

## Board sets levy, tax rate for 2021-22 year

The Board of Education adopted the 2021-22 tax levy and tax rate during its meeting on Jul. 13, after receiving the official assessment reports from each of our four towns.

Total assessments came in higher than initially projected, and because of this increase, the tax rate for each town will decrease slightly from our previous estimates.

The school tax levy for 2021-22 totals \$40,233,431, with the following tax rates:

- Ogden \$24.36/\$1,000 of assessed value
- Gates \$22.69/\$1,000 of assessed value
- Greece \$22.70/\$1,000 of assessed value
- Parma \$24.95/\$1,000 of assessed value

We do understand that school taxes represent only one portion of a property owner's bill, and the table on page 2 reflects examples based only on the above, updated rates. Please note, as we communicated in the budget edition of Cornerstone in May, the equalization rates for the towns of Ogden and Parma are less than 100%, which means that the properties are assessed at less than 100% of their market value. For that reason, you will notice the higher percentage increases in those towns. To revisit what equalization rates are, please visit our YouTube channel, @SpencerportCSD > understanding equalization rates, or this link, <https://youtu.be/yELqncUOq10>

*(continued on page 2)*

## Congratulations, CLASS OF 2021!



*More Graduation photos on pages 6-7.*

### What's inside

- Board of education meeting calendar for 2021-22
- Best wishes to our 2021 retirees
- 2021-22 year at a glance calendar
- And much more

# Superintendent message

Dear Spencerport Community,



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and say that I am honored and very excited to be your superintendent of schools. The Spencerport School District is known for hard working students and staff as well as a supportive and caring community. I am looking forward to partnering with you to ensure our students feel connected to their school community and are inspired to learn and grow each day.

I also would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and my family. First and foremost, I am a wife and mother. My husband Mike and I have two children. Our oldest son is a freshman at SUNY Albany and my younger son is a 7th grade student. In addition to working and enjoying some long weekend trips, my family will be celebrating the marriage of my niece this summer. This upcoming family celebration has reminded me of how fast my own children are growing up. My sons have taught me invaluable lessons about relationships, commitment, work, and life. I tell you this because my experiences as a mother have helped to shape me as an educator and a leader.

I deeply believe that all students deserve a quality and comprehensive education. Spencerport is known not only for its academic excellence and extracurricular programs, but also for the positive and healthy relationships between staff and students. I take very seriously that you have entrusted the young people of this community to our care and expect our fine staff to give their best day in and day out.

My mission as your superintendent is to maintain and grow a rigorous teaching and learning environment that provides every student with a sense of belonging. I am committed to helping our students grow intellectually, emotionally and

socially. I am passionate about serving our community and helping every student develop the skills necessary to pursue and achieve their goals and dreams.

I feel fortunate to have time this summer to meet with staff and administration. I am visiting schools and classrooms, participating in construction meetings and working with our leadership team to develop goals that will maintain our excellence and drive us toward continuous improvement.

There is much for your students to be excited about when they return to school for the 2021-2022 school year. Our administrative team will continue to plan for a full return to school, we will be updating curriculum and enhancing technology to ensure that students and teachers have the instructional materials needed for 21st century learning.

Finally, I invite you to introduce yourself in the coming weeks and months, when you see me on campus or out in the community. In addition, I will be sharing the exciting things that are happening in Spencerport on social media, if you would like to follow me:

[https://twitter.com/SuptSwann\\_SCSD](https://twitter.com/SuptSwann_SCSD)



[https://www.instagram.com/suptswann\\_scsd/](https://www.instagram.com/suptswann_scsd/)



With great pride,

*Kristin M. Swann*

Ms. Kristin Swann  
Superintendent of Schools  
#RangerPride

(continued from cover)

## Board sets levy, tax rate for 2021-22 year

Example of a school tax bill, based on the district's average home property value of \$150,000:

Avg. Home Value: \$150,000	2020-21 Tax Rate /\$1,000	2020-21 School Tax Bill	2021-22 Tax Rate /\$1,000	2021-22 School Tax Bill	Difference	Monthly Difference
<b>Ogden (93% equal. rate)</b>	\$23.77	\$3,566	\$24.36	\$3,654	\$88 or 2.5%	\$7.33
<b>Gates</b>	\$23.32	\$3,498	\$22.69	\$3,404	-\$94 or -2.7%	-\$7.83
<b>Greece</b>	\$23.34	\$3,501	\$22.70	\$3,405	-\$96 or -2.7%	-\$8.00
<b>Parma (91% equal. rate)</b>	\$24.05	\$3,608	\$24.95	\$3,743	\$135 or 3.7%	\$11.25

# Federal stimulus packages

In 2020 and 2021, Congress passed three stimulus bills that provided funding as relief aid for education. School districts must apply the restricted monies for services and programs, and allocate these monies over three years or until 2024.

