

Transcript of Audio – Board of Education Meeting June 1, 2020

Alright. Alright this is Susan Petrosillo. I would like to call to order the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing. I will ask I think Tim Decker if you could do a roll call of our board members. Yup. Sharon Archer? I see Sharon. Renee? I see Renee. I'm here. Wendy? I don't see Wendy. Wendy Rhodes? No Wendy at this point. I'll look out for her. Juanita Rivera-Ortiz? I don't see Juanita at this point. Susan Petrocillo I see. I'm here. Ken, Ken Souser? Good afternoon Tim. Present. I'm present. And Christine Woodcock Dettor. I don't see Christine. I just. I see Juanita now. I got Juanita. So we're missing Wendy. I'm missing Wendy and Christine at this point I think. Can you guys hear me ok this time? Yes Juanita I can hear you. Yes, yes good Juanita. Yup. Okay, thank you. And did I, I didn't hear Renee. Is Renee out there? I'm here. Oh great, awesome, there you are. Hi Renee.

Alright so let's get this meeting going. Welcome everybody to our virtual first ever virtual Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing. I would like to welcome all of the public and then of course we have some candidates tonight that'll be sharing their bios for the election. I'm going to turn it over to our chairperson, Mrs. Linda Schellinger. I think I did see Linda out there so Linda take it away

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Okay I will read the notice, notice of public hearing annual meeting budget code and election. Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, Town of DeWitt, County of Onondaga, New York. Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to the governor of the State of New York, Executive Order 202.26 hereinafter Executive Order, a public hearing of the qualified voters of

the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, Town of DeWitt, County of Onondaga, New York will be held remotely on June 1st at 7 p.m. prevailing time for the transaction of business as authorized by the Education Law including the following items: 1) to present to the voters a detailed statement proposed budget the amount of money which will be required for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. To discuss, 2) to discuss all the items hereinafter set forth to be voted upon by absentee ballot pursuant to Executive Order 202.26 for the budget vote, an election to be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. 3) To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to Education Law of the State of New York and (INAUDIBLE) thereto. A copy of the proposed budget shall be made available upon request to residents of the school district beginning May 26, 2020 on the district's website at www.jamesvilledewitt.org. While Education Law Section 17.16.2 requires the budget also be made available at school district offices, any public library, free association library, within the district and the polling place this year, that will not be possible due to the Executive Order and the prevalence of the Covid-19 virus and potential for spread through personal interaction. And further notice is hereby given that pursuant to Executive Order 202.26, the budget vote and election of Board of Education members of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, Town of DeWitt, County of Onondaga, New York will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Executive Order directs that the budget vote and election be conducted by an absentee ballot process in lieu of in person voting. Therefore, there will be no voting at the polls for this year's annual budget vote and election due to the prevalence of the Covid-19 virus and the potential for spread through personal interaction. The district will mail absentee ballots with a postage paid return envelope for qualified voters. In order to be counted, absentee ballots must be received in the office of the clerk by 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

Thus, every qualified voter shall vote by absentee ballot on the following items: 1) to adopt the annual budget of the school district for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and to authorize the requisite for portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the district to approve the following propositions: Proposition #1 – school bus replacement. Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District be authorized and directed to purchase one diesel bus with cameras at an approximate cost of \$96,074, three gasoline buses with cameras at an approximate cost of \$110,000 each, and one microbus with cameras at an approximate cost of \$64,766, not to exceed \$490,840 such sums to be raised by a levy of the tax on the taxable property of the district to be collected in annual installments in years and amounts as the Board of Education shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law and in anticipation of such tax, issue obligations of the district. Proposition #2 – purchase of district dump truck snowplow. Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District be authorized and directed to purchase one dump truck snowplow with an approximate cost of \$244,000 not to exceed \$244,000 such sum to be raised by levy of the tax on that to be raised by a levy of the tax on the taxable property of the district to be collected in annual installments of years and amounts as the Board of Education shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law and in anticipation of such tax, issue obligations of the district. 3 – To elect three Board of Education members where three vacancies from the board will be, Board of Education are to be filled by a vote to be held on June 9, 2020, the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District by absentee vote. Three 3-year terms. The terms of the following incumbents expire on June 30, 2020: Susan Petrocillo, Kenneth Souser, and Christine Woodcock Dettor. And further notice is hereby given that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the school district's budget for the 2021,

2020 and 2021 may be obtained by any residents in the district beginning on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 on the district's website. Due to the governor's closure orders, the Executive Order, and the risk of transmission of Covid-19, the statement will not be available at school district offices, public libraries, or the polling place. Pursuant to Chapter 258 of the laws of 2008 Section 495, was added to the real property tax law and requires the school district to attach to its proposed budget an exemption report. Said exemption report will also become part of the final budget, will show how much of the total assessed value of the final assessment will be used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, list every type of exemption granted by statutory authority, and show the cumulative impact of each type of exemption. The cumulative amount expected to be received as payments in lieu of taxes, (INAUDIBLE) and the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted. In addition, said exemption report shall be posted on any bulletin board maintained by the district for public notices and on any website maintained by the district. And further notice is hereby given that pursuant to Executive Order 202.26, petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with and received by the district clerk at PO Box 606 DeWitt, NY 13214 not later than Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5 p.m. prevailing time. The petition may be filed by emailing it to the district clerk and/or delivering the petition and placing it in a secure lockbox that will be available at the Office of the District Clerk at 6845 Edinger Drive. The box will be outside the district office doors. Follow the signs to the district office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays. The petition must be received by the district clerk no later than Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5 p.m. Each petition shall be directed to the clerk of the school district and shall state the name and residence of the candidate. Vacancies of the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices. Candidates run at large. As per Executive Order 202.26, there is no minimum number

