

# 2023 Budget Report



## SAINT ALBANS *Vermont*

**VOTE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
City Hall Auditorium, 100 North Main Street, St. Albans, VT**

**City of St. Albans**

**St. Albans Free Library**

**Maple Run Unified School District**

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Mayor: Tim Smith  
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins  
Ward 2: Newell Decker  
Ward 3: Marie Bessette  
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy



Ward 5: Robert Farrar  
Ward 6: Chad Spooner  
Clerk/Treasurer: Nicole Robtoy  
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

Dear City Voter,

Enclosed is the 2023 Budget Report for the City of Saint Albans.

This report contains the budget messages and proposed budgets for the City and School for FY24. Also included is a copy of the Annual Meeting Warning which lists the elections and public questions that voters will be asked to consider.

Prior to the vote, there will be informational meetings where the Board Members and Administration will be available to provide answers to your questions.

The informational meetings are scheduled as follows:

- City Budget, Monday, February 27, 2023 - 6:30pm, City Hall, 100 North Main St. Albans, VT - Council Chambers Room
- Maple Run Unified School District #57 Budget, Wednesday, March 1, 2023-6pmMRUSD Central Office Boardroom- 28 Catherine St. St. Albans, VT

Sincerely,

Nicole Robtoy  
City Clerk & Treasurer

Mayor: Tim Smith  
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins  
Ward 2: Newell Decker  
Ward 3: Marie Bessette  
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy



Ward 5: Robert Farrar  
Ward 6: Chad Spooner  
Clerk/Treasurer: Nicole Robtoy  
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

**WARNING  
ANNUAL CITY MEETING  
CITY OF ST. ALBANS**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the City of St. Albans are hereby warned and notified to meet at the City Hall Auditorium, located at 100 North Main Street, on Tuesday March 7, 2023, for the pmpose of voting upon the articles as herein set forth. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 7:00 p.m. Articles will be voted upon by use of the voter checklist and official printed ballots.

**Article 1: Elected Positions**

To elect from the legal voters of the City, the following officers:

- City Councilor to represent Ward Three for a term of three years;
- City Councilor to represent Ward Four for a term of three years;
- Two Trustees for the St. Albans Free Library for a term of three years each;
- Any other officer or officers required by law to be elected at said meeting.

**Article 2: City Budget**

Shall the voters adopt the City Council's proposed budget for FY 2024 totaling \$10,981,753 with an estimated municipal tax rate of \$1.0068 on the Grand List?

**Article 3: Fire Truck**

Shall the City of St. Albans issue general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed eight hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$835,000) for the pmpose of financing the purchase of a Fire Truck, and for the payment thereof pledge the credit of the City?

Adopted and approved at a special meeting of the City Council, duly called, noticed, and held on January 26, 2023.

Timothy Smith, Mayor

Newell Decker, Ward 2

Mike McCarthy, Ward 4

Chad Spooner, Ward 6

Timothy Hawkins, Ward 1

Marie Bessette, Ward 3

Robert Farrar, Ward 5

ATTEST:

Nicole Robtoy, City Clerk

Mayor: Tim Smith  
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins  
Ward 2: Newell Decker  
Ward 3: Marie Bessette  
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy



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Ward 6: Chad Spooner  
Clerk/Treasurer: Nicole Robtoy  
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

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## The Mayor's Town Meeting Message

Let me first start by thanking Mike McCarthy for his years of service to the residents in Ward 4 and throughout the City of St. Albans. Mike was elected to the City Council on Town Meeting Day in 2017 and for the most part did double duty as the City's Representative at the Statehouse in Montpelier and as a Councilman representing Ward 4. Mike was a valuable member of the Council over the past 6 years and moved a number of initiatives forward not only locally but in Montpelier as well. He was always very responsive to the concerns/suggestions of all of the City's residents not just Ward 4 constituents. Thank you, Mike, for your commitment to the City and we wish you well in your future endeavors.

