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**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2025**

**NEW ISSUE - SERIAL BONDS**

**BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY BONDS  
RATING – MOODY’S INVESTOR SERVICE “ ”  
See “Bond Rating”, herein**

*In the opinion of Barclay Damon LLP, Albany, New York, under existing law, interest on the Bonds is excluded from the gross income of the owners thereof for federal income tax purposes and is not a “item of tax preference” for purposes of the alternative minimum tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), however, interest on the Bonds is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. The District, by failing to comply with certain restrictions contained in the Code, may cause interest on the Bonds to become subject to federal income taxation from the date of issuance thereof. In the opinion of Bond Counsel interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof (including the City of New York). “TAX MATTERS” herein.*

*The District will designate the Bonds as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” pursuant to the provisions of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.*

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
(the “District”)**

**\$9,783,651\* SCHOOL DISTRICT SERIAL BONDS – 2025  
(the “Bonds”)**

**See Bond Maturity Schedule Herein**

The Bonds are general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon and, unless paid from other sources, the Bonds are payable from ad valorem taxes which may be levied upon all the taxable real property within the District without limitation as to rate or amount.

The Bonds maturing on March 15, 2033 and thereafter are subject to redemption prior to maturity, at the option of the District, as a whole or in part, on any date on or after March 15, 2032. (See “*Optional Redemption*” under “*THE BONDS*,” herein.)

The Bonds will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”) as book-entry bonds. DTC will act as the securities depository for the Bonds. Individual purchases of the Bonds may be made in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, except for one necessary odd denomination. Bondholders will not receive certificates representing their respective interests in the Bonds purchased. Payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the District to DTC which will in turn remit such payment to its Participants for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds in accordance with standing instructions and customary practices. Payment to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of the DTC Participant or Indirect Participant and not of DTC or the District, subject to any statutory and regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. (See “*Description of Book-Entry-Only System*” under “*THE BONDS*,” herein.)

Proposals for the Bonds will be received at 11:00 A.M. (Prevailing Time) on March 12, 2025 at the offices of Munistat Services, Inc., 12 Roosevelt Avenue, Port Jefferson Station, New York 11776.

*The Bonds are offered subject to the final approving opinion of Barclay Damon LLP, Albany, New York, Bond Counsel, and certain other conditions. It is expected that delivery of the Bonds in book-entry form will be made through the facilities of DTC on or about March 26, 2025 in New York, New York.*

THIS PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS IN A FORM “DEEMED FINAL” BY THE DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12 (THE “RULE”). FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT’S AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE CONTINUING DISCLOSURE FOR THE BONDS, AS DESCRIBED IN THE RULE, SEE “*DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING*” HEREIN.

March , 2025

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBUIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**\$9,783,651\* SCHOOL DISTRICT SERIAL BONDS – 2025**

**BOND MATURITY SCHEDULE**

**Dated: Date of Delivery**

**Principal Due: March 15, 2027-2040, inclusive**

**Interest Due: September 15, 2025, and semiannually thereafter on March 15 and September 15 in each year until maturity.**

<u>Amount**</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Price or Yield</u>	<u>CUSIP #</u>
\$508,651	2027			
535,000	2028			
560,000	2029			
590,000	2030			
615,000	2031			
650,000	2032			
680,000	2033***			
715,000	2034***			
745,000	2035***			
770,000	2036***			
805,000	2037***			
835,000	2038***			
870,000	2039***			
905,000	2040***			

\*Preliminary, subject to change.

\*\* Amounts are subject to adjustment by the School District following the sale, pursuant to the terms of the Notice of Sale relating to the Bonds, to achieve substantially level or declining annual debt service as provided in Section 58.00 (c)(2) of the Local Finance Law. The School District also may adjust the principal amount of the Bonds in an amount not in excess of the premium offered by the successful bidder and, if so decreased, the amount of such Bonds will be adjusted to the extent necessary, in order that the total proceeds, which include the total principal amount of the Bonds plus the original issue premium, if any, received by the School District does not exceed the maximum amount permitted under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

\*\*\*Subject to prior redemption.



**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

50 Woodbridge Avenue  
Chatham, NY 12301  
Telephone: (518) 392-2400

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Marianne Pierro, President  
Dawn Friedman, Vice President

Linda Collett  
Muriel Faxon  
Matthew Fisch  
Nikki Lundy  
Rachel Galvin

School District Officials

Andrew Kourt, Superintendent of Schools  
Michael Chudy, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Patricia Juliano, District Treasurer

\* \* \*

**BOND COUNSEL**

**BARCLAY DAMON** <sup>LLP</sup>

Barclay Damon LLP  
New York, New York

\* \* \*

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**



12 Roosevelt Avenue  
Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. 11776  
(631) 331-8888

E-mail: [info@munistat.com](mailto:info@munistat.com)  
Website: <https://www.munistat.com>

No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized by the District to give any information or to make any representations, other than those contained in this Official Statement and if given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the District. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offer, solicitation or sale. The information set forth herein has been obtained by the District from sources which are believed to be reliable but it is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the District since the date hereof.

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**Relating To**

**\$9,783,651\* SCHOOL DISTRICT SERIAL BONDS – 2025  
(the "Bonds")**

This Official Statement, including the cover page, inside cover page and appendix hereto, present certain information relating to the Chatham Central School District, Columbia County, State of New York (the "District," "County" and "State," respectively) in connection with the sale of \$9,783,651\* School District Serial Bonds – 2025 (the "Bonds").

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State and acts and proceedings of the District contained herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilations thereof and all references to the Bonds and the proceedings of the District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive form of the Bonds and such proceedings.

**THE BONDS**

**Description of the Bonds**

The Bonds will be dated the date of delivery, and will mature on March 15 in each of the years 2027 to 2040, inclusive, in the principal amounts as set forth on the inside cover page hereof. Interest on the Bonds will be payable September 15, 2025 and semiannually thereafter on March 15 and September 15 in each year until maturity.

The Bonds will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC") as book-entry bonds. DTC will act as the securities depository for the Bonds. Individual purchases of the Bonds may be made in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, except for one necessary odd denomination. Bondholders will not receive certificates representing their respective interests in the Bonds purchased. Payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the District to DTC which will in turn remit such payment to its Participants for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds in accordance with standing instructions and customary practices. Payment to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of the DTC Participant or Indirect Participant and not of DTC or the District, subject to any statutory and regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. (See "*Book-Entry-Only System*" under "THE BONDS," herein.)

The Record Date of the Bonds will be the last business day of the calendar month immediately preceding each interest payment date.

The District will act as Paying Agent for the Bonds. The District's contact information is as follows: Michael Chudy, Business Administrator, Chatham Central School District, 50 Woodbridge Avenue, Chatham, New York 12301, Phone (518) 392-1511 and email: chudym@chatham.k12.ny.us.

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\*Preliminary, subject to change.

## Optional Redemption

The Bonds maturing on or before March 15, 2032 will not be subject to redemption prior to maturity. The Bonds maturing on March 15, 2033 and thereafter will be subject to redemption prior to maturity, at the option of the District, in whole or in part, and if in part, in any order of their maturity and in any amount within a maturity (selected by lot within a maturity), on any date on or after March 15, 2032, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount of the Bonds to be redeemed plus accrued interest to the date of redemption.

If less than all of the Bonds of any maturity are to be redeemed prior to maturity, the particular Bonds of such maturity to be redeemed shall be selected by the District by lot in any customary manner of selection as determined by the District. Notice of such call for redemption shall be given by mailing such notice to the registered owner not less than thirty (30) days nor less than sixty (60) days prior to the date set for such redemption. Notice of redemption having been given as aforesaid, the bonds so called for redemption shall, on the date for redemption set forth in such call for redemption, become due and payable together with interest to such redemption date. Interest shall cease to be paid thereon after such redemption date.

