

Excellence *on display*

spring 2013

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS MAGAZINE



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Budget Vote Information

*District residents will cast ballots on the proposed 2013-2014 budget at the annual budget vote and Board of Education election on **Tuesday, May 21**. Voting will take place in the **Victor Intermediate School Auditorium** from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Voters must be at least 18 years old, a registered voter and a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to May 21, 2013.*

**NEW
LOCATION**

Voter Registration

On Tuesday, May 14, 2013, the Victor Central School District will hold a voter registration from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room. This registration is for residents currently not registered to vote in the general election.

For more information on voter registration and/or the upcoming budget vote, contact VCS District Clerk, Maureen Goodberlet at 924-3252, ext. 1402 or email her at goodberletm@victorschools.org

VCS Board of Education

Patrick Bolger
Timothy DeLucia
Gary Gilbert
Kathryn Hart
Deborah Palumbo-Sanders
Trisha Turner
Michael Young

The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Victor Education Center at 7:15 p.m. Community members are welcome to attend.

District Clerk

Maureen Goodberlet,
(585) 924-3252 ext. 1402

Superintendent of Schools

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

Excellence on Display is the official publication of Victor Central School District.

(585) 924-3252 ext. 1407
www.victorschools.org

The 2013 – 2014 School Budget

A Message from Our Superintendent
Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo



This past fall, Buffalo's *Business First* magazine, a leader in education news, ranked VCS sixth in its annual academic rankings of 67 school districts in the Rochester area. This ranking was based on a 192-part formula analyzing four years of standardized test data from third grade through the senior year of high school. *Business First* also ranked VCS 10th out of 490 districts in 48 upstate counties for highest administrative efficiency. In other words, we were cited as a district with low spending, high pupil-staff ratios and relatively low debt service. We are proud that these designations set us apart academically and fiscally, both factors that go into building successful school budgets.

As you know, for the past four years, school budgets have endured everything from state and federal cuts to general economic malaise. In Victor's case, these challenges have been magnified by additional expenses brought on by an ever-growing student population. Over the last six years, VCS has added 488 new students. In the 2013-2014 school year, we are projected to add another 39 students. While VCS boasts one of the lowest per pupil expenditures (\$8,426) in the state, 39 new students will cost VCS an additional \$328,614.

A continued rising student population is just part of the challenge of building the 2013-2014 budget. State initiatives, namely the implementation of the Race to the Top State grant, will also add to our bottom line. Expenses associated with this program include additional costs for

the new teacher and principal evaluation process and supplementary student assessments as well as materials and professional development for the new Common Core State Standards.

Another fiscal factor we face is federal Sequestration, which decreases federal funding to schools. VCS receives \$1,137,644 in funding from the federal government through Title and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants to support federal mandates. The estimated reduction, due to Sequestration, is between \$52,501 and \$60,295.

From local growth issues and state budget concerns to federal mandates and global economic challenges, VCS continues to build budgets on uncertain ground. Despite these factors, we are recommending a fiscally and educationally responsible budget of \$58,791,049 for the 2013-2014 school year. The projected true tax rate for the 2013-2014 school year is \$16.28 per thousand dollars, up just 15 cents per thousand from this school year's true tax rate of \$16.13.

As you know, VCS' main goal in building a budget is to create a school environment that supports the highest quality education for our children while being fiscally responsible to all of our taxpayers. This year, we continue to do this.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dawn', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dawn A. Santiago-Marullo, Ed.D.

Victor Central School Achievements

Academics

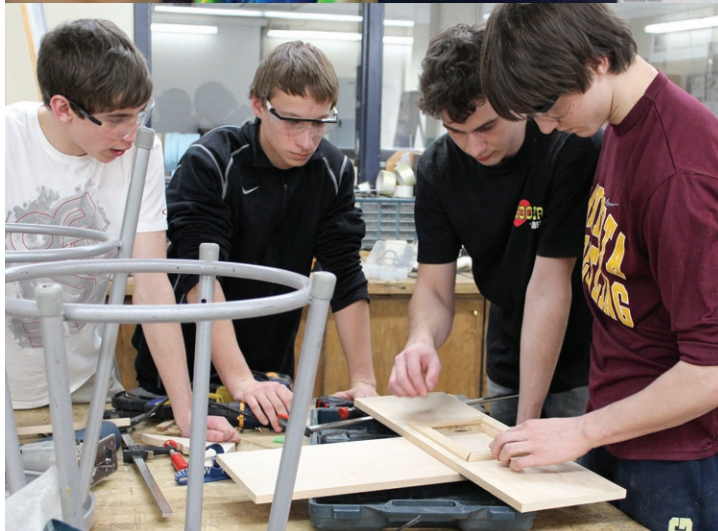
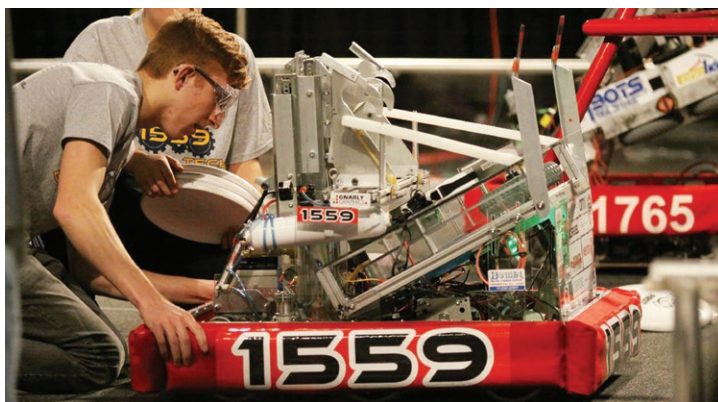
- In September 2012, Victor Junior and Senior High Schools were named "Reward Schools" by the New York State Education Department Commissioner. VSH was named a "Reward School" in the category of "Highest Progress." VJH was named a "Highest Performance" school.
- In June 2012, VJH was re-designated as a "School to Watch" by NYS Education Department's Essential Elements "School to Watch" Program. The school was first designated as a "School to Watch" in 2006.
- In June 2012, 96% of our students graduated with a Regents Diploma. Sixty six percent earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and 27% received a Regents Diploma with Honors. To receive a Regents Diploma with Honors a student must have an average of 90% or higher on their Regents examinations.