The following table contains information on the three stimulus packages, the amount Spencerport will receive, and the funding end date:

Stimulus package	Amount for SCSD	End date of funding
1. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, March 2020	\$611,390	Sept. 30, 2022
2. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, December 2020	\$3,372,021	Sept. 30, 2023
3. American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP-ESSER) Act, March 2021	\$4,938,765* <i>*(est. \$900,000 slated specifically for summer enrichment, afterschool programs, and learning loss)</i>	Sept. 30, 2024

The stimulus funds are restricted in how they may be applied, and the eligible expenses focus primarily on programs, services and support for students, including:

- response to/addressing learning loss,
- social and emotional needs,
- continuation of education services,
- improved coordinated responses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus,
- activities to address unique needs of low-income children, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth. This includes outreach and service delivery to meet the needs of each population.
- professional development and training for staff on sanitization and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases,
- purchase of supplies to sanitize and clean facilities,
- implementing plans for possible long-term closure for meals to eligible students, technology for online learning, and education services for students with disabilities,
- purchase of educational technology,
- mental health services and supports,
- summer learning and afterschool programs,
- school facility repairs and improvements,
- capital improvements or upgrades to improve indoor air quality,
- development and implementation of public health protocols, in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control,
- activities to maintain the continuity of operations in local educational agencies (day care providers, etc.) and employ of existing staff in those agencies.

Both federal and state government entities caution school districts to be mindful in their planning for and prioritizing these stimulus-related expenses, as this funding will end in three years. After 2024, districts will be responsible for sustaining these costs.

For more information or details on our K-5 and 6-12 proposals, please visit our website, District > Federal Emergency Relief, or the video recording from the presentation given to the board of education on May 25 may be found on our website.

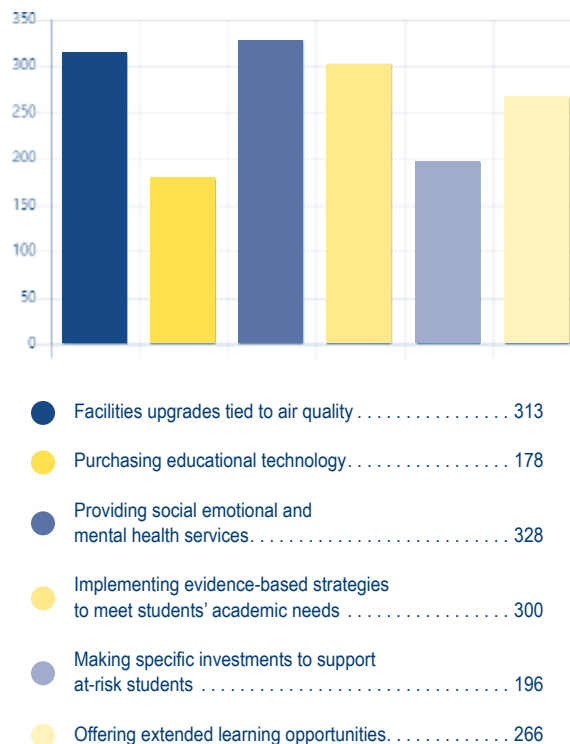
# Federal stimulus survey

The district conducted a survey in June to seek public input on how best to apply the funding allocated through the federal stimulus plans, American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA). This funding is restricted and must be used for the upcoming 2021, 2022, and 2023 school years.

Restricted funds must be used for students in such areas as learning loss, social emotional health, addressing any disproportionality on underrepresented student subgroups, emergency preparedness and response, personal protective equipment, repairs of school facilities, and improving indoor air quality. Districts must also avoid the “financial cliff” after year three, when stimulus funding ends and districts become responsible for sustaining any programs, projects or initiatives.

There were 564 respondents to the survey, with the following results:

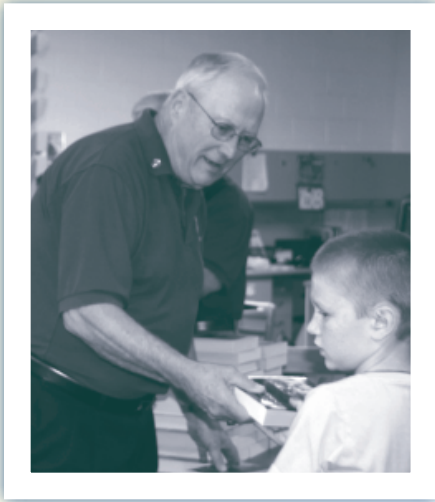
Choose your top three suggestions for how the Spencerport Central School District should prioritize the use of the federal stimulus funds (you will notice we have included some considerations as examples of ways the funds could be used. Please use the “OTHER” category for any thought or idea you may have):



There were 154 respondents who opted to provide additional input on the use of the stimulus funds, the majority of which related to the categories above.