of signatures required on the petition for the June 9, 2020 budget vote and election. And further notice is hereby given that military voters who are qualified voters of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District may request an application for a military ballot from the district clerk by mail to the district clerk or by email to Tim Decker or fax him to 315-445-8477. In such request, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application by mail, fax, or email. The military voter must return the original military ballot application by mail to the Office of the District Clerk at PO Box 606 DeWitt, NY. In order for a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the ballot, the military ballot application must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 14, 2020. Military ballot applications received in accordance with the foregoing will be processed in the same manner as a non-military ballot application under section 2018B of the Education Law. The application for a military ballot may include the military voter's preference for receipt of the military ballot by mail, fax, or email. And further notice is hereby given the military voter's original military ballot must be returned by mail to the Office of the District Clerk at PO Box 606. Military ballots shall be canvassed if they are received by the district clerk before 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020 showing a cancellation mark of the United States Postal Service or a foreign country's postal service or shown a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the United States government or received not later than 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020 and signed and dated by the military voter and one witness thereto with the date which is ascertained to be not later than the day before the election. And further notice is hereby given that only qualified voters of the school district shall be entitled to vote at such annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who 1) is a citizen of the United States of America, 2) 18 years of age or older, and 3) a resident within the school district for a period of thirty days preceding the annual vote and election. And further notice is hereby given that

pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 2035 of the Education Law, any referenda or propositions to change the number of Board of Election members or a bond issued for capital expenditures or any other petition required by law to be stated in the Notice of Annual Meeting and Election must be filed with the district clerk at 6845 Edinger Drive not later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on Friday, April 10, 2020. Any other petition except those petitions required by law to be stated in the Notice of Annual Meeting and Election must be filed with the district clerk at PO Box 606 no later than 5 p.m. prevailing time on Monday, May 11, 2020. All such petitions must be typed or printed in the English language, must be directed to the clerk of the school district, must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the district, and must legibly state the name of each signer. However, the school board will not entertain any petition placed before the voters any proposition the purpose of which is not within the powers of the voters to determine, which is unlawful, or any proposition which fails to include a specific appropriation. Timothy Decker, District Clerk, May 11, 2020, Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, Town of DeWitt, County of Onondaga, New York.

Thank you Linda. You're welcome. Alright, very good. The next item on our hearing agenda is the review of the school budget and the proposition to be voted on with Dr. Peter Smith.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

First of all, thank you Linda. I appreciate the effort and I'm going to work to share my screen with the community. Okay I hope that all of you see the budget slideshow. The

Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in significant disruption to our schools, to our jobs, to our ability to be with each other and to our community as a whole. Despite these overwhelming challenges, the Jamesville-Dewitt community has pulled together to support each other, to look out for each other, and to care for our most vulnerable. And it is through this lens that we approach the 2021 school budget. The pandemic has upended the process for our annual budget vote which will now take place by absentee ballot and call for acute consideration of the allocation of funding. As a district, we've worked diligently to (INAUDIBLE) a budget that fulfills the needs and expectations of our residents while accounting for the unique challenges presented by the pandemic.

This year's budget development process aimed to accomplish goals that will enhance education and opportunity for all students. These goals included professional learning for all staff, (INAUDIBLE) review, program evaluation, increased communication between school and home, and additional administrative support for these endeavors. We believe that these goals will work to strengthen the experience and the outcomes for all of our students. With those goals in mind, I'll go through the different segments of the budget that have been presented previously. In our budget development process, we take a careful approach to each segment of the budget and present them throughout the Spring. This is the summary of the budget development, all of the segments of the budget.

To begin, the first segment of the budget is our debt service. This is payment of principal and interest on capital projects that have already been approved by the voters. As you can see on the screen, there are a number of different projects that we still have outstanding principal and interest payments for. For 2021 the principal and interest payments are as follows. Included in here is a capital outlay project. The budget approval process allows us to each year approve a

\$100,000 capital outlay project. This year the 19-20 the capital outlay project is the replacement of the front door and the installation of an accessibility mechanism at the front door of the high school and we will continue with similar projects in 2021. The debt service budget to budget reflects a very slight decrease in the overall number, a decrease of approximately \$60,000, which reflects a 1.76 percent decrease in the debt service budget to budget from 19-20 to 2021.

The next segment of the budget is transportation. The transportation budget has a slight increase associated with that. Approximately \$45,000. The summary of change factors that are involved with the transportation budget include the addition of a bus run. Primarily this is in the Jamesville area attendance due to overcrowding or crowding on a couple of the buses so we've budgeted an additional bus run for that. We have some vehicle insurance increases that have increased this budget as well as set aside some resources to complete building repairs in the bus garage. And then one of the most significant pieces of the transportation budget is the fuel for our buses and that item has remained the same.

