

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL COMET NEWS

May 2023

EDITOR - SHELLEY MARCUS ★ ASSOCIATE EDITOR - SARAH SATZ ★ CONTRIBUTING EDITOR - MATTHEW McRELL

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER



Dear School Community Member:

I hope this update finds you in the best of health and spirit, as we finally say goodbye to winter and welcome the spring season with open arms! The 2023-24 budget season is well underway as we head to the May 16, 2023, budget vote and board member election.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Board of Education and the Central Administration have worked on a budget that continues to balance what school children need with what taxpayers can afford. The District's budget season goal was to create a tax levy with a 0% impact. That goal, I am happy to say, was more than achieved. In fact, this year's budget has a negative tax impact of 0.56%. This is now the 5th consecutive year without a school budget increase for the Fallsburg Central School District and the second year in a row with a tax levy decrease.

The Board of Education, on April 18, 2023, adopted a budget of \$59,260,373.00. This is the budget number that the public will get to vote on this coming May 16th. The tax levy for this budget is a 0.56% decrease from the 2022-2023 tax levy. To get to a 0.56 decrease in the tax levy, the Board is applying \$1,516,665 from the undesignated fund balance.

The District is exceptionally proud to be able to continue to bring forward budgets that have no increase on the tax levy and, for two consecutive years have a tax levy decrease.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

The Board of Education is asking the school community to approve a proposition that will allow the District to set up a special savings account called a capital reserve fund.

Why are we asking for this? Many members of the school community, from parents to staff members to board members, have raised concerns over the past several years regarding the conditions of the school district's parking lots and some other areas in need of repair. As you may know, our parking lots have been significantly deteriorating for the past several years.

While we gave parking lot renovations serious consideration in previous building projects, the cost of parking lot repairs and replacements was so high that it would have raised previous project costs by millions. As a result, we did not include parking lot renovations in our

previous budget scopes.

The next question the District pondered was how to address the need for parking lot renovations while having a minimal tax impact. The answer we settled on was to set up, with voter approval, a savings account called a capital reserve fund. A capital reserve would give us the opportunity to save money over the next few years so that we could present a future project to renovate our parking lots, and other areas in need of repairs, with little to no additional cost to the taxpayer beyond the monies that would be put away at the end of each school year.

A capital reserve fund allows the district to set aside money for future construction projects like a regular savings account. The fund cannot be established without voter approval and the reserve funds cannot be spent without voter approval. We are asking for our capital reserve fund to have a \$10,000,000 cap. Once we have enough money put away to allow for a future project that will have a minimal tax impact, we will go back out to our voters for approval to fix our parking lots and other areas in need of repair.

Where does the money for the capital reserve fund come from?

Money would only be added to the capital reserve fund if there is a surplus at the end of the year and in future years. In this case, the board would authorize the funding of the reserve with some, or all of the surplus, with the total not to exceed \$10,000,000. If there is no surplus, no money can be added to the reserve.

If you have any questions on the budget or the proposed capital reserve fund, please do not hesitate to contact me. The budget vote and board elections will take place on May 16, 2023, (8:00 AM – 8:00 PM), in the Board of Education meeting room located in the Junior-Senior High School. Please come out and vote!

Educationally yours,

Ivan J. Katz, Ed. D.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SHANA BRUESTLE HIRED AS FALLSBURG JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Fallsburg Central School is proud to announce that Shana Bruestle has been selected as their next Junior- Senior High School Principal. She previously served as the interim Junior-Senior High School Principal and Assistant Junior-Senior High School Principal.

Prior to her arrival at Fallsburg, Ms. Bruestle worked in the New York City public school system for fifteen years. She taught middle and high school English, then served as assistant principal for the Coalition School for Social Change in 2017 and P.S. 123 in 2018. It was not until early 2020 when Ms. Bruestle made the move to upstate New York. She decided to permanently resettle in Sullivan County with her family to seek a fresh start. Throughout her tenure as assistant principal, Ms. Bruestle prioritized improving the students' safety, health, and academic performance. She utilized methods of restorative justice, which uses mediation practices rather than traditional forms of discipline. It was her mission to maintain a collaborative and supportive environment despite the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, as the newly selected principal, she intends to continue and expand on her student development techniques.

The Fallsburg community is excited to welcome Ms. Shana Bruestle as their newest principal. The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Katz, also wished her the best of luck in her new role.

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dear Fallsburg Family,

As the end of the academic year approaches, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements of our school community. Despite the challenges we faced, our students have shown remarkable resilience, adaptability, and dedication to their education. From academic success to athletic achievements, artistic creativity and community service, our students have demonstrated their talents and commitment to learning and growth. I am grateful to the teachers, staff, and families who have supported them throughout the year, and I am thrilled to be a part of such a vibrant and caring community. I also want to wish many congratulations to the Class of 2023! You have worked hard, demonstrated perseverance, leadership, and creativity in countless ways. We are grateful for the memories, friendships, and legacies you have created. Whatever your next steps may be, I wish you only success!

