



May 20, 2024

The Board Officers were made aware that Kevin Adams, Village of Horseheads Mayor, released a statement at noon today, May 20, 2024, regarding the proposed 2024-25 budget. In this statement, Mayor Adams referenced an article published by Empire Center of Public Policy.

We would like to clarify the data included in this report. It is well known that New York State school districts are facing significant budgetary pressure caused by inflation and lack of state aid. According to the Department of Education's most recent School Report Card, Horseheads spends \$18,579 per pupil, Chemung County Schools spend an average of \$19,410 per pupil, and New York State schools spend an average \$25,870 per pupil. In its article, the Empire Center of Public Policy uses its own formula for calculating these expenditures, rather than the New York State Department of Education's guidelines. Regardless of how expenditures are calculated, the district provides quality experiences for students at a lower cost per pupil than most others in the region.

In response to the community's overwhelming expression to maintain jobs within the organization, the Board unanimously approved a budget on April 18 that accomplished these wishes. The proposed budget will have an estimated tax increase of \$12-\$24 a year on a \$100,000 home.

By doing this, Horseheads Central School District will continue to set the bar when it comes to providing strong Academic, Athletic, and Arts programming. Ultimately, it will be the Horseheads voters who have the final decision on the 2024-25 budget.

Please vote tomorrow, Tuesday, May 21 between 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Horseheads High School South Gym.

Warren Conklin  
President  
Board of Education

Liz O'Dell Wehling  
Vice President  
Board of Education