This year the Board of Education asked the transportation department to take a look at an option of purchasing alternative fuel alternative fuel school buses. The transportation department looked at propane buses, electric buses. Current information for the community. The school district currently uses diesel and gasoline fueled school buses and there are some statistics here that show that we currently have 47 buses. We transport just short of 3,000 students per day. Our average miles per gallon is nine miles per gallon and the life expectancy of a school bus is approximately ten to twelve, ten to twelve years. Most importantly, for the transportation department, when looking at the purchase of new buses, predictability and reliability are critical for the success of student transportation.

After looking at propane and electric, transportation analyzed information that they received and had some concerns over switching to propane, and then safety concerns primarily mainly associated with the idea of storing propane on school proximity on school property in proximity to school buildings in a residential neighborhood. And then concerns about electric buses revolved around first of all the cost of replacement buses but then also the range associated with batteries and electric fuel or electric buses. After analyzing all of the information, the administration recommend, recommended that we continue to purchase this year diesel and gasoline buses but maintain an open mind and actually consider and look to, look to purchase electric or hybrid fuel maintenance vehicles that don't travel as far on a or don't need to travel as far between battery recharges and we will continue to look at technology the fuel cell technology as it relates to electric buses to see if that's a possibility. So in the short-term we are going to continue with the diesel and gas buses that we are purchasing but definitely want to look at electric maintenance vehicles in the very near future as that becomes necessary and then buses as the electric battery lives allow for longer bus runs between recharging.

So this year as Linda mentioned, one of the propositions on the ballot is to include the purchase of, set aside \$490,000 for the purchase of one diesel bus, three gasoline buses and one microbus with air conditioning that we use for summer school runs. That will save us money that we typically have to use to rent other buses. The operations and maintenance budget reflects a very small increase and primarily the small, those increases are due to purchases of custodial equipment, increased costs of gas and electricity, but we did enjoy a decrease in the cost of BOCES telephone services, but we do have an increase in BOCES printing and increase in BOCES data processing. One of the things that we are excited about is in the current capital project which is still in design, is that there is an energy performance contract which long-term

should save the district gas and electricity usage so we're looking for some ongoing savings in this, in this area of the budget.

There is one more piece of the budget or of the ballot and that is asking the community to support the purchase of a district dump truck/snowplow that is used by the maintenance department. Cost of this is \$244,000. This replaces our current snowplow and this is, you know, for the community just so there is clarity, this is not a snowplow that is on the front of a pickup truck. This is the, a major snowplow that you would see going down the streets, used by the towns and other municipalities. This is the snowplow that we use to plow all of our building parking lots every day that we have a snow, snowfall. So this is a significant and very important piece of equipment for the school district.

Employee benefits is a significant part of the budget and you can see that there is a slight increase in employee benefits by \$275,000 and again the change factors associated with the increase in benefits for next year is though we have a slight decrease in payments in the employee and teacher's retirement system and a decrease in the amount of Social Security and Worker's Comp, we do have, like all organizations, we have an increase in our costs of our health insurance and also an increase in the costs of our dental insurance. We've been working with our different employee sectors to try to reduce the costs of health insurance through ongoing negotiations with different units. We've made some headway there and we continue to work to decrease in the long-term costs of health insurance for the district.

The Central Office budget has a slight increase and this is primarily to an increase in the Board of Education's budget for professional learning, as well as some costs associated for BOCES state aid planning that addresses requirements mandated by the Every Student Succeeds Acts, the new federal law that governs public schools in the country. There are some slight

increases in BOCES support lines, some increases in costs for commercial umbrella and other (INAUDIBLE) policies. We are grateful to our colleagues at OCM BOCES for their excellent budgeting this year and they were able to decrease the district's responsibilities for the BOCES administrative costs and also the decrease in BOCES capital costs. And that was one of the factors that allowed the Central Office budget to remain relatively flat.

The athletics budget a slight increase here and this is primarily due to the addition of coaches for unified sports. Unified sports is an opportunity for our students with disabilities and our general education students to come together in a cooperative, competitive athletic environment and our addition or our participation in unified sports in that area in the county requires two coaches will be participating in the basketball unified sport. The only other sport that's available for participation is bowling. Jamesville-DeWitt does not have a bowling team and so we felt that it was most appropriate for Jamesville-DeWitt to, to participate in the basketball portion of unified sports. This was actually one of the significant disappointments associated with the pandemic is there were a lot of students and a lot of adults who were very excited for the spring season to roll around and the new unified sports opportunity, and the pandemic obviously did not allow for that participation so that was a huge bummer for the students and the staff. Also associated with the increase in the athletic budget is cost of officials related to a recently signed contract with (INAUDIBLE). This year our training services, we are in the final year of a three year contract and so we budgeted a slight increase there expecting that to come true. Then we also added some increases in fees for state section conference and league dues but then also increases in fees for our athletes to participate in various meets and tournaments.

Instructional budget. The most significant portion of the budget is a two percent increase and the most significant change here is related to the addition of an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Equity as well as increased finances to support professional learning. We have a contract with the Metro Center for Innovation and Equity to help the district in their efforts to do further diversity, equity, and inclusion in the district and also in their curriculum work. We have set aside funds to support the K-6 Language Arts Program as well as an increase in, a slight increase in personnel to support a special education model of instruction. And then we are experiencing some increased costs associated with BOCES special education programs. And then we have recently pursued a, another technology lease with the BOCES which will allow the district to purchase and replace obsolete instructional technology.