## Description of Book-Entry System

DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Such Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities, in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully registered bond certificate will be issued for each maturity of the Bonds and deposited with DTC.

DTC is limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of certificates.

Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants" and together with Direct Participant, the "Participants"). Effective August 9, 2011, Standard & Poor's assigns a rating of "AA+" to DTC. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com) and [www.dtc.org](http://www.dtc.org).

Purchases of Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct or Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of the Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co., or such other DTC nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping accounts of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Beneficial Owners of the Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them or notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of the Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to the Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to Issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Bonds are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co. or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the District on the payable date, in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC (nor its nominee) or the District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the District, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC), and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bond certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

Source: The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York.

The information contained in the above section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sample offering document language supplied by DTC, but the District takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof. In addition, the District will not have any responsibility or obligation to participants, to indirect participants or to any beneficial owner with respect to: (i) the accuracy of any records maintained by DTC, and participant or any indirect participant; (ii) the payments by DTC or any participant or any indirect participant of any amount with respect to the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the bonds or (iii) any notice which is permitted or required to be given to Bondowners.

THE DISTRICT WILL NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATIONS TO PARTICIPANTS, TO INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER WITH RESPECT TO (I) THE ACCURACY OF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED BY DTC, ANY PARTICIPANTS, OR ANY INDIRECT PARTICIPANT; (II) THE PAYMENT BY DTC OR ANY PARTICIPANT OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANT OR ANY AMOUNT WITH RESPECT TO THE PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST ON THE BONDS; (III) ANY NOTICE WHICH IS PERMITTED OR REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN TO HOLDERS; OR (IV) THE SELECTION OF THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS TO RECEIVE PAYMENT IN THE EVENT OF ANY PARTIAL REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS; OR (V) ANY CONSENT GIVEN OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY DTC AS HOLDER.

THE DISTRICT CANNOT AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY ASSURANCES THAT DTC WILL DISTRIBUTE TO DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL DISTRIBUTE TO THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE BONDS (I) PAYMENTS OF THE PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST ON THE BONDS; (II) CONFIRMATION OF THEIR OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE BONDS; OR (III) REDEMPTION OR OTHER NOTICES SENT TO DTC OR CEDE & CO. AS NOMINEE, AS REGISTERED OWNER OF THE BONDS, OR THAT THEY WILL DO SO ON A TIMELY BASIS, OR THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL SO SERVE AND ACT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

## **Certificated Bonds**

DTC may discontinue providing its services with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving notice to the District and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law, or the District may terminate its participation in the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC at any time. In the event that such book-entry-only system is discontinued, and a replacement book-entry securities depository is not appointed, the Bonds will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000, or integral multiples thereof, except for one necessary odd denomination. Principal of and interest on the Bonds when due will be payable at the principal corporate trust office of a bank or trust company to be named by the District as the fiscal agent; certificated Bonds may be transferred or exchanged at no cost to the owner of such bonds at any time prior to maturity at the corporate trust office of the fiscal agent for bonds of the same or any other authorized denomination or denominations in the same aggregate principal amount upon the terms set forth in the certificate of the President of the Board of Education authorizing the sale of the Bonds and fixing the details thereof and in accordance with the Local Finance Law.

### **Authorization and Purpose**

The Bonds are being issued in accordance with the Constitution and statutes of the State of New York including the Education Law and the Local Finance Law and the bond resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education of the District on March 14, 2023, authorizing the issuance of \$9,783,651 bonds to finance the cost of the reconstruction of various school buildings, facilities and sites, construct an outdoor classroom, acquire furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus. Following the approval of a proposition by a majority of the qualified voters of the District voting thereon at the Special District Meeting held on February 14, 2023.

### **Security and Source of Payment**

Each Bond when duly issued and paid for will constitute a contract between the District and the holder thereof.

The Bonds will be general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal of and interest thereon. For the payment of such principal and interest, the District has power and statutory authorization to levy ad valorem taxes on all real property in the District subject to taxation without limitation as to rate or amount.

Under the Constitution of the State, the District is required to pledge its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, and the State is specifically precluded from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate therefor. Chapter 97 of the New York Laws of 2011, as amended, (the "Tax Levy Limit Law") imposes a limitation on the power of local governments and school districts, including the District, to increase their annual tax levy above a certain specified amount. However, the Tax Levy Limit Law expressly provides an exception from the annual tax levy limitation for any taxes levied to pay debt service on bonds or notes issued to finance voter approved capital expenditures or the refinancing or refunding of such bonds or notes. As the Bonds are being issued to finance voter-approved capital expenditures, the Bonds qualify for such exception to the Tax Levy Limit Law annual tax levy limitation. The exclusion does NOT apply to taxes to pay debt service on tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, budget notes and deficiency notes; and any obligations issued to finance deficits and certain judgments, including tax certiorari refund payments. (See "*The Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein.)

## **REMEDIES UPON DEFAULT**

Neither the Bonds, nor the proceedings with respect thereto, specifically provide any remedies which would be available to owners of the Bonds should the District default in the payment of principal of or interest on the Bonds, nor do they contain any provisions for the appointment of a trustee to enforce the interests of the owners of the Bonds upon the occurrence of any such default. The Bonds are general obligation contracts between the District and the owners for which the faith and credit of the District are pledged and while remedies for enforcement of payment are not expressly included in the District's contract with such owners, any permanent repeal by statute or constitutional amendment of a bondholder's and/or noteholder's remedial right to judicial enforcement of the contract should, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, be held unconstitutional.

Upon default in the payment of principal of or interest on the Bonds at the suit of the owner, a Court has the power, in proper and appropriate proceedings, to render judgment against the District. The present statute limits interest on the amount adjudged due to contract creditors to nine per centum per annum from the date due to the date of payment. As a general rule, property and funds of a municipal corporation serving the public welfare and interest have not been judicially subjected to execution or attachment to satisfy a judgment. A Court also has the power, in proper and appropriate proceedings, to order payment of a judgment on such bonds or notes from funds lawfully available therefor or, in the absence thereof, to order the District to take all lawful action to obtain the same, including the raising of the required amount in the next annual tax levy. In exercising its discretion as to whether to issue such an order, the Court may take into account all relevant factors, including the current operating needs of the District and the availability and adequacy of other remedies. Upon any default in

the payment of the principal of or interest on the Bonds, the owner of such Bonds could, among other remedies, seek to obtain a writ of mandamus from a Court ordering the governing body of the District to assess, levy and collect an ad valorem tax, upon all taxable property of the District subject to taxation by the District sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds as the same shall come due and payable (and interest from the due date to date of payment) and otherwise to observe the covenants contained in the Bonds and the proceedings with respect thereto all of which are included in the contract with the owners of the Bonds. The mandamus remedy, however, may be impracticable and difficult to enforce. Further, the right to enforce payment of the principal of or interest on the Bonds may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and similar laws and equitable principles, which may limit the specific enforcement of certain remedies.

In 1976, the New York Court of Appeals, the State's highest court, held in *Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York*, 40 N.Y.2d 731 (1976), that the New York State legislation purporting to postpone the payment of debt service on New York City obligations was an unconstitutional moratorium in violation of the New York State constitutional faith and credit mandate included in all municipal debt obligations. While that case can be viewed as a precedent for protecting the remedies of Bondholders, there can be no assurance as to what a Court may determine with respect to future events, including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in municipalities of the State, that require the exercise by the State of its emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services. (See also, *Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York*, 40 N.Y.2d 1088 (1977), where the Court of Appeals described the pledge as a direct Constitutional mandate.)