As of Town Meeting Day in 2022 City voters approved a charter change that discontinued the process of voting for a City Clerk and Treasurer, this is something that was in the original City Charter. The Charter change allowed for the City Council to hire and appoint an individual to fill both the Clerk and Treasurer positions. In this day and age, the Council felt we could no longer guarantee that a qualified person, who had to live within the City limits, would step forward and run for the position. The Clerk/Treasurer position has grown and expanded over the years and requires continuing education to keep up with new legislative initiatives. This past summer the Council hired Nicole Robtoy to fill the Clerk and Treasurer positions. The City is fortunate to have Nicole on our team.

We have seen some great advancements within our community over the last calendar year starting with the completion of the new pool at Hard'ack. The hot summer resulted in some record-breaking attendance and now with the pool enclosed with the dome, many residents and visitors are enjoying regular winter exercise in a great setting. We have had new restaurants and businesses open in our Downtown area and the City is seeing more and more tourists every year. The first building constructed at the former Fonda site is completed and is open for business. The American Rail Dispatch Center has relocated from the historic railroad building at the corner of Federal and Lake streets to their newly constructed building located off from Lower Newton Street.

With the good there is always some bad and for our community we saw the closure of the INS facility located in the Coote Field business park after a significant flooding incident. As luck would have it their lease expired around the same time. We were led to believe that the federal agency would be downsizing and would be looking to construct a smaller building within St. Albans, but much to our disappointment they chose to consolidate at their Essex site. The employees never lost their jobs as they were able to remain employed by working remotely.

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Our community also saw the closing of the oldest Catholic church in Vermont and that is St. Mary's located on Fairfield Street. The Church began as a chapel in 1849 and the construction of the Church itself was completed in 1858. The closure was due to reduced attendance and for structural safety concerns.

Most recently the City and Town of St. Albans signed an historic agreement whereby both communities have come to an agreement to share the water and sewer system as well as partnering on public safety. The two communities established a police department that will patrol both the City and Town equally and both entities will share in the cost equally.

I would like to thank all of our residents for your support at the voting booth and with your help we will continue to grow our community in a way that we can all be proud of.

