

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR AUGUST 17:

Residents to vote on district tax levy

The Hamilton School Board gave its approval July 20 for the 2020- 21 budget that will be presented to voters at the Annual Meeting.

The budget totals \$64.7 million, a 4.86 percent increase over the current budget. It assumes property value will increase 2.5 percent and general state aid will increase 2.69 percent. If property values or state aid are greater than these assumptions, the tax rate will be lower.

The tax rate is projected to be \$9.38 per \$1,000 of equalized property value – 25 cents more than the current rate. For each \$100,000 of property owned, citizens will pay \$938 to support local school taxes which is \$25 more than this year's rate. The owner of a \$300,000 home can expect to pay \$2,814 in school property taxes.

Along with cost-of-living increases, the budget includes opera-

tional costs directly related to the current health pandemic.

Residents can learn more about the Hamilton School District budget August 17 beginning at 6:15 p.m. at the Budget Hearing in the Hamilton Fine Arts Center, W220 N6151 Town Line Road, Sussex.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Residents vote on the tax levy at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA August 17, 2020 7:30 p.m. or upon Budget Hearing completion	
I. Order of Business	- Call to Order - "Pledge of Allegiance" - Introductions - Agenda Approval
II. Notice of Hearing/Meeting	
III. Call for Chairperson Nominations	
IV. Voice Vote on Nomination of Chairperson	
V. The Year in Review - Paul Mielke, Ph.D.	
VI. Printed Resolutions - Chairperson	A. Approval to Lease District Property for Farming Purposes B. Adoption of Tax Levy C. Salaries of School Board Members D. Reimbursement of Board Members' Expenses E. Board Authority to Establish Annual Meeting Date and Time
VII. Adjournment of Meeting	

Preliminary plan set for opening of 2020-21 school year



OUR PRIORITIES FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

- Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- Deliver high-quality instruction to ALL students, regardless of delivery model
- Optimize use of resources
- Include input from staff and families in plan development

Before the 2019-20 school year ended, a task force was already studying myriad issues of reopening school this fall amid a pandemic. Several surveys were sent to families and staff asking their opinion about the online experience during the emergency school shutdown in the spring. In June and again in July, families and staff were asked about their comfort level in returning to school in the fall.

Overwhelmingly, families and employees wanted to see traditional in-person instruction offered. A sizeable minority, however, preferred virtual online instruction.

Throughout the summer, Hamilton School District staff members met virtually to lay out a plan that would ensure the highest quality education for all students while taking steps to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and families.

Families will be able to choose the instructional format

for their children with the option to change at semester.

Superintendent Paul Mielke, Ph.D., said he was proud of the work that staff members accomplished this summer.

"District staff members have risen to the challenge of this unique school year," Mielke said. "Last spring, we put a virtual learning plan in place with only days notice before implementation. We learned a lot, and with the input of families and staff, we made meaningful changes that will provide an enhanced virtual online experience whether students are in the 100% virtual option or will need to access lessons from home at some point because of a quarantine."

In addition to the traditional in-person and virtual online formats, the district continues to research the possibility of using a hybrid model in case of significant community COVID-19 spread during the year.

Traditional in-person

Students will attend class five days a week at school but with numerous safety measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- The physical classroom will look different.
- Masks will be required. (Policies are being developed and will be shared with families.)
- Use of common supplies and equipment will be minimized.
- Social distancing will be implemented.

EMERGENCY REMOTE LEARNING

Because a number of students could be quarantined at any given time, each day all traditional in-person teachers will record the direct-instruction component of their lessons and upload them with daily lessons and activities to support students who are out of the classroom. Students will continue to learn virtually at home until it is safe to return to in-person learning again.

EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Hamilton School District will be prepared to move all students to virtual-only instruction based on state or county health agency orders as a result of an increase in COVID-19 spread.

During an extended school closure, school will be in session five days a week with teachers posting new instruction on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. No new instruction will be posted on Wednesday which will be set aside for reteaching, class meetings, small groups, one-on-ones, feedback and check-ins.