As a result of the Court of Appeals decision, the constitutionality of that portion of Title 6-A of Article 2 of the Local Finance Law enacted at the 1975 Extraordinary Session of the State legislature authorizing any county, city, town or village with respect to which the State has declared a financial emergency to petition the State Supreme Court to stay the enforcement against such municipality of any claim for payment relating to any contract, debt or obligation of the municipality during the emergency period, is subject to doubt. In any event, no such emergency has been declared with respect to the District.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 of the State Constitution, the District is required to provide an annual appropriation of monies for the payment of due and payable principal of and interest on indebtedness. Specifically, this constitutional provision states: "If at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriations, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. The fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set aside and apply such revenues as aforesaid at the suit of any holder of obligations issued for any such indebtedness." This constitutes a specific non-exclusive constitutional remedy against a defaulting municipality or school district; however, it does not apply in a context in which monies have been appropriated for debt service but the appropriating authorities decline to use such monies to pay debt service. However, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State also provides that the fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set apart and apply such revenues at the suit of any holder of any obligations of indebtedness issued with the pledge of the faith of the credit of such political subdivision. In *Quirk v. Municipal Assistance Corp.*, 41 N.Y.2d 644 (1977), the Court of Appeals described this as a "first lien" on revenues, but one that does not give holders a right to any particular revenues. It should thus be noted that the pledge of the faith and credit of a political subdivision in the State is a pledge of an issuer of a general obligation bond or note to use its general revenue powers, including, but not limited to, its property tax levy, to pay debt service on such obligations, but that such pledge may or may not be interpreted by a court of competent jurisdiction to include a constitutional or statutory lien upon any particular revenues. The Constitutional provision providing for first revenue set asides does not apply to tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes or bond anticipation notes.

While the courts in the State have historically been protective of the rights of holders of general obligation debt of political subdivisions, it is not possible to predict what a future court might hold.

In prior years, certain events and legislation affecting a holder's remedies upon default have resulted in litigation. While courts of final jurisdiction have generally upheld and sustained the rights of bondholders and/or noteholders, such courts might hold that future events, including a financial crisis as such may occur in the State or in political subdivisions of the State, may require the exercise by the State or its political subdivisions of emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services prior to the payment of debt service.

## SECTION 99-B OF THE STATE FINANCE LAW APPLICABLE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Section 99-b of the State Finance Law (the "SFL") provides for a covenant between the State and the purchasers and the holders and owners from time to time of the bonds and notes issued by school districts in the State for school purposes that it will not repeal, revoke or rescind the provisions of Section 99-b of the SFL, or amend or modify the same so as to limit, impair or impede the rights and remedies granted thereby.

Said section provides that in the event a holder or owner of any bond or note issued by a school district for school purposes shall file with the State Comptroller, a verified statement describing such bond or note and alleging default in the payment thereof or the interest thereon or both, it shall be the duty of the State Comptroller to immediately investigate the circumstances of the alleged default and prepare and file in his office a certificate setting forth his determinations with respect thereto and to serve a copy thereof by registered mail upon the chief fiscal officer of the school district which issued the bond or note. Such investigation by the State Comptroller shall set forth a description of all such bonds and notes of the school district found to be in default and the amount of principal and interest thereon past due.

Upon the filing of such a certificate in the office of the State Comptroller, he shall thereafter deduct and withhold from the next succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due to such school district such amount thereof as may be required to pay (a) the school district's contribution to the State Teachers' Retirement System, and (b) the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes of such school district then in default. In the event such State aid or assistance initially so withheld shall be insufficient to pay said amounts in full, the State Comptroller shall similarly deduct and withhold from each succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due such school district such amount or amounts thereof as may be required to cure such default. Allotments, apportionments and payments of such State aid so deducted or withheld by the State Comptroller for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be forwarded promptly to the paying agent or agents for the bonds and notes in default of such school district for the sole purpose of the payment of defaulted principal of and interest on such bonds or notes. If any such successive allotments, apportionments or payment of such State aid so deducted or withheld shall be less than the amount of all principal and interest on the bonds and notes in default with respect to which the same was so deducted or withheld, then the State Comptroller shall promptly forward to each paying agent an amount in the proportion that the amount of such bonds and notes in default payable to such paying agent bears to the total amount of the principal and interest then in default on such bonds and notes of such school district. The State Comptroller shall promptly notify the chief fiscal officer of such school district of any payment or payments made to any paying agent or agents of defaulted bonds or notes pursuant to said section of the SFL.

Such 99-b of the SFL is applicable to the Bonds.

### NO PAST DUE DEBT

No principal or interest payment on District indebtedness is past due. The District has never defaulted in the payment of the principal of and/or interest on any indebtedness.

### BANKRUPTCY

The Federal Bankruptcy Code (Chapter IX) allows public bodies, such as municipalities, recourse to the protection of a Federal Court for the purpose of adjusting outstanding indebtedness. Title 6-A of the Local Finance Law specifically authorizes any municipality in the State or its emergency control board to file a petition under any provision of Federal bankruptcy law for the composition or adjustment of municipal indebtedness. While this Local Finance Law provision does not apply to school districts, there can be no assurance that it will not become applicable in the future. As such, the undertakings of the District should be considered with reference, specifically, to Chapter IX, and, in general, to other bankruptcy laws affecting creditors' rights and municipalities. Bankruptcy proceedings by the District if authorized by the State in the future could have adverse effects on bondholders and/or noteholders including (a) delay in the enforcement of their remedies, (b) subordination of their claims to those supplying goods and services to the District after the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings and to the administrative expenses of bankruptcy proceedings and (c) imposition without their consent of a reorganization plan reducing or delaying payment of the Bonds.

The above references to said Chapter IX are not to be construed as an indication that the State will consent in the future to the right of the District to file a petition with any United States district court or court of bankruptcy under any provision of the laws of the United States, now or hereafter in effect for the composition or adjustment of municipal indebtedness or that the District is currently considering or expects to resort to the provisions of Chapter IX if authorized to do so in the future.

## THE DISTRICT

### Description

The District covers approximately 129 square miles in the Towns of Austerlitz, Canaan, Chatham, Ghent, Kinderhook and New Lebanon in Columbia County. The population of the District is estimated to be 9,584 (according to the 2022 U.S. census).

New York State Routes 22, 66, and 217 serve the District. The Taconic State Parkway and the New York State Thruway are easily accessible. Rail and air transportation is also accessible in Albany to the North or New York City to the South.

The District is a mixture of residential and agricultural areas. Major employers of District residents are Sunoco-Crellin Inc., Columbia Memorial Hospital and several colleges located in the upper Hudson Valley area. Residents also commute to Albany as well as the Berkshires in Massachusetts for employment.

Water and sewer services are provided by the Village of Chatham as well as by private wells and septic systems. The Chatham Village Police provides police protection, which is supplemented by the Columbia County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police. Various volunteer organizations provide ambulance service and fire protection. Electricity is provided by New York State Electric & Gas Corporation. Taconic Telephone Corporation and Verizon New York Inc. provide telephone service.

The District provides public education for grades Pre-K-12. Higher educational opportunities are available at Columbia-Green Community College and at the many colleges and universities in the Albany and New York City areas.