Athletics

- All 2012 fall varsity teams and 2012-2013 winter varsity teams qualified as scholar athlete teams.
- Victor's Wrestling team was named Section V, Class A Champions.
- This winter, Alpine Skier, Maddie Haggerty was a member of the Section V Alpine Ski team that won the New York State Championship.
- This winter, swimmers, Luke Shanahan, Jared Ritz, Tyler Alden, Aaron Natarelli and Jeff Williamson were members of the Section V team that won the New York State Boys Swimming and Diving Championship.
- Bailly Kem became Victor's first Section V Champion 1500 meter Racewalker in 2012.

Arts

- The Victor Indoor Percussion Ensemble (VIPE) won the 2012 New York State Percussion Circuit State Championship for a third year in a row.
- This past September fifteen outstanding Victor Senior High musicians were inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Chapter 5863.
- One-third of our high school students are involved in an art program.
- The Senior High School presented *Jekyll & Hyde, the Musical* in 2013.



Proposed Expenditures

New York State law provides that all district budgets be identified in three categories:

Administrative Expenses

- Curriculum Development
- Staff Development
- In-Service Development
- Personnel
- District Audit
- Tax Collection
- Central Printing/Mailing
- District Votes

Program Expenses

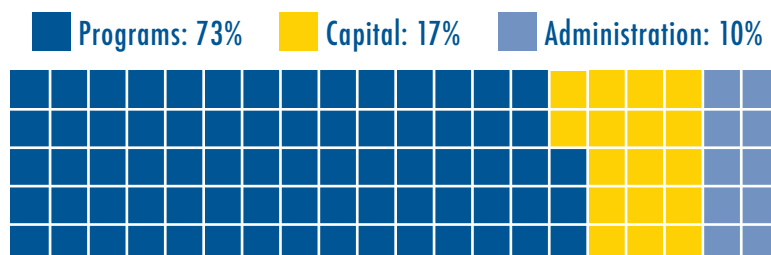
- All student services
- Instructional support
- Transportation operation
- Instructional salaries and benefits

Capital Expenses

- All facilities costs
- Debt Service
- Operations/Maintenance
- Supplies
- Utilities
- Personnel

| | Budget 2012-13 | Proposed Budget 2013-14 | Difference |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Administrative Component | | | |
| Board of Education | 61,577 | 62,939 | 1,362 |
| Central Administration | 180,557 | 185,764 | 5,207 |
| Finance | 331,797 | 338,271 | 6,474 |
| Staff | 432,020 | 438,262 | 6,242 |
| Central Services | 295,944 | 295,944 | — |
| Special Items | 696,540 | 730,482 | 33,942 |
| Curriculum Development | 387,872 | 395,537 | 7,665 |
| Curriculum Supervision | 1,413,320 | 1,439,605 | 26,285 |
| Pupil Personnel Services | 285,045 | 293,002 | 7,957 |
| Employee Benefits | 1,516,830 | 1,563,972 | 47,142 |
| Administrative budget | 5,601,502 | 5,743,778 | 142,276 |
| Program Component | | | |
| Legal Services/In-Service | 20,700 | 20,700 | — |
| Teaching | 22,690,992 | 23,695,776 | 1,004,784 |
| Instructional Media | 1,011,711 | 1,093,879 | 82,168 |
| Pupil Services | 1,664,935 | 1,724,304 | 59,369 |
| Co-Curricular/Intersch Athletics | 1,037,691 | 1,053,361 | 15,670 |
| District Transportation Services | 2,471,004 | 2,471,503 | 499 |
| Community Services | 9,813 | 9,813 | — |
| Employee Benefits | 12,391,967 | 13,088,289 | 696,322 |
| Total program | 41,298,813 | 43,157,625 | 1,858,812 |
| Capital Component | | | |
| Operation | 2,021,090 | 2,077,981 | 56,891 |
| Maintenance | 1,028,560 | 1,036,022 | 7,462 |
| Employee Benefits | 731,704 | 757,598 | 25,894 |
| Debt Service | 5,792,412 | 6,018,046 | 225,634 |
| Total Capital | 9,573,766 | 9,889,647 | 315,881 |
| Total Budget Increase | 56,474,080 | 58,791,049 | 2,316,969 |