Timothy Smith

Mayor

# City of St. Albans General Fund 2024 Budget Proposal

2024 Proposed Budget

General Fund 2024 Proposed Budget: Summary of all Revenues													
A	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	2022 As of			Percent Change from Prior Year
										2022 Actual	2023 Budget	% Budget	
1	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	12/10/22					2024 Draft	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change from Prior Year	
2										5,136,081	114,889	2.3%	
3	Property Tax Revenues	4,840,809	4,937,423	5,021,762	2,510,881	50.0%							
4	General Revenue Categories	4,071,855	4,168,888	4,253,937	-	0.0%				26,900	-	0.0%	
5	Police	20,071	24,688	24,688	26,900	0.0%				47,800	-	0.0%	
6	Interest on Taxes	58,433	11,867	11,867	47,600	28.9%				5,000	-	0.0%	
7	State Payments, RR Taxes	5,021	2,510	2,510	5,000	0.0%				3,000	-	0.0%	
8	Interest on Savings & General AR	4,459	4,611	4,611	3,000	2,056				59,444	1,731	3.0%	
9	WWW Pro-rata Lease, PW Garage	52,816	54,400	56,032	57,713	57,713	100.0%			66,506	1,937	3.0%	
10	WWW Pro-rata Lease, PW Garage	59,090	60,862	62,688	64,959	64,959	100.0%			56,000	1,000	1.8%	
11	PLOTT	58,542	58,547	60,122	60,122	100.0%				48,000	500	1.1%	
12	Insurance Reimbursements & Misc.	28,214	21,124	17,400	12,903	21.2%				100,000	(61,000)	-50.0%	
13	LOT General Funds	74,397	70,468	95,137	102,820	82,694	61.5%			100,000	100,000	100.0%	
14	LOT Debt Reimbursement	-	-	-	411,165	142,032	34.5%			80,000	(12,813)	-3.1%	
15	LOT General & Redevelopment	50,226	67,409	67,409	80,000	21.5%				60,000	10,000	20.0%	
17	LOT Recreation Access	37,670	50,357	50,357	50,000	12,912	25.5%			50,000	-	0.0%	
18	Reimbursement for Stormwater Services	50,000	50,000	50,000	51,500	103.0%				118,800	4,000	3.0%	
19	City Clerk	136,264	130,839	130,839	114,900	41,747	36.3%			95,300	16,500	20.9%	
20	Planning & Development / Property Services	178,033	97,079	97,079	58,695	79.5%				481,700	41,600	9.2%	
21	Department of Public Works	1,411,934	1,324,078	1,324,078	1,556,622	13.9%				1,213,425	209,628	20.5%	
22	Police / Animal Control	1,411,934	1,411,934	1,324,078	1,556,622	13.9%				1,213,425	209,628	20.5%	
23	Dispatch	941,999	904,222	1,033,797	841,065	83.8%				390,000	252,900	183.6%	
24	Public Works	236,884	166,646	166,647	137,600	79,239	57.6%			1,278,800	9,076	0.7%	
25	Recreation Programs, including Ballroom	708,167	643,332	711,328	1,126,912	582,941	45.5%			199,300	46,614	29.7%	
26	Parking Program	181,063	112,815	167,856	153,866	32,524	60.2%			909,176	51,310	6.0%	
27	Restorative Justice Center	1,084,585	956,378	812,423	857,866	288,204	33.6%			10,881,753	786,483	7.8%	
28	Total Revenue	9,790,883	9,851,373	9,825,168	10,168,270	5,086,123	50.0%						
General Fund 2024 Proposed Budget: Summary of all Expenditures													
A	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	2022 As of			Percent Change from Prior Year
										2022 Actual	2023 Budget	% Budget	
30	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	12/10/22					2024 Draft	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change from Prior Year	
30										464,172	107,114	30.0%	
31	Finance and Administration	598,371	368,118	403,102	357,057	175,052	49.0%			42,000	500	0.0%	
32	Audit Fees	10,156	9,690	9,690	9,145	79.5%				230,000	(940)	-0.1%	
33	HR&A & Accrued Time Costs	176,343	250,878	250,878	215,050	93.4%				250,000	(300)	-0.1%	
34	Professional Services, Legal	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	100.0%				250,000	(300)	-0.1%	
35	City of St. Albans General Funds	268,505	268,505	268,505	267,951	51.3%				250,000	(300)	-0.1%	
36	City Clerk	68,692	130,839	130,839	108,166	153,114	44.7%			103,905	(3,832)	-3.5%	
37	Planning & Development / Property Services	281,331	67,079	268,769	126,883	44.2%				302,735	15,976	5.0%	
38	Fire Department	29,560	767,767	1,027,696	1,000,953	762,610	76.2%			1,077,885	77,033	7.7%	
39	Fire Department	417,778	430,802	430,802	430,802	184,465	49.3%			392,695	17,648	4.7%	
40	Police Department	3,168,560	2,970,822	2,970,822	2,956,650	1,333,737	45.1%			3,081,725	(4,000)	-100.0%	
41	Police Animal Control	942,319	878,183	1,140,882	1,115,860	491,249	44.1%			1,445,865	330,314	29.5%	
42	Dispatch	38,415	683,563	683,563	635,099	316,375	40.8%			943,883	308,785	48.6%	
43	Dispatch Capital	38,415	683,563	683,563	635,099	316,375	40.8%			275,000	5,000	1.9%	
44	Public Works, Highway, Parks	545,140	285,881	285,881	270,000	304,402	112.7%			1,137,403	(93,954)	-7.6%	
45	Public Works Capital	772,168	794,082	794,082	1,231,157	495,502	40.2%			246,278	97,025	17.8%	
46	Recreation Programs, including Ballroom	31,763	5,173	5,173	-	0.0%				37,025	17,800	100.0%	
47	Recreation Capital	183,224	208,469	237,719	208,253	118,252	58.9%			1,088,163	886,640	81.5%	
48	Parking Program	1	1	1	1	1	100.0%			10,881,753	930,333	9.3%	
49	Restorative Justice Center	1,084,585	956,378	812,423	857,866	288,204	33.6%			10,881,753	786,483	7.8%	
50	Total Expenditures	10,268,474	9,397,164	9,325,936	10,037,420	5,190,613	51.6%						



11 Maiden Lane  
St. Albans, VT 05478  
(802)524-1507

[www.stalbansfreelibrary.org](http://www.stalbansfreelibrary.org)