The District residents find most of the usual commercial and financial services at Berkshire Bank in Chatham, The National Bank of Kinderhook and Key Bank in Chatham as well as in nearby Hudson. The local area is rich in cultural and recreational activities, and is further enhanced with the Berkshires to the east and the Catskills to the west.

### District Organization

The seven members of the District's Board of Education are volunteers who are elected to three-year terms and receive no pay. A president and vice president are selected each year at the July organizational meeting. The Board acts as a collective body to establish the policies under which the District operates. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for administering the school program within the context of these policies.

### Enrollment History

The following table presents the past school enrollment for the District.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>School Enrollment</u>
2020-2021	919
2021-2022	906
2022-2023	869
2023-2024	897
2024-2025	907

Source: District Officials.

### Projected Future Enrollment

The following table presents the projected future school enrollment for the District.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>School Enrollment</u>
2025-2026	897
2026-2027	861
2026-2028	845

Source: District Officials.

### District Facilities

The District operates three schools and offices; statistics relating to each are shown below.

Name of School	Grades	Date of Construction	Date of Last Addition	Capacity
Mary E. Dardess Elementary	K-4	1958	2010	521
Chatham Middle School	5-8	1915	2009	563
Chatham High School	7-12	1974	2009	550

### Employees

The collective bargaining agents, if any, which represent employees and the dates of expirations of the various collective bargaining agreements are as follows:

Name of Union	Expiration Date of Contract	Approx. No. of Employees
Chatham Central School District Teachers' Association	06/30/2025	165
Chatham Central School District Education Support Personnel	06/30/2024 <sup>a</sup>	52
Chatham Central School District Bus Drivers Association	06/30/2025	40
Chatham Central School District Clerical Staff (CSEA)	06/30/2024 <sup>a</sup>	17
Chatham Central School District Principals Association	06/30/2027	7
Chatham Central School District Management	N/A	6
Chatham Superintendent	06/30/2028	1
Chatham Assistant Superintendent for Business	06/30/2028	1
Chatham Administrator of Educational Services	11/11/2027	1

a. Expired, currently in negotiations.

## ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

### Population Trends

The information set forth below with respect to the Town, the County and the State is included for information purposes only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Statement that the District is necessarily representative of the Town, the County, or the State or vice versa.

The following table sets forth population statistics for the District, Town of Chatham and Columbia County and New York State.

Year	District	Town of Chatham	Columbia County	New York State
2000	-	4,249	63,094	18,976,457
2010	9,445	4,152	63,241	19,229,752
2020	9,245	3,871	60,016	19,835,912
2022	9,584	4,101	61,469	19,677,152

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

### Income Data

The data set forth below with respect to the Town, County and State is included for information only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Statement that the Town, the County or the State is necessarily representative of the District, or vice versa.

	Per Capita Money Income			
	2000	2010	2020	2022 <sup>a</sup>
District	-	\$36,667	\$40,792	\$52,278
Chatham Town	\$19,476	48,976	49,722	66,030
Columbia County	22,265	31,844	40,475	49,093
State of New York	23,389	30,948	43,078	47,421

  

	Median Household Income			
	2000	2010	2020	2022 <sup>a</sup>
District	-	\$58,715	\$76,319	\$90,969
Chatham Town	\$49,234	75,954	80,978	101,412
Columbia County	41,915	55,546	68,750	81,741
State of New York	43,393	55,603	74,314	79,557

Source: United States Bureau of the Census

a. Based on American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate (2018-2022)

### Selected Listing of Larger Employers in Columbia County <sup>a</sup>

Name	Industry	Estimated Number of Employees
Columbia Memorial Hospital	Hospital	1,156
Hudson City School District	Education	600
Taconic Farms, Inc.	Animal Specialties	550
Berkshire Farm Center	Educational Programs	548
COARC	Human Services	350
Barnwell Nursing Home	Skilled Nursing Care Facilities	330
Ichabod Crane School District	Education	300
Ginsbergs Institutional Foods	General Line	204
Walmart	Department Store	200
Catamount Ski Area	Outdoor Recreation	200
Sonocco-Crellin Inc.	Plastics Products	200
Price Chopper	Grocery Store	190
Whittier Health Care	Skilled Nursing Care Facilities	180
Nova Pak Plastics	Products	180
Pine Haven Home	Nursing Facility	170

Source: Columbia County Economic Development Corp.

a. Not necessarily representative of the District.

## Unemployment Rate Statistics

Unemployment statistics are not available for the District as such. The smallest area for which such statistics are available (which includes the District) is the County of Columbia. The information set forth below with respect to such County and the State of New York is included for information purposes only. It should not be implied from the inclusion of such data in this Statement that the District is necessarily representative of the County or the State, or vice versa.

<u>Annual Averages:</u>	<u>Columbia County (%)</u>	<u>New York State (%)</u>
2019	3.2	4.0
2020	6.2	10.0
2021	4.0	7.2
2022	2.7	4.4
2023	2.9	4.2
2024 (YTD Average)	3.2	4.4

Source: Department of Labor, State of New York

## INDEBTEDNESS OF THE DISTRICT

### Constitutional and Statutory Requirements

The New York State Constitution and Local Finance Law limit the power of the District (and other municipalities and school districts of the State) to issue obligations and to contract indebtedness. Such constitutional and statutory limitations include the following, in summary form, and are generally applicable to the District and the Bonds:

**Purpose and Pledge.** The District shall not give or loan any money or property to or in aid of any individual, or private corporation or private undertaking or give or loan its credit to or in aid of any of the foregoing or any public corporation.

The District may contract indebtedness only for a District purpose and shall pledge its faith and credit for the payment of principal of and interest thereon.

**Payment and Maturity.** Except for certain short-term indebtedness contracted in anticipation of taxes or to be paid in one of the two fiscal years immediately succeeding the fiscal year in which such indebtedness was contracted, indebtedness shall be paid in annual installments commencing no later than two years after the date such indebtedness shall have been contracted and ending no later than the period of probable usefulness of the object or purpose determined by statute or in the alternative the weighted average maturity of the several objects or purposes for which indebtedness is to be contracted; no installment may be more than fifty per centum in excess of the smallest prior installment, unless the District has authorized the issuance of indebtedness having substantially level or declining annual debt service. The District is required to provide an annual appropriation for the payment of interest due during the year on its indebtedness and for the amounts required in such year for amortization and redemption of its serial bonds, bond anticipation notes and capital notes.

**General.** The District is further subject to constitutional limitation by the general constitutionally imposed duty on the State Legislature to restrict the power of taxation and contracting indebtedness to prevent abuses in the exercise of such power; however, the State Legislature is prohibited by a specific constitutional provision from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted. There is no constitutional limitation on the amount that may be raised by the District by tax on real estate in any fiscal year to pay principal of and interest on all indebtedness. However, the Tax Levy Limit Law imposes a statutory limitation on the power of the District to increase its annual tax levy. (See "*The Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein).

### Statutory Procedure

In general, the State Legislature has, by the enactment of the Local Finance Law, authorized the powers and procedure for the District to borrow and incur indebtedness subject, of course, to the constitutional provisions set forth above. The power to spend money, however, generally derives from other law, including the Education Law.

The District is generally required by such laws to submit propositions for the expenditure of money for capital purposes to the qualified electors of the District. Upon approval thereby, the Board of Education may adopt a bond resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in anticipation of the bonds. With respect to certain school building construction projects, the District is not permitted to spend in excess of \$100,000 until the plans and specifications for such project have been approved by the Commissioner of Education of the State.