Expenditures by Component



Bus Purchase Proposition

School bus fleet maintenance and safety are driving a bus purchase proposition on the ballot May 21, 2013. Residents will be asked to approve the purchase of four 77-passenger and two 30-passenger buses.

The proposition totals \$614,800. New York State will provide 60 percent of the funding through NYS Transportation Aid. The new buses will replace vehicles that are at least 12 years old and have mileage in excess of one hundred thousand miles.

Notice is further given that a Bond Proposition in substantially the following form shall be presented to the qualified voters of the District at such Annual District Meeting and Election.

Bond Proposition Resolved:

- (a) That the Board of Education of the Victor Central School District, in the Counties of Ontario, Monroe and Wayne, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to purchase various school buses and vehicles for use by the District; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$614,800;
- (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$614,800 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; and
- (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$614,800 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable.

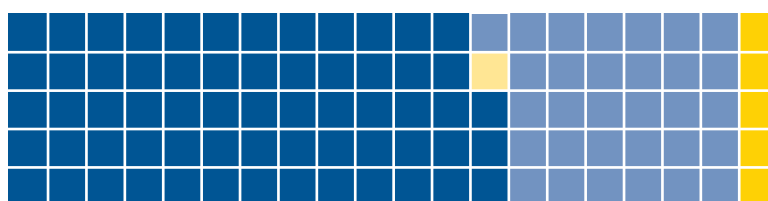
VCS Budget Additions

- ~ 1 Special Education Teacher, ECEC Building
- ~ 1 Library Media Specialist, ECEC Building
- ~ 4 Academic Intervention Teachers for K-6 (ELA & Math Support)
- ~ 1 Math Coach K-6
- ~ Additional aide and secretarial support, ECEC Building
- ~ 1.5 Cleaner Positions

Victor Central School 2013-14 Budget Plan Revenues

| | Budget 2012-13 | Proposed 2013-14 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| State Aid | 16,748,718 | 18,002,242 |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes | 1,855,000 | 1,782,292 |
| Interest and Earnings | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Reserve Funds | 835,000 | 835,000 |
| Other Sources | 338,000 | 338,000 |
| Fund Balance | 529,000 | 529,000 |
| Tax Levy | 36,068,362 | 37,204,515 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 56,474,080 | 58,791,049 |