With that, we had to make some difficult decisions in the instructional budget and due to decreased enrollments, some statistics of which is coming up, we've been able to, we've needed to reduce our high school staff slightly (INAUDIBLE). Due to decreased enrollment, we have reduced the middle school instrumental support instructor. We've reduced the number of elementary sections, but still trying to maintain our goal of approximately 23 students per section in the elementary. And then last meeting we had a spirited discussion about the elimination of the Chinese program and the Chinese program has experienced a significant decrease in student enrollment over the past few years. And so we feel that it is not fiscally responsible to continue to employ a full-time teacher for a very small number of students who engage with this program. At the last meeting I announced that we had been prepared and were committed to providing the opportunity for all high school students who were still enrolled in the, or who were enrolled in the Mandarin Chinese to allow them to continue and finish out their studies. After listening to the community and discussing with the Board of Education and the administrative staff, we feel

that we should extend the opportunity to allow our next year's eighth grade students to continue in Chinese as long as they would like to continue that through high school, primarily because those students have already had two years of the language and by taking a third year in eighth grade they'll be able to complete a high school, they will be able to gain high school credit with the passing of the Checkpoint A exam at the end of eighth grade . For me there is no doubt that if we had switched those students into take French or Spanish they would have been successful, but allowing these students to continue through eighth grade allowing them to earn their high school credit in a language they have already taken two credits in seemed like the right thing to do. We had ten students who selected sixth grade, who selected Chinese for their sixth grade entry program, but we will ask them to choose French or Spanish. And then we had seven students who had taken Chinese as sixth graders currently so they will be seventh graders next year so we will ask those seven students to enroll in either French or Spanish which will allow them two years to work towards their fulfillment of a high school credit at the end of eighth grade. So a slight change in the presentation from May 11th, and so though we are phasing out the program, we are reducing the Chinese sections that will allow students in eighth grade and then high school to continue their work in Chinese.

A summary of the expense plan, you can see that the total budget changes from 57.7 million to 58.64 million dollars. This is all the numbers that you just saw in the previous segments of the budget and when you summarize all this you see that the budget to budget increase is a 1.61 percent increase. And questions have come up you know you see over the past couple years a slight decrease in enrollment approximately one and a half to two percent decrease in enrollment each year, so why is there an increase in the budget and this is due to fixed costs associated with benefits, requirements from the state and the federal government all

continue to drive costs forward as well as the expansion of the mission of public schools where we're not just doing reading, writing, and arithmetic now we are providing social emotional supports, security, and other aspects associated with public education that drive costs up. But we feel that this year we've developed a very fiscally responsible budget to budget increase of only 1.61 percent.

On the revenue side of the budget, we primarily have three sources of revenue: state aid, the tax levy, and then we use designated reserves to offset the revenue. Looking at the state aid summary of the past couple years, you'll see starting in 2018-19 a slight decrease each year in our state aid. It's important to note that as I'm sure all of you are aware, that the fiscal climate in New York State and across the country is somewhat tenuous at this time and the governor has announced that though we have been allocated 14 million dollars for our state aid, there is the possibility that we will not receive all of that state aid. And the governor has allowed himself the opportunity to withhold portions of state aid throughout the year. And so this made budgeting exceptionally difficult because it's one thing it's very challenging obviously within a tough fiscal climate to identify a budget, but then not knowing exactly how much money you're going to have from the state makes it doubly difficult and so the Finance Committee and the administration worked together to come up with a three-tiered plan that allows us to accommodate decreases in state aid.

And so the first part of that plan is by trying to do very fiscally responsible budgeting and making sure our expense plan was, again, very sound, and as small as possible. Plan B comes in where as most of you know, through the closure, there has been some savings associated with operating the school over the past couple months. We believe that we can set aside approximately \$350,000 in savings to our reserve funds that can be then used to offset additional

decreases in state aid. It's likely that we probably won't know the total amount of decreases in state aid until the beginning of 2021. And so that we have \$350,000 in reserves or we will put about, I'm sorry, approximately \$350,000 in reserves to offset the possibility that the governor may withhold that amount of money. And then the third part of that process is we have calculated that we can save approximately \$250,000 if we, if we, put a spending freeze on at the beginning of 2021. Again, around January 1, 2021, we're going to know the total amount of state aid that the governor may or may not withhold and so by looking at the \$350,000 in savings, and then an additional \$250,000 if we need to freeze spending, that allows us to absorb an approximate seven percent withholding of state aid that the governor may utilize to offset loss of revenues from the federal government and also as a result of the pandemic and the economic crisis. We feel that this three-tier approach to watching out for state aid protects the district from any sort of midyear cuts which our colleagues in the Rochester area suffered through this year. It was very dramatic, a lot of news around that and that's really what we're trying to make sure that we don't have to do any sort of midyear cuts next year and so we hope that this process (INAUDIBLE) will be able to prevent that possibility.

(INAUDIBLE) Local tax levy. This is the amount of money that we can ask the taxpayers to support in the budget. This year, increases from 40.8 million to 42.2 million. This is a 3.39 percent tax increase and you can see it is also associated with this slide you see the percent increase over the past couple of years. The tax levy is the amount we can ask the district residents to support but that translates into a tax rate. And you can see that last year for example we, the tax levy increase was 3.66 percent. The tax rate that taxpayers felt actually turned out to be 1.42 percent. A lot of people have asked us you know, what is the associated tax rate and the percent increase on the tax rate associated with a 3.39 percent increase in the levy and that's not

something that we can or we have the ability to tell you. Those tax rates are set in August. And so we do a little bit of presumption or guessing based on history and we can see that going backwards over the past couple years you see that a certain percentage increase in a levy typically results in a less percent increase in the tax rate.

