

**Ms. Suzanne L. Kelly**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(315)562-8130  
Fax: (315)562-2477

**EDWARDS-KNOX CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
P.O. BOX 630  
RUSSELL, NEW YORK 13684-0630

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

**Mrs. Amy Sykes**  
Jr.-Sr. H.S. Intern Principal  
(315)562-8131  
Fax: (315)562-8139

BUS GARAGE: (315) 562-8133  
SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC: (315) 562-8135 Fax: 562-8136  
NURSE'S OFFICE FAX: 562-8138  
[www.ekcsk12.org](http://www.ekcsk12.org)

**Mrs. Amy Lamitie**  
Interim Elementary Principal  
(315)562-8132  
Fax: (315)562-8134

April 30, 2013

Dear Residents:

The Annual Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at 6:30 P.M. in the downstairs cafeteria. This is an informational evening to present the 2013-2014 budget to be placed before the voters. At this time Becki Phillips and I will answer questions related to the proposed budget and bus purchases.

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](http://www.ekcsk12.org).

In order to stay in line with our bus maintenance plan, we are requesting the purchase of three busses. The district will be trading in four busses. All of these busses are used as spares and are driven for sports runs and currently have over 100,000 miles on them. Two of the busses, 87 and 88 are in need of major repairs which have been put off in hopes of trade. Both have severe deterioration on the body. Bus 88 has been pulled to avoid red-tagging by a DOT inspector.

The actual budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 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, 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



Rebecca Phillips  
Asst. Business Manager, SLL BOCES CBO

## **CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS**

### **Amanda Fuller Seat (5-year expired seat):**

Thomas Whitmarsh

Amanda Fuller

Julie Bullock

### **Thomas O'Brien Seat (5-year expired):**

Thomas O'Brien

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

**May 14, 2013**  
**6:30 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 2013-2014 budget & ballots/propositions.
6. Adjournment to 12:00 noon - May 21, 2013
7. May 21, 2013: 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>2012-2013</u>		<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>Difference</u>
TAX LEVY	\$1,746,413	4.0%	\$1,816,269	\$69,856
TAX RATE PER \$1,000 ASSESSED VALUE*	\$10.384 \$12.980	Edwards Russell	\$10.800 \$13.499	\$0.42 \$0.52
EST. TAXES FOR \$50,000** PROPERTY (WITHOUT STAR REDUCTION)	\$519.21 \$649.01	Edwards Russell	\$539.98 \$674.97	\$20.77 \$25.96
EST. SAVINGS FOR STAR EXEMPTION (\$30,000)	\$(311.52) \$(389.41)	Edwards Russell	\$(323.99) \$(404.98)	\$(12.46) \$(15.58)
EST. TAXES FOR \$50,000 PROPERTY (WITH REGULAR STAR REDUCTION: ASSESSED VALUE - \$30,000)	\$207.68 \$259.60	Edwards Russell	\$215.99 \$269.99	\$8.31 \$10.38
EST. TAXES FOR \$50,000 PROPERTY (FOR INCOME ELIGIBLE SENIORS: ASSESSED VALUE - \$50,000)	\$0.00 \$0.00	Edwards Russell	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00

\* ASSESSED VALUES WERE CHANGED IN 2012-13. ASSUMES NO CHANGE IN TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE FOR 2013-2014

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

EXEMPTION

Basic	\$24,000	\$30,000
Enhanced	\$50,640	\$63,300

2013-2014 REVENUES

	Amended 2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change
State Aid Estimate	\$9,415,288	\$9,812,024	4.21%
Other Revenues	110,847	48,726	(56.04)%
Reserves Appropriated	30,000	30,000	0.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated	687,824	584,849	(14.97)%
Tax Levy Estimated	1,746,413	1,816,269	4.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,990,372</b>	<b>\$12,291,868</b>	<b>2.51%</b>

