



Dear Neighbor,

The Administration and Board of Education have worked diligently to present a budget that stays within the tax cap despite the unprecedented economic challenges we all currently face. Our academic, extra-curricular, and athletic programs remain fully funded and we are able to support salary increases for teachers and staff. The Board appreciates the commitment to excellence demonstrated by the teachers, administration, and staff.

The enclosed budget was adopted by the Board of Education on May 21st. There will be a **Budget Hearing held on May 28th at 6:30 pm** to give the community the opportunity to hear the details and ask questions. This Hearing will be held online via Zoom to comply with the ongoing ban on group gatherings. Information on how to join the Hearing will be posted on the District website on or before Monday, May 25th. If you need internet access, there is a WiFi hot spot in the district parking lot behind the maintenance building. The Newfield Public Library also has a hot spot accessible near their building.

There are two open seats on the Board of Education this year and five things that need your vote:

Proposition 1 is the School Budget. The final budget amount for the 2020-21 school year is \$21,542,078. That amount covers contractual obligations and debt service payments. The tax levy increase of 3.04% is Within our tax cap for this year.

Proposition 2 requests permission to transfer money from our capital reserve to our debt service reserve. This will allow us to make payments on debt related to the capital project using funds we already have. There is no additional cost to taxpayers when using money from reserves.

Proposition 3 is a request to purchase one (1) van which would be used to transport students. The district uses vans when there is a need to transport one or a small number of students to or from a location. The cost of this van is separate from the School Budget in Proposition 1 and would be a small additional cost to taxpayers.

Proposition 4 requests permission to use money from the transportation reserve to purchase one (1) 66-passenger school bus. There is no additional cost to taxpayers when using money from reserves.

Proposition 5 is a request to increase the annual tax levy for the Newfield Public Library. While local school districts manage the collection and payment of taxes for local public libraries, this is not part of the School Budget. There would be an additional cost to taxpayers to support this increase.

If you are unable to attend the Budget Hearing on May 28th please let us know so we can arrange another time prior to the vote to explain the budget. It is an honor to serve as your representatives on the Newfield School District Board of Education. Please remember to return your ballot before the June 9th deadline.

From the Board of Education,

Jeremy TenWolde, President

Christina Ward, Vice President

Jim Grochocinski

Meng-Wei Hsu

Wm. Scott Jackson

Paula Miller

Jennifer Pawlewicz

The annual Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM. The Hearing will be held online. Information on how to join the Hearing online will be posted on the District website on or before Monday, May 25, 2020. If you have questions regarding the Hearing or how to join, please email the District Clerk or call the District Office.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTES AND BOARD ELECTIONS: HOW THIS YEAR IS DIFFERENT

2020-2021 School budget votes and board elections will be conducted this year under unusual circumstances. NCS D continues to remain updated on the many logistical issues involved in conducting school budget votes – from finalizing school budgets themselves to providing notice and absentee ballots to the public.

Important Budget Vote and Board Election Information: By Executive Order, there will be no voting at the School District this year. All voting will be done using Absentee Ballots.

If you have voted on the School Budget in the last two years, you will be mailed an Absentee Ballot and a prepaid return envelope.

If you have not voted in the past, but would like to this year, please e-mail the District Clerk at abrown3@newfieldschools.org or call the District Office at 564-9955 ext. 4140 to request an Absentee Ballot be sent to your physical mailing address (this is where you receive postal mail.)

All Absentee Ballots will need to be mailed to the District or dropped off at the Main Entrance of the Elementary School, by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020.

Any ballot received after 5:00 PM on 6/9/20, can not be accepted

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE:

To vote in a school district budget vote and board election, you do not need to be a registered voter. However you must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States;
2. Be 18 years of age or older;
3. Be a resident within the district for a period of 30 days preceding the date of the vote.

HOW TO VOTE:

1. There will be directions enclosed in the ballot, including how to mail your ballot back. Please make sure all marks are clear, and the voter envelope has all requested information completed.
2. There is a postage paid envelope enclosed for return.
3. Ballots need to be received by the District Clerk no later than 5pm on June 9, 2020, for your vote to be canvassed. We **WILL NOT** be going by postmark.
4. You can mail the ballot **OR** you can use the District Office drop box, located at the Elementary School Office. The office will be open Monday-Friday 9am to 12pm and 9am to 4pm on June 9, 2020

We understand in these times there are many questions. Please feel free to Amy Brown at 564-9955 ext. 4140 or abrown3@newfieldschools.org with any questions you may have.

