

# PHOENIX

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget 2023-24



**VOTE DATE**  
May 16th | noon to 9 p.m.  
at EJD Middle School



### PUBLIC HEARING

May 9th | 7 p.m.  
District Office Conference Room

### TOTAL BUDGET

\$51.5 million  
(+2.32% or \$1.16M)

## PCSD 2023-24 Budget, Propositions on the Ballot May 16th

Dear Phoenix Central School District Residents,

We are pleased to present the Phoenix community members with the enclosed 2023-24 budget information. Within this budget bulletin you will find a breakdown of comparative information regarding the 2023-24 proposed budget revenues and expenditures. Through the efforts of many and oversight of the Board of Education, district residents are presented with a proposed budget that maintains all student programs and overcomes the fiscal challenges associated with the ongoing inflationary pressures of the current economy.

The information presented here is based on the New York State Budget. Through the efforts of the Governor and the NYS Legislature, we are able to maintain all programs and activities with a levy increase of 2.0%, well within the legal tax cap of 5.2%. This is the first levy increase since the 2019-20 budget. Through the additional State Aid and use of fund balance, the Board and administration is able to present a budget that provides students with the best educational experience possible, while at the same time being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

This year's budget vote will include the budget proposal, bus proposition, and the public library levy (see inside). The bus proposition will ask voters to continue with our bus replacement

schedule by replacing three (3) 66-passenger diesel buses. These purchases are 90% aided by New York State. In addition to the three propositions, three incumbent candidates seek re-election to the Board of Education (See inside).

I want to thank the Board of Education for their diligent efforts to ensure that our students are provided with quality programs and opportunities, along with our employees for a commitment to excellence in the education and well-being of our students. Phoenix is truly a community school where everyone is vested in the future of our children. I consider it a privilege to be your Superintendent and am honored to serve this great community.

The Board of Education and I encourage you to take part in the budget process by attending the public hearing on Tuesday, May 9, at the District Office and by coming out to vote at the EJD Middle School on May 16 between the hours of noon and 9 p.m.

As always, please feel free to contact me at [Cbyrne@phoenixcsd.org](mailto:Cbyrne@phoenixcsd.org) or 315-695-1555 anytime you have a question or concern.

*Christopher Byrne*

Superintendent of Schools



### TAX LEVY

\$17.77 million  
(+2% or \$348,537)

### LIBRARY LEVY

+3.35% or \$5,081

### PROPOSITIONS

1. Budget Adoption
2. Buses (3); 90 percent state aided
3. Library Levy

### 3 OPEN BOE SEATS

There are three open seats on the Board of Education. Candidate information, in the order in which they appear on the ballot, is listed inside this newsletter.

## What is on the Ballot?

### Propositions before PCSD voters May 16th

#### PROPOSITION #1 - BUDGET ADOPTION

"BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Phoenix Central School District for the school year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$51,531,140 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law."

#### PROPOSITION #2 - PURCHASE OF BUSES

"Shall the Board of Education of the Phoenix Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance three (3) 66-passenger school buses at an estimated cost not to exceed \$507,311, all to include furnishings, fixtures and equipment required for such purposes and all other necessary costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$507,311 which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax which is hereby voted for the foregoing in the amount of \$507,311 which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$507,311, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due."

#### PROPOSITION #3 – Library Levy

"Resolved, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Phoenix Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school budget, in the amount of \$5,081 (in addition to the current annual appropriation of \$151,834 for a total of \$156,915 annually), which shall be paid to the Phoenix Public Library for the support and maintenance of the library, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Phoenix Central School District."

## What Might my School Tax Bill Look Like Next Year?

The information to the right is intended to help residents understand the estimated effect on property taxes if the proposed budget is approved based on current assessed values and a township with full 100% assessed value. An assumption is made that the homeowner has applied for and receives the basic STAR exemption.

Full Value Assessment	Estimated 22-23 Tax With STAR	Estimated 23-24 Tax with STAR	Estimated Increase with STAR
\$50,000	\$358.16	\$380.04	\$21.88
\$100,000	\$1,452.31	\$1,496.08	\$43.77
\$150,000	\$2,546.47	\$2,612.12	\$65.65

\* Updated assessed values and equalization rates are not finalized until August.  
STAR is capped at current law.