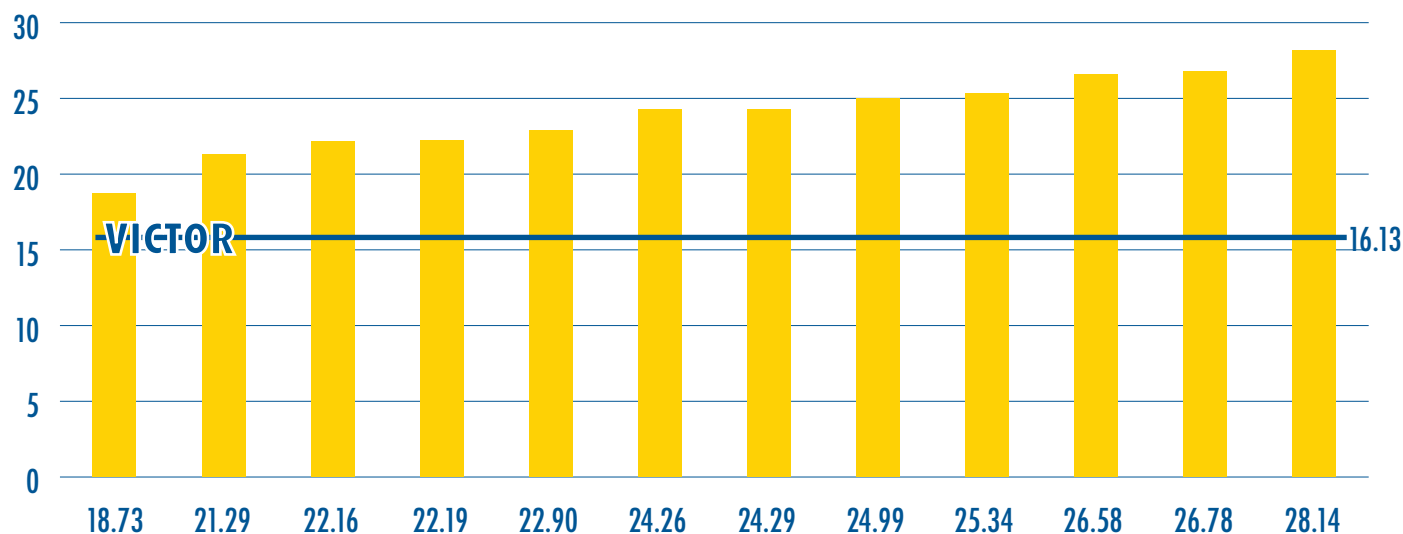
Where the Funding Comes From



- Tax Levy: 63%
- Fund Balance: 1%
- State Aid: 31%
- Other: 5%

2012-13 True Tax Rate Comparison

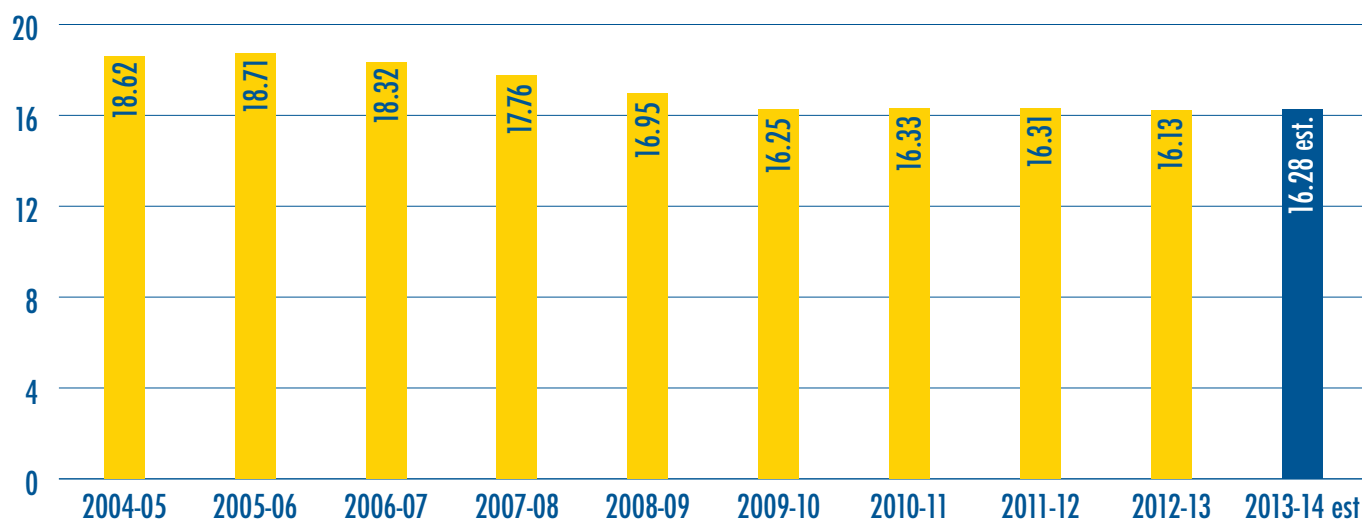
(Source: Four County and Monroe County SBA)



Tax Rates in the graph above represent the following districts (not necessarily in the order listed): Bloomfield, Brighton, Canandaigua, East Irondequoit, Fairport, Honeoye Falls-Lima, Manchester-Shortsville, Palmyra-Macedon, Penfield, Pittsford, Victor, Webster, West Irondequoit

The figures above represent the true value tax rate per \$1,000 of home assessment. In comparing the 2012-13 true value tax rates among Ontario County schools plus our contiguous and academic benchmark districts in Monroe County, Victor's true tax rate was the **lowest**.

