

# B TODAY

May 2018

## 2018-2019

**The Binghamton City School District maintains and enhances programs with a balanced school budget**

Voters will be going to the polls on May 15th to vote on the proposed adopted \$117,123,644 budget for the 2018-2019 school year. The budget represents an increase of \$1,263,986 (1.09%) from the 2017-2018 school year. If approved by the voters, it would result in a tax levy decrease of 1.48 percent which means collecting \$620,259 less taxes than last year. Voters will also be voting on one seat on the Board of Education.

“The proposed budget puts students’ needs first and is responsible to voters and the community at large,” said Dr. Tonia Thompson, Superintendent. After several years of strategic management, our unassigned fund balance has been built up to a healthy 3.80 percent, well within what is suggested by the New York State Comptroller’s Office. The budget uses \$339,449 in appropriated reserves to offset the impact on the taxpayer. Changes have been made to the administrative, instructional and capital components of the budget. These changes maintain and enhance programs based on district priorities, input from the Board of Education and the community,

## Budget Edition



and recommendations from school and district leaders. The majority of revenue is coming from State Aid (58.9%).

The governor’s budget also included a new legislative requirement for school districts to report to both the office of budget and the community expenditures per pupil by school building. This is planned to take effect next year.

Proposed enhancements and changes to the district budget have been and will continue to be based on student and community needs by building.

### The Bottom Line

<b>Total budget</b>	<b>\$117,123,644</b>
<b>Budget increase</b>	<b>1.09 %</b>
<b>Total tax levy</b>	<b>\$41,357,729</b>
<b>State levy limit</b>	<b>-1.48%</b>
<b>Tax levy increase</b>	<b>-1.48%</b>

## School Board Election & Budget Vote

**May 15, 2018 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

**EDUCATE**

**EMPOWER**

**CHALLENGE**

# 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

The laws pertaining to budget votes require that budgets presented to residents be divided into three sections: Administrative, Program and Capital components. Although presented in three components for information purposes, the vote cast will be on the total budget.

Three-Part Budget				
	2017-2018	2018-2019	Difference	% of Total
Administrative Component	\$13,064,595	12,992,943	(\$71,652)	11.10%
Program Component	\$85,571,809	\$88,250,948	\$2,679,140	75.35%
Capital Component	\$17,223,255	\$15,879,753	(\$1,343,502)	13.56%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$115,859,659</b>	<b>\$117,123,644</b>	<b>\$1,263,986</b>	

**Administrative** - This component contains the fiscal resources intended to provide the necessary support for district functions. This category includes all expenses for the Board of Education, superintendent, business office, auditor, tax collection, fiscal agent, legal services, personnel office, records management, public information, central printing and mailing, property and casualty insurance, BOCES administrative share, and supervision of instruction.



Administrative Component			
Name of Account	2017-2018	2018-2019	Difference
Board of Education	\$27,526	\$28,350	\$824
Central Administration	\$457,322	\$269,419	(\$187,903)
Finance	\$444,203	\$429,783	(\$14,420)
Legal Services	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$0
Personnel	\$433,886	\$411,604	(\$22,282)
Public Information	\$239,133	\$293,035	\$53,902
Other Central & Financial Services	\$2,082,998	\$2,164,910	\$81,912
Other Special Items	\$1,347,966	\$1,380,807	\$32,841
Curriculum Development & Supervision	\$1,422,978	\$1,468,757	\$45,779
Supervision - Regular School	\$3,148,001	\$3,134,982	(\$13,019)
Research, Evaluation & Planning	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$1,000
Employee Benefits	\$3,271,582	\$3,221,296	(\$50,286)
<b>Total Administrative Budget</b>	<b>\$13,064,595</b>	<b>\$12,992,943</b>	<b>(\$71,652)</b>

**Program** - This component contains fiscal resources intended to provide every student with educational experiences and opportunities to foster the full development of his or her potential. This budget category includes all instructional personnel and programs: regular school, special education, library, media, instructional technology, guidance, student health services, school psychologists, music, co-curricula activities, athletics, in-district and out-of-district pupil transportation, and staff development.



