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EDWARDS-KNOX CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 630

RUSSELL, NEW YORK 13684-0630

BUS GARAGE: (315) 562-8133

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC: (315) 562-8135 Fax: 562-8136

NURSE'S OFFICE FAX: 562-8138

www.ekcsk12.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teresa A. Hogle, Pres.
Amanda Fuller, Vice-Pres.
Christopher Averill
Rick Brewer
Lynn C. Collier
Thomas O'Brien
Joseph Thomas
Randy VanBrocklin
Kay C. Amo, Clerk

April 27, 2012

Dear Residents:

The Annual Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the downstairs cafeteria. This is an informational evening to present the 2012-2013 budget to be placed before the voters. Comments are welcome.

Attached you will find the budget component summary sheet for your review. Anyone who wishes to receive the complete itemized budget as well as the Tax Exemption Impact Report, the Property Tax Report Card, Salary Disclosure Notice and/or the NYS District Report Card can contact the district office or go to the school's website at www.ekcsk12.org.

The actual budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 P.M. in the auditorium. In addition to the budget, there will be a proposition to purchase three busses and one van, plus election of two Board of Education members. In order to be eligible to vote, the following qualifications must be met:

1. 18 years of age.
2. A citizen of the United States
3. A resident of the Edwards-Knox School District for 30 days.

If you have any questions prior to the Budget Hearing, please contact my office at 562-8130, ext. 1511.

Sincerely,



Suzanne L. Kelly
Superintendent of Schools



Carol LaSala
Business Manager, SLL BOCES CBO

SLK/kca

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

Malissa Hale Seat (Unexpired 2-year seat):

Mary Jo Rulffes

Robert (Robin) Tresidder

Reginald LaPoint

Rick Brewer Seat (5-year expired):

Matthew F. VanBrocklin

Rick Brewer

**EDWARDS-KNOX CENTRAL SCHOOL
AGENDA
FOR SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING**

**May 8, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to order by President of the Board of Education
2. Availability of the notice by the District Clerk
3. Permanent Chairperson of meeting assumes the chair (Appointed by Board)
4. Announcement of the Voting Inspectors. (Appointed by Board)
5. Presentation of proposed 2012-2013 budget & ballots/propositions.
6. Adjournment to 12:00 noon - May 15, 2012
7. May 15, 2012: 12:00 noon - opening of polls in the cafeteria.
8. Voting closed at 8:00 p.m.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

1. A citizen of the United States of America.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. A resident within the Edwards-Knox Central School District for a period of at least thirty days preceding the meeting at which he or she offers to vote.

	<u>2011- 2012</u>		<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>Difference</u>
TAX LEVY	\$1,746,413	3.0%	\$1,746,413	\$0
TAX RATE PER \$1,000 ASSESSED VALUE*	\$11.242 \$12.392	Edwards Russell	\$11.242 \$12.392	\$0.00 \$0.00
EST. TAXES FOR \$50,000** PROPERTY (WITHOUT STAR REDUCTION)	\$562.10 \$619.60	Edwards Russell	\$562.10 \$619.60	\$0.00 \$0.00
EST. TAXES FOR \$50,000** PROPERTY (WITH REGULAR STAR REDUCTION: ASSESSED VALUE - \$30,000)	\$337.26 \$371.76	Edwards Russell	\$337.26 \$371.76	\$0.00 \$0.00
EST. TAXES FOR \$50,000 PROPERTY (FOR INCOME ELIGIBLE SENIORS: ASSESSED VALUE - \$50,000)	\$0 \$0	Edwards Russell	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0 \$0

* ASSUMES NO CHANGE IN TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE FOR 2012-2013

** \$50,000 = FULL VALUE For MID-RANGE PROPERTY IN RUSSELL & EDWARDS

EXEMPTION

Basic	\$26,400	\$29,100
Enhanced	\$52,890	\$58,300

2012-2013 REVENUES

	Amended 2011-2012	2012-2013	% Change
State Aid Estimate	\$9,138,898	\$9,841,166	7.7%
Other Revenues	41,534	45,800	10.27%
Reserves Appropriated	0	30,000	100.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	965,627	727,863	(24.6%)
Tax Levy Estimated	1,746,413	1,746,413	0.0%
TOTAL	\$11,892,472	\$12,391,242	4.2%