PROPOSITIONS AS THEY WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT:

Proposition 1: Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Newfield Central School District be authorized to spend \$21,542,078.00 for the purpose of operating the school district for the 2020-2021 school year and to levy the necessary tax thereafter?

Proposition 2: Transfer to Debt Service Reserve Fund

Shall the Board of Education of the Newfield Central School District be authorized to transfer an amount of \$722,765.76 currently in the Capital Reserve Fund to the district's Debt Service Reserve Fund for use in accordance with the purpose of the Debt Service Reserve Fund?

Proposition 3: School Van

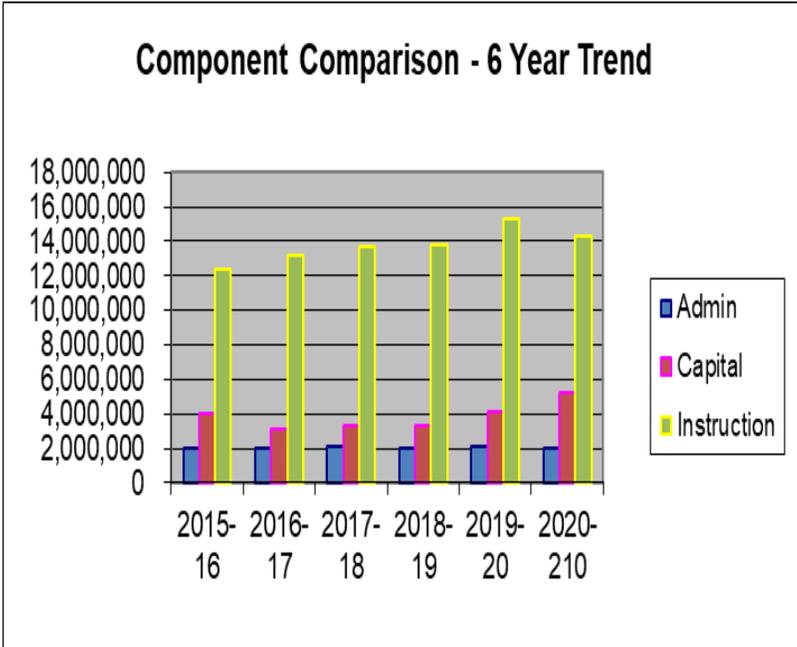
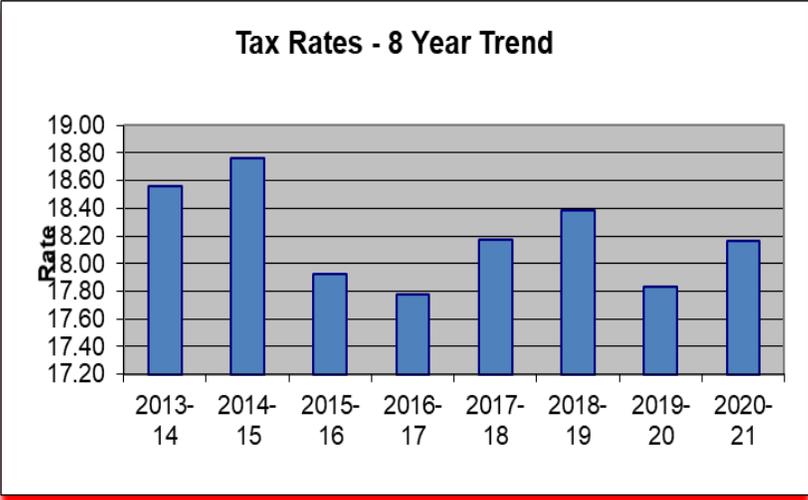
Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of Newfield School District to increase the tax levy to spend \$38,000 for the Purchase of one (1) van?

Proposition 4: Purchase of School Bus

Shall the Newfield Board of Education be authorized to spend \$137,000 to purchase one (1) 66 passenger school bus and pay the costs from the existing transportation capitol reserve fund?

Proposition 5: Newfield Public Library

Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of Newfield School District to increase the tax levy from fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000) to the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$76,000) and shall such sum be paid annually to the trustees of the Newfield public library?



BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES: VOTERS MAY VOTE FOR UP TO TWO (2) CANDIDATES TO FILL THE TWO OPEN SEATS ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THEY WILL BE IN THE BALLOT IN THIS ORDER, WITH 2 SPACES FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.

Missy Rynone

Civic or Volunteer

Organizations: Newfield PTA, Southern Tier Food Bank Programs, TST BOCES BOE, CNYSBA Board of Directors, TST BOCES Executive Committee.