Virtual online

Students will learn virtually from home working with peers and teachers online and independently offline.

- Lessons will be scheduled each day to include whole class, small group and individual activities.
- It will be different than what students experienced last spring.
- Teachers will provide live lessons at specified times and learning that occurs online without real-time interaction.
- Continuous online learning will occur for all content areas, including specials and allied arts.
- Students will be able to opt back into the traditional in-person model at semester.

4K- GRADE 8

- Students will be part of a grade-level group with one teacher.
- Teachers will not necessarily be from the student's home school.
- Intermediate and middle school students will be part of a virtual house. Intermediate will have two teachers and middle school will have two to four teachers
- Daily instruction in English-language arts, reading-critical literacy, math, science and social studies. Most specials and allied arts will be offered.

HIGH SCHOOL

- Specific courses in each department will be offered, including AP courses. Some elective courses will be offered virtually.
- Teachers will schedule each day to include live virtual class meetings, small group work, one-on-one feedback, formative and summative assessment, online discussion, collaborative projects and offline work.



PARENT & STAFF ENGAGEMENT

In June 2020, parents and employees were asked if public health officials believed it would be safe to allow in-person instruction, would they be comfortable returning to school this fall?



A 70-member Reopening Schools Task Force began planning for the reopening of the 2020-21 school year in June that included both in-person and online learning models. In July, a report was given to the Hamilton School Board. Following are highlights of the task force findings and recommendations.

New staff chosen for instructional services, high school associate principal



Catherine Drago

The Hamilton School Board appointed Catherine Drago instructional services supervisor at its May 18 meeting.

Drago, who had been an instructional coach in the district since 2016, joined the district in 2007 as a Templeton Middle School teacher. She replaces Katie Little, Ph.,D, who retired.

Drago earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Carroll University.

"Ms. Drago is a tremendous addition to our district administrative team. As a teacher at Templeton she was known for her passion, creativity and drive. As an instructional coach for the district she worked with countless teachers to help them improve their instructional practices through research-based practices," Superintendent Paul Mielke, Ph.D., said.

"She is a well-respected, lifelong learner who is dedicated to doing what's best for students," he said.



Christopher Laurishke

Christopher Laurishke was named associate principal at Hamilton High School. He replaces Laura Wescott who took an administrative position at Oak Creek High School.

Before joining the district, Laurishke was a history teacher at Homestead High School and in New Berlin.

"We are excited to welcome

Chris Laurishke to our high school community," said Hamilton High School Principal Rebecca Newcomer. "In the short time he has been with us, we already appreciate his perspective on providing equity for each of our students. He has a lens that is supportive of teacher needs, and he also has experiences outside of our building that will aid in the growth of our team and open us up to new ideas."

"Chris seemed to be the perfect match to help us best serve our students, families, and teachers," Newcomer said.

He earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and history from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh and his master's degree in educational policy leadership from Marquette University.

District gives annual notice of policies, procedures; entire policies available online

Certain state and federal regulations and Hamilton School District policies require that residents receive annual public notice. Below is the list of notices published to keep citizens informed and meet notification requirements. More detailed information on each of these notices is posted at www.hamilton.k12.wi.us >DISTRICT>DISTRICT FORMS AND ANNUAL NOTICES. Residents may also contact the Public Information Office at (262) 246-1973 x1100 to obtain the entire district policy or further information on any of these matters.