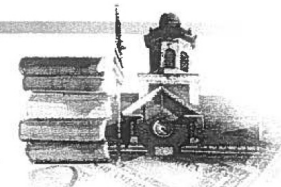
2012-2013 Budget Summary

	Amended 2011-2012	2012-2013	%Change
ADMINISTRATIVE			
Board of Education	\$20,483	\$13,121	(35.94%)
Central Administration	\$151,065	\$155,111	2.67%
Finance	\$149,775	\$149,886	.07%
Legal Staff	\$19,139	\$21,066	10.07%
Central Services	\$90,194	\$66,161	(26.65%)
Special Items	\$372,048	\$291,227	(21.72%)
Instructional Administrative	\$194,951	\$188,819	(3.15%)
Research & Planning	\$0	\$0	0.00%
In-Service Education	\$850	\$6,000	605.88%
Administrative Benefits	\$260,622	\$325,252	24.80%
Subtotal	\$1,259,127	\$1,216,643	(3.37%)
PROGRAM			
Teaching Regular School	\$2,446,541	\$2,700,359	10.37%
Special Education	\$1,223,848	\$1,221,870	(0.16%)
Occupational Education	\$625,963	\$533,088	(14.84%)
Special Schools	\$45,376	\$41,126	(9.37%)
Instructional Media	\$112,433	\$105,041	(6.57%)
Computer Instruction	\$215,118	\$204,593	(4.89%)
Pupil Services	\$152,297	\$170,247	11.79%
Health Services	\$151,819	\$160,923	6.00%
Co-Curricular Activities	\$140,915	\$142,564	1.17%
Pupil Transportation	\$792,806	\$802,754	1.25%
Bus Garage Bldg.	\$23,300	\$22,800	(2.15%)
Community Service	0	\$3,000	100.00%
Program Benefits	\$2,438,367	\$2,721,018	11.59%
Subtotal	\$8,368,783	\$8,829,383	5.50%
CAPITAL			
Central Services-Operations	\$713,531	\$690,012	(3.30%)
Central Services-Maintenance	\$116,678	\$158,799	36.10%
Central Services-Benefits	\$203,359	\$255,405	25.59%
Debt Service	\$46,900	\$1,185,000	2426.65%
Interfund Transfers	\$1,184,094	\$56,000	(95.27%)
Subtotal	\$2,264,562	\$2,345,216	3.56%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$11,892,472	\$12,391,242	

**DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY FOR 2012-2013
FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES**

Total Amount Authorized	\$12,391,242
Total Revenues Other Than Real Property Taxes	\$9,916,966
Amount of Fund Balance Used for Levy of Tax	\$727,863
Total Real Property Tax Levy to be raised for School Taxes	\$1,746,413

New rules for budget votes raise the stakes for schools



WHAT IS A TAX LEVY?

The tax levy is the total amount of taxes a school district raises to help fund its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rates for each municipality within a school district. Tax rates are also impacted by changes in town assessments and state equalization rates.

With New York's new tax levy cap law in effect, the rules for contingent budgets have changed. No longer is there a spending cap on contingent budgets. Instead, there is now a **0 percent cap on the tax levy increase**. In other words, a district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less—without any adjustments for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not.

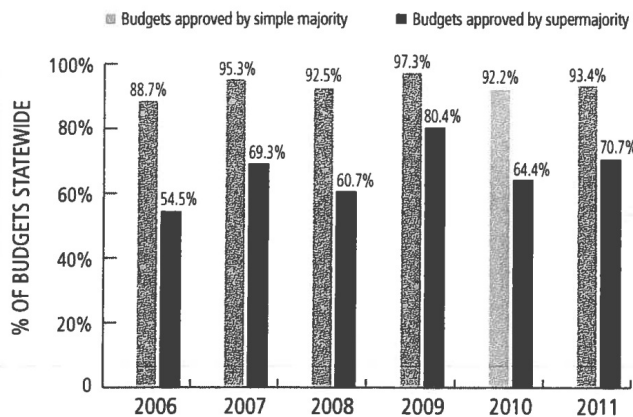
Other aspects of the contingent budget rules have stayed the same. If voters defeat their school district budget on May 15, a district has two options: resubmit the same proposal or a revised one for a revote on June 19; or adopt a contingent budget. If residents vote down a resubmitted budget, the district **MUST** adopt a contingent budget.

