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'In the Loop' with the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

# Voters approve district budget, elect new BOE members

**BY JODEE RIORDAN**  
Board of Education President

Thank you to all who voted in the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education election and budget vote. The 2021-22 budget passed with a decisive margin (400/155), more than 3:1 in favor. The overwhelming support for the budget speaks to the strong commitment to education of our community, and to the strong and enduring support of the community throughout this past, extremely difficult pandemic year.

The results of the Board of Education election are as follows: Jennifer Klemick (445), Julie Donnelley (444) and Anika Fetzner (409). Based on these results, Klemick and Donnelley were each elected to a three-year term (2021-24), while Fetzner will have a one-year (2021-22) term.

There are currently two vacancies on the Board of Education, those being the seats of Anne Orr, who passed away on April 17; and Gemma Fournier, who moved out the district on May 11. Therefore, per education law (and to fill the vacancies) Julie and Anika's terms begin immediately. Their first meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, May 24, in the Community Resource Center boardroom.

Thank you to each of the candidates for stepping up to serve at this crucial time. We look forward to continuing the good work of the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education.

**Back to School**

Beginning Monday, May 24, Lewiston-Porter's middle and high



Lewiston-Porter's newly elected BOE members include, from left, Julie Donnelley, Anika Fetzner and Jennifer Klemick

schools will welcome the return of all secondary students (grades 6-12) to campus five days per week. As reported by Superintendent Paul Casseri this past Monday, transmission rate metrics in Niagara County fell below the 100 cases per 100,000 of population mark, allowing Lew-Port to move forward with a full return.

Elementary students at the PEC and IEC (grades pre-K through 5) have been back full-time since Monday, April 26. Families that opt for virtual learning will remain in the remote model through the end of this year.

The May 24 BOE session will be broadcast via Zoom; see the district website ([www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com)) for the link. Video recordings and transcripts of past meetings can be

found on the district website, and video on the Lew-Port YouTube channel. The annual organizational meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, July 1.

The Niagara County Department of Health will hold a vaccination clinic from 9 a.m. until 2:40 p.m. in the Community Resource Center. To secure an appointment for Pfizer (12 years of age and up), visit <https://on.ny.gov/3xH6OHP>. To secure an appointment for Moderna (18 years of age and up), visit <https://on.ny.gov/3gK8DOe>. Registration is strongly encouraged; however, walk-in participants will be accepted.

Again, thank you for your support of education at Lewiston-Porter, now and always.

## Niagara Wheatfield & North Tonawanda school budgets pass

On May 18, voters in the Wheatfield Central School district voted 493 to 187 to approve the \$79,222,507 budget for fiscal year 2021-22. The tax levy limit is now set to \$34,720,519, an increase of 1.99% from last year.

Four other propositions on the ballot also passed. An authorization to establish a school district transportation capital reserve fund passed 499 to 170. The district says the fund would be for the purpose of purchasing maintenance and food service vehicles.

Propositions No. 3 and No. 4, which authorized the district to expend from the capital transportation reserve fund, passed 497 to 174 and 499 to 173, respectively.

Lastly, authorization to establish a school district technology reserve fund – created to help meet rising technological needs and demands – many of which were ex-

posed during the pandemic – was approved by voters 504 to 169.

In Board of Education elections, incumbents Richard Sirianni and Steven Sabo ran unopposed and garnered 562 votes and 525 votes, respectively. Both seats are for three-year terms.

Meanwhile, the North Tonawanda School District 2021-22 proposed budget was also approved by voters. The \$81,854,500 budget was approved 435 to 114. The figure represents a 1.03% increase over last year's budget. \$29,300,750 is set to be raised via taxes, an increase of \$404,407, or 1.4%.

A second proposition establishing a capital improvements and transportation reserve fund, was approved 440 to 150.

The district says the fund was for the purposes of, "financing ... the acquisition, construction, re-

construction, expansion, renovation, alteration and improvement of buildings, facilities, sites and real property by the district, or the District's share of the cost of any capital improvements project undertaken by a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), as well as the acquisition of various school buses, school vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the district's transportation program. The maximum fund balance amount cannot be not greater than \$15,000,000 (plus interest earned thereon)."

In Board of Education elections, three candidates ran unopposed. Krista Vince Garland, the lone incumbent, received 447 votes. Stephanie Emiliani received 437 votes while Cheryl McMahon received 457 votes in her return to the school board.

## Plan for camp this summer

*Cuomo announces new guidance for health and safety measures at child care, day camp & overnight camp programs*

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday announced updated guidance for health and safety measures at child care, day camp and overnight camp programs, effective May 19. The measures include protocols for coronavirus testing, physical distancing and sanitation, among other requirements to help

prevent COVID-19 cases. He said the state Department of Health will continue to monitor and evaluate health metrics for child care facilities and camp programs and, if necessary, will issue further guidance.

"We are continuing to make incredible progress against COVID and lifting restrictions based on the science and numbers, but we are not yet at the finished line," Cuomo said. "To help ensure

maximum protections for staff and children at child care and camp programs, we are issuing this guidance so the facilities can implement basic but critical measures that will allow them to operate safely."

Facilities and programs must collect COVID-19 vaccination status and documentation for all staff and children, and implement mandatory daily health screening **SEE CAMP, continued on Page 11**