## Tribute to Roger Ressman, a longtime friend and retired administrator



Spencerport administrator and community resident, Charles “Roger” Ressman died on May 28, 2021.

Ressman earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in educational administration from State University of New York at Buffalo, and began teaching in 1964. In 1973, he was hired by Superintendent Dr. Leo Bernabi to work at the former Town Line School (now called Terry Taylor Elementary School) as its principal.

He stayed in that position until 1982, when he accepted a short-term job at another district. Two years later, he returned to Spencerport as the Pupil Personnel Director. In total, Ressman worked for the district for over 20 years before retiring in 1996.

Ressman was not just a teacher, principal or director, but he also held many different positions and titles throughout the years. Wanting his hand in as many areas of education as possible, he was a grade level chairman, swimming coach and official, science coordinator, and district coordinator of the arts program.

Roger Schurkamp, retired Spencerport physical education teacher and friend of Ressman for over 40 years, had nothing but kind things to say about Ressman and his time at the district.

“It was all about integrity for him,” said Schurkamp. “If he told you he was

going to make a decision, he would make it. As principal, Roger would walk around the building and talk to teachers as often as he possibly could. He would find out, in a sense, what the temperature of the building was, and he could put out fires before they ever got going. He would ask teachers, ‘Hey, how are things going in the building? Are there any issues?’ Roger was open and approachable, with a great sense of humor.”

Ressman was also a Rotary Club member for over 40 years, and he always made time to dress up as Santa Claus for the preschool students at Christmas time. A letter dated Dec. 22, 1995, was sent to him from preschool supervisor Joseph A. Kelly, who stated, “On behalf of our Spencerport preschool crew, thank you for your outstanding portrayal of Santa Claus; you received rave reviews and helped make our celebrations and activities even more meaningful and exciting ... thank you for creating special memories for our children and all that you do on a year-round basis in supporting our preschool services.”

Recently retired superintendent, Dan Milgate, said of Ressman, “As a resident and district administrator, Roger did more than dedicate himself to the educational community, he served as a liaison, partner, and historian for the seven superintendents since his retirement. He modeled the importance of connecting to the community and spearheaded our partnerships with groups like the Rotarians and the Spencerport Volunteer Fire Department. I will always cherish our conversations about education, family, and why I needed to wait my turn before I was allowed to cook sausage at the annual fireman’s carnival! He was a mentor to hundreds of educators, students, colleagues and family, and will be greatly missed.”

He was pre-deceased by his wife, Barbara, and is survived by his two children, Heather and Jason, and five grandchildren. The district extends their condolences to his friends and family.

## Board of Education meeting calendar for 2021-22

The Spencerport Board of Education adopted its meeting calendar for the upcoming school year and the schedule may be found below. All meetings will be held on Tuesdays in the District Office building 71 Lyell Ave. Spencerport NY 14559.

Date	Time
Aug. 10	6 p.m.
Sept. 7	6 p.m.
Sept. 21	7 p.m. <sup>i</sup>
Oct. 5	6 p.m.
Oct. 19	7 p.m. <sup>ii</sup>
Nov. 2	6 p.m.
Nov. 16	6 p.m.
Dec. 7	6 p.m.
Jan. 4	6 p.m.
Jan. 18	6 p.m.
Feb. 1	6 p.m.
Feb. 15	6 p.m.
Mar. 8	6 p.m.
Mar. 22	6 p.m.
Apr. 12	6 p.m.
Apr. 26	6 p.m.
May 3	7 p.m. <sup>iii</sup>
May 17 Budget Vote	6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
May 24	6 p.m.
June 7	7 p.m. <sup>iv</sup>
June 21	6 p.m.