<b>Program Component</b>			
<b>Name of Account</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Instruction	\$57,803,924	\$59,863,520	\$2,059,597
Other District Transportation	\$108,788	\$97,653	(\$11,135)
Contract Transportation	\$3,515,150	\$3,571,473	\$56,323
Employee Benefits	\$24,143,947	\$24,718,302	\$574,355
<b>Total Program Budget</b>	<b>\$85,571,809</b>	<b>\$88,250,948</b>	<b>\$2,679,140</b>

**Capital** - This component contains the fiscal resources intended to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and the community. This budget category includes all personnel, equipment, supplies and materials for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments of principal and interest on short- and long-term obligations are included in this category. It also includes \$250,000 to support a small capital project for the completion of a full-service school-based health clinic at East Middle School as well as \$100,000 to support a small capital project at Roosevelt Elementary School to help secure a school vestibule.



<b>Capital Component</b>			
<b>Name of Account</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Operation of Plant	\$4,995,557	\$4,949,692	(\$45,865)
Maintenance of Plant	\$1,999,002	\$1,921,878	(\$77,124)
Special Items	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$1,785,646	\$1,778,517	(\$7,129)
Interfund Transfer to Capital Fund	\$100,000	\$350,000	\$250,000
Debt Service	\$8,313,050	\$6,849,666	(\$1,463,384)
<b>Total Capital Budget</b>	<b>\$17,223,255</b>	<b>\$15,879,753</b>	<b>(\$1,343,502)</b>

# BCSD Budget

## Frequent Questions & Answers

**Q** What am I voting on?

**A** Residents are voting on a proposed \$117,123,644 budget for the 2018-2019 school year. The budget represents an increase of 1.09% from the 2017-2018 school year. If adopted there would be a tax levy decrease of 1.48%. Residents are also voting to fill one seat on the Binghamton City School District Board of Education.

**Q** Will Binghamton residents once again receive a rebate check as part of the state's "tax freeze" program?

**A** A new school tax rebate program began during the 2015-2016 school year. Under the program, all homeowners who qualify for the state's School Tax Relief program (and enhanced STAR) would receive a rebate check on or before Oct. 15, 2018. The school district's tax levy must be at or below its maximum allowable levy for residents to be eligible for the rebate. If the school district exceeds its cap, homeowners would forfeit their rebate.

