

# CANASERAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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05/31/2024

As we prepared the 2024-25 school budget, I was hoping the NYS Governor's plans to take money away from numerous school districts across the state would not be the final budget that was approved. While the final numbers weren't as bad as projected by the Governor, we did not receive any increase in our Foundation Aid – the largest component of our state aid. This meant finding \$105,000 in budget reductions for the school district to meet the tax cap calculation. If we didn't remove this amount of money, the school tax increase would have been beyond the 3.06% that represents our tax cap calculation. This information was presented in the front page narrative section of the budget newsletter.

The resulting reductions for the 2024-25 school year will include the following.

- Eliminating one teacher aide position and one teaching assistant position.
- We will be reducing our AM & PM bus runs from three bus runs to two bus runs – more details will be forthcoming. Our current ridership is low on all three of our bus runs. We did accomplish two bus runs during COVID, and believe we can make the adjustments.
- Our career development service through GST BOCES will be terminated for next year.
- We will be unable to provide student supplies that were purchased for the 2023-24 school year. We made this transition this year, but won't be able to sustain it. Specific grade level student supply lists will be released at the end of the year or during the summer.
- Lastly, I am sad to say that we will be eliminating the After School Program that is available for elementary aged students. Over the past 2-3 years, much of this funding has been supplemented by our federal ARP funds. With those funds expiring the costs would have moved back into the general fund budget. The lack of increased foundation aid has necessitated us to cut this opportunity.

I realize none of these reductions are pleasant. As was mentioned, not receiving state aid increases – like we have seen in the past – resulted in the need to make cuts and stay within a tolerable tax increase on the school community.

Chad C. Groff

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Superintendent of Schools