## Capital outlay funding earmarked for JCB improvements

NYSED allows districts to complete \$100,000 worth of capital work on an annual basis. The 2023-24 school year's capital outlay will be to replace and repair doors and the vestibule in the JCB Sports hallway. The work is aided at 90%.

*The Phoenix Central School District Board of Education, its officers and employees, shall not discriminate against any student, employee, or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, sex, age, or disability. This policy of nondiscrimination includes: access by students to educational programs, counseling services for students, course offerings and student activities, recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or terminations.*

## ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Represents the Supervisory, Clerical & Business Operations support for Program & Capital Services.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Board of Education</b> Board of Education, School Association District Clerk, Annual Meeting, and Elections	\$27,690	\$28,188	\$498	1.8%
<b>Central Administration</b> Superintendent's Office	\$269,075	\$283,108	\$14,030	5.21%
<b>Regular School Supervision</b> Building Offices, Principals & Clerical, Directors of Athletics and Curriculum	\$1,745,373	\$1,790,102	\$44,729	2.56%
<b>Finance</b> Business Administration, External Auditor, Internal Auditor, Tax Collection, and Treasurer	\$557,843	\$564,788	\$6,945	1.24%
<b>Personnel</b> Legal Services, Personnel Office, and Public Information	\$204,838	\$211,067	\$6,229	3.04%
<b>Data Processing &amp; Central Printing</b> Student Information & Financial Systems, Printing	\$422,104	\$430,000	\$7,896	1.87%
<b>Liability Insurance &amp; Unclassified</b>	\$139,095	\$146,050	\$6,955	5.0%
<b>BOCES Administrative Charges</b> Local share of BOCES Administrative Expenses	\$876,566	\$981,270	\$104,704	11.94%
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$682,914	\$709,844	\$26,930	3.94%
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$4,925,498</b>	<b>\$5,144,414</b>	<b>\$218,916</b>	<b>4.44%</b>

## PROGRAM BUDGET

Represents the Instructional, Support & Extracurricular Needs of Students.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Regular School Program</b> Instruction, Library & Media, Instructional Technology	\$15,307,796	\$15,459,628	\$151,832	1.0%
<b>Special Education Program</b> Instruction for Students With Disabilities	\$4,518,236	\$4,649,870	\$131,634	2.91%
<b>Special Schools</b> Reading Summer School, Home Bound Instruction, BOCES Summer School & Multi-Occ Programs	\$526,124	\$597,661	\$71,537	13.60%
<b>Pupil Services</b> Guidance, Health and Psychological Services Extracurricular, Athletic & Performing Arts Activities	\$1,842,153	\$1,941,203	\$99,050	5.38%
<b>Transportation</b> Student Transportation Services	\$2,236,874	\$2,374,347	\$137,473	6.15%
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>	\$87,500	\$87,500	0	0.00%
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$8,994,499	\$9,349,193	\$354,694	3.94%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$33,513,182</b>	<b>\$34,459,402</b>	<b>\$946,694</b>	<b>2.82%</b>

## CAPITAL BUDGET

Represents the Custodial, Maintenance & Capital Improvement Costs for Building & Grounds Facilities.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Custodial Operation of Plant</b>	\$2,796,421	\$2,866,916	\$70,495	2.52%
<b>Maintenance of Plant &amp; Grounds</b>	\$899,978	\$925,218	\$25,240	2.80%
<b>Debt Service</b> (Loan payments for building projects and bus purchases)	\$7,297,240	\$7,173,548	\$-123,692	-1.70%
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$828,952	\$861,642	\$32,690	3.94%
<b>Transfer to Capital</b> (Capital Improvement to MAM, EJD, & JCB)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$11,922,591</b>	<b>\$11,927,324</b>	<b>\$4,733</b>	<b>0.04%</b>
	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$50,361,271</b>	<b>\$51,531,140</b>	<b>\$1,169,869</b>	<b>+2.32%</b>





**OTE DATE**  
**May 16th | noon to 9 p.m.**  
 at EJD Middle School

## Who Can Vote?

### Voter Qualifications

- U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age
- School district resident for 30 days prior to May 16, 2023
- Registered with Oswego/Onondaga County or School District Board of Elections