I am also excited to introduce myself as the newly appointed principal of our Junior Senior High School. It is an honor to continue to work alongside such a wonderful team of educators, and I am deeply committed to serving our students, families, and staff with excellence, equity, and empathy. As we look ahead to the next academic year, I am confident we will build on our successes and strengths as a school community. We will be prepared to face any challenges with compassion and collaboration. I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the best possible learning experience for all our students. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

Yours truly,

Shana Bruestle

sbruestle@fallsburgcsd.net

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, July 15, 2023. We are back!!

The Fallsburg Alumni Association is returning to our pre-pandemic program. We will be bringing back our luncheon this year as we award scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. We will also be recognizing a community member and a retired staff member. There will be various items donated by local merchants that will be raffled off. More information will be forthcoming as details are finalized. In the meantime, there are a number of scholarships that are available including the FAA scholarships, the Leshner Memorial scholarship, the Robynne Anderman scholarship and the Sheryl Kalter Memorial Scholarship. If you would like to donate to any of these, please send a check made payable to Fallsburg Alumni Association with the name of the scholarship on the memo line to:

Eileen Kalter, PO Box 383, South Fallsburg, NY 12779.

All donations are greatly appreciated and help us to make these awards possible.

Mark your calendars and join us for a pleasant afternoon. As more specific information is available, we will be posting it on the school website under "alumni" and also in future editions of the school newsletter.

You can also email **Mona Bogan** at mbogan@hvc.rr.com if you have any questions.

Your Child and Social Media

Over the past few weeks, we have seen an increase in student incidents involving social media, not just with our older students, but with our younger students, as well. Our children are immersed in technology and although, as parents, we feel that we have guided our children to make the right choices while engaged in social media, it can, unfortunately, quickly escalate into something that they are not prepared for. We would like to take this time to share with you some information about cyberbullying that may help guide your discussions and, possibly the supervision of your child as they continue to explore the rapidly changing world of technological social interactions.

Below please find important information regarding Cyberbullying. This information, along with other helpful resources, can be found at stopbullying.gov.

Frequency of Cyberbullying:

- Research shows that: 41% of children report that social anxiety is a result of cyberbullying. Among teens who have been victims of cyberbullying, more than half have felt angry, approximately a third felt hurt, and nearly 15% felt scared afterward. National Crime Prevention Council (2021).

What is Cyberbullying?

- Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites.
- Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.

Why Cyberbullying Is Different:

- Kids who are being cyberbullied are often bullied in person as well. Additionally, kids who are cyberbullied have a harder time getting away from the behavior.
- Cyberbullying can happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and reach a kid even when he or she is alone. It can happen any time of the day or night.
- Cyberbullying messages and images can be posted anonymously and distributed quickly to a very wide audience. It can be difficult and sometimes impossible to trace the sources.
- Deleting inappropriate or harassing messages, texts, and pictures is extremely difficult after they have been posted or sent.

Be Aware of What Your Kids are Doing Online:

- Talk with your kids about cyberbullying and other online issues regularly.
- Know the sites your kids visit and their online activities. Ask where they're going, what they're doing, and who they're doing it with.
- Tell your kids that as a responsible parent you may review their online communications if you think there is reason for concern. Installing parental control filtering software or monitoring programs are one option for monitoring your child's online behavior, but do not rely solely on these tools.
- Have a sense of what they do online and in texts. Learn about the sites they like. Try out the devices they use.
- Ask for their passwords but tell them you'll only use them in case of emergency.
- Ask to "friend" or "follow" your kids on social media sites or ask another trusted adult to do so.
- Encourage your kids to tell you immediately if they, or someone they know, are being cyberbullied. Explain that you will not take away their computers or cell phones if they confide in you about a problem they are having.

Establish Rules about Technology Use:

- Establish rules about appropriate use of computers, cell phones, and other technology. For example, be clear about what sites they can visit and what they are permitted to do when they're online. Show them how to be safe online.
- Help them be smart about what they post or say. Tell them not to share anything that could hurt or embarrass themselves or others. Once something is posted, it is out of their control whether someone else will forward it.
- Encourage kids to think about who they want to see the information and pictures they post online. Should complete strangers see it? Real friends only? Friends of friends? Think about how people who aren't friends could use it.
- Tell kids to keep their passwords safe and not share them with friends. Sharing passwords can compromise their control over their online identities and activities.