<sup>i</sup> *New and Recently Tenured Teacher and Administrator Reception, 6:15 p.m.*

<sup>ii</sup> *School Board Recognition Reception, 6:15 p.m.*

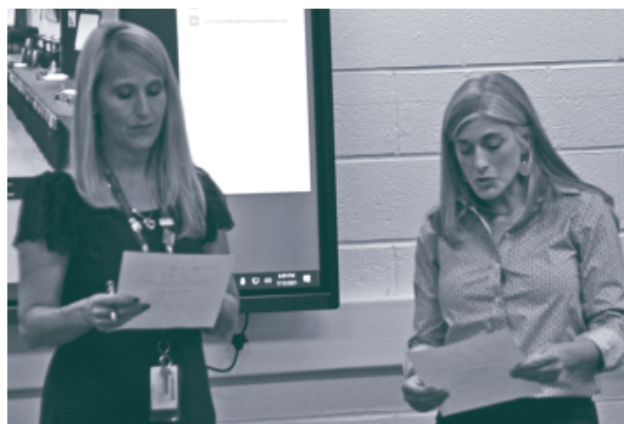
<sup>iii</sup> *of Conduct Hearing, 6:00 p.m. and Budget Hearing/Candidate Forum, 6:30 p.m.*

<sup>iv</sup> *Retiree Reception, 6:15 p.m.*

## Elected board members take oaths for 3-year terms

Kevin Hutton and Leah Brown took their oaths of office to the Spencerport Board of Education on July 13, after their successful elections in May. Their new, three-year terms run from 2021-2024.

District Clerk Marcy Clapper facilitated the oaths, after which the board re-elected Kevin Hutton, as the board president and Greg Kincaid, as the returning vice president.



*Pictured, District clerk Marcy Clapper administers the oath of office to new board member Leah Brown, right.*

## *Congratulations and best wishes to our 2021 retirees*

The following Spencerport Central School District staff retired in 2021. We would like to extend our appreciation to the following retirees for their dedication and commitment to the instruction and operations of our district. Congratulations!

### **Bernabi Elementary School:**

Christine Kincaid, *teacher*

### **Canal View**

#### **Elementary School:**

Donna Kipferl, *teacher aide*

### **Cosgrove Middle School:**

Teresa Trujillo, *special education teacher*

Cindy Wilbur, *teacher aide*

### **District Office:**

Donna Bianchi, *office clerk III*

Colleen Crocetti, *systems analyst*

Lisa McCarthy, *director professional learning*

Patricia Phelps, *data liaison specialist*

### **Facilities Department:**

Cheryl Beisang, *custodian*

Thomas Popowich, *cleaner*

Shawn Rogers, *custodian*

Scott Weaver, *cleaner*

### **Spencerport High School:**

Ann-Marie Adameck, *office clerk III*

Doug Hanson, *social studies teacher*

Cathleen Herman, *business education teacher*

Linda Pelin, *office clerk III*

Mary Lee Schoeneman, *teacher aide*

Kim Yantz, *science teacher*

### **Taylor Elementary School:**

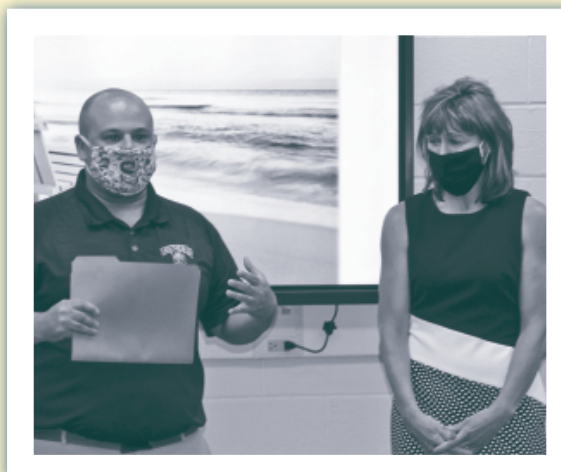
Cathleen Anderson, *teacher aide*

Amy Crumb, *special education teacher*

### **Transportation Department:**

Karen Catone, *bus driver*

Bonnie Rawlings, *bus driver*



*Happy Retirement*

*Pictured, Bernabi principal David Caiazza recognizes long-time teacher, Christine Kincaid, during the districtwide retiree reception on June 15.*



# Congratulations

**Class of 2021 Valedictorian:**  
Jacob To

**Class of 2021 Salutatorian:**  
Lillian DePalma

**Principal's Award:**  
Isaac Pierre

**Superintendent's Award:**  
JamieLynn Gallagher

**Students of the Year:**  
Amy Cannan  
Oriana Gelfuso

**Class of 2021 Academic "Top Eleven":**  
Over the course of their high school career, the following students had the highest Weighted Grade Point Average among the Class of 2021.