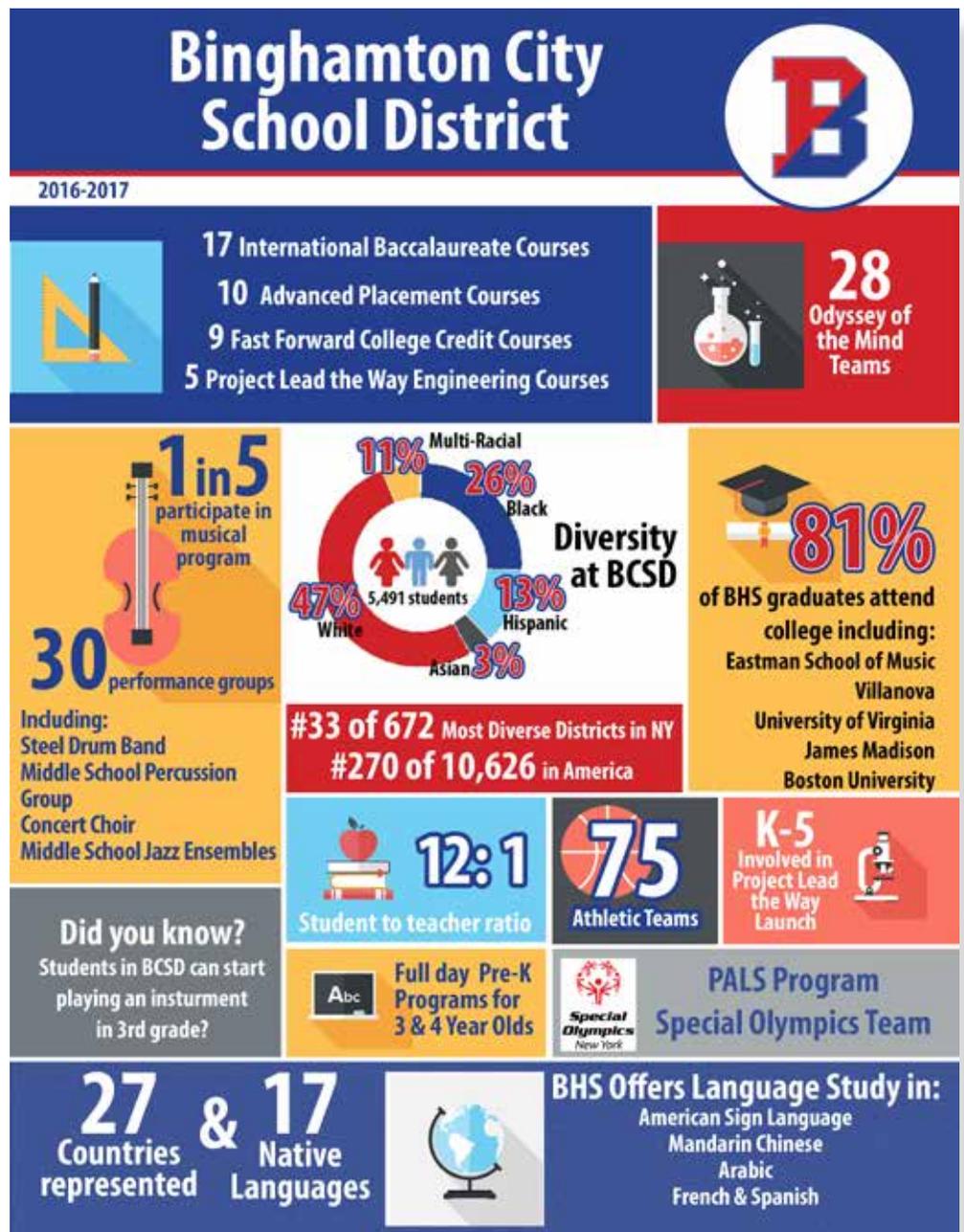
**Q** What programs are mandated by the state?

**A** The overwhelming majority of the district's budget goes toward meeting state and federal mandates, and requirements – everything from areas of study to building facilities to transportation regulations. Elementary school mandates, among other things, include instruction in math, science, technology, English language arts, social studies, health, physical education and the arts. In addition to these areas, the middle school students are required to have a certain amount of units of study (ie... required minutes of instruction per week). At the high school, the academic mandates differ depending on which graduation pathway a student is pursuing.

**Q** Why does the school budget always seem to go up more than the rate of inflation?

**A** The rate of inflation is not a fair measure for schools since the Consumer Price Index is based on the rising costs of food, clothing, cars, and housing – not on the rising costs associated with school budgets such as health insurance, liability insurance and pension fund contributions.

**Binghamton will be putting forth a budget to voters this May that stays within its tax levy limit, so eligible district homeowners should receive a rebate check as part of the rebate program. Rebate amounts are expected to vary based on homeowners' incomes.**



## Proposed Enhancements to the Administrative Budget

The administrative component of the budget includes support to move part-time assistant principal positions at both MacArthur Elementary and West Middle School to full-time positions.

## Proposed Enhancements to the Instructional Budget

The instructional component of the budget is where the majority of personnel costs are found. To meet enrollment needs at the high school and offer additional opportunities, a social studies, business and literacy teacher are needed. We are also in need of expanding the offering of dance at the middle school level through a .5 position. Due to the successful pilot of two Transitional Kindergarten Classrooms last year (one on the east-side and one on the south-side of Binghamton), the district plans to offer one additional classroom on the west-side. To provide equitable support for the social-emotional needs of our students, two social worker positions are being proposed, along with expansion for supporting the use of restorative practices through a .5 coordinator position. The district will also be increasing the services provided through community partners, to include the Hillside Work Group, Promise Zone and the Department of Social Services. Support for professional learning will be enriched for teachers in grades 4 through 8 as their students receive one-to-one technology devices. And, in our continued commitment to provide safe and secure campuses, an additional safety officer and dedicated attendance clerk at Binghamton High School are included in the budget.

