



GCS presents 2021-22 rollover budget

Property tax levy growth for school districts will be capped at 1.23%

*By Andrea Macko
Porcupine Soup*

GREENVILLE—On Monday, the Greenville Board of Education held its first business/budget meeting of the year where Business Official Janet Maassmann presented a rollover budget for the 2021-22 school year.

The rollover budget of \$32,984,220 “is used as a starting point for the new budget,” explained Maassmann, “making the assumption that all programming and staffing will stay the same.”

“We look at the budget and increase the items we know increase every year,” she added.

The rollover budget represents an increase in spending of \$731,205, or 2.27 percent, over the current school year. That amount will likely change between now and the May budget vote.

“The other large factors will be our state aid runs for 2021 and the tax cap calculation,” Maassmann said.

Property tax levy growth for school districts will be capped at 1.23 percent, down from 1.81 percent last year, according to data released

Wednesday by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

“School district and municipal officials must remain fiscally cautious to stay under the cap as they prepare their budgets,” DiNapoli said. “The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with a levy growth rate of 1.23 percent and below 2 percent for the second year in a row, means they must examine their budgets more closely to control expenses.”

The tax cap, which first applied to local governments and school districts in 2012, limits annual tax levy increases to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2 percent with certain exceptions, including a provision that allows school districts to override the cap with 60 percent voter approval of their budget.

GCS has never yet exceeded the state tax cap.

Presently, Maassmann noted, GCS is still awaiting \$183,198 in state aid from last year.

“That is money they are withholding that we still have not received,” Maassmann said. “The governor said during one of his speeches that they aren’t withholding any aid, they just haven’t released it yet.”

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Gov. Andrew Cuomo has warned of potential 20% cuts in education and municipal aid due to state spending and debt acquisition during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“At this point school districts do not know what this year or next year will look like for state aid,” said GCS Superintendent of Schools Tammy Sutherland.

“The 20% cut has been discussed for this

year. That potential cut should be offset by federal stimulus funds,” she added.

According to the New York State Educational Conference Board, a 20% state aid reduction equates to about \$5.2 billion.

The next GCS budget workshop is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, February 22.

All meetings are currently held remotely and can be accessed on the district’s website at www.greenville.k12.ny.us.

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