The tax levy calculation is a very complex process. This is the tax levy calculation that's associated with a two percent tax gap and what districts do is they use the prior year tax levy which for us was 40.8 million dollars then we are given a tax-based growth factor. This year was 1.0042 and that results in an adjusted tax levy of 41 million dollars. Then you, districts add in any (INAUDIBLE) agreements and subtract out tax levy exclusions (INAUDIBLE) and you end up with another adjusted prior year tax levy and that is 39.4 million dollars. And then there is a multiplier this is the two percent, the two percent tax gap says that the allowable growth factor is the lesser of the consumer pricing (INAUDIBLE) or two percent and this year that's 1.81 percent. So the district takes the adjusted prior tax year levy, multiplies it by the allowable growth factor and that gives you the amount of money that you can increase the tax levy. And so we end up with a tax levy limit of 40.1 million dollars. That's not the end of this story because then there are capital exclusions for the coming year and that for this district is two million dollars and so therefore you end up at the end of this formula with a maximal allowable tax levy increase of 42.2 million dollars which is a 3.39 percent increase. That's how you get to the local tax levy calculation.

Again, I just had a conversation about local tax rate history. This slide shows you the tax rate history over the past ten years. Again, you can see very important to the taxpayers, you know what is my increase each year? And you can see that the five year average is .55 percent

and the ten year average is 1.48 percent. And again we can't tell you what the tax rate associated with the levy increase is for 2021 because that's not set until August.

The final piece of the most significant, the next significant piece of the budget on the revenue side is the designated reserves to offset the levy. This year the district reduced its reserves used to offset the levy from 1.3 million last year to \$915,000 this year. Again, with the economic and situation the way it is in the country and in the area, we felt that it was fiscally responsible to make sure that we did not use a significant amount of reserves to offset the levy (INAUDIBLE). So in total, the 2020 budget plan, again the expenses are \$58,640,975. This represents a 1.61 percent budget to budget increase. You can see that the tax levy represents 42.2 million dollars of that, state aid 14 million, the reserves \$915,000 and then we get other revenues from a number of other smaller areas including chargebacks to other districts for special education service, chargebacks to other districts for nursing services, and those account for approximately 1.4 million dollars of the revenue. And again, as Linda mentions, on the ballot, the voters see the budget proposition as well as the school bus replacement asking the community to support \$490,000 to purchase school buses. Again, just a reminder that this, this proposition allows us to borrow money to pay for the buses. This is not part of the general budgeting fund. This allows the district to borrow money in the total or not to exceed \$490,000 for the purchase of new buses and then the proposition number two is asking the community to support the district's request to borrow money to purchase to use \$244,000 to purchase a new snowplow.

Before I leave the budget presentation, the Finance Committee has done a tremendous amount of work this year. Christine Woodcock Dettor, Susan Petrocillo, Wendy Rhodes are on the Board of Education Finance Committee. Tim Decker is the Business Administrator. All

have worked exceptionally hard and I would offer Wendy Rhodes the chair of the Budget Finance Committee, the Finance Committee, the Board of Education to offer any other additional words or comments. Wendy?

Thanks Peter. I don't have anything to add, really. I think you have done a great job explaining this. I would just highlight that this is a very significant time of financial uncertainty at the state level and like many of the surrounding districts we chose to be as prudent as possible to preserve programming for students while maintaining financial responsibility for the district and keeping costs as low as possible for the taxpayers. So I know this is a challenging year for the Finance Committee and I hope that our community can see the work that was put into this budget and the reasons why we made the choices that we did.

Thank you. That is the end of the school budget and proposition to be voted on and so I turn it back to Linda for the introduction of candidates for the Board of Education.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

Okay. It appears that there are seven people running for the three, three year terms. I will introduce each name and if that person is present if they would take a few minutes to speak on their behalf. The first candidate is Kerry Coleman-Herrick.

Thank you Mrs. Schellinger. You're welcome. Hi. I'm Kerry. Jamesville-DeWitt became my home in 1985. I'm a JD alum, class of 2001. I earned my Bachelor's Degree from Niagara University in childhood and middle childhood education. I went on to earn my Masters of Science in education from LeMoyne College specializing in students with disabilities. I am a Cornell certified trainer in therapeutic crisis intervention for schools and a YMCA of the USA certified trainer in the developmental assets of character development. Jamesville-Dewitt's