## Proposed Enhancements to the Capital Budget

The capital component of the budget includes an allocation to improve conditions of buildings and grounds, and to complete a capital feasibility study. To continue to update our instructional spaces, funds are being allocated to support the district's furniture replacement plan. It also includes \$250,000 to support a small capital project for the completion of a full-service school-based health clinic at East Middle School as well as \$100,000 to support a small capital project at Roosevelt Elementary Schools to help secure a school building vestibule.

## Recommended Staffing Additions 2018-2019

*FTE = full time employee*

- Social Worker – 2 FTEs (MacArthur/Roosevelt and PreK)
- Collaborative Coach – 1 FTE Middle School (to increase support for Restorative Practices and Technology)
- Assistant Principal – 1 FTE (split between Roosevelt and Opportunities for Success)
- Work-based Coordinator – 1 FTE HS (Business)
- Attendance Clerk – 1 FTE HS
- Safety Officer – 1 FTE HS
- Restorative Practice Coordinator - .5 FTE
- Dance Teacher - .5 FTE MS
- Transitional Kindergarten – 1 FTE Mann

## Recommended Contract Services Additions 2018-19

- Hillside Services – provides mentoring at BHS
- Promise Zone – Community School Coordinator at BHS
- 1 Family Liaison (DSS Caseworker)
- Implementation of Feasibility Study



# School Board Candidates

From the candidates: edited for format only.

## Charles Lauth



I am incredibly proud and excited to be running for the Binghamton Board of Education. Our schools offer so much - from academics to

the arts - and it is my sincere desire to work with the rest of the members of the board to support our students and teachers and help give them the tools needed for success. It is with that thought in mind that I ask for your consideration at the polls on May 15th.

Prior to becoming a Binghamton resident, I was born and raised in New York City (the Bronx and Queens specifically) and graduated from Queens College with a major in English and a minor in Secondary Education. I started my teaching career at Sheepshead Bay High School in Brooklyn. While there I was asked to consider becoming part of the Foreign Language Department and teach English as a Second Language classes. Out of 2,000 students enrolled, over 500 of them were English Language Learners. I quickly realized that helping these culturally and linguistically diverse students was what I wanted to do. Within a few years, I was the teacher-coordinator of the ESL program.

In the year 2000, my wife and I made the wonderful decision to move to Binghamton to be closer to family. Since that time, I have been teaching in the English as a New Language program for the Vestal Central School District. In 2006, I received my Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) from SUNY Cortland. Upon graduating, I was invited to become an adjunct instructor in Cortland's Modern Languages Department.

The Binghamton Schools and teachers have had a great influence on my family. My oldest daughter graduated as valedictorian from Binghamton High School in 2016 and my youngest is about to enter ninth grade. My wife is also a librarian in the district. We are very happy to call Binghamton our hometown and the Binghamton School District has played an integral part in the education and social development of our children.

My twenty plus years in education have taught me that communication is a key ingredient to learning. I believe it is a key ingredient to leading, as well. There are many diverse voices in this district and it is important to pay attention to all of them. Institutions that do not utilize effective forms of communication with stakeholders often have problems. After Binghamton experienced some of these issues a few years ago, I have witnessed needed changes taking place. Students and their families, teachers and administrators, community members and businesses all have a stake in the success of our schools. When we all communicate effectively and work together to support one another, great things can and will happen. Challenges do exist - State funding and budgetary items, unfunded mandates, high stakes testing, graduation rates, and more. But if we work and communicate as a team, these challenges will be addressed with strength, not weakness.