The Local Finance Law also provides for a twenty-day statute of limitations after publication of a bond resolution (in summary or in full), together with a statutory notice which, in effect, estops thereafter legal challenges to the validity of obligations authorized by such bond resolution except for alleged constitutional violations. Except on rare occasions the District complies with this estoppel procedure. It is a procedure that is recommended by Bond Counsel, but it is not an absolute legal requirement.

The Board of Education, as the finance board of the District, also has the power to authorize the sale and issuance of bonds and notes, including the Bonds. However, such finance board may delegate the power to sell the Bonds to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

**Debt Limit.** Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the District has the power to contract indebtedness for any school district purpose authorized by the Legislature of the State of New York provided the aggregate principal amount thereof shall not exceed ten per centum of the full valuation of the taxable real estate of the District and subject to certain enumerated deductions such as State aid for building purposes. The constitutional and statutory method for determining full valuation is by taking the assessed valuation of taxable real estate for the last completed assessment roll and applying thereto the ratio (equalization rate) which such assessed valuation bears to the full valuation; such ratio is determined by the State Board of Real Property Services. The Legislature also is required to prescribe the manner by which such ratio shall be determined by such authority.

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**Computation of Debt Limit and Debt Contracting Margin**  
(As February 26, 2025)

In Town of: (2024-2025) <sup>a</sup>	Assessed Valuation	State Equalization Rate (%)	Full Valuation
Austerlitz	\$352,791,780	64.00	\$551,237,156
Canaan	418,921,174	100.00	418,921,174
Chatham	689,062,925	87.00	792,026,351
Ghent	543,756,614	85.00	639,713,664
Kinderhook	44,210,006	64.00	69,078,134
New Lebanon	29,342,098	100.00	29,342,098
Total	<u>\$2,078,084,597</u>		<u>\$2,500,318,577</u>
Debt Limit - 10% of Full Valuation			\$250,031,858
Inclusions: <sup>b</sup>			
Outstanding Bonds			\$4,200,000
Bond Anticipation Notes			<u>0</u>
Total Indebtedness			<u>4,200,000</u>
Exclusions (Estimated Building Aid) <sup>c</sup>			2,058,000
Total Net Indebtedness			<u>2,142,000</u>
Net Debt Contracting Margin			<u>\$247,889,858</u>
Per Cent of Debt Contracting Margin Exhausted			0.86%

a. The latest completed assessment roll for which a State Equalization Rate has been established.

b. Tax Anticipation Notes, Energy Performance Lease and Revenue Anticipation Notes are not included in computation of the debt contracting margin of the District.

c. Represents estimate of moneys receivable by the District from the State as an apportionment for debt service for school building purposes, based on the most recent information received by the District from the State Department of Education. The amount shown is not necessarily the amount the District will ultimately receive. The District has not applied for a building aid exclusion certificate from the Commissioner of Education and therefore may not exclude such amount from its total indebtedness on the Debt Statement form required to be filed with the Office of the State Comptroller when bonds are to be issued.

**Details of Short-Term Indebtedness Outstanding**

As of the date of this Official Statement, the District has no short-term debt outstanding.

**Trend of Outstanding Indebtedness**

	Fiscal Year Ending June 30:				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bonds	\$7,880,958	\$7,065,000	\$6,220,000	\$5,350,000	\$4,450,000
BANs	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$7,880,958</u>	<u>\$7,065,000</u>	<u>\$6,220,000</u>	<u>\$5,350,000</u>	<u>\$4,450,000</u>

**Debt Service Requirements - Outstanding Bonds <sup>a</sup>**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$925,000	\$128,057	\$1,053,057
2026	555,000	96,757	651,757
2027	565,000	83,463	648,463
2028	315,000	72,150	387,150
2029	325,000	62,700	387,700
2030	330,000	52,950	382,950
2031	340,000	43,050	383,050
2032	355,000	32,850	387,850
2033	365,000	22,200	387,200
2034	375,000	11,250	386,250
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,450,000</b>	<b>\$605,426</b>	<b>\$5,055,426</b>

a. Does not include payments made to date.

**Authorized and Unissued Debt**

After the issuance of the Bonds, the District will have \$3,879,600 of authorized but unissued debt.

**Calculation of Estimated Overlapping and Underlying Indebtedness**

Overlapping Units	Date of Report	Percentage Applicable (%)	Applicable Total Indebtedness	Applicable Net Indebtedness
County of Columbia	5/16/2024	19.23	\$7,987,181	\$7,715,076
Towns:				
Austerlitz	12/31/2023	72.23	613,233	613,233
Canaan	12/31/2023	65.35	0	0
Chatham	12/31/2023	63.74	586,868	586,868
Ghent	12/31/2023	76.03	173,111	173,111
Kinderhook	12/31/2023	4.94	23,220	23,220
New Lebanon	12/31/2023	7.34	20,841	20,841
Villages:				
Chatham	12/31/2023	100.00	3,023,912	3,023,912
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$12,428,365</b>	<b>\$12,156,261</b>

Sources: Annual Reports of the respective units for the most recently completed fiscal year on file with the Office of the State Comptroller or more recently published Official Statements.

**Debt Ratios**  
(As of February 26, 2025)

	Amount	Per Capita <sup>a</sup>	Percentage of Full Value (%) <sup>b</sup>
Total Direct Debt	\$4,200,000	\$438	0.17
Net Direct Debt	2,142,000	223	0.09
Total Direct & Applicable Total Overlapping Debt	16,628,365	1,735	0.67
Net Direct & Applicable Net Overlapping Debt	14,298,261	1,492	0.57

a. The current population of the District is 9,584.

b. The full valuation of taxable property is \$2,500,318,577.

## **FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT**

### **Independent Audit**

The financial affairs of the District are subject to periodic compliance review by the Office of the State Comptroller to ascertain whether the District has complied with the requirements of various state and federal statutes. The financial statements of the District are audited each year by an independent public accountant. The last such audit covers the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. A copy of such report is included herein as Appendix B.

### **Investment Policy**

Pursuant to State law, including Sections 10 and 11 of the GML, the District is generally permitted to deposit moneys in banks or trust companies located and authorized to do business in the State. All such deposits, including special time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, in excess of the amount insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, are required to be secured in accordance with the provisions of and subject to the limitations of Section 10 of the GML.

The District may also temporarily invest moneys in: (1) obligations of the United States of America; (2) obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States of America; (3) obligations of the State of New York; (4) with the approval of the New York State Comptroller, in tax anticipation notes or revenue anticipation notes issued by any municipality, school district, or district corporation, other than those notes issued by the District, itself; (5) certificates of participation issued in connection with installment purchase agreements entered into by political subdivisions of the State pursuant to Section 109-b(10) of the GML; (6) obligations of a New York public benefit corporation which are made lawful investments for municipalities pursuant to the enabling statute of such public benefit corporation; or (7) in the case of moneys held in certain reserve funds established by the District pursuant to law, in obligations of the District.

All of the foregoing investments are required to be payable or redeemable at the option of the owner within such times as the proceeds will be needed to meet expenditures for purposes for which the moneys were provided and, in the case of obligations purchased with the proceeds of bonds or notes, shall be payable or redeemable in any event, at the option of the owner, within two years of the date of purchase. Unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, such instruments and investments must be purchased through, delivered to and held in custody of a bank or trust company in the State pursuant to a written custodial agreement as provided by Section 10 of the GML.

The Board of Education of the District has adopted an investment policy and such policy conforms with applicable laws of the State governing the deposit and investment of public moneys. All deposits and investments of the District are made in accordance with such policy.

### **Fund Structure and Accounts**

The General Fund is the general operating fund for the District and is used to account for substantially all revenues and expenditures of the District. The District also maintains a special aid fund and school lunch fund. In addition, a capital projects fund is used to record capital facility projects, while a trust and agency fund accounts for assets received by the District in a fiduciary capacity.

