 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | Bus Purchase | \$1,020,000 |
| Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year | | |
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ | | \$558 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-2022 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 18, 2021 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. Call the District Clerk's office with questions at 716-874-8400 ext. 20342.

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