- **Academic standards** - The Hamilton School Board approves educational standards and curriculum documents for each subject area. Information is available on the district website including parent guides detailing content for each grade level.
- **Nondiscrimination** - The Hamilton School District provides equal educational and employment opportunities. The district does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other reason prohibited by state or federal laws or regulations, in any of its programs or activities, applications for admission, or employment. The district is required by Title IX and Part 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations not to discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities operated by the district, and this requirement extends to admission and employment. The district provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The district has designated and authorized the following individual as the person responsible for coordinating the district's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX and other state and federal nondiscrimination laws, including investigation of any complaints alleging a violation of Title IX or other discrimination: Title IX Coordinator John Roubik, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development, Hamilton School District, W220N6151 Town Line Road, Sussex, WI 53089. (262) 246-1973. Any questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to: U.S. Dept. of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 230 S. Dearborn, 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 730-1560 or OCR.Chicago@ed.gov
- **Goal setting** - The School Board recognizes the value of goal setting for school improvement based on districtwide needs and concerns.
- **Student records** - FERPA affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's education and health records.
- **Parent rights and the curriculum** - Parents have the right to inspect instructional materials and deny their child's participation in certain curricular activities, and reasonable accommodations may be made because of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs.
- **Student, parent privacy rights** - The district respects the privacy rights of parents and their children and complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment requirements with respect to privacy rights.
- **Directory data** - The School Board designates certain student record information as directory data that may be disclosed to any person unless the adult student, parent or guardian informs the school that all or any part of the directory data may not be released.
- **Use of cameras on buses** - Video cameras are used on school buses to reduce disciplinary problems and vandalism and allow bus drivers to focus on driving.
- **Entrance age** - Children who meet the entrance age requirements shall be enrolled in kindergarten and first grade in the district. Early admission to 5-year-old kindergarten or first grade may be granted only according to established procedures.
- **Asbestos, air quality** - The district complies with state and federal regulations concerning asbestos and indoor air quality management. The District has accomplished the following compliance mandates regarding the administration of asbestos in school buildings: Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. (EMC) was contracted to be the school's consultant for asbestos for the school year, all asbestos materials are kept in good condition as part its Operations and Maintenance Program, surveillance in each area containing asbestos is completed every six months and buildings are re-inspected by an accredited inspector every three years. In the past year, the district removed asbestos from high school plumbing elbows and removed high school asbestos floor tile.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act** - The district has taken steps to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law designed to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination in services, programs, activities and employment.
- **Alternative programs** - Alternative programming and curriculum modifications are available to students.
- **Classroom Code of Conduct** - Wisconsin law requires that teachers shall be authorized to remove students from class for reasons specified in School Board policies.
- **Qualified teachers, paraprofessionals** - Federal law requires that school districts share the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals.
- **Special Education referral and evaluation procedures** - Upon request, the Hamilton School District is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district. A

Continued on page 3.

Minutes from 2019 annual public hearing, meeting

Budget Hearing Minutes July 15, 2019 — 6:15 p.m.

School Board President Gabe Kolesari called the hearing to order at 6:15 p.m. and Board Clerk Dawn Van Aacken read the meeting notice.

Business Services Assistant Superintendent Bryan Ruud presented a slide presentation highlighting projects and purchases for the Hamilton School District during the 2018-19 school year. Mr. Ruud reviewed the proposed 2019-20 budget including:

EXPENDITURES - \$61,094,164	INSTRUCTIONAL - \$34,467,614
Salary & Fringes - 76.20%	Undifferentiated - 39.14%
Purchased Services - 19.17%	Regular - 35.01%
Non-Capital Objects - 3.02%	Vocational - 3.85%
Capital Objects - 0.31%	Physical Education - 4.16 %
Debt Retirement - 0.15%	Special Education - 15.97%
Insurance & Judgments - 0.77%	Co-Curricular - 1.87%
Other Objects - 0.38%	

REVENUE FUND 10 & 27 - \$60,494,164
 Tax Levy - 48.60%
 State Aids - 46.00%
 Local Aids - 2.30%
 Interdistrict Aids - 1.29%
 Grants - 1.82%

Ruud showed several slides that included the following topics: overview of referendum construction projects completed to date and construction projects currently in process, budget increase, general state aid, equalization valuation trend, valuation growth, membership trends, mil rate trends, taxes receivable, cost per pupil, budget summary by comparison, object versus total budget and tax levy projections.

The budget meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Annual Meeting Minutes July 15, 2019 — 7:30 p.m.