### **Basis of Accounting**

The district-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported on the accrual basis of accounting using the economic resources measurement focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash transaction takes place. Nonexchange transaction, in which the District gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include real property taxes, grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from real property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied and the related expenditures are incurred.

The fund statements are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting using the current financial resources measurement focus. Revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The District considers all revenue reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year, except for real property taxes, which are considered to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year.

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Source: Audited Financials of the District.

## **Budget Process**

The District's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. Starting in the fall or winter of each year, the District's financial plan and enrollment projection are reviewed and updated and the first draft of the next year's proposed budget is developed by the central office staff. During the winter and early spring, the budget is developed and refined in conjunction with the school building principals and department supervisors. The District's budget is subject to the provisions of the Tax Levy Limit Law, which imposes a limitation on the amount of real property taxes that a school district may levy, and by law is submitted to voter referendum on the third Tuesday of May each year. (See "*The Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein).

On May 21, 2024, a majority of the voters of the District approved the District's budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Summaries of the District's Adopted Budgets for the fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 may be found in Appendix A, herein.

## **Revenues**

The District receives most of its revenue from a real property tax on all non-exempt real property situated within the District and State aid. A summary of such revenues for the five most recently completed fiscal years may be found in Appendix A.

### ***Real Property Taxes***

See "*Tax Information*" herein.

### ***State Aid***

The District receives appropriations from the State in the form of State aid for operating, building and other purposes at various times throughout its fiscal year, pursuant to formulas and payment schedules set forth by statute. State aid is a substantial percentage of the revenues of the District. While the State has a constitutional duty to maintain and support a system of free common schools that provides a "sound basic education" to children of the State, there can be no assurance that the State appropriation for State aid to school districts will be continued in future years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. State aid appropriated and apportioned to the District can be paid only if the State has such monies available for such payment.

In addition to the amount of State Aid budgeted annually by the District, the State makes payments of STAR aid representing tax savings provided by school districts to their taxpayers under the STAR Program (See "STAR – School Tax Exemption" herein).

The State's 2023-25 Enacted Budget and the State's 2024-25 Enacted Budget included significant amounts of federal funding. The State receives a substantial amount of federal aid for health care, education, transportation and other governmental purposes, as well as federal funding to respond to, and recover from, severe weather events and other disasters. Many of the policies that drive federal aid may be subject to change under the federal administration and Congress. Current federal aid projections, and the assumptions on which they rely, are subject to revision. Reductions in federal funding levels could have an a materially adverse impact on the State budget. To date, school districts have received significant funding because of the COVID-19 pandemic from federal stimulus packages and reinstatement of State Foundation Aid, however, the additional federal funding is anticipated to cease after the 2023-24 fiscal year. In addition, the State is reviewing the Foundation Aid formula for potential revisions. Any revisions to the formula may result in a reduction of State aid to the District.

The amount of State aid to school districts can vary from year to year and is dependent in part upon the financial condition of the State. During the 2011 to 2019 and 2021 to 2024 fiscal years of the State, State aid to school districts was paid in a timely manner; however, during the State's 2010 and 2020 fiscal years, State budgetary restrictions resulted in delayed payments of State aid to school districts in the State. In addition, the availability of State aid and the timeliness of payment of State aid to school districts could be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget, which is due at the start of the State's fiscal year of April 1. With the exception of State's current fiscal year budget and the State's fiscal year 2023-24 Enacted Budget (which was adopted on May 2, 2023, thirty-one (31) days after the April 1 deadline), the State's budget has been adopted by April 1 or shortly thereafter for over ten (10) years. The State's current fiscal year 2024-25 Enacted Budget was adopted on April 22, 2024. No assurance can be given that the State will not experience delays in the adoption of the budget in future fiscal years. Significant delays in the adoption of the State budget could result in delayed payment of State aid to school districts in the State which could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

In addition to the potential fiscal impact of policies that may be proposed and adopted by the federal administration and Congress, the State budget may be adversely affected by other actions taken by the federal government, including audits, disallowances, and changes to federal participation rates or other Medicaid rules.

There can be no assurance that the State’s financial position will not change materially and adversely from current projections. If this were to occur, the State would be required to take additional gap-closing actions. Such actions may include but are not limited to: reductions in State agency operations; delays or reductions in payments to local governments or other recipients of State aid including school districts in the State. Reductions in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State, including the District.

Should the District fail to receive State aid expected from the State in the amounts and at the times expected, occasioned by a delay in the payment of such monies or by a mid-year reduction in State aid, the District is authorized by the Local Finance law to provide operating funds by borrowing in anticipation of the receipt of uncollected State Aid.

The following table sets forth the percentage of the District’s General Fund revenue comprised of State aid for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and the amounts budgeted for 2025.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	General Fund		State Aid to Revenues (%)
	Total Revenue	State Aid	
2020	\$30,906,033	\$7,441,166	24.08
2021	31,529,264	7,737,986	24.54
2022	32,191,197	7,777,504	24.16
2023	33,484,344	8,073,432	24.11
2024	34,947,409	8,250,388	23.61
2025 (Budgeted)	35,428,551	8,045,174	22.71

Source: Audited Financial Statements of the District and Adopted Budgets of the District.

a. Budgeted revenues include the application of reserves and fund balance.

**State Aid Litigation**

In January 2001, the State Supreme Court issued a decision in Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. New York mandating that the system of apportionment of State aid to school districts within the State be restructured by the Governor and the State Legislature. On June 25, 2002, the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court reversed that decision. On June 26, 2003, the State Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State, reversed the Appellate Division, holding that the State must, by July 30, 2004, ascertain the actual cost of providing a sound basic education, enact reforms to the system of school funding and ensure a system of accountability for such reforms. The Court of Appeals further modified the decision of the Appellate Division by deciding against a Statewide remedy and instead limited its ruling solely to the New York City school system.

After further litigation, on appeal in 2006, the Court of Appeals held that \$1.93 billion of additional funds for the New York City schools – as initially proposed by the Governor and presented to the Legislature as an amount sufficient to provide a sound basic education – was reasonably determined. State legislative reforms in the wake of The Campaign for Fiscal Equity decision included increased accountability for expenditure of State funds and collapsing over 30 categories of school aid for school districts in the State into one classroom operating formula referred to as Foundation Aid. The stated purpose of Foundation Aid is to prioritize funding distribution based upon student need. As a result of the Court of Appeals ruling schools were to receive \$5.5 billion increase in foundation aid over a four fiscal year phase-in covering 2007 to 2011.

In school district fiscal year 2009-2010, foundation aid funding was frozen by the State Legislature to the prior fiscal year level, and in the fiscal year thereafter foundation aid funding was reduced through a “gap elimination adjustment” as described above, and other aid adjustments. The final phase-in of Foundation Aid as originally projected is now complete. (See also “School district fiscal year (2023-2024)” under the subheading “Events Affecting State Aid to New York School Districts” herein.)