Statement of Interest: I've lived in Newfield for 27 years, I have 3 sons - all graduates of Newfield Central School. I'm running for

Newfield BOE again because I enjoy serving on the Board. An experienced local educator once told me that the key to being a productive board member is longevity. I was on the Newfield BOE for 9 1/2 years, & I'm eager to face the challenges ahead with experience and a renewed perspective that being off this past year has given me. Thank you for your support!



Jeremy TenWolde

Address: 70 Bank St. Newfield, NY 14867

Phone: (607) 279-0860

Occupation/Employer: Software Developer The CBORD Group, Inc.

Civic or Volunteer Organizations: Newfield Board of Education, Newfield Drama Club

Expenses: None

Statement of Interest: The three years I've served on the Board of Education have been a very rewarding experience. Our school district may be small but it offers incredible opportunities for our children. It's not often you find a place where a student can excel in academics, the arts, and athletics all at the same time. I'm proud of the contributions I've made toward supporting and improving all aspects of a well-rounded education at the Newfield Central School District.

Newfield has an amazing community that never hesitates to come together in times of need. The COVID-19 pandemic presents us with the challenge of a lifetime. Our teachers, staff, and administration moved quickly to make sure every child has the opportunity to learn remotely and every family in need continues to receive support. We will get through these uncertain times. I would be honored to have your vote so I may continue helping the district find the best path forward.

2020-2021 BUDGET SUMMARY

This has been an incredibly challenging budget year for school districts who rely on significant state aid. The District has already seen a reduction in state aid for 2019-2020 and state aid projections for next year have built in a “pandemic” state aid cut. As a district we need to be mindful that future aid cuts are a possibility.

Understanding that state aid is a “moving target” with the potential for midyear cuts, the District has worked diligently to reduce the proposed 2020-2021 budget to less than a 1% increase as well as meticulously assuring that we are maintaining a high standard of quality education for our students.

The following sections will describe the three components of a public school budget: administrative, capital, and program. We are mandated by law to identify them as such. We will also describe the revenue sources that will support the proposed budget.

SUMMARY				
		2019-2020	2020-2021	
REVENUE		BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE
Tax Levy	\$	6,008,337	6,191,114	182,777
Total State Aid	\$	12,588,210	13,011,830	423,620
Other Income		1,105,570	859,343	(246,227)
Reserves		843,247	815,512	(27,735)
Fund Balance		1,008,915	664,279	(344,636)
	Total \$	21,554,279	21,542,078	(12,201)
		2019-2020	2020-2021	
APPROPRIATIONS		BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE
Administrative	\$	2,106,103	1,986,886	(119,217)
Capital		4,148,359	5,260,625	1,112,266
Program		15,299,817	14,294,567	(1,005,250)
	Total \$	21,554,279	21,542,078	(12,201)

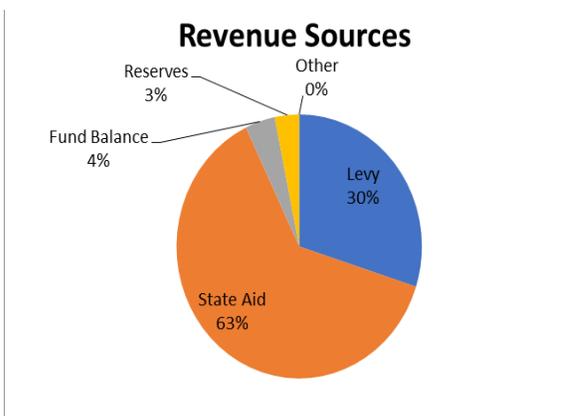
Other than state aid, the two major resources for funding are the tax levy and reserves. The only other revenue come from BOCES refunds, miscellaneous sources and fees. Schools have very little control over other revenue sources.

The levy on property tax is the second largest revenue source. The levy is limited by a tax cap restriction. Schools that exceed the restriction must have a 60% approval rate in order to pass the budget. Our 2020-2021 tax levy is \$6,191,114 which is a 3.047% increase and stays within the tax cap restrictions. Because Newfield’s levy is within the tax cap limits, the State will refund a portion of the increase on your tax bill this year.

Other Income Most other income comes from tuition charges for out of district students, gate fees for sporting events, and interest earned on money invested in money market accounts or CD’s. We receive a refund from our local BOCES for any unexpended money at year end and the District gets Medicaid money for qualifying students who receive special services.

Cisco Smart Bond Loan This is a temporary, interest free loan, Cisco makes available to schools to purchase equipment covered under the New York State Smart Bond legislation. Schools must first purchase equipment and then submit the claims to the state for reimbursement. Cisco makes available the “up front” money.