## What are the Revenue Sources?

Revenues	2022-2023	2023-2024	\$ Change
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	96,000	93,000	(3,000)
Sales Tax	2,500	2,500	0
Charges for Services	8,500	8,500	0
Use of Money	2,500	50,000	47,500
Sale of Property	15,000	20,000	5,000
Refund of Prior Year	300,000	300,000	0
Miscellaneous	7,000	7,000	0
State Aid - Basic Aid	29,278,760	30,210,431	931,671
State Aid - BOCES Aid	2,762,500	2,600,000	(162,500)
State Aid - Textbook Aid	100,640	99,500	(1,140)
State Aid - Tech & Library	65,998	64,799	(1,199)
Federal/Medicaid	45,000	50,000	5,000
Interfund Transfers	50,000	50,000	0
Appropriated Fund Balance	200,000	200,000	0
<b>Calculated Tax Levy</b>	<b>17,426,873</b>	<b>17,775,410</b>	<b>348,537</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$50,361,271</b>	<b>\$51,531,140</b>	<b>1,169,869</b>

## Who is Running for the BOE?

### Board of Education Candidates

**There are three open seats for the Board of Education, all of which will carry a three year term. The following candidates have completed all the necessary paperwork and will appear on the May 16, 2023 voting machines in the following order:**

1. Katherine Kehn
2. Earl A. Rudy
3. Wayne Halstead

## Student volunteers lauded during annual ceremony

During a recent ceremony, nine John C. Birdleough High School students were recognized with Presidential Youth Service Awards for their volunteer efforts in the community.

The annual banquet and awards ceremony, held at the Phoenix Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5540, recognizes students who have dedicated their time serving the community through a variety of actions. This year's honorees volunteered with numerous local groups and organizations, with efforts ranging from community cleanup to helping the elderly in local nursing homes.

"What you have done in a short period of time is incredible," said Phoenix Central School District

Superintendent Christopher Byrne. "Please don't change who you are; you are excellent representatives of our school district, our community, and your family."

The honorees were lauded throughout the evening as family members, school administrators, local dignitaries and government officials offered congratulatory remarks and handshakes. Each speaker celebrated the award recipients and acknowledged the students' contributions to the community.

"Each of you are part of something bigger than yourself," said PCSD Board of Education President Earl Rudy. "You do make a difference."

Following remarks, each honoree was recognized with a certificate of commendation. Silver awards (300+ hours of service) were presented to Elizabeth Caltabiano and Cody Perry. Gold awards, representing 500 or more hours of volunteerism, were presented to Alex Bell, MacKenzie Chetney, Kai Clary, Zoe Gordon, Cameron Kreis and Gabriella Runge.

In addition to the silver and gold distinctions, two students, Cody Perry and Grace Calkins, were selected as Youth of the Year Award recipients for their exemplary service and commitment to the Phoenix community.

## Dion earns recognition for service to Phoenix schools, community

When the Phoenix Central School District established the "Making a Difference Award" three years ago, it aimed to honor those whose actions have left a lasting impression on the district. This year's recipient, Sheila Dion, has left an indelible mark on the greater PCSD community and was recently recognized for her contributions.

In March, the PCSD Board of Education presented Dion with the award, citing her unwavering support for the district, its students and staff. She spearheaded the Erin's Angels program, which provides food every week to nearly 125 students who face food insecurity. In addition to taking on that monumental effort, Dion also empowers other women with her "Oswego Women Lead" organization.

"Sheila is the definition of humanity and what can happen when people pursue kindness and selflessness and make that their life mission," said John C. Birdlebough High School teacher Lisa Spereno, who nominated Dion for the award. "She will continue to make a difference and have a positive impact on this community for decades to come."

PCSD Superintendent of Schools, Christopher Byrne, echoed those sentiments as he presented Dion with the honor.



"On behalf of the entire BOE, I can say that this is a very well-deserved award," Byrne said. "Thank you so much for all that you have done for our students, our school and our community."

For more information about the award or to nominate someone, please visit [www.phoenixcsd.org/makingadifference](http://www.phoenixcsd.org/makingadifference).