## 2021/2022 Annual Report

The St. Albans Free Library is supported with funds from both the Town of St. Albans and the City of St. Albans. Additional funds received through donations, grants and trust revenues help fund the overall operation of the Library. The Library serves residents of the Town and City of St. Albans as well as residents of nearby towns who are asked to pay a user fee. Our current user fee for non-residents is \$20/year

## THE NUMBERS



**12,316 items downloaded or streamed**  
**36,528 visitors to the Library**  
**148 youth signed up for summer reading program**  
**39,236 materials checked out from our Library**  
**2,850 participants in Library programs**  
**1,004 items delivered to shut-ins**



**Over 542 new patrons joined the Library**  
**Circulation of non-traditional items up 10%**  
**Study carrel use up 68%**  
**The Book Cellar reopened after closing due to Covid**  
**Free cart provides community members with over 325 free items per month**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meaghan Malboeuf (Chair)  
Sue Wade (Vice-Chair)  
Sean Bell (Secretary)  
Natalie Good (Treasurer)  
Linda Lang  
Shelagh Munroe  
Liz Sato  
Stacie Scangas  
Jill White

### **STAY IN TOUCH**

**Email us at:**

**[stalbanstfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:stalbanstfreelibrary@gmail.com)**

**Visit us on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/stalbansfreelibrary>**

**Visit our webpage:**

**<http://www.stalbansfreelibrary.org>**



<b>St. Albans Free Library</b>			
<b>Budget for 2023-2024</b>			
<b>To City and Town of St. Albans</b>			
	<b>2022-2023</b>		<b>2023-2024</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
City of St. Albans	\$260,635.00		\$264,544.00
Town of St. Albans	\$159,490.00		\$162,680.00
William Clark Trust	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Ethel Peabody Trust	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Fine/Desk Income	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Gift Funds	\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Copier	\$3,725.00		\$3,725.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$444,350.00</b>		<b>\$451,449.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>			
Adult Materials	\$11,000.00		\$10,000.00
Youth Materials	\$9,500.00		\$9,500.00
Programs	\$4,000.00		\$5,000.00
Periodicals	\$2,500.00		\$1,500.00
Online References	\$10,000.00		\$13,500.00
Gift Funds	\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Salaries	\$139,135.00		\$153,730.00
Wages	\$132,329.00		\$120,250.00
Wages-Cleaning	\$9,400.00		\$8,716.00
Soc Sec	\$21,976.00		\$24,078.00
Work Comp	\$1,500.00		\$1,000.00
Payroll Services	\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Employee Benefits (CSTA)*	\$34,000.00		\$38,360.00
Building Insurance (CSTA)*	\$7,500.00		\$8,000.00
Water & Sewer (CSTA)*	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Building Repairs	\$6,000.00		\$5,000.00
Building Reserve	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Comcast	\$2,200.00		\$2,340.00
Green Mountain Power	\$10,000.00		\$8,500.00
VT GAS	\$5,000.00		\$4,100.00
Finance Officer Bond	\$210.00		\$225.00
Maintenance contracts	\$8,000.00		\$9,000.00
Postage	\$3,800.00		\$3,000.00
Supplies	\$7,500.00		\$5,000.00
Technology (support & upgrades)	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Telephone	\$750.00		\$2,400.00
Copier	\$3,550.00		\$3,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$444,350.00</b>		<b>\$451,449.00</b>
*billing is done through the City of St. Albans			

**WARNING**  
**FOR THE MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #57**  
**ANNUAL MEETING: March 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57, consisting of the City of St. Albans, the Town of St. Albans and the Town of Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the respective polling places and times hereinafter named for each of the above referenced towns on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023**, to vote on the articles herein set forth. All Articles to be voted by the Australian Ballot system. The polls open at seven o'clock in the morning (7:00 a.m.) and close at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.).

**ARTICLE I**

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Clerk for a one (1) year term.

**ARTICLE II**

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Treasurer for a one (1) year term.

**ARTICLE III**

Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 change the term of service for the School District Treasurer from one (1) year to three (3) years, with the first three year term commencing on March 6, 2024?