Victor Central Schools Tax Rate History per \$1,000



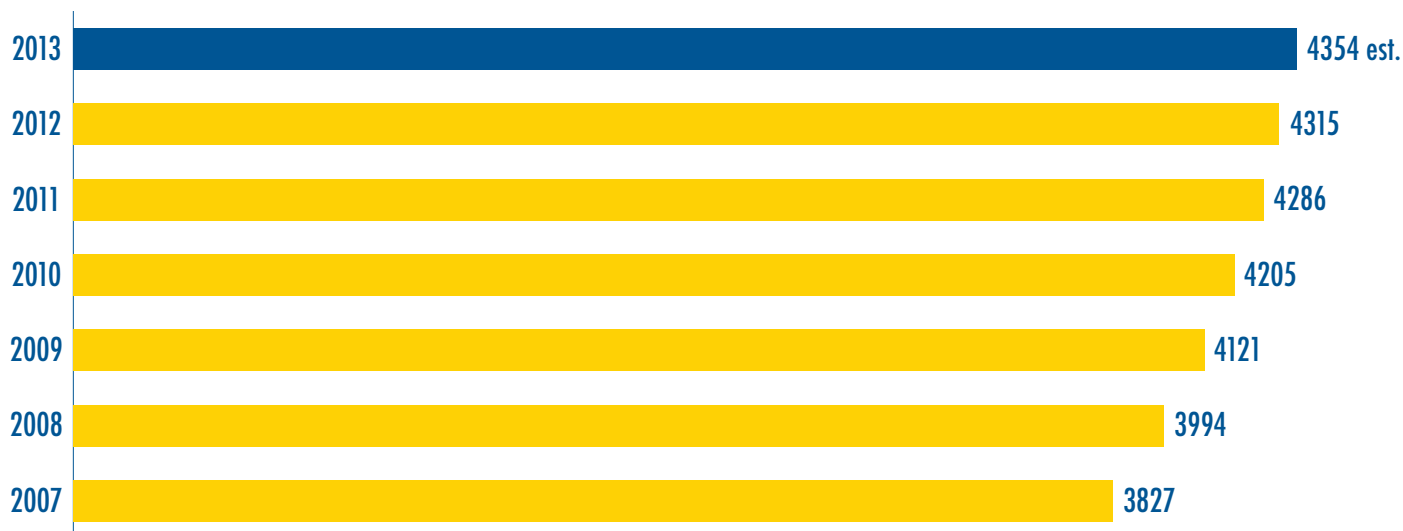
STAR Program Information

The NYS School Tax Assessment Relief (STAR) program provides qualified homeowners with a \$30,000 assessment reduction for tax purposes. Senior citizens receive a \$63,300 exemption. More than 900 senior citizens throughout the district received a reduction in their tax bills for the 2012-2013 school year.

School Tax Information Using STAR

| Tax Bill with STARs | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1997-98 | \$1,868 |
| 2013-14 (estimated) | \$1,143 |
| \$ Decrease | \$725 |
| % Decrease | -39% |

Victor Central School District Enrollment History*



* Excludes Good Start and Universal Pre-K (UPK)

Victor Central School NYS School District Budget Notice, including Contingent

Property Tax Report Card

The following is the Property Tax Report Card information that we are required to send to the newspaper per NYS regulations:

| | | Projected | Contingent Budget |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2013-14 |
| Total Spending | 56,474,080 | 58,791,049 | 57,654,896 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2013-14 school year | | 2,316,969 | 1,180,816 |
| Percent Increase (decrease) in each proposed budget | | 4.10% | 2.09% |
| Change in Consumer Price Index | | 2.10% | |
| Total Proposed School Tax Levy | 36,068,362 | 37,204,515 | 36,068,362 |
| Total Permissible Exclusions | 954,392 | 1,367,537 | |
| Proposed School Tax Levy (without permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit) | 35,113,970 | 35,836,979 | |
| School Tax Levy Limit | 35,813,681 | 36,551,687 | |
| Difference (positive value requires 60% approval) | (699,711) | (714,708) | |
| Administrative Component | 5,601,501 | 5,743,777 | 5,618,777 |
| Program Component | 41,298,813 | 43,157,625 | 42,271,472 |
| Capital Component | 9,573,766 | 9,889,647 | 9,764,647 |

Should the 2013-2014 budget be defeated and the above contingency budget be adopted, the Victor Central School District Board of Education will make the final determination of budget cuts in a contingency budget. The following is a list of options the Board may choose to eliminate or reduce: some athletic teams, administration, teachers and support staff, and instructional programs. In addition, equipment purchases must be eliminated and all community groups will be required to pay for the use of buildings (please note that Section 2023 of the Education Law requires school districts to provide this statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget).

VCS Bids a Fine Farewell to 2013 Retirees

This year, VCS says goodbye to nine fine employees, men and women who have given their all to their work through the years. Whether they were teaching students, supporting staff or maintaining equipment, each contributed to VCS in their own unique and important way. They will be missed!

Victor Primary School:

Mary Coleman, 1974 - 2013, Elementary Teacher

Mary Dushenko, 1991 - 2013, Elementary Teacher

Mary Murphy, 1978 - 2013, Elementary Teacher

Linda Perkins, 1971 - 2013, Elementary Teacher

Victor Intermediate School:

Linda Armstrong, 1977 - 2013, Elementary Teacher

Victor Junior High School:

Teresa Swank, 1982 - 2013, Science Teacher

Joanne Linehan, 1987 - 2013, Math Teacher

District Wide:

Diane Mehlenbacher, 1987 - 2012, District Payroll Clerk

Donald Richards, 2004 - 2012, HVAC Service Engineer

Three Residents Seek to fill



Timothy M. DeLucia

Address:

1452 Mertensia Road,
Farmington, NY 14425

District Resident

27 years

Education

BS, Business Administration – Rochester Institute of Technology

Profession

Retired Business Manager

Community Activities

- Current President of the Victor Central School Board of Education
- Volunteer at the Canandaigua Veterans' Club

VCS Board representative to the

Leadership Committee

District Audit committee

NYSSBA Federal Relations Network

NYSSBA Legislative Committee

Four County Board of Directors

Four County School Board Legislative Committee

Four County Program and Resource Development Committee

Family

Wife - Marilyn

Son - Michael (1997 VCS Grad)

Daughter - Erin (1999 VCS Grad)

Personal Statement

As a Board Member, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the school community, and to be part of the process that has enabled us to provide a wealth of educational opportunities for our students. These opportunities offer our students the preparation needed to be "world ready," follow their dreams, and to meet the challenges for success.