*Paul Calderon, Lillian DePalma,  
Cameron Domenico, Ethan George,  
Addison Glozer, Adam Hostetler,  
Michael Laubacher, Delila MacLeod,  
Audrionna Rotoli, Jacob To, Maya Voelkl*

**Senior remarks and performances during commencement:**

8 a.m.

- **National Anthem:**  
*Ethan Shaw*
- **Salutatory address:**  
*Lillian DePalma*
- **Rainbow Connection:**  
*Alexandra Battaglia*

10 a.m.

- **National Anthem:**  
*Elisabeth Resch*
- **Salutatory address:**  
*Lillian DePalma*
- **Handprint on my Heart:**  
*Elisabeth Resch*
- **Valedictory address:**  
*Jacob To*
- **Blackbird:**  
*Ethan Shaw*
- **Class president address:**  
*JamieLynn Gallagher*

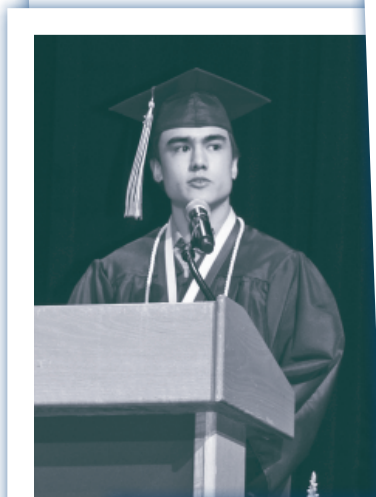
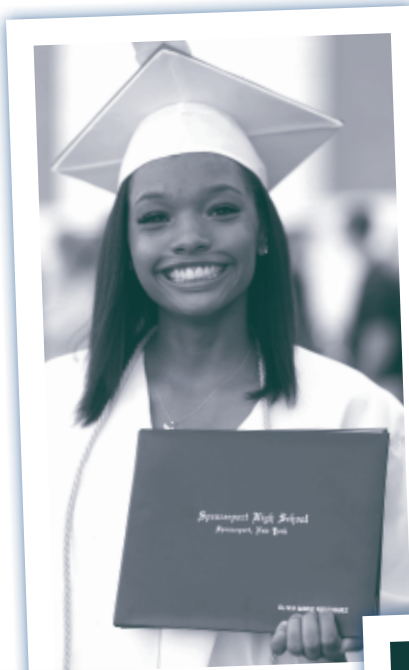
12 p.m.

- **National Anthem:**  
*Kelsey Baker*
- **Salutatory address:**  
*Lillian DePalma*
- **I Wonder:**  
*Kelsey Baker & Katherine Hanley*

**Closing staff member remarks:**  
*Jennifer Placito, Athletic Director*



# TO OUR CLASS OF 2021!





# 2021-22 *year at a glance*

The 2021-22 printed calendar is currently in production with the hopes of a mid-August mailing to our district families. In the meantime, please find a few important dates for your planning purposes.

## Board of Education:

Mr. Kevin Hutton, *President*  
Mr. Greg Kincaid, *Vice President*  
Mr. Gary Bracken  
Ms. Leah Brown  
Ms. Kate Czarnecki  
Mr. David Gibbaro  
Ms. Lori Stone

School Board members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay.

## Superintendent of Schools

Kristin Swann

## Editor:

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## Communication Specialist and Contributors:

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*Cornerstone, NYSRA award winner  
for 2015 and 2018 budget newsletters*



## September

8 School opens: full day session  
20-25 Spirit Week/Homecoming

## October

8 Superintendent's Conference  
Day: no school  
11 Indigenous Peoples Day  
(formerly Columbus Day):  
no school

## November

11 Veterans Day  
25-26 Thanksgiving Recess

## December

24-2 Holiday Recess

## January

3 School reopens  
14 Pre-K-8 Half day release  
(grs 9-12 full day)  
17 Martin Luther King Jr. day

## February

21-25 Presidents Day/  
Mid-winter recess

## March

25 Pre-K-8 Half day release  
(grs 9-12 full day session)

## April

15 Superintendent's Conf Day:  
no school  
18-22 Spring Recess: no school

## May

30 Memorial Day: no school

## June

2 Pre-K-8 Half day release  
(grs. 9-12 full day session)  
15-23 Regents exams  
20 Juneteenth: no school

## Students enjoy Womba Africa performance, Juneteenth celebrations

Womba Africa performed in our Spencerport schools on June 18 as part of our Juneteenth celebrations. The talented group engaged students with Ghanaian music, rhythms, and drum playing.

On June 17, President Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth a federal holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. In next year's school calendar, there will be no school on Monday, June 20, in observance of this holiday.