School Board President Gabe Kolesari called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

President Kolesari introduced the Board members, Superintendent Paul Mielke, Buelow & Vetter Attorney Gary Ruesch and Assistant Board Clerk Susan Moll.

Motion by Jennifer Waltz, seconded by Steven Schellin, resolved to approve the agenda. Voice vote on agenda. Motion carried.

Dawn Van Aacken read the official meeting notice publication.

Motion by Waltz, seconded by Jay Jones, resolved to nominate Gerald Schmitz to serve as chairperson of the Annual Meeting. (There were no other nominations). Voice vote on nomination of chairperson. Motion carried.

Superintendent Paul Mielke presented the "Year in Review."

Schmitz read the voter eligibility rules - must be 18 years of age and a resident of the Hamilton School District for at least 28 days prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION A: Approval to Lease District Property for Farming Purposes
 Motion by Schellin, seconded by Deborah Briggs, resolved that the School Board is hereby authorized during the current school year to negotiate a lease of district property for farming purposes: approximately 55 acres on Clover Lane and Hwy. VV for \$5,400 with CJ Enterprises; and approximately 38 acres on Plainview Road for \$4,940 with Hillside Farms. Show of hands vote on Resolution A. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION B: Adoption of Tax Levy
 Motion by John Peterson, seconded by Schellin, resolved that a tax for the operation and maintenance of the schools in the amount of \$29,399,446, a tax for debt retirement in the amount of \$3,460,931 and tax for community services fund of \$31,000 for a total of \$32,891,377 be levied upon the taxable property of the district for the school year 2019-20. Show of hands vote on Resolution B. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION C: Salaries of School Board Members
 Motion by Briggs, seconded by Cynthia Rossman, resolved to approve the annual salary rate of \$4,850 for Hamilton School District Board of Education members. Show of hands vote on Resolution C. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION D: Reimbursement of Board Members' Expense
 Motion by Schellin, seconded by Briggs, resolved that payment be authorized for actual and necessary expenses and for actual loss of earnings for School Board members when such expenses are incurred in the performance of their duties. Show of hands vote on Resolution D. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION E: Board Authority to Establish Date and Time for Annual Meeting
 Motion by Briggs, seconded by Marlene Helinski, resolved that the 2020 Annual Meeting and Annual Meetings thereafter will be at a time and on a date selected by the School Board. Show of hands vote on Resolution E. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT
 Motion by Schellin, seconded by Briggs, resolved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Moll
 Assistant Board Clerk

Citizens to vote on 2020 resolutions

Approval to Lease District Property for Farming Purposes — Be it resolved that the school board is hereby authorized, during the current school year to negotiate a lease of district property for farming purposes.

- Approximately 55 acres on Clover Lane and Hwy. VV for \$4,860 with CJ Enterprises;
- Approximately 38 acres on Plainview Road for \$4,940 with Hillside Farms.

Adoption of Tax Levy — Be it resolved that a tax for the operation and maintenance of the schools in the amount of \$31,495,034, a tax for debt retirement in the amount of \$3,885,944 and tax for community services fund of \$31,000 for a total of *\$35,411,978, be levied upon the taxable property of the district for the school year 2020-21.
 *Board recommended budget.

Salaries of School Board Members — Be it resolved that the following yearly salary of \$_____ be adopted for members of the Hamilton School District Board of Education. [Current salary is \$4,850 per year.]

Reimbursement of Board Members' Expenses — Be it resolved that payment be authorized for actual and necessary expenses and for actual loss of earnings for school board members when such expenses are incurred in the performance of their duties. [Wisconsin State Statutes 120.10(4)].

Board Authority to Establish Date and Time for Annual Meeting — Be it resolved that the 2021 Annual Meeting will be at a time and on a date selected by the School Board.

District annual notices continued from page 2

physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made. Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child

resides. Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting John Peterson, Supervisor of Special Services, Hamilton School District, at (262) 246-1973 x1184, or by writing him at W220 N6151 Town Line Road, Sussex, WI 53089.