I have been privileged to work with a talented and dedicated team of District professionals that have provided programs to meet the needs and interests of ALL

students, while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the District residents. I will continue to support these efforts.

I would be honored to continue to work as a board member to support the vision to improve, develop and offer a strong educational foundation for the children of our community.



Kathryn G. Hart

Address:

1260 Cork Road,
Victor, NY 14425

District Resident

13 years

Education

B.A. with Highest Distinction in Political Science – Pennsylvania State University; Juris Doctor with Honors in Law – Ohio State University College of Law

Profession

Attorney

Community Activities

- Board of Education, Victor Central School District since 2007, currently Vice President and Member of Audit Committee and Policy Committee
- Four County School Boards Association, currently Legislative Committee Chair and Member of Steering Committee
- Partners In Education (PIE), President from 2000 – 2009
- Inquiry Program Advisory Committee Member since 2000
- Previously served as a Parent Representative on VCSD's Curriculum Council, Jr. High Council, Monitoring Task Force, Parent Representative Nominating Committee, and the Steering Committee on Inclusive Education
- Founder and Past Coordinator of Chess Clubs at Victor Primary, Intermediate, and Jr. High Schools and Victor Chess Tournament Coordinator from 2001-2009

Board of Education Seats

- Victor Central PTSA Member/Volunteer and VOICE Member
- Girl Scout Leader/Advisor 2005 - 2012
- Scott Spino Literacy Program Volunteer at Rochester City School #22
- Cantor, Choir Member, Liturgy Committee Member, and former Choir Director at St. Catherine's Church

Family

Husband – Jerry

Daughter – Michelle, VCS Graduate 2012, currently a freshman majoring in Childhood and Early Adolescent Education at the Pennsylvania State University, Schreyer Honors College

Son – Matthew, VCS Graduate 2009, currently a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame

Personal Statement

For the past thirteen years, I have worked diligently within the District as a parent representative, advocate, volunteer, and member of the Board of Education to ensure that each child is given every possible opportunity to reach his/her full intellectual potential and is encouraged to become a life-long learner, one who will be successful in our ever-changing and highly competitive world.

I have worked very closely with administrators, teachers, parents, staff, and students. I remain firmly committed to improving curriculum, instruction, parent/school communication, parent involvement, and shared decision making. The fiscal challenges of recent years have been difficult, but our District has remained committed to academic excellence. Our District has indeed done very well, but we must always strive for continuous improvement. We owe that to our children.

It would be an honor and a privilege to continue serving on the Board of Education and working proactively with the entire community to ensure that all of our children receive the exceptional education they deserve.



Mike Young

Address:

7079 Valentown Road
Victor, NY 14564

District Resident

21 years

Education

New York Chiropractic College
SUNY Alfred
Regents College

Profession

Chiropractor

Community Activities

- Past President of Victor Youth Football
- Youth Coach for Victor Youth Lacrosse
- Incumbent of the Victor Board of Education

VCS Board representative to the

Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

Family

Wife - Kim

Son - Connor (2013 VCS Grad)

Daughter - Allison (2016 VCS Grad)

Personal Statement

I would like to continue my service on the Victor Board of Education. In the last three years, I have enjoyed my time on the Victor Board of Education. As a Board member it is my responsibility to optimize resources, which allows the District to enhance educational opportunities for all students. I feel it is important to be involved in the community and to give back to the District that is serving my children.

Our District is full of great teachers, administrators, staff, parents, residents and programs. I am proud to have had a role in it. I would be honored to be able to provide my stability of experience in this position and to help guide the District through its continued growth. VCS has a proud tradition of success and trust and I would like to help build on this as we continue to be fiscally responsible to the entire community.

Victor-Rennes Exchange Comes Full-Circle

Two years ago Mr. Mustafa Mokhtari, an assistant principal from Lycée Jean-Paul II in Saint Grégoire, France came to the Finger Lakes looking for a high school willing to participate in a cultural exchange. His high school had developed exchanges with high schools in Denmark, Ireland, and Spain. Lycée Jean-Paul II is located in a suburb of Rennes, sister-city to Rochester. Mr. Mokhtari met with Marie-France Nothnagle, a French teacher at Victor. After consulting with Senior High Principal Yvonne O'Shea and French teacher Anne Stekl, all were in agreement that an exchange should be considered. They sought and received approval from the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

Last fall, the first group of exchange students arrived in Victor for a week of intercultural activities. Twenty-four students and two teachers arrived to learn about our schools, our culture, and to immerse themselves in an English-speaking environment. Twenty-four host families were selected to welcome the students during their stay. While here, the French students attended classes, visited such places as Niagara Falls, the Erie Canal, and the city of Rochester, and enjoyed their first Halloween party.