mission to create the lifelong learner has manifested itself in me. I'm passionate about education. It is my profession. As an alumna, educator, and mother, I am dedicated to serving our students. Listening to our teachers and parents, and working on collaborative and innovative solutions so that all students within our district can reach their full potential. I understand the scope and dedication that this position requires. As a community member, I have regularly attended board meetings over the past year and a half. I have listened carefully, shared in the joy and accomplishments of the district and questioned thoughtfully. As a member of the Board of Education, I would continue to do so and use my position at the table to amplify the voices of our constituents - our students, teachers, staff, and families. It takes bravery and an understanding of the task at hand to ask the hard questions. I am a uniquely positioned candidate due to my profession. I am required to be familiar with the education regulations and to understand the best research and evidence-based practices in education. I can ask the right questions of the Superintendent to secure the things that our teachers will need. I know how hard the teaching landscape is these days. The shift to learning, or to distance learning was a monumental task. As the school gets clarification from the state's task force on reopening, I will (INAUDIBLE) the needs and safety of our teachers and students so that our teachers can do the job effectively in our new landscapes. This position also requires ingenuity to think of creative solutions. We can already anticipate reduced state aid, as Dr. Smith said. We will need to support and changes necessary for a school model that is responsible to the task force guidelines all while ensuring that our school has the resources it needs to implement our strategic plan. During these uncertain times, we need brave innovators at the table to look at the challenges we face as a district head on and come up with solutions. Our school board is required by law to be accountable to our constituents and our state. We need transparent communication. We have the unique

responsibility to drive the district's vision and strategic plan forward while also maintaining our fiduciary responsibility. Due to the local nature of education in New York State, it is the board who ultimately is responsible for the school district. This type of work requires bold and responsible innovators. I am that innovator. Finally, in our current climate, we need board members who understand the complexity of the social challenges we're experiencing. I am one of the few candidates that has a track record for fighting for equity in our district. It has taken many forms, from conversations with our PTG to private emails to administrators to public comment at board meetings. I have already undergone extensive training of culturally responsive education from NYU's Metro Center. I am a member of my employer's equity team, a school leader on trauma informed practice, and a member of our autism task force. Our children deserve leaders who will stand up for them and their interests regardless of the political or social fallout because our children are our most important investment in life. Our children deserve leaders who will see the big picture, censure the voices of historically marginalized, and fight for a district that is truly stronger together. I have stood and will continue to stand up for what is right and just for our students, our teachers, and the future of our school. Now is the time to make your voice heard. Will you stand with me? Thank you.

Thank you Kerry. Linda, before you go forward, I am going to stop sharing my screen and Carrie, I apologize I did not do this ahead of time. I didn't want to interrupt you once you got going so let me do that and that way people can see the candidates. Very good. Alright, thank you Carrie.

The next candidate is Michael Gilbert. Is he with us? Hello. Good evening everybody. My name is Michael Gilbert. My family has lived in the Jamesville-DeWitt district for about fifteen years plus my daughters have gone through since Kindergarten. My oldest is a graduate

from last year and is a freshman in college. I have a sophomore finishing out the current school year. Professionally, I've worked the last thirty plus years working with children's families in a variety of settings including over twenty years as a school psychology in the Syracuse City School District. I also operate a small non-profit in the Syracuse community as well. I have extensive experience around issues such as social emotional learning, mental health, restorative practices, mindfulness, child development. So I'm running for the school board this year after a lot of a lot of thought it is certainly an interesting time to decide to get involved with the, all the uncertainty but, education has certainly become a passion for me and I think even though Jamesville-DeWitt has high standards and has high expectations (INAUDIBLE), I think there's always room for improvement and for change and I certainly think I can bring that passion to the current school board. I think it's important to be straightforward, to be transparent, to be responsive to the families and the students in the JD district and to bring forward the experience that I have so I'm going to end there and keep it short but I appreciate everybody's consideration and stay safe and hope to see everybody in person soon. Thank you Michael.

Next candidate is Joseph Gross. Hi everyone. Hi my name's my name's Joseph Gross. I am on the ballot as George Gross because I go by my middle name so just a clarification for everybody. I want to thank everybody who has logged on tonight to listen to the information presented on the board that we're all, the budget that we're all about to vote on as well as the candidates for the school board. I am the father of three daughters who are in sort of in different stages of going through the Jamesville school district. I moved here with my wife in 2001 and have been really proud of the district and all of the opportunities that it's provided for, for my children and for everyone in the community. It's been interesting the past couple of years I've had three kids in three different schools and so I feel like I've gotten to know a lot of different

parts of our community, you know looking at the elementary, the middle and the high school level. You know and getting to know each one of the schools its own kind of culture and patterns has been a great experience as a parent and to see what kinds of things that each kid can get involved in to excel with. When I thought about this year and yes I've been dealing professionally with the Covid-19 pandemic. I've worked for a local not-for-profit serving people with disabilities, be it physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, and mental health issues. We've gone through lots of changes at our agency over the past couple of months. Trying to care for vulnerable people in a time when you know underlying health conditions really are kind of a scary thing to have right now. What I think I can bring to the school board is really that, that kind of healthcare background as well as the background I have in policies. In my roles as associate director, I have to deal with budgets and the changing winds of New York State's funding from year to year. I've had to make some difficult decisions over the course of my career, looking at the finances of different that while we thought that they were very necessary, sometimes didn't necessarily fit in, fit in that financial picture. And I approach those kinds of decisions with care, with caution, with data, and with compassion. I've listened to the people around me, I've listened to the experts, I've asked questions, and ultimately try to build consensus around those decisions. I'm asking for your supports because I think I have lots to offer the school board and this district, and especially in ways that I can start to repay some of the debt that I feel for how much opportunity it's given myself, my family, and my children. So I thank everybody and vote, don't forget to vote. Thank you Joe.