Reserves and fund balance are used to offset shortages in revenue. School districts must present a balanced budget to the public. i.e. revenue must equal expenses. However, unexpended money in the budget and unplanned revenue help reduce our need to use reserves and fund balance.



CAPITAL: The capital budget reflects the cost to clean and maintain our buildings. Included are salaries, benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, and all other expenses for the maintenance, repair and cleaning of the facilities. In addition, debt expenses are considered part of the capital budget and are one of the largest costs in this budget.

Highlights: The capital budget increases \$1,162,266, this year. Most of this, \$831,752, is due to an increase in our debt payments as we close out our new capital projects. Our debt costs are offset by 91% state aid.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	
CAPITAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE
Cleaning	\$ 347,025	384,996	37,971
Maintenance	805,789	736,546	(69,243)
Fringe Benefits	393,703	870,488	476,785
Debt Service/Capital	2,601,843	3,268,595	666,752
Total \$	4,148,360	5,260,625	1,112,265
	4,148,359	5,260,625	

ADMINISTRATIVE: The administrative budget represents salaries, travel costs, supplies and benefits for all certified school administrators, supervisors and office support staff. Administration also includes board of education expenses, tax collection, liability insurance, curriculum development and district wide printing.

Highlights: We have reduced the administrative budget by \$119,217 from the current year. Of note is the merging of two administrative positions. We will use one principal for both middle school and high school and add a dean of students to support students in both these buildings. In the elementary school, the Assistant Principal role is being transitioned to a Teacher Assistant, who will work with staff and students as a hands-on mentor and support. We are also able to achieve savings through the retirement of three long term administrators.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	
ADMINISTRATIVE	BUDGET	BUDGET	CHANGE
Board of Education	\$ 27,382	25,708	(1,674)
District Clerk	3,200	2,300	(900)
District Meeting	3,300	3,200	(100)
Superintendent's office	233,803	190,261	(43,542)
Business Office/Treasurer	273,636	276,609	2,973
Auditing	17,500	17,500	0
Tax Collection	8,270	8,270	0
Legal	30,500	31,500	1,000
Personnel	35,700	32,165	(3,535)
Central Print & Mail	32,080	32,080	0
Insurance	93,943	96,659	2,716
BOCES Administration	268,893	280,862	11,969
Principal's Offices	517,118	363,407	(153,711)
Special Education Office	100,819	61,187	(39,632)
Transportation Office	19,542	17,000	(2,542)
Fringe Benefits	440,417	548,178	107,761
Total :	2,106,103	1,986,886	(119,217)
	2,106,103	1,986,886	

PROGRAM: The program section of the budget contains all costs related to our educational programs including: salaries, benefits, BOCES instructional services, athletics, extra-curricular programs, health services, library services and pupil transportation. Keep in mind the extraordinary work the district did this spring while managing remote instruction, food services and technology support during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The District is dedicated to being fiscally responsible but not undermining the quality of services our students receive.

Highlights: We able to save \$1,005,250 in program costs through retirements and special education. Five teachers will retire in 2020-2021 and the District will not replace them. We have developed a special needs classroom in the middle school that will allow students to remain in the district (instead of BOCES or another external program). This will help us see a \$529,875 savings.

PROGRAM	2019-2020 BUDGET	2020-2021 BUDGET	CHANGE
Legal	\$ 19,500	13,500	(6,000)
Personnel	88,990	144,380	55,390
Curriculum Development	0	85,577	85,577
Teaching	4,042,602	3,735,615	(306,987)
Special Education	3,931,683	3,441,440	(490,243)
Occupational Education	576,999	608,248	31,249
Summer School	6,971	7,842	871
Library	131,694	151,050	19,356
Computer Technology	1,049,761	1,093,469	43,708
Guidance	237,168	228,489	(8,679)
Health	132,903	130,614	(2,289)
Community School	85,646	100,000	14,354
Ex-Curricular	88,552	93,200	4,648
Athletics	179,450	178,614	(836)
Transportation	894,488	823,903	(70,585)
Census	1,500	0	(1,500)
Fringe Benefits	3,756,910	3,383,626	(373,284)
Transfer to Cafeteria	75,000	75,000	0
Total	\$ 15,299,817	14,294,567	(1,005,250)
	15,299,817	14,294,567	

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budg- et for the 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 21,504,279	\$21,542,078	\$21,359,301
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		\$37,799	\$182,777
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		0.18 %	-0.85%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
<hr/>			
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$6,008,337	\$6,191,114	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-excludable Propositions, If Applicable **	0	\$38,000	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$6,008,337	\$6,229,114	\$6,008,337
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$336,606	\$372,215	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$5,671,731	\$5,856,899	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$5,671,731	\$5,856,899	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
<hr/>			
Administrative Component	\$2,106,103	\$1,986,886	\$1,986,886
Program Component	\$15,299,817	\$14,294,567	\$14,118,390
Capital Component	\$4,098,359	\$5,260,625	\$5,254,025

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
6 Passenger Van	\$38,000

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$535

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Newfield Central school district, Tompkins County, New York, will be held via mail in ballots in said district. The deadline for receiving said ballots is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Ballots must be received on site no later than 5:00 pm, Ballots may also be brought to the District between the hours of noon and 5:00 pm on June 9, 2020.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

TO OUR COMMUNITY...