During spring break, 18 Victor students travelled to Rennes to participate and learn about French language and culture. They were housed with the same students they met in the fall. In addition to attending classes at Lycée Jean-Paul II, Victor students were able to visit Rennes, the Normandy beaches, Mont St. Michel, St. Malo, Versailles and of course, Paris.



*Victor students
in Paris*



*French students
enjoyed their
first Halloween
party*

From all accounts, the first year of the exchange was extremely successful. Parents on both sides of the ocean were thrilled with the opportunity given to both sets of students. Our Victor students described the exchange as "the best experience of my life" and "an awesome experience that really makes me look at the world in a new way." Both Mrs. Nothnagle and Ms. Stekl believe that the goal of the exchange was accomplished. Students were able to improve their language skills, were exposed first-hand to French culture, and were able to appreciate how globalization is changing the world.

The Victor-Rennes Exchange is an endeavor that will be continued in the future, with the next visit planned for fall 2014.



Lights, Camera, Aaron Issacs

A Spotlight on Excellence



What advice would you give to a student interested in a career in audio visual work?

"Learn what makes an event successful, this is more important than the technical know-how. When it comes to the technical side, learn something about everything."

What do you like to do when you are not working at VCS?

"I like to play the guitar and sing, perform magic and spend time with my wife and son."

He has been instrumental in the success of hundreds of VCS concerts, plays and other events through the years, but the only time you will ever see him *on stage* is for the faculty musical recitals.

As the Audio Visual (AV) Coordinator for Victor Central

Schools, Aaron Issacs is a "Wizard of Oz" of sorts, quietly, meticulously preparing for and running the sound and lighting for just about every event held in one of the campus' four auditoriums.

This six year veteran is also responsible for the AV equipment in all of the classrooms, District video production and editing, and daily details too numerous to note.

When asked what a typical day in the life of the AV Coordinator is, Aaron says there is no such thing.

"Each day is different. It is one of the things I like best about my position. I may be fixing or maintaining some AV equipment, I may be preparing for a big show, editing a video or helping a staff member find the best solution to something they are working on. Sometimes it is all of those."

Issacs' colleagues would agree that his job description goes beyond the typical résumé, or day, for that matter.

Jeremy Hawkinson, VCS Musical Director says Aaron is an integral part of our theater program.

"We bounce creative ideas off each other, and as technical director, he turns them into very cool lighting and sound designs. He also guides and mentors our backstage, lighting, and technical crews on each show."

Eric Everhart, VCS Music Department Chairman agrees that Aaron is an indispensable colleague.

"Our programs could not function without Aaron. He is always professional, and advocates strongly for our programs."

Tim Nowak, VSH Strings Teacher says Aaron is the grease that keeps the performing arts machine running smoothly at VCS. He is absolutely everything that we would ask for in the arts department."

While his peers pay him high praise at every turn, Issacs takes a humbler stance, putting students first.

"I like being able to provide students with an opportunity to perform in a professional caliber auditorium, with professional equipment while watching them grow as performers over their years at VCS."

As for what his take on students is these days, Issacs had this to day.

"If you give students the right tools and you have high expectations for them, they will rise to the occasion."

Based on his track record, it is clear to see that rising to the occasion is something Issacs knows a lot about.

VCS Earns Fit Friendly Gold Status by the American Heart Association

Victor Central Schools was one of four local schools and three area businesses recently recognized by the American Heart Association as a Fit-Friendly Worksite for promoting physical activity and health in the workplace. Through the Fit-Friendly Worksite designation, the American Heart Association works with area employers on their wellness and health programs.

“The Fit-Friendly Worksite program offers a unique, easy-to-implement opportunity to increase employees’ physical activity, which will help improve their health – and their employers’ bottom line,” said Dr. George Porter, American Heart Association Board President in Rochester. “Even people who haven’t exercised regularly can reap significant benefits by starting a walking program.”

VCS Health and Wellness Committee – Committed to Fit Friendly Environment

VCS’ recent Fit Friendly Gold Status recognition by the American Heart Association is not only a tribute to VCS students and staff who work so hard to stay healthy, it is also a tribute to the VCS Health and Wellness Committee for their work in promoting health and wellness on campus year-round.

The VCS Health and Wellness Committee was formed three years ago as a result of a mandate by the New York State Education Department. Through the years, the committee has flourished from a data driven committee to an interactive and proactive group committed to providing a school



environment that enhances learning and development of lifelong wellness practices.