- **Education of homeless** – Children and youth who are homeless have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children residing in the district.

Education Issues features stories about Hamilton School District programs, people, curriculum, schools and activities. It is published in the interest of providing accurate information to Hamilton School District residents and businesses. Comments or questions from readers are welcome. Send them to:

EDUCATION ISSUES
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Balance sheets summarize district expenses, revenues

State statutes require school budgets to be formulated and published prior to the Annual Meeting. The budget summary below is formulated according to state requirements. Additional information about the budget can be found in this edition of Education Issues.

GENERAL & SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS (10 & 27)				DEBT SERVICE FUND (39)				COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND (80)			
	AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET		AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET		AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Beginning Fund Balance	22,486,735.42	23,697,752.66	25,821,069.04	Beginning Fund Balance	67,191.87	1,130,678.44	1,119,777.16	Beginning Fund Balance	105,623.78	106,783.15	101,561.22
Ending Fund Balance	23,697,752.66	25,821,069.04	24,271,069.04	Ending Fund Balance	1,130,678.44	1,119,777.16	1,090,465.16	Ending Fund Balance	106,783.15	101,561.22	101,561.22
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	6,190,294.24	3,476,654.98	3,895,944.00	REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	54,431.35	43,218.69	55,200.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	28,919,924.71	31,605,353.96	32,853,496.00	EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	5,126,807.67	3,487,556.26	3,925,256.00	EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	53,271.98	48,440.62	55,200.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	660,694.51	909,237.32	794,359.00								
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	41,248.56	52,036.31	35,083.00	LONG-TERM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND (46)				Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses			
State Sources (Source 600)	27,237,838.30	28,207,123.67	28,273,939.00		AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET	ALL FUNDS	AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET
Federal Sources (Source 700)	1,168,423.14	1,033,879.05	1,181,390.00		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	1,408,689.82	115,850.61	61,000.00	Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	500,100.17	512,533.15	GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	112,625,622.05	71,363,270.77	70,464,434.04
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	59,436,819.04	61,923,480.92	63,199,267.00	Ending Fund Balance	500,100.17	512,533.15	522,533.15	Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES				REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	500,100.17	12,432.98	10,000.00	Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Instruction (Function 100 000)	34,085,798.86	33,537,227.34	36,805,699.00	EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	0.00	0.00	0.00	NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	112,625,622.05	71,363,270.77	70,464,434.04
Support Services (Function 200 000)	21,618,853.39	23,742,772.45	25,247,028.00					PERCENTAGE INCREASE -- NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		-36.64%	-1.26%
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	2,521,149.55	2,520,164.75	2,696,540.00	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (49)				PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	58,225,801.80	59,800,164.54	64,749,267.00		AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET		AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET
					2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	General Fund	28,121,112.00	30,130,590.00	31,495,034.00
				Beginning Fund Balance	53,544,705.18	6,584,275.38	178,249.04	Referendum Debt Service Fund	668,450.00	3,460,931.00	3,885,944.00
				Ending Fund Balance	6,584,275.38	178,249.04	0.00	Community Service Fund	31,000.00	31,000.00	31,000.00
				REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	830,656.21	180,085.32	1,000.00	TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	28,820,562.00	33,622,521.00	35,411,978.00
				EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	47,791,086.01	6,586,111.66	179,249.04				
								PERCENTAGE INCREASE -- TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR		16.66%	5.32%
				FOOD SERVICE FUND (50)							
					AUDITED	UNAUDITED	BUDGET				
					2018-19	2019-20	2020-21				
				Beginning Fund Balance	213,861.97	305,576.77	75,411.21				
				Ending Fund Balance	305,576.77	75,411.21	75,411.21				
				REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,177,165.52	911,158.38	1,238,500.00				
				EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	1,085,450.72	1,141,323.94	1,238,500.00				

2018-19 financial statements of the district were audited by Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP. The audit report is available for inspection in the Business Office.