Respectfully yours,

Mary Kate Stinehour

BCES Principal

mstinehour@fallsburgcsd.net

From the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over! Our students continue to work hard each and every day and it is a pleasure to watch them learn and grow! As the school year winds down, there is no denying that there is excitement in the air and that our students are excited for the summer months.

As we enter mid May and approach the month of June, students have so much to look forward to: field trips, our ABC Countdown, Referral Free Celebration, Superhero Breakfast, Comet Games and more! Please continue to encourage your child to do their best and to continue to shine!

That being said, I want to stress how important it is that students continue to behave appropriately, during this time. This is especially true in regard to the words that they use. We encourage all to keep in mind the importance of respecting others and that any language, whether spoken, written, or posted on social media can be perceived as offensive. Even "jokes" can hurt feelings. Please encourage your child to keep this in mind so that all students can continue to learn in an environment where they feel respected, safe and included.

Thank you for your continued support,

Pamela Carr

BCES Assistant Principal

pcarr@fallsburgcsd.net



NYSPHSAA Winter Scholar Athletes

Students from our varsity girls basketball and boys and girls indoor track teams were named 2022-2023 NYSPHSAA winter scholar athletes. In order for a team to qualify for scholar athlete recognition, at least 75% of the roster must have an average GPA of 90.00. Congratulations to all our hard-working student athletes!

Congrats!

Sari Feldman Inducted to Fallsburg Central School Hall of Fame

Fallsburg Central School District is excited to announce its newest inductee to the school's Hall of Fame: Sari Feldman.

Sari Feldman is considered one of the most important figures in the American library system. After graduating from Fallsburg Central School in 1970, she earned her B.A. in English from Binghamton University and an M.S. in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her career as a public librarian spanned over forty years. She has worked for the Cleveland Public Library in Ohio, Onondaga County Public Library in New York, and Cook Memorial Library in Illinois. But most importantly, she served as the Director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library in Ohio for sixteen years. During her tenure as director, her library was considered one of the most well-run in the country. It even earned the prestigious Library Journal 5-Star recognition for ten consecutive years.

Ms. Feldman carried her passion for the written word beyond the bookshelves. She served as president of both the American Library Association from 2009 to 2010 and the Public Library Association from 2015 to 2016. As president, she represented America's libraries on a national and global scale. She was even a guest of honor during trips overseas with the U.S. State Department and various international organizations. Currently, she is a board member for Overdrive and RB Media, a policy fellow for the Washington Office of the American Library Association, and a columnist for Publishers Weekly.

Sari has been described as thoughtful, intelligent, and optimistic by many. But most of all, she will carry a legacy that will be exceedingly difficult to match. Public libraries around the country will be forever grateful for her relentless devotion to protecting our right to free and accessible books.



Fallsburg High School Seniors Commit to Play College Football

Two Fallsburg High School seniors have officially announced their commitment to play college football on April 11, 2023.

Mateo Scanna signed his letter of intent to play for Hartwick College, where he will major in mathematics and hopes to play fullback. Andrew Rein Jr. signed to play for St. Thomas Aquinas College. Andrew intends to major in Pre-Med and hopes to play quarterback or wide receiver. The head coach of Fallsburg's football team, Dominick Scanna, congratulated Mateo and Andrew for their outstanding achievement.



VEX Robotics World Championships

Fallsburg Central School District is proud to announce that they once again were represented at the VEX Robotics World Championships. It is considered to be one of the largest robotics competitions in the world.

Throughout the program's eight years of existence, this will be their eighth appearance at the tournament. Two teams will be making their trip to Dallas, Texas to compete in their respective divisions. Seventh graders Kileen Milligan, Kiara Sauer, Luz Torres, and Autumn Rain Atkinson have earned their spot to participate in the IQ division tournament. They will also be the school's first all-female VEX IQ team in Fallsburg history. Eighth graders Robert Perrera, Leah Russell, Adin Maldonado-Rodriguez, and Ayden Carpenito will be competing in the VRC division. This will also be Robert Perrera and Leah Russell's second appearance at the tournament.

The Fallsburg Robotics Team at the 2023 VEX Robotics Championship in Dallas, TX. The VRC team finished 5-5 and 42nd out of 81 teams in the division".



Robotics



Buddies!



21 Century Community Learning Centers

The JSHS 21st CCLC After School program students have been quite busy! We are happy to share some of our happenings with you. Our full program will end on May 25th but will continue the program with a Regents Review only schedule starting May 30th. Please be sure to check the calendar on the school website for the most current list of offerings, events and partnerships.

Jamie Lippen-Shanberg , 21st CCLC Site Coordinator



On April 19th we took our 21st CCLC Gaming Club and students who stayed after 8 or more days to HPAC for a private viewing of Super Mario Bros. It was a huge success. Students were able to make connections between the movie and the games that they've been analyzing and playing.