Adopting a contingent budget prohibits a district from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district), new equipment purchases, non-essential maintenance, capital expenditures (except in emergencies), salary increases for non-instructional, nonunionized employees, and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget. These requirements existed prior to the tax levy cap and remain in effect.

No longer is there a spending cap on contingent budgets. Instead, there is now a 0 percent cap on the tax levy increase. In other words, a district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in the current year or less—without any adjustments for state pension rate increases, contractual obligations or any other costs, mandated or not.

BUDGET APPROVALS, BY THE NUMBERS

Statewide since 2006, voters have approved an average of 93 percent of school budgets on the annual school budget vote day in May of each year. As illustrated in the chart below, in each of those years, the percentage of budgets approved by a supermajority of voters (60% or more) was significantly lower.



Proposal above “tax levy limit” requires supermajority approval

The state's tax levy cap places new restrictions on how school districts may increase their tax levies. It requires each district to calculate its own “tax levy limit,” which determines the maximum allowable tax levy (including permissible exclusions) that a school district can propose for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (more than 50 percent) is required.

A district may, however, present voters with a budget proposal that carries a tax levy which exceeds its tax levy limit (including exclusions). In such a case, budget passage requires approval by a supermajority of voters (60 percent or more). If a district fails to obtain a supermajority for a proposal that exceeds the tax levy limit, the same rules for a budget defeat, described above, apply.

Zero percent increase in contingency is the real “cap”

While districts still have a chance at a revote if a proposed budget fails on the first try, the new “zero percent cap” on contingent budget tax levies raises the stakes for school leaders as they work to craft budget proposals that their communities will support.

And with politicians and the media often erroneously referring to the new law as a “2 percent tax cap,” the reality is that any proposed school tax levy increase will likely be compared to this perceived levy limit, adding to the pressures schools face to keep tax increases in check despite escalating costs, stagnant state aid and rising expectations to build and sustain world-class schools.

This publication was developed cooperatively by the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service and Questar III's State Aid Planning and Communication Services. For more information on New York's property tax levy cap, visit www.capitalregionboces.org/taxlevycap and www.questar.org/taxcap. Published April 2012.



Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Mary Jo Rulffes

Seeking Seat: Two-year Unexpired Seat of Malissa Hale

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education: To be a voice for the children in our district. I would like to see our school become a district of pride and community support and to encourage better relations between the Board of Education, Administration and the Community.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations: I am an avid pet lover and volunteer time and financial support whenever possible to any pet organization. I support the American Cancer Society and have volunteered whenever needed at school functions, most recently including Master of Ceremonies at the Edwards Knox 2012 Cheerleading competition.

Work / Education History: I attended K-12 at Parishville Hopkinton Central School, and I am a graduate of SUNY Canton. I am a Certified Professional Medical Coder and currently work full time as an Office Manager at North Coast Therapy.

Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Robert (Robin) Tresidder

Seeking Seat: Two-year Unexpired Seat of Malissa Hale

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:

I believe I have knowledge and expertise in areas that would be helpful to the BOE Members and the Administrators. I have lived in the Russell School District my entire life. I have nieces and nephews who go to school here. I want to help in any way possible.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations:

USW (United Steel Workers) member for over 30 years. I am currently President of Local 4979 and have been off and on for the past 20 years.

Work / Education History:

1. Cook @ St. Lawrence University snack bar
2. Operated my own home business and ran TTT Trucking for a number of years.
3. Worked @ Mercers delivering milk
4. Went to work at Gouverneur Talc in 1981 and have held almost every bid position there. I am still employed there as of today.

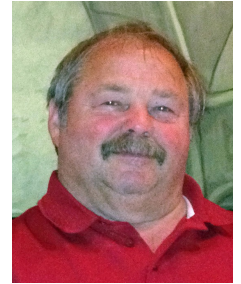
Graduated from Knox Memorial Central School in 1975.

Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Reginald LaPoint

Seeking Seat: Two-year Unexpired Seat of Malissa Hale

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:



My sole purpose, as it has always been, for seeking a seat on the Board of Education is to assure that our graduates receive the education needed to achieve their future endeavors. I'm not only a strong supporter of academics, but also our extracurricular activities at school. I believe that my past experience as a board of education member will serve the school well in many areas, including budget preparation.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations:

Board of Education - Knox Memorial: 12 years

Board of Education - Edwards-Knox: 14 years

Russell Town Board Member: 8 years

Honorary Russell Fire Department Member (Secretary 4 years)

Canton Club Member

Work / Education History:

Attended Knox Memorial Central School: 1956-1969

Attended Brockport State University: 1969-1973 B.S. Physical Educ.