A case related to the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. v. State of New York was heard on appeal on May 30, 2017 in New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. State of New York ("NYSER") and a consolidated case on the right to a sound basic education. The NYSER lawsuit asserts that the State has failed to comply with the original decision in the Court of Appeals in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case, and asks the Court of Appeals to require the State to develop new methodologies, formulas and mechanisms for determining State aid, to fully fund the foundation aid formula, to eliminate the supermajority requirement for voter approval of budgets which increase school district property tax levies above the property tax cap limitation, and related matters. On June 27, 2017, the Court of Appeals held that the plaintiffs causes of action were properly dismissed by the earlier Appellate Division decision except insofar as two causes of action regarding accountability mechanisms and sufficient State funding for a "sound basic education" as applicable solely to the school districts in New York City and Syracuse. The Court emphasized its previous ruling in the CFE case that absent "gross education inadequacies", claims regarding State funding for a "sound basic education" must be made on a district-by-district basis based on the specific facts therein. On October 14, 2021 Governor Kathy Hochul announced that New York State has reached an agreement to settle and discontinue the New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. New York State case, following through on the State's commitment to fully fund the current Foundation Aid formula to New York's school districts over three years and ending the State's prior opposition to providing this much-needed funding to our students. The litigation, was initiated in 2014, sought to require New York State to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula that was put into place following the historic Campaign for Fiscal Equity cases, and had been previously opposed by the State. Foundation Aid was created in 2007 and takes school district wealth and student need into account to create an equitable distribution of state funding to schools, however, New York State has never fully funded Foundation Aid. The new settlement requires New York State to phase-in full funding of Foundation Aid by the FY 2024 budget. In the FY 2022 Enacted State Budget approved in April 2021, the Executive and Legislature agreed to fully fund Foundation Aid by the FY 2024 budget and enshrined this commitment into law. A breakdown of Foundation Aid funding is set forth below:

- FY 2022: \$19.8 billion, covering 30% of the existing shortfall
- FY 2023: Approximately \$21.3 billion, covering 50% of the anticipated shortfall
- FY 2024: Approximately \$23.2 billion, eliminating the anticipated shortfall, and funding the full amount of Foundation Aid for all school districts

See also "*State Aid*" herein.

### ***State Aid History***

*School district fiscal year (2021-2022):* The State's 2021-22 Enacted Budget provided \$29.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2021-22 school year, the highest level of State aid ever at that time. This represented an increase of \$3.0 billion or 11.3 percent compared to the 2020-21 school year and included a \$1.4 billion or 7.6 percent Foundation Aid increase. Approximately 75 percent of this increase was targeted to high-need school districts.

The State's 2021-22 Enacted Budget also programmed \$13 billion of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to public schools. This funding, available for use over multiple years, was designed to assist public schools to reopen for in-person instruction, address learning loss, and respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs due to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's 2021-22 Enacted Budget allocated \$629 million of these funds to school districts as targeted grants to support efforts to address learning loss through activities such as summer enrichment and comprehensive after-school programs. In addition, the State's 2021-22 Enacted Budget used \$105 million of federal funds to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2021-22 school year.

*School district fiscal year (2022-2023):*The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget provided \$31.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2022-23 school year, the highest level of State aid ever at that time. This represented an increase of \$2.1 billion or 7.2 percent compared to the 2021-22 school year and included a \$1.5 billion or 7.7 percent Foundation Aid increase.

The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget also programed \$14 billion of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to public schools. This funding, available for use over multiple years, was designed to assist public schools to reopen for in-person instruction, address learning loss, and respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs due to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget allocated \$100 million over two years for a new State matching fund for school districts with the highest needs to support efforts to address student well-being and learning loss. In addition, the State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget increased federal funds by \$125 million to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2022-23 school year.

*School district fiscal year (2023-2024):* The State’s 2023-24 Enacted Budget provided \$34.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2023-24 school year, the highest level of State aid ever at that time. This represented an increase of \$3 billion or 9.6 percent compared to the 2022-23 school year, and included a \$2.6 billion or 12.1 percent Foundation Aid increase, which fully funded Foundation Aid for the first time in its 17-year history and ensured that each school district received a minimum year-to-year increase of 3 percent.

*School district fiscal year (2024-2025):* The State’s 2024-25 Enacted Budget provides \$35.9 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2024-25 school year, the highest level of State aid ever. This represents an increase of \$1.3 billion compared to the 2023-24 school year and includes a \$934 million or 3.89 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State’s 2024-25 Enacted Budget maintains the “save harmless” provision, which currently ensures a school district receives at least the same amount of Foundation Aid as it received in the prior year. The State’s 2024-25 Enacted Budget also authorizes a comprehensive study by the Rockefeller Institute and the State Department of Education to develop a modernized school funding formula. Any revisions to the formula could result in a reduction in State aid to the District.

## **Expenditures**

The major categories of expenditure for the District are General Support, Instruction, Employee Benefits, Pupil Transportation and Debt Service. A summary of the expenditures for the five most recently completed fiscal years may be found in Appendix A.

### **The State Comptroller’s Fiscal Stress Monitoring System and OSC Compliance Reviews**

The New York State Comptroller has reported that New York State’s school districts and municipalities are facing significant fiscal challenges. As a result, the Office of the State Comptroller has developed a Fiscal Stress Monitoring System (“FSMS”) to provide independent, objectively measured and quantifiable information to school districts and municipal officials, taxpayers and policy makers regarding the various levels of fiscal stress under which the State’s school districts and municipalities are operating.

The fiscal stress scores are based on financial information submitted as part of each school ST-3 report filed with the State Education Department annually, and each municipality’s annual report filed with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). Using financial indicators that include year-end fund balance, cash position and patterns of operating deficits, the system creates an overall fiscal stress score which classifies whether a school district or municipality is in “significant fiscal stress”, in “moderate fiscal stress,” as “susceptible to fiscal stress” or “no designation”. Entities that do not accumulate the number of points that would place them in a stress category will receive a financial score but will be classified in a category of “no designation.” This classification should not be interpreted to imply that the entity is completely free of fiscal stress conditions. Rather, the entity’s financial information, when objectively scored according to the FSMS criteria, did not generate sufficient points to place them in one of the three established stress categories.

The most current applicable report of OSC designates the District as “No Designation” (Fiscal Score: 0.0%; Environmental Score: 0.0%). More information on the FSMS may be obtained from the Office of the State Comptroller.

In addition, OSC helps local government officials manage government resources efficiently and effectively. The Comptroller oversees the fiscal affairs of local governments statewide, as well as compliance with relevant statutes and observance of good business practices. This fiscal oversight is accomplished, in part, through its audits, which identify opportunities for improving operations and governance. The most recent audit was released on August 11, 2023. The purpose of the audit was to determine whether the District properly managed fund balances and reserves from the period of July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022. The complete report, along with the District’s response, may be found on the OSC’s official website. Reference to this website implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein.

## **Employee Pension System**

New York State Certified employees (teachers and administrators) are members of the New York State Teachers Retirement System (“TRS”). Employer pension payments to the TRS are generally deducted from State aid payments. All non-NYS certified/civil service employees of the District eligible for pension or retirement benefits under the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York are members of the New York State and Local Employee’s Retirement System (“ERS”). Both the TRS and ERS are non-contributory with respect to members hired prior to July 1, 1976. Other than as discussed below, all members of the respective systems hired on or after July 1, 1976 with less than 10 year’s full-time service contribute 3% of their gross annual salary toward the cost of retirement programs.

On December 10, 2009, the Governor signed in to law a new Tier 5. The law is effective for new ERS and TRS employees hired after January 1, 2010 and before March 31, 2012. ERS employees contribute 3% of their salaries and TRS employees contribute 3.5% of their salaries. There is no provision for these employee contributions to cease after a certain period of service.