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last few weeks. We are extremely appreciative of our students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators for their positivity, flexibility and resilience during these trying times. A huge debt of gratitude also goes to all of our doctors, nurses, hospital employees, first responders, and our state leaders for all they are doing to keep us safe and healthy.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed school buildings across New York state, a chain reaction took place that affected school-age children. Students had to quickly adapt to remote learning, figure out if their Wi-Fi connection would be suitable to connect with teachers, and face the challenge of not being able to see friends and family. On a much more basic level, some students and families had to figure out where meals would be coming from daily. To assist with that need, District staff members came together to form a meal preparation and delivery program. Those committed staff members are making and distributing roughly 4400 meals per week for our school community. Our cafeteria, transportation, and custodial staff have made an enormous contribution of time, energy and concern to make sure students and families are taken care of during this pandemic.

Learning has taken on a whole new perspective: students are learning about self-regulation, perseverance and the allocation and use of time, and new technology applications. They are engaged in activities, some assigned by their teachers and others created by themselves, that demonstrate creativity and require critical thinking. They are exploring topics of interest not normally covered in school and learning how to conduct research on their own. They are identifying and solving meaningful problems encountered in their daily lives. They are using their imaginations to keep themselves occupied, both cognitively and physically. They are learning about collaboration and redefining relationships with family members. They are learning how to be good citizens by following social distancing guidelines. And, they are learning how to deal with fear, loneliness, uncertainty, disappointment and other factors that affect their social-emotional well being.

We know that this has been a difficult time for students, families, and educators. We also know there will likely be content gaps due to remote learning. The District is committed to working with caregivers and students to ensure educational objectives are met while keeping stress and hardship to a minimum, and will continue with this mindset when we resume learning in the traditional classroom setting. We look forward to seeing you in person as soon as we can; in the meantime stay safe, wash your hands, and take care of yourselves both emotionally and physically.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A BUDGET IS VOTED DOWN?

A public school budget may be submitted twice for voter approval. If district voters do not approve the budget, the board of education must then adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget only funds those expenses that are necessary to maintain education programs, and the health and safety of students and staff.

This year a contingency budget would reduce the proposed budget by an additional \$182,777. At risk in the adoption of a contingency budget are equipment purchases and buses to replace our aging fleet. In addition, we would also be required to charge outside groups for use of our facilities.

From the Newfield Public Library:

Earlier this year the library defined a plan to expand the services we provide. That plan included the addition for an evening program manager. However, due to the uncertainty related to COVID-19 we have put that new position and other expansion plans on hold and substantially decreased our original request.

For the last four years, the library has received \$58,000 from Newfield taxpayers, which represents 44% of our total revenue. A large percentage of our remaining revenue, about \$65,000, is at risk of being decreased. We have already received a 25% third quarter cut from Tompkins County and more cuts are expected this year and next.

We are asking Newfield taxpayers to increase the library's current funding from \$58,000 to \$76,000, an increase of \$18,000. If approved, taxpayer annual cost is estimated to increase from \$0.17 to \$0.22 per \$1,000 in property value.

We know this is a difficult time to ask for a funding increase but investing in our community has never been more important.

If voted down, the library will have to cut hours, staffing, and services and we hope you will help stop that from happening. Please call the library at 607-564-3594 or email newfieldlibrary@gmail.com if you would like more details.

We thank you for your continued support!

Newfield Central School District
247 Main St.
Newfield NY 14867

Non-Profit Organization
Bulk Rate
US POSTAGE PAID
Spencer, NY Permit No. 194

CARR-RT PRESORT
RESIDENT/BOXHOLDER
NEWFIELD, NY 14867

**THE ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BY THE QUALIFIED
VOTERS OF THE NEWFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT, TOMPKINS COUNTY, NEW YORK WILL BE
HELD BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

All Absentee Ballots will need to be mailed to the District or dropped off at the Main
Entrance of the Elementary School, by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020.