Attended Potsdam State University: 1973-1974 B.A. Jr. High Science

Substitute Teacher at Knox Memorial: 1973-1975

Jr. High Science Teacher at Edwards Central School: 1975-1978

Substitute Teacher E-KCS: 5 years

U.S. Postal Service - Rural Letter Carrier: 1994-Present

Dairy Farmer: 1974-2003

Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Matthew F. VanBrocklin

Seeking Seat: Five-year expired seat of Rick Brewer

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:

My reasons for running for the Edwards-Knox Board of Education are many and varied, but the simplest answer is that I believe that we all owe something to the community with which we belong. Public service is a very important aspect of community and without it there can be little expectation of our community to be at its best. I would add that if one is not satisfied with how things are, then it is best to do something about it rather than simply complain. To be involved means educating oneself, rolling up ones sleeves, and getting dirty with what needs doing. It is easy to complain but real change and truly making a difference requires being a part of the solution. Lastly, I was fortunate enough to have the privilege of a decent education along with all the benefits that go along with a public school; friends, sports, countless activities, music and learning a little about the larger world... I hope for no less for our communities' children and my grandchildren. An alumnus of Knox Memorial, I have journeyed out into that larger world after graduating. I was a soldier for a time, and then I began the long journey of continuing my education that culminated in my successful pursuit of gaining a Master's Degree. After living on the West Coast for a time I found my way back to my childhood home in the North Country. I believe and hope that my life experiences, education, and understanding of that greater world can be of value to the Board of Education and our community.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations:

Member of the fraternal order of Free Masons; Member of the Bingo Hunting Club; Member of the Herman Sledders

Work / Education History:

1984 – 1988: enlisted in the United States Army and honorably discharged.

1988 – 1992: enrolled in SUNY at Potsdam earning BA degree in Geology.

1993 – 1996: enrolled in The University of Akron earning a MS degree in Geology.

1988 – 1996: worked various skilled and unskilled labor jobs to help pay for my education.

1996 – 1997: worked as a farm laborer; as a geologist alongside members of the USGS; as a framer in Portland, Oregon; as a driller's assistant in the greater Portland area; and as a geologist for AGRA Earth and Environmental in Portland, Oregon.

1997 – Present: I have worked in the Geology Department at St. Lawrence University; have also worked several summers as an Environmental Inspector. Currently I work summers on the small horse farm Shirley and I share training horses.

Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Rick Brewer

Seeking Seat: Five-year expired seat of Rick Brewer

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:

I have been a Board of Education member at Edwards-Knox Central School for the past six years. I would like to continue in my position as a Board of Education member. I feel that Edwards-Knox Central School is one of the finest schools in the North Country. We offer many programs that even larger schools in our area do not offer. Both of my children attended Edwards-Knox and received a quality education. They also had a broad range of extracurricular opportunities. As a BOE member I will continue to strive to maintain the highest quality of education for our students. The Board of Education is a devoted body of volunteers working together for our students, faculty, administration and community. I am very proud to be a part of this body. My past experience on the BOE has made me a qualified candidate for this seat.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations:

For the past 14 years I have been a member of the Pierrepont Town Planning Board. I am now the Chairman of the Board, and have been for the past two years. As members of the Planning Board, we are responsible for making important decisions that affect the entire community, as are the members of the Board of Education.

Work / Education History:

My family has lived in the district all of our lives. I own and operate Brewer's Maple Leaf Farm. I was a dairy farmer for many years. I now raise beef cows and run a large maple syrup business.

I graduated from Knox Memorial Central School and attended Canton College majoring in Animal Science. I have been driving school bus at Canton Central School for the past 28 years. In 2005 I also began working for Kuno Oil Company as a fuel truck delivery driver. Three years ago I moved to the position of General Manager of the company.

REMINDER:

**Tuesday, May 8, 2012: Informational Budget Hearing
7:00 P.M. School Cafeteria**

**Tuesday, May 15, 2012: Budget Vote, including
Bus Proposition, Van Proposition & Board Member Elections
12:00 Noon - 8:00 P.M.
School Auditorium**

**Edwards-Knox Central School
P.O. Box 630
Russell New York 13684**

**Non-Profit Organization
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TO: BOXHOLDER