On March 16, 2012, Governor Cuomo signed into law Chapter 18 of the Laws of 2012, which legislation provides for a new Tier 6 for employees hired after April 1, 2012. This new pension tier has progressive employee contribution rates between 3% and 6% and such employee contributions continue so long as the employee continues to accumulate pension credits; it increases the retirement age for new employees from 62 to 63 and includes provisions allowing early retirement with penalties. Under Tier 6, the pension multiplier is 1.75% for the first 20 years of service and 2% thereafter; vesting will occur after 5 years; the time period for calculation of final average salary is three years; and the amount of overtime to be used to determine an employee's pension is capped at \$15,000, indexed for inflation, for civilian and non-uniform employees and at 15% of base pay for uniformed employees outside of New York City. It also includes a voluntary, portable, defined contribution plan option for new non-union employees with salaries of \$75,000 or more.

Under current law, the employer pension payments for a given fiscal year are based on the value of the pension fund on the prior April 1 thus enabling the District to more accurately include the cost of the employer pension payment in its budget for the ensuing year. In addition, the District is required to make a minimum contribution of 4.5% of payroll every year, including years in which the investment performance of the fund would make a lower payment possible. The annual employer pension payment is due on February 1 of each year.

The employer contribution rates for required pension payments to the TRS and ERS continue to be higher than the statutory minimum contribution. To help mitigate the impact of such contributions, various forms of legislation have been enacted from time to time that permitted school districts to amortize a portion of its annual employer pension payments. The District has not amortized any of its employer pension payments pursuant to such legislation and expects to continue to pay all payments in full when due.

The State's 2019-2020 Enacted Budget, which was signed into law as Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2019, includes a provision that will allow school districts in the State to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of funding the cost of TRS contributions, as a sub-fund of retirement contribution reserve funds presently authorized for amounts payable to the ERS by a school district. School districts will be permitted to pay into such reserve fund during any particular fiscal year, an amount not to exceed two percent of the total compensation or salaries of all district-employed teachers who are members of the TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year; provided that the balance of such fund may not exceed ten percent of the total compensation or salaries of all district-employed teachers who are members of the TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year.

The following chart represents the TRS and ERS required contributions for each of the last five completed fiscal years.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	ERS	TRS
2020	\$ 908,692	\$510,072
2021	964,310	533,492
2022	1,021,957	528,398
2023	1,085,411	456,834
2024	1,057,812	520,261
2025 (Budgeted)	1,279,202	616,796

Source: Audited Financial Statements and District Officials.

### **Other Post-Employment Benefits**

The District provides post-retirement healthcare benefits to various categories of former employees. These costs may be expected to rise substantially in the future. School districts and Boards of Cooperative Education Services, unlike other municipal units of government in the State, have been prohibited from reducing retiree health benefits or increasing health care contributions received or paid by retirees below the level of benefits or contributions afforded to or required from active employees. This protection from unilateral reduction of benefits had been extended annually by the New York State Legislature until recently when legislation was enacted to make permanent these health insurance benefit protections for retirees. Legislative attempts to provide similar protection to retirees of other local units of government in the State have not succeeded as of the date hereof. Nevertheless, many such retirees of all varieties of municipal units in the State do presently receive such benefits.

GASB Statement No. 75 (“GASB 75”) of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), requires state and local governments to account for and report their costs associated with post-retirement healthcare benefits and other non-pension benefits (“OPEB”). GASB 75 generally requires that employers account for and report the annual cost of the OPEB and the outstanding obligations and commitments related to OPEB in essentially the same manner as they currently do for pensions. Under previous rules, these benefits have generally been administered on a pay-as-you-go basis and have not been reported as a liability on governmental financial statements. Only current payments to existing retirees were recorded as an expense.

GASB 75 requires that state and local governments adopt the actuarial methodologies to determine annual OPEB costs. Annual OPEB cost for most employers will be based on actuarially determined amounts that, if paid on an ongoing basis, generally would provide sufficient resources to pay benefits as they come due.

During the year ended June 30, 2018, the District adopted GASB 75, which supersedes and eliminates GASB 45. Under GASB 75, based on actuarial valuation, an annual required contribution (“ARC”) will be determined for each state or local government. The ARC is the sum of (a) the normal cost for the year (the present value of future benefits being earned by current employees) plus (b) amortization of the unfunded accrued liability (benefits already earned by current and former employees but not yet provided for), using an amortization period of not more than 30 years. If a municipality contributes an amount less than the ARC, a net OPEB obligation will result, which is required to be recorded as a liability on its financial statements.

GASB 75 establishes new standards for recognizing and measuring OPEB liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures to provide more transparent reporting and useful information about the liability and cost of benefits. Municipalities and school districts are required to account for OPEB within the financial statements rather than only noted in the footnotes as previously required by GASB 45. It is measured as of a date no earlier than the end of the employer’s prior fiscal year and no later than the employer’s current fiscal year. The discount rate is based on 20-year, tax exempt general obligation municipal bonds. There is no amortization of prior service cost.

Those that have more than 200 participants are required to have a full actuarial valuation annually. Plans with fewer than 200 participants are required to have a full valuation every two years.

The District’s total OPEB liability at June 30, 2024 is as follows:

<u>Changes in the Total OPEB Liability</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024:</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$66,057,406
Changes for the year:	
Service Cost	1,738,414
Interest	2,428,092
Changes in benefit terms	
Differences between actual and expected experience	0
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	(2,578,391)
Benefit payments	(2,568,490)
Total Changes	<u>(\$980,375)</u>
Total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2024	<u>\$65,077,031</u>

The OSC has recently proposed legislation to provide the State and certain local governments with the authority to establish trusts in which to accumulate assets for OPEB and to establish an OPEB investment fund in the sole custody of the State Comptroller for the investment of OPEB assets of the State and participating eligible local governments. The District cannot predict at this time whether such proposed legislation will be enacted into law. At this time, New York State has not developed guidelines for the creation and use of irrevocable trusts for the funding of OPEB. As a result, the District has decided to continue funding the expenditure on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Should the District be required to fund its unfunded actuarial accrued OPEB liability, it could have a material adverse impact upon the District’s finances and could force the District to reduce services, raise taxes or both.

## TAX INFORMATION

### Real Property Taxes

The District derives its power to levy an ad valorem real property tax from the State Constitution; methods and procedures to levy, collect and enforce this tax are governed by the Real Property Tax Law. Real property assessment rolls used by the District are prepared by the various Town assessors. Assessment valuations are determined by the Town assessor and the State Board of Real Property Services which is responsible for certain utility and railroad property. In addition, the State Board of Real Property Services annually establishes State Equalization Rates for all localities in the State, which are determined by statistical sampling of market sales/assessment studies. The equalization rates are used in the calculation and distribution of certain State aids and are used by many localities in the calculation or debt contracting and real property taxing limitations. The District is not subject to constitutional real property taxing limitations. (However, See “*The Tax Levy Limit Law*” herein).

The following table sets forth the percentage of the District’s General Fund revenue (excluding other financing sources) comprised of real property taxes for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for the 2025 budget.

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30:</u>	<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>Real Property Taxes</u>	<u>Real Property Taxes to Revenues (%)</u>
2020	\$30,906,033	\$21,276,140	68.84
2021	31,529,264	21,686,120	68.78
2022	32,191,197	22,128,831	68.74
2023	33,484,344	23,872,634	71.29
2024	34,947,409	24,352,264	69.68
2025 (Budgeted) <sup>a</sup>	35,428,551	25,061,334	70.74

Source: Audited Financial Statements of the District and Adopted Budget of the District.

a. Budgeted estimates for real property taxes include STAR. Budgeted estimates for total revenues include appropriations of fund balance.

### Tax Collection Procedure

School taxes are due September 1. If paid by September 30, no penalty is imposed. There is a 2% penalty if paid by the end of October. On November 1, a list of all unpaid taxes is given to the