**ARTICLE IV**

Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 change the term of service for the School District Clerk from one (1) year to three (3) years, with the first three year term commencing on March 6, 2024?

**ARTICLE V**

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, two (2) Directors from St. Albans Town for a three (3) year term.

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from St. Albans City for a three (3) year term.

**ARTICLE VI**

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from St. Albans City for the remaining two (2) years of the three (3) year term.

**ARTICLE VII**

Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, pursuant to Title 16 V.S.A. § 562(9)?

**ARTICLE VIII**

Shall the legal voters of Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to transfer the audited general fund balance, of the current fiscal year, to a Capital Reserve Fund, to be used for capital improvements and operations of the Maple Run Unified School District #57?

**ARTICLE IX**

Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to expend \$ 69,422,742 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?

**Informational Hearing**

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 consisting of the City of St. Albans, the Town of St. Albans, and the Town of Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Maple Run Unified School District Board Room at Central Office, 28 Catherine Street, St. Albans, VT on March 1, 2023, to conduct an informational meeting on the budget.

**Polling Places and Times**

St. Albans City Residents - St. Albans City Hall, 100 North Main Street; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

St. Albans Town Residents - Collins Perley Sports Complex, 890 Fairfax Road; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Fairfield Residents - Fairfield Town Office 25 North Rd, Fairfield polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Dated at St. Albans, Vermont, this 18 day of January 2023.

**MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #57 SCHOOL BOARD**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NILDA GONNELLA-FRENCH

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NINA HUNSICKER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN CASAVANT MAGNAN

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATIE-MESSIER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD DESLAURIERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JACK MCCARTHY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOANNA JEROSÉ

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GRANT HENDERSON

Received for record and recorded prior to the posting this 27 day of January 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANNA BOURDON, CLERK

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## ***Letter from the MRUSD Board Chair***

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I am so pleased to submit this annual report for the Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD). This Board serves the communities of Fairfield, St. Albans City and St. Albans Town. This district employs 560 full time professionals over the five schools - Bellows Free Academy High School, Northwest Career & Technical Center, and our preK-8 schools: Fairfield Center School, St. Albans City School and St Albans Town Educational Center.

We, as a school board, along with administrators, in an effort to balance the needs of the school with the means of the communities, worked diligently to present a responsible budget. We recognize that student's social and emotional needs have increased in this (almost) post pandemic environment. Our teachers and staff focus every day on meeting or exceeding the needs of our students.

The board collaborated with school administrators and set the budget expenditure rate at 6.81%. This caused the tax rate in Fairfield to increase by 0.1330 cents, a 0.0198 cents increase in St. Albans Town and a 0.2722 cent increase in St. Albans City. I wish to thank the MRUSD employees and staff who support and teach our children. This is hard work and has not gone unnoticed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brett Blanchard, Principal at BFA, and Joan Cavallo, Principal at St. Albans City School, on their upcoming retirement from education at the end of this school year. Brett has been with BFA for 3 years and Joan has been principal of SACS for 16 years. The school board wishes them well in their future endeavors.

With great sadness we bid farewell to long time board member, Al Corey. His over 30 years as both a teacher and a board member highlighted his dedication to the students and families of this district. Rest in Peace, Al.

It has been a pleasure to chair this Board of dedicated individuals. This community is lucky to have this board and the board is lucky to have this community.

In closing I would like to say, "Be Kind. It Matters."



Nilda Gonnella-French  
Chair, MRUSD Board Chair

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## ***Letter from the MRUSD Superintendent***

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Dear Maple Run Community,

Wow! It has been a warm January 2023. This school year has many celebrations and a closer return to the operations we experienced before the COVID pandemic. We are setting our new normal. It has been exciting to have the community back in our schools to celebrate student achievement, whether in the classroom, at performances, or in athletic competitions. These events bring a new level of energy back to our buildings. The community is an essential partner in public education, and I am proud to serve a community that values supporting students and teachers.

Starting the school year, the district enhanced its focus on engaging the community to develop goals for the system by hosting a series of listening sessions to understand what is going well, learn about areas to improve, and understand what supports are needed for students and families who are challenged to succeed. We held over 15 listening sessions and engaged more than 60 community members and 120 students from our communities.