In sum, I look forward to working with my fellow board members, teachers, administrators and community members to keep the best interests of students in mind. I hope that you will consider voting for me on May 15th. Thank you. ■

## Dara Silberstein



My name is Dara Silberstein and I humbly ask you to vote for me for Binghamton School Board on May 15th.

I first came to Binghamton as an

undergraduate at Binghamton University and decided to return to this community after graduating from law school in 1985. I worked at Legal Services for nearly nine years, during which I represented students with special needs seeking adequate educational services. In 1995, I received my PhD from Cornell University; I have worked as a professor at Binghamton University since.

My two children, Lael and Mathias, graduated from Binghamton High School and I know, on a first-hand basis, of the truly enriching programs Binghamton schools have to offer. This is a school district with a highly diverse student population, and it is my belief that no other nearby school district is as capable in providing a quality education for all its students. But, we can do better. I want to use my skills and experiences towards supporting that effort. I believe that we must support our students to achieve all that they can and we must support our teachers in their tireless efforts towards helping them get there.

**Voters are voting for ONE candidate.**

# School Board Candidates

From the candidates: edited for format only.

## Silberstein cont'd

Herein lies the problem. We are a community with a dwindling tax base, and an estimated 20% of our students live in households below the poverty line. The difficulties are great and I believe that we must look for those resources already available to use in educating our students. One such resource is Binghamton University and its talented faculty and student body. Strengthening the alliance between the University and our schools will benefit us all. We must also be mindful of the tremendous resources that our families provide; without this support, educating our students would be nearly impossible.

We must also be thoughtful in where we commit our resources. Our students need the kinds of educational experiences gained through both music classes as well as sports programs. They need to engage in STEM programs as well as those in the arts. I believe that it is the responsibility of our school board to prioritize the opportunities these provide.

If I am elected to our school board I promise I will work tirelessly to end the school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately impacts students of color. I will work to strengthen anti-discrimination programs so that no student suffers the blows of social isolation irrespective of their gender identity, sexuality, race or class. Finally, I am running because I believe that it is now more important than ever to support our schools as I understand that quality public education is the foundation of an enduring democracy. ■

## Brian Whalen



For over 17 years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the Board of Education for the Binghamton City School District. My service to the children

and taxpayers of the District remains the cornerstone of my decision to seek another term as a City wide representative to the Board. I take great pride in the numerous accomplishments achieved by our students. I have demonstrated my commitment to the educators, administrators and support staff of the district to ensure the hiring of competent leadership that embraces a culture and philosophy of accountability, excellence and fairness. My passion remains strong for our community and reflects an understanding of the challenges faced by taxpayers, parents and children in an ever changing environment where education remains the most important equalizer available to provide equality, equity and opportunities for success in life. Many of our children's successes are made possible through the educational opportunities afforded our children in the classroom and community through course offerings and extracurricular activities supported by the Binghamton City School District Board of Education.

I believe that the educational opportunities and the successes of our children are only limited by the individual students' initiative. The program offerings are as diverse as the student population. From the International Baccalaureate Program (for highly motivated high school students) to the BOCES technical programs (for students focused on learning a trade), the Binghamton City School District designs and offers a varied curriculum to achieve results with the philosophy that all children can learn.

The performance achieved by our students and the accomplishments of our outstanding administration, faculty and staff during my tenure on the Board have

resulted in national and state recognition with prestigious awards like being designated by New York State as a 21st Century School District. Even with the accolades we have earned, the educational and financial challenges of the 21st century continue to present themselves and provide the motivation for continual process improvement across the district.

As an elected representative to the Board of Education, I understand the critical role I would undertake as a member of the district governance team. Acting in tandem with other board members, district administration, faculty, staff, parents and taxpayers, I would be responsible for providing a vision for the district and setting its direction by defining policy, appropriating funds, and providing the tools to achieve the district vision.

During my 17 year tenure, I have provided six years of leadership as President and three years as Vice President of the Board of Education. During my tenure on the Board I was accountable for the search for two new superintendents of schools and seven significant capital building projects affecting all school district facilities. I pride myself as a voice for the taxpayer by scrutinizing financial outlays, and delivering a fiscally responsible budget to Binghamton City School district residents and taxpayers.