The next candidate is Michelle Kielbasinski. (INAUDIBLE) Okay so I'm Michelle Kielbasinski. My husband and I have been residents of Jamesville-DeWitt for 21 years and we have five children so we have experiences at all of the buildings. Our oldest daughter is going

into her second year of law school at SU, and we have one in the high school, one in the middle school, and twins at Jamesville Elementary. So I've had a lot of experience at all of the different building levels and then participating within those buildings, volunteering for all twenty years my kids I have been in the district. I think that a couple of things make me uniquely qualified for the board that maybe sets me apart a little bit from the people that I'm running with, again, is that I've already served on the board so I have that experience under my belt. When I served on the board the very first time, I wasn't sure what I had to offer the board that it was, that my skillset was going to be a huge advantage to the district. What I do for a living is that I consult with small businesses and negotiate their contracts with vendors to get prices down and reduce overhead which is obviously something the district is facing now. I have an ability to think outside of the box which I think is really going to come in handy when we're dealing with the upcoming financial crises that are going to be facing school districts. When I served on the board the first time what I realized that the best attribute that I had that was a research for our district is that I am incredibly empathetic. I think one of the things I've realized I'm most proud of in running again for the board is the diversity of the people who support me. I'm super proud of the relationship I have with our teachers. I've received so many calls and texts and emails from teachers showing their appreciation for things I've done and the way that I've served them in my time on the board and just as a parent as well as parents and even students reaching out to me, and I think that having somebody on the board that is accessible to all constituency groups is really important. When I think back on my time serving on the board previously, one of the most pivotal moments for me was we had a parent who came into the board meeting and shared an experience that was difficult to for them and when we began to talk about it I said, this was a situation that I'd heard about from teachers as well, and some of the feedback was that they had,

even if they had served on the board for a long time this is not something that they heard before, which really stood out to me because I think having representatives on your school board that are accessible that you can feel comfortable going to them regardless of what constituency group you come from is vitally important. I think other than the financial crisis that our school is probably going to be facing I think one of the biggest issues that our school faces currently is I think that there's a really, pretty sizable fracture in communication. I find that sometimes there just seems to be a break in communication between administration and the needs of the teachers or the teachers with parents, parents with teachers, and I really feel like what would serve our district well is someone who was accessible and kind and empathetic who could interact with all constituency groups to kind of forge a way for them to come together and we can move forward with progress. So anyway, I'm super appreciative of the opportunity to speak and the support and also that I just want to say that I didn't prepare something to write. I, I feel like if I didn't say something I'd be regretful but I sat down to write something several times and I thought this whole week has been so overwhelming and far more for others than certainly for me and I know that we have a twelve year old who doesn't have a cell phone. He's quick to tell me he doesn't know another twelve year old without a cell phone. So maybe he's missed it but we have a fifteen year and obviously they're on social media and they've seen so many horrific things this week and I do not have the right words for them and that makes me sad and I'm a little disappointed that we didn't get a statement from our school about the tragedies that have taken place and I am wildly appreciative that our school did not furlough any of their valued employees that we fought hard to get mental health professionals in our school and guidance counselors and it is disappointing to me that we don't have communication from them on this.

And so that is for sure one of the things that I am going to work really hard towards fixing should I be elected. But thank you. Thank you Michelle.

Next candidate is David Leach. Good evening everyone. I'm Dave Leach. I'm fifty years old. I'm married with two children. My wife, Megan, works in the district. She's a one-on-one aid at Jamesville Elementary. With respect to my children, one of my daughters graduated last year and is currently a freshman in college and then my youngest is a sophomore at the high school. Professionally, I'm a lawyer. I work at a firm called Goldberg Segalla over in Widewaters. My practices involved is primarily involved in labor and employment issues and construction related litigation so I hope to bring some of that experience to the board if I'm elected. I went to the University of Albany undergrad and graduate of Austin University School of Law. I've been living in DeWitt for 26 years now and some of the issues that I'm interested in are primarily giving our students and teachers and administrators the resources that they need to make sure that our children that are students are well educated and well rounded. I want to make sure to work towards doing this in a fiscally responsible manner and a transparent way as well. One of the other big issues to me is security for everyone that enters our buildings, whether that involves security from physical threats or mental abuse or other types of abuse or health issues. Obviously, given the pandemic, the return to school and doing so in a safe manner, that's going to be a very, very important issue and if I'm elected, I'm going to work hard to resolve these issues and help to the extent that I can. Thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you David.

Next will be Steven Theobald. Is he with us? Steven Theobald – are you online with us? Alright, I guess we'll go to the next candidate is Christine Woodcock Dettor. Hi everybody. I never know if my name is going to be alphabetized into the W or the D. Oh it seems like I'm the