## EJD, JCB students inducted into prestigious honor societies

A commitment to scholarship, citizenship, service and character recently landed dozens of Phoenix Central School District students among a select faction inducted into two distinct honor societies.

On April 12, 18 Emerson J. Dillon Middle School students recited the National Junior Honor Society oath as they were inducted into the prestigious organization during a ceremony in the school's cafeteria. District staff, administrators and families joined the new inductees to celebrate their achievement.

"It is because of your hard work and dedication that you are here and part of such a great organization," said EJD Principal Jessica Ariola. "Congratulations, we are so proud of you."

The newest members of NJHS were: Lucy Bergman, Kylee Bradley, Emma Burgett, Phoebe Christian, Ameila Counterman, Mason Fenner, Jackson Giacobbi, Myles Gordon, Owen Gratz, Katelynn Henderson, Owen Klock, Mason Morris, Trever Prior, Sofia Restrepo-Ariza, Lydia Root, Maddison Shaffer, Preston Slater and Adisyn Spataro.

In addition to the EJD inductees, dozens of JCB students were also recognized for exemplifying the pillars of scholarship, service, citizenship and character. The newest members of the JCB chapter of the National Honor Society were celebrated during an April 18 ceremony in the high school auditorium.

"These pillars will be part of your life every

day," keynote speaker and Phoenix Mayor Brian Borchik told the inductees. "Continue pushing forward each and every day. The only thing standing in the way of your goals is you."

After the keynote speech, inductees were introduced and took the NHS pledge to formally welcome them into the National Honor Society. New members include Hannah Brooker, Madalyn Carter, Owen Champion, Rehan Chowdhury, Kai Clary, Ty Corey, Alexandria Dewitt, Olivia Edwards, Miley Esposito, Eden Grethel, Landon Guertin, Hailey Hook, Douglas Jacques, Conner Klock, Katherine Kraft, Taisia Marasco, Brooklyn Olschewske, Tallen Prior, Madison Quaco, Berkleigh Schneider, Emily St. Laurent, Alivia Smith, Mariah Sutcliffe and Alexander Whaley.



EJD inductees



JCB inductees





## Phoenix Central Schools

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Phoenix, NY 13135  
(315) 695-1555

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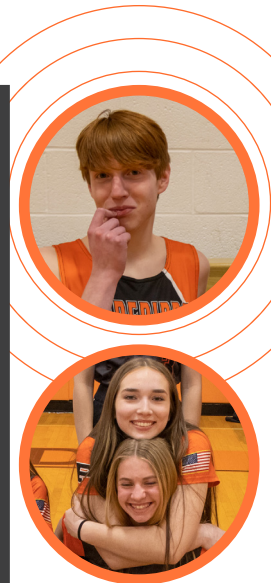
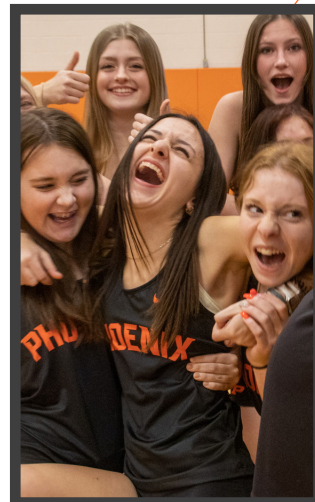
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### Mission Statement

The Phoenix Central School District is committed to a challenging educational program that promotes academic and personal growth for all students. Each student will become a confident, productive, responsible individual with a strong academic foundation, and the ability to make positive ethical choices. Our goal is to cultivate a sense of pride, character, and accountability in our students and community. The Board of Education, staff, parents, students, and community share responsibility for this mission.

## Media Day Celebrates Firebird Athletes

John C. Birdlebough High School recently hosted its first-ever Media Day for spring JV and varsity athletic programs. Athletes were dressed in their uniforms and ready for the limelight! The fun-filled event provided an opportunity for Boys' Track, Girls' Track, Boys' Baseball, Girls' Softball and Boys' Tennis teams to get hyped up for the start of the spring season. Athletes and coaches were available for photos and interviews to outside news media, and staff were on hand to take photos for the yearbook and compile a video of the inaugural event.



## Students shine during Music in Our Schools Month