**2013-2014 Budget Summary**

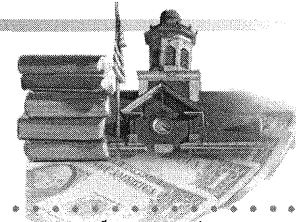
	Amended 2012-2013	2013-2014	%Change
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>			
Board of Education	\$11,764	\$12,090	2.77%
Central Administration	\$155,283	\$156,071	0.51%
Finance	\$137,188	\$131,657	(4.03%)
Legal Staff	\$16,670	\$19,200	15.18%
Central Services	\$77,500	\$89,168	15.06%
Special Items	\$284,311	\$290,042	2.02%
Instructional Administrative	\$176,791	\$192,694	9.00%
Research & Planning	\$0	\$0	0.00%
In-Service Education	\$215	\$5,850	2620.93%
Administrative Benefits	\$307,922	\$352,277	14.40%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,167,644</b>	<b>\$1,249,049</b>	<b>6.97%</b>
<b>PROGRAM</b>			
Teaching Regular School	\$2,529,390	\$2,494,882	(1.36%)
Special Education	\$1,147,692	\$1,253,656	9.23%
Occupational Education	\$523,414	\$492,030	(6.00%)
Special Schools	\$30,911	\$32,386	4.77%
Instructional Media	\$111,190	\$113,461	2.04%
Computer Instruction	\$207,286	\$191,092	(7.81%)
Pupil Services	\$151,724	\$176,739	16.49%
Health Services	\$165,406	\$164,270	(0.69%)
Co-Curricular Activities	\$127,668	\$139,596	9.34%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,085,599	\$820,960	(24.38%)
Bus Garage Bldg.	\$20,164	\$26,475	31.30%
Community Service	\$3000	\$4,000	33.33%
Program Benefits	\$2,576,039	\$2,923,816	13.50%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,679,483</b>	<b>\$8,833,363</b>	<b>1.77%</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>			
Central Services-Operations	\$602,290	\$708,180	17.58%
Central Services-Maintenance	\$113,526	\$125,552	10.59%
Central Services-Benefits	\$266,429	\$281,424	5.63%
Debt Service	\$1,105,000	\$1,038,290	(6.04%)
Interfund Transfers	\$56,000	\$56,000	0.00%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,143,245</b>	<b>\$2,209,446</b>	<b>3.09%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$11,990,372</b>	<b>\$12,291,858</b>	

**DETERMINATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY FOR 2013-2014  
FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES**

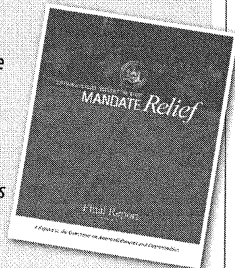
<b>Total Amount Authorized</b>	<b>\$ 12,291,858</b>
<b>Total Revenues Other Than Real Property Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 9,860,750</b>
<b>Amount of Fund Balance Used for Levy of Tax</b>	<b>\$ 614,849</b>
<b>Total Real Property Tax Levy to be raised for School Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 1,816,269</b>

# The rules that govern our schools and school budgets

## Mandates & mandate relief



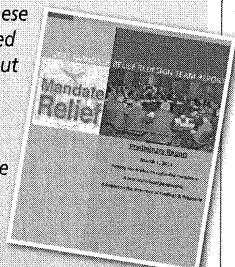
*"The State relies on its municipalities and school districts to deliver vital services to its residents and often prescribes exactly how these services should be provided. This limits flexibility and increases costs. While local governments have been consistently vocal about this issue, their voice has traditionally fallen on deaf ears in Albany.... I congratulate the Legislature on their engagement and on the progress made to date, and I encourage them to continue in this effort. Our local taxpayers are calling for real reform, and the steps outlined in this report will save an additional \$245 million."*



– 2011 Mandate Relief Redesign Team  
Final Report to the Governor on Accomplishments and Opportunities  
December 2011

Visit the governor's mandate relief website at <http://governor.ny.gov/mandaterelief>

*"For far too long, the relationship between the State and local governments has been a one-way street where mandates are handed down from Albany without care for the impact on local governments or their taxpayers. These mandates, delivered by the State without flexibility or full funding, are a major reason why New York has some of the highest property taxes in America."*



– 2011 Mandate Relief Redesign Team  
Preliminary Report to the Governor  
March 1, 2011

New York's schools provide vital services to students and families throughout the state. Residents rely on this, and often the state prescribes how these services should or can be provided. This affects what personnel school districts have (from administrative to clerical), what programs are offered and how districts spend taxpayer money.

**These rules, regulations and laws are also called mandates.**

For more than 30 years, school and state leaders have discussed, researched and reported on how to reduce mandates on school districts and subsequently reduce taxes.

In December 2008, Thomas Suozzi, Chairman of the Commission on Property Tax Relief, wrote in his report to then-Governor David Paterson, *"These surely are difficult times. We must provide New Yorkers with property tax relief and we must improve educational quality. To succeed in both efforts, we must give schools the flexibility to redirect existing resources toward educational quality. Mandate reform is essential to that effort."*

Almost every state report that has been released on the topic of mandate relief for schools has outlined a series of recommendations on how to

### Mandate relief?

For 2013-14, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has proposed a series of measures aimed at mandate relief based on the initial findings of the most recent Mandate Relief Council. These proposals include special education waivers, changes to certain reporting requirements, and a stable rate pension option. As of March, many details were still unknown about these proposals. The governor and Legislature have enacted a new pension tier, which is slated to save districts millions in pension contributions in the long term (these savings will not be realized for many years). However, there are many other mandate relief ideas that business, education and local government organizations have called for in recent years. These include:

- Reform the Triborough Amendment, which keeps many aspects of expired union contracts in place—including some pay increases—during collective bargaining.
- Reduce the burden of excessive mandates by providing full state funding for all new mandates and an annual accounting of the cost of mandates to schools and localities.
- Exempt schools from the state's Wicks Law, which requires multiple contractors on most construction projects, to provide savings on the cost of long-term capital improvements for school districts and the state.
- Reduce New York's special education mandates, which far exceed federal requirements and drive up costs by as much as \$1.3 billion annually without necessarily demonstrating a corresponding improvement in students' educational outcomes.
- Establish minimum health insurance contribution levels for employees and retirees.
- Reform regulations to facilitate greater efficiencies and regional cooperation among schools and municipalities, including through BOCES.

*Mandates require greater accountability and a certain quality of education from our schools. However, they also limit flexibility and increase the cost of operating a school in New York state. When discussing a school district's budget, it's important to understand what costs drive that budget and the many rules that govern the budgeting process.*

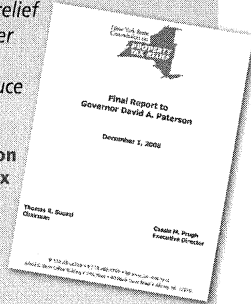
achieve such relief. Each report builds on those before it; however, very few of the proposals have actually been enacted.

In fact, almost every year, the Legislature, governor, Board of Regents or the federal government enact NEW mandates that districts are required to follow.

**More often than not, these new regulations come underfunded or unfunded—meaning that districts must cut existing programs or pass on the cost to local taxpayers.**

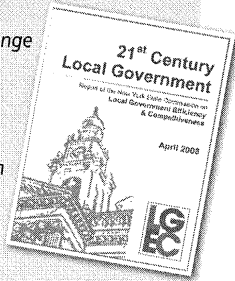
*"Our school districts also need to reduce spending, but to do so the State must enact the historically difficult to achieve changes in state laws and mandates. The Commission respectfully requests that you now join your property tax cap effort with a mandate relief effort to empower school districts statewide to reduce costs."*

– **NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief**  
Final Report to the Governor  
Dec. 1, 2008



*"State government creates the rules under which local governments and schools operate – rules which can stand in the way of efficient and effective operations...Our suggestions for change are presented with a mix of optimism and concern, because past local government reform commissions have issued reports that were not implemented."*

– **NYS Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness**  
21st Century Local Government Report  
April 2008



*"In many localities, officials feel that their units of government are treated as poor relatives in the distribution of resources by the higher levels of government...local governments feel themselves weighed down by costly and at times oppressive State legislative mandates for new functions, programs and employee benefits."*

– **NYS Temporary State Commission on the Powers of Local Government**  
March 31, 1973

## School district mandates come in many forms

While mandates increase accountability and in many cases improve educational quality, they can also limit flexibility and affect how districts spend money. Mandates not only focus on the education, health and safety of students, but they also encompass a wide range of other aspects of daily school operations.

### Here are some examples:

- Annual Professional Performance Reviews for teachers and principals, including the creation of a district APPR plan outlining formal review procedures, criteria for and methods of assessment and how the district will provide training for reviewers. These new requirements, which are tied to the federal Race To The Top program, are complex and costly to implement.
- Common Core Standards adoption, implementation and realignment of existing curriculum.
- Special education mandates, including Individualized Education Plans, specialized instruction by appropriately certified professionals and related service providers, CSE chairperson, 504 plans, and more.
- Provision of special education services by public schools to students with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private and/or charter schools.
- Internal and external audit requirements and reporting, and required separation of business office duties.
- Transportation of students with disabilities to their programs (up to 50 miles); of private school and charter school students (up to 15 miles); and of homeless students to current or prior district (parental choice).
- Fingerprinting of potential employees, consultants and contractors who will be in school buildings.
- Sex offender notifications, pursuant to "Megan's Law."
- Mandatory paid employee time off for breast and prostate cancer screening and blood donations.
- Purchase of costly graphing calculators for students, required for intermediate-level and high school math and science assessments.
- Maintenance of a health record (including dental health) for every student.
- Required collection and reporting (to state Dept. of Health) of students' Body Mass Indexes, including screening for eating disorders.
- Availability of and staff training on using Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in school facilities.
- Numerous plans and reports including: Incarcerated student plans, early grade size district plans, attendance plans & reports, 5-year capital facilities plans, building condition surveys, special education space requirements plan, pesticide notification requirements, school-based shared decision-making plan, instructional computer technology plans, individual home instruction plans, district and school safety plans, codes of conduct, etc.