As a result of this work, there were five key areas identified to improve within our district:

- Ensure rigorous academic and expectations
- Educate the community about diversity, history, and inclusion
- Adopt consistent policies and systems to navigate bias and behavior
- Provide services and infrastructure to support students and families
- Create opportunities for family and community engagement

We have a group of community members, staff, and students developing a plan to engage the community again to gather ideas to improve each area. The team plans to engage the greater community this spring.

Maple Run is in the second year of our Envisioning Plan. We are focusing on ensuring the social-emotional well-being of every community member, engaging students, and providing rigorous academics to all. The district's staff embarked on an ambitious professional development plan to increase their skills in each area. Throughout the school year, every teacher is expanding their knowledge of Universal Design for Learning to enhance their ability to reach every child in their classroom. During our inservice days, each staff member has been able to choose an area from the Envisioning Plan for their personal growth. Educational research is clear. When our professionals enhance their skills, student learning will increase.

To understand if our actions impact the students, we are revising our local assessment system to monitor social-emotional learning and academic areas. Last year, educators across the district came together to set targets for learning aligned across our grade levels and schools. Teachers who have been in the community for over 25 years have told me that this is the first time this has happened. This is a result of the consolidation of the district six years ago. This year our curriculum committees are resetting our local assessments to have a reliable measure to assess these academic targets.

We are in the second year of administering our student climate survey. We ask students from grades 3 through 12 to assess their perception of their safety, well-being, and sense of belonging. The good news is that student perception of all three categories has increased by

approximately 20% across Maple Run. Unfortunately, we still have 10 to 15% of our students who need us to meet their needs, and the services they require are increasingly complex. In prior years, we partnered with outside agencies to provide the necessary services, but our partners cannot deliver them due to their staff shortages.

For schools, we must serve all students. Public education is the only social service that cannot be denied. Therefore, we have had to increase our support services to students and families. The Maple Run Board has supported the district by using both federal grant funds and local dollars. In the FY 2023-2024 proposed budget, the board elected to move approximately 1 million dollars of student support services from federal grants to the local budget. The reason for this move is that funding will expire in 2023-24 or 2024-25; specifically, 10.5 full-time positions were moved into the local budget. These positions included math, literacy, social-emotional interventionists, teachers, social workers, school safety workers, and behavior support positions.

The Maple Run School Board has created a budget to meet every student's needs while balancing the community's ability to pay. They have recognized that student needs have significantly increased, and that the school district must provide more resources to meet the same social and academic goals as before the pandemic. The board set an expenditure budget of 6.81%, which is below the inflation rate at budget adoption. This budget caused a decrease in the educational tax rate in Maple Run by almost three cents. Although the board lowered the educational tax rate, the property values adjusted by the common level of appraisal (CLA) in each town have increased, increasing the overall tax rate. The tax rate in St. Albans Town is estimated to be 2.0 cents higher, 13.3 cents higher in Fairfield, and 27.2 cents higher in St. Albans City. To counteract the effects of the much lower CLA in the city, the board would need to reduce the budget by 10 million dollars or one-seventh of the overall expenditure budget. Throughout February, the board will provide opportunities to review and discuss the Maple Run budget. I urge you to watch our local paper's articles, social media, and website.

I am excited to serve Maple Run as your superintendent. From my first day here four years ago to today, I see a community that fully supports its students and educators to be the best they can be. My core values of the family first, setting high standards, supporting all kids in reaching those standards, and celebrating successes align with what I hear from our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community.

Bill Kimball Ed. D.  
Superintendent

John Muldoon Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent

Martha Gagner  
Business Manager



Andrea Racek  
Special Education Director

Stephanie Ripley  
Early Childhood Programs

Alexis Hoyt  
Student Support Director

Casey Provost  
Human Resources Coordinator

## **Notice of Availability of Annual Report**

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57, consisting of the City of St. Albans, Town of St. Albans, and Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified of the availability of the District's Annual Report. Copies of the report are available online at <http://www.maplerun.org/o/mrusd/browse/34988>, by contacting the Maple Run Unified School District at 28 Catherine St. or calling 524-2600.

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