From setting the highest nutrition standards in our cafeterias to offering healthy vending machines, providing cutting-edge physical education classes to students three times a week, a Staff Fitness Club, health and wellness challenges, and most recently, offering the Weight Watchers program to students and staff, VCS is committed to the highest level of health and wellness. ■

Dignitaries Help Victor Junior High School Celebrate Two Awards

On Thursday, March 28th the

Farmington Town Supervisor, Ted Fafinski, Victor Town Supervisor, Jack Marren, Dr. David Payton, NYS Director for the Essential Elements School to Watch Program, VCS Superintendent, Dr. Dawn Santiago-Marullo, Scott Bishoping, Superintendent of Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and VCS Board of Education members joined Junior High students and staff to celebrate two recognition awards, its re-designation as a “School to Watch” by the New York State Education Department’s Essential Elements School to Watch Program and New York State Education Department Commissioner John King’s designation as a “Reward School” for “Highest Achievement.”

Victor Junior High School was first named a “School to Watch” in 2006. It is among only 328 schools designated in nineteen states nationwide and twenty seven middle schools statewide that have earned this distinguished recognition.



Victor Junior High is one of only seven middle schools in NYS to have been re-designated twice.

According to the committee's recommendation, "The Victor Junior High School should be re-designated as one of the New York State Essential Elements: Schools-to-Watch schools because it has not only maintained and enhanced its excellence over the past three years but also has created the conditions, capital, and broad-based support to continue its efforts at continuous improvement in the foreseeable future. It can serve as an exemplar and mentor for middle-level schools interested in implementing the Essential Elements, observing best practice, and engaging in continuous improvement." ■

Retired Teacher Named 2013 Volunteer Committed to Service Award Recipient

Victor Central Schools and the Victor Teachers' Association have named Victor resident Nancy Dontzin its 2013 Volunteer Committed to Service award recipient.

The Volunteer Committed to Service award was created by Victor Central Schools and

the Victor Teachers' Association as a way to pay tribute to those special men and women who give of their time and talents to VCS, whether through one major event or years of service to a group of students and/or building.

Victor Primary teacher, Ryan Charno was instrumental in nominating Dontzin for this year's honor.

"Nancy, known as "Grandma Nancy" to the students, is a true asset to the

Victor Primary School. Nancy, a retired teacher with a plethora of expertise, has volunteered in my classroom since her granddaughter was a student six years ago! Nancy's commitment to providing this valuable classroom instructional support has been outstanding. For the past six years, she has volunteered during reader's workshop, 3-4 days a week, for an hour and a half each day. Her expertise, patience and teaching skills are obvious as she works with a wide array of students." ■

VCS Names 2013 Graduates of Distinction

Colonel Sharon Duffy (Class of 1975) and Musician, Alan Hood (Class of 1982)

This year, a highly distinguished retired military officer and world renowned trumpet player will be recognized as Victor Central Schools' 2013 Graduates of Distinction.

United States Army Colonel Sharon Duffy (Class of 1975) and musician Alan Hood (Class of 1982) will be formally recognized at "Graduates of Distinction Day," a special day of education, recognition and inspiration, to be held at the Victor Senior High School this fall. ■



Nancy Dontzin working with children in the Primary School.



Colonel Sharon Duffy, Class of 1975



Alan Hood, Class of 1982

Victor Central School District
953 High Street
Victor, NY 14564

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To: Victor Central School District Residents

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services maintains a list of registered sex offenders and offers many resources through its web site, <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>. People may search the Sex Offender Registry using the criteria of name, county or zip code. Parents and guardians may want to talk with children about interacting with adults and people they do not know.

Family Fun Festival

May 21, 2013, 3:30 - 9:00 p.m.
VCS Campus

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS 118TH ALUMNI BANQUET

Ravenwood Golf Club

929 Lynaugh Road, Victor, NY 14565

Sunday, June 9, 2013

6:30 p.m. Cocktails ~ 7 p.m. Dinner

For more information call Ken Weigert at 924-2944

Twelfth Annual Senior Citizens' Ball

Free and open to ALL

Victor Central School District
Senior Citizens!

Saturday, May 11, 2013 — 7 – 9 p.m.

@ Victor Intermediate School Gymnasium

Entertainment provided by **"Western New York Big Band"**

*Reservations required, call School & Community Relations at 924-3252,
ext.1407 or e-mail welche@victorschools.org or laskysh@victorschools.org*

**PLEASE NOTE
TIME CHANGE**

VCS Class of 2013 Graduation Ceremony

Sunday, June 23, 3:00 p.m.
at CMAC

Constellation Brands
Marvin Sands Performing Arts Center

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE VCS E-NEWS?

SPECIAL EVENTS · IMPORTANT UPDATES! Throughout the school year, our VCS Superintendent and building Principals send out electronic newsletters highlighting special school events, unique accomplishments, important updates and other timely information. Are you receiving these vital sources of school information? If not, we strongly urge you to sign up for both the Superintendent's and building Principals' e-news by going to our web site: **www.victorschools.org**