*These examples offer only a sampling of all of the mandates placed on New York school districts. The State Education Department has compiled a more extensive (though still incomplete) list of "mandates that represent the greatest challenges to districts in terms of financial burden and required time/human capital." View the list at [www.p12.nysed.gov/fmis/mandaterelief](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/fmis/mandaterelief).*

## Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Thomas Whitmarsh

Seeking Seat: Five-year Expired Seat of Amanda Fuller

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:

Even though my four children graduated from Edwards-Knox a while ago I have not lost interest in the wellbeing of our school district. Previously I had spent 13 years on the BOE and found it to be quite challenging and very rewarding and hopefully that experience can be put to use.

Now that the construction project has been passed by the voters maybe my 36 years in the construction business dealing with Architects, Construction Managers and Contractors will also be helpful to the district.

We are at the mercy of the Governor and the Legislators in Albany when it comes to the bulk of the funding needed for our School District and therefore our Administrators need to be hands on in the budget process. Although our latest budget crisis didn't appear until after I had decided to run, the BOE will probably be required to make some unpopular decisions because of that crisis, and I hope to be a part of a BOE that will minimalize the local difficulty as much as possible.

Work / Education History:

I worked on local farms until after high school and then in college I did some restaurant work and some carpentry work. I got a low number in the military draft lottery and received a letter from Uncle Sam inviting me to come and work in the Army at which time I choose to join the US Air Force and spent the next four years with them. After that I came home and worked at Gouverneur Talc and then a short time with a local bank. Currently I am in my 36<sup>th</sup> year with Gouverneur Roofing with the title of Corporation Treasurer. Most of my work involves Estimating and Project Manager.

After I graduated from Knox Memorial I went on to Canton SUNY and received a degree in Accounting.



## Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Amanda Fuller

Seeking Seat: Five-year Expired Seat of Amanda Fuller

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:

I would like to continue to work with facility, staff, and fellow board members to maintain and improve the educational opportunities for the students at Edwards-Knox Central School. As our State and Federal funds continue to be reduced and knowing that tax payers in the district can not be expected to make up these large reductions the Board of Education must seek out new and innovative ways to provide our students with the education they will need to be successful as they enter higher education or the work force. It will take many hours and much research but I feel my experiences on the board have helped to prepare me for the difficult tasks ahead.

Current Board of Education committees:

Policy review, Health Clinic, Cafeteria, Shared Decision Making, Labor-Management, Negotiation Agreement Team for Service Employees Association.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations:

Edwards-Knox Booster Club, Edwards-Knox Parents Association, E-K 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser, Six years as Parent Representative to the St. Lawrence-Lewis School Library System Council, Town of Edwards representative to the Village of Edwards Dissolution Study Committee.

Work / Education History:

Graduate of Edwards Central School, Received Practical Nursing License from the State of New York through BOCES LPN Program.

Worked part time as LPN, Privileged to be a homemaker to my husband and two children and a home healthcare provider for a family member for eight years. Currently Chairperson of the Edwards Board of Assessment Review.

## Board of Education Candidate Profile

Name: Julie Bullock

Seeking Seat: Five-year Expired Seat of Amanda Fuller

Purpose for wanting to be on the Board of Education:



I'd like to be on the Board of Education to be a voice for the community and the children. I'd like to do my part to make sure our school has a better future and the children have all they need and deserve for the best education possible.

Volunteer or Organization Affiliations:

My husband and I co-coached Pee Wee baseball for the Russell Pee Wee Association.

In the last six years I have worked Health Fairs in schools all through out St. Lawrence County.

I have worked the Breast Cancer walk in Gouverneur for the last three years and the Heart Walk in Canton last summer.

At these events I drew blood for people for free health screenings. The health screenings included cholesterol levels, glucose levels, and prostate levels. Also provided were colon cancer screening kits.

Work / Education History:

I am a 1990 Edwards-Knox Central School Graduate.

I am currently employed at E.J. Noble hospital as a Lab Assistant/ Phlebotomist.

I love my job and my co workers. I set up a home draw program, with the help of the hospital. My sole purpose for creating this program was to help those who meet the criteria for blood work to be done in the convenience of their own home. It is very rewarding.

# **REMINDER:**

**Tuesday, May 14, 2013: Informational Budget Hearing  
6:30 P.M. School Cafeteria**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2013: Budget Vote, including  
Bus Proposition & Board Member Elections  
12:00 Noon - 8:00 P.M.  
School Auditorium**

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

**Non-Profit Organization  
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**TO: BOXHOLDER**