last one up for this evening. I hope you guys had a chance, I know that there was a little bit of delay with the timing but our budget newsletter came to everybody's houses, our absentee ballots and then I know there was a lot of envelopes and signing and folding. So I hope all of you have identified for everybody who is a registered voter over age eighteen in your household your absentee ballot and voted and signed it on the outside and I know that we have got quite a process and if you stick around for the length of the meeting tonight, we really have a lot to tell you. I know Peter's going to (INAUDIBLE) our process for counting absentee ballots. So I know many of you guys have seen this over the years, our JD Journal, it sets forth our budget process, it sets forth a little bit of bios. All of us were asked to write a bio about for, for you guys for the Board of Education. So as you might know, because maybe some of you have seen me over Zoom or seen me live and in person, over the last three years I've been on the school board for the last three years. Our president, Susan Petrocillo, is not running again and so, by default, if I should be elected again, that would mean that I would actually be the longest serving school board member at a very interesting in our world, right? So professionally I'm an attorney. I'm a business attorney. I work with families, business owners, to plan and counsel them. I do lots of trusts and estates work, business work, and for good or for bad what I have discovered is around the school board table what you do is you bring your personal experience and you bring your professional experience to the table because in this very kind of funky environment about how a school board operates whereas and one of our candidates earlier said that it's brave to say that you disagree. Well it is brave to say you disagree. It's brave you say to disagree whether it's 3-6 or 5-4 or it's brave to disagree in a public setting out where everyone is watching and everyone is listening. It is an act of bravery. I, professionally, exhibit those acts of bravery on a regular basis. On a day to day basis and I think that's what I bring to the table. And so I've been

on the finance committee. For the last three years I have learned it's kind of like learning the language right? Our sixth graders, or seventh graders, or eighth graders, by the time you get to the high school, whether you chose French or Spanish or Chinese and you're going to continue, you know, you start to get the language. I am not an educator. I am thrilled to be surrounded by educators, by our administrators, by folks on the Board of Education who know a whole heck of a lot more than me about the business of education and the right questions to ask. I think what I bring to the table and have over the course of the last year, three years rather, is questions from the community, business questions, legal questions. So I have brought those to the table and I felt that really during this time of transition, this time of our pandemic, this is absolutely devastating. Whoever would have thought, right, whoever would have thought, all of us, when we're thinking about what the news was revealing in January and February that we would really be in this situation. Management committee at my law firm, we have one hundred people literally with the swipe of an executive order, we had to move them all remotely and we've been thrilled and privileged to be able to work remotely during this time. You know, pivot right? You've heard this word. It's everybody's been talking about pivot. That's what we're doing. That's what our administrators have done. That's what our teachers have done. That's what our principals have done. And what I want to do is to continue to support them. I guess, if I could be so bold, I would like to bring continuity to this effort, I would like to continue the work that we have started. You know, I look back (INAUDIBLE) personally, I've been involved in many different transitions and I typically don't stick around forever and ever. I know there was a chapter in our school board history where we had folks who were ten years, fifteen years on the board. Peter's been our superintendent and we've been lucky enough to have him for the last I think sixteen months by my count. You know, we had many folks, if I've only been on this

board for three years, we've had many folks decide that, you know, they were going to pursue other adventures. I'm here to try and bring continuity, consistency, knowledge that I've acquired around the table, how boards act, how boards support their administrators, how you ask the right questions, how you monitor the budget, where the state aid problems are going to be and it's not in this budget. It's in next year's budget. You know, personally, I feel like it's advanced parenting here. I have been a resident of the district since 1999 and I can't even believe it. I have three kids. My daughter, our daughter Julia, so first the reason we're here in JD is because my husband Louie graduated from the district in 1986 thankfully. I think most of the teachers survived him retired on out. Julia is I can't even believe it, will be a senior in college next year. She's 21. Andrew is going to God willing go back to the University of Rochester as a sophomore. And our youngest daughter, Allie, she's on the volleyball team. You know, so much these kids have given up. She is sixteen, we're finishing the school year in tenth grade and we look forward to junior and senior years. And by the way we have been JD lifers and then I will conclude because I know we have a long meeting. (INAUDIBLE) the faculty folks asked to interview all of us by the way. So thirteen years with Julia, thirteen years in the district with Andrew, eleven so far, that's 37 years as a parent. Talk about navigating all of what the Jamesville-DeWitt school district has to offer. 37 years. 37 as a parent. And all three kids are JD lifers. As a kid I grew up in Cazenovia, went to schools out there, went to Manlius Pebble Hill graduated there. I was on the board during a big time transition and crisis at Manlius Pebble Hill. I'm a lawyer partner, went to college at Wellesley College in Boston, went to SU Law School, came home, met my husband in law school. And that's my story. So I'm running again and I think, by my count, you guys can continue to watch and listen and if you agree with me, great, and if you don't agree with me, tell me and tell me why. Because I think at this point in

our life, politically and otherwise, I think that a safe space for disagreement and a safe place for other ideas is where we need to be and I think that even if our, my fellow board members don't agree with me, maybe I'm brave enough to say it, maybe foolish enough to say it, I think around that table is where we should say it and that's why we're elected to do so. Thank you for listening. Thank you Christine. I guess I'll turn it back over to you Susan.

Thank you. Thank you Linda. Alright thank you candidates for your statements. I need a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing. We're going to take a three minute break or let's make, yeah, three minutes, so 8:13 we'll get back and we'll actually start the JD Central School District Board of Education meeting. So can I have a motion to adjourn the budget hearing please? Susan, I'll give you that motion. Alright, thank you Ken. Sharon, I have a second. All in favor. Aye. Aye. I see everybody. Yup. And I heard Ken and Juanita. Aye. Aye. And Wendy is she out there? Sorry I was muted. Aye. Aye. Perfect thank you. I think we're all set there Tish. Did you catch everyone? Yes, I got everybody. Awesome alright. Thank you everyone in the public. I hope you still continue for the next part of our meeting, but if you don't, we'll see you around. So 8, make it 8:14 everybody. 8:14. It's 8:11. Okay. Thank you.