With significant reductions in federal and state funding to education facing all districts across the country, the times ahead will continue to challenge the delivery of a sound public education for all of our children as fiscal concerns and educational standards place additional burdens on the educational system and taxpayers. Our focus should be centered on student achievement, teacher retention and ensuring that funds are appropriated to minimize any negative impact in the classroom where student performance is affected most.

It is with excitement and enthusiasm that I again ask for your support and vote. I look forward to the opportunity to represent you again as your voice on the school board as together we face the challenges and opportunities of the future. ■



**Binghamton City School District**  
 164 Hawley Street, P.O. Box 2126  
 Binghamton, NY 13902-2126

**Board of Education**

Brian Whalen, president  
 Evan McNamara, vice president  
 Joseph Gasior  
 Penelope Harper  
 Korin L. Kirk  
 Liz Rosenberg  
 John Weaver

**Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Tonia Thompson

**Writing-Editing-Layout-Design**

Broome-Tioga BOCES  
 Office of Communications & Development



**District website:** [www.binghamtonschools.org](http://www.binghamtonschools.org)      **Email:** [info@binghamtonschools.org](mailto:info@binghamtonschools.org)

**PTA Candidate Forum**  
**May 7**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Roosevelt Elementary School**  
**9 Ogden St., Binghamton**

**Public Hearing**  
**May 8**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Columbus School, 3rd Floor**  
**164 Hawley St., Binghamton**

**Vote**  
**May 15**  
**11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**  
**See polling locations below**  
**Exit survey will be available**

**School election polling locations**

**Woodrow Wilson Elem. (#1)**  
 287 Prospect Street  
*(East entrance by playground)*  
 General Election Districts 1, 2, 5, 6

**St. Patrick's School (#2)**  
 58 Oak Street  
*(Main lobby)*  
 General Election Districts 18, 21, 22, 23

**St. Thomas Aquinas (#3)**  
 1 Aquinas Street  
*(main entrance)*  
 General Election Districts 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20

**MacArthur Elementary (#4)**  
 1123 Vestal Avenue  
*(enter by gym)*  
 General Election Districts 24, 25, 26, 28, 29

**Theodore Roosevelt Elem. (#5)**  
 9 Ogden Street  
*(Front lobby)*  
 General Election Districts 3, 4, 7, 8, 19

**Good Shepherd Fairview Home (#6)**  
 80 Fairview Avenue  
*(Auditorium)*  
 General Election Districts 9, 10, 11, 12

**Benjamin Franklin Elem. (#7)**  
 262 Conklin Ave.  
*(Gym entrance off The Arena St.)*  
 General Election Districts 27, 30, 31, 32

**Cornell Cooperative Extension\* (#8)**  
 840 Upper Front Street  
*(Use rear entrance)*  
 \* Change in polling place for Sunrise Terrace voters

**Eligibility to vote:**  
 You must be a resident of the Binghamton City School District for at least 30 days preceding the election, at least 18 years of age, and a citizen of the United States. You are eligible to vote if you were registered in the last general election or under permanent personal registration. To obtain permanent personal registration, contact the Broome County Board of Elections, County Office Bldg, Government Plaza, Binghamton, NY 13901, (607) 778-2172.

**To confirm your polling location:**  
 Call 762-8100 ext. 319 or email [browns@binghamtonschools.org](mailto:browns@binghamtonschools.org)  
 On May 15 call 762-8100 ext. 104

**Absentee ballot application:**  
 Any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person on the day of the vote due to illness, physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration, or travel outside of the county/city of residence may apply for an absentee ballot. Applications must be received by the district clerk at least seven days prior to the vote. To apply, call (607-762-8100 x319) or apply in person (164 Hawley St, 3rd Floor, Binghamton, NY) from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The district will automatically mail an absentee ballot to each voter registered as permanently disabled with the BC Board of Elections. ■