Our 21st CCLC Guitar Club visited Bethel Woods to explore the museum and learn about the history of music. It was a huge success! Our guitar club will be showcasing their learning from this year at their very first recital on May 23rd in the high school band room.



On April 17th, our 21st CCLC students who had 8 or more days in the program had the opportunity to visit Liberty Heights for an afternoon of fun with friends.

On April 28-30 24 students from My Brother's Keeper took a trip to Philadelphia. They visited the Philadelphia Zoo, Hard Rock Cafe, The Museum of Illusions, African American Museum, and The Camdem Aquarium. What fun!



2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>

SCHOOL CLOSED
 CONFERENCE DAY
 TESTING
 TESTING DAYS
 GO HOME EARLY DRILL

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER	5, 6, 26
OCTOBER	5, 10
NOVEMBER	1, 11, 23 - 25
DECEMBER	26-30
JANUARY	2, 16
FEBRUARY	21
APRIL	3-7
MAY	29
JUNE	19

MAKE-UP DAYS

Day 1	2/20
Day 2	4/3
Day 3	4/4
Day 4	4/5

SCHOOL DAYS

SEPTEMBER	17
OCTOBER	19
NOVEMBER	17
DECEMBER	17
JANUARY	20
FEBRUARY	18
MARCH	22
APRIL	15
MAY	22
JUNE	16

TOTAL $183 + 4 \text{ CONF} - 7 \text{ SNOW} = 180$

**
If allowable, remote learning will take place after all 7 snow days have been used. Snow day 8 and beyond will be remote learning days.
**

7 = FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
23 = LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
24 = GRADUATION

Updated: 6/29/2022

FALLSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

115 Brickman Road ★ PO Box 124 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124

BOARD OF EDUCATION

★ Mr. Joseph Collura ★ Ms. Arlene Hussey ★ Ms. Renee Kates ★ Ms. Regina McKenny-Snead ★
★ Ms. Fiorella Muscia ★ Ms. Colleen Picciotti ★ Ms. Jennifer Reinhardt ★ Dr. Sean Wall-Carty ★ Mr. Michael Weiner ★

"Fallsburg Central School District is a safe, nurturing environment, where excellence is expected, diversity and individuality are celebrated, and learning prepares students to face the challenges of an ever-changing global society."

CONTACTS

PHONE NUMBERS...

Dr. Ivan J. Katz Ed.D.	Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1215
Dr. Sally M. Sharkey Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent	434-6800 Ext. 1204
Mr. Daniel Grecco Jr.	Business Manager	434-6800 Ext. 1219
Mr. Jaime Dymond	Director of Staff Evaluation & Student Data	434-6800 Ext. 1257
Ms. Leighanne Russell	Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1273
Mr. Dillon Paul	Assistant Pupil Personnel Director	434-6800 Ext. 1276
Ms. Shana Bruestle	High School Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2206
Mr. Steven Nilsen	High School Assistant Principal	434-6800 Ext. 2205
Ms. Mary Kate Stinehour	Elementary Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3206
Ms. Pamela Carr	Elementary Assistant Principal	434-4110 Ext. 3204
Ms. Amanda Stevens	Director of Physical Education & Athletics	434-6800 Ext. 2212
Central Registration		434-6800 Ext. 1222
Tax Collection		434-6800 Ext. 1219

FAX NUMBERS...

Superintendent	434-8346	Fallsburg Central School District Office & Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School 115 Brickman Road ★ PO Box 124 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0124
Business Office	434-0418	Benjamin Cosor Elementary School 15 Old Falls Road ★ PO Box 123 ★ Fallsburg, NY 12733-0123
Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School	434-0168	
Benjamin Cosor Elementary School	434-0871	

If you want to notify the tax collector with a change of address, you can now e-mail that information to: tax@fallsburgcsd.net.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED...

5/16/23	Budget Vote & Board Member Election	8am-8pm	MS Board Room	5/29/23	Closed		
5/16/23	Elem Spring Concert	6pm	HS Auditorium	6/6/23	Athletics Sports Banquet	5-6pm	
5/16/23	Board of Ed Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room	6/7/23	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
5/19/23	BCES/Parent-Teacher Conferences		Noon Dismissal	6/14/23 - 6/22/23	Regents Week		
5/22/23	Jr/Sr HS Spring Concert	7pm	HS Auditorium	6/19/23	Closed		
5/24/23	Samuel Beytin Scholarship Dinner			6/21/23	Board of Ed. Mtg.	7pm	MS Board Room
		5:30-7:30pm	HS Gym	6/23/23	Last Day of School		
5/25/23	Jr/Sr HS Concert	6pm	HS Auditorium	6/24/23	HS Graduation	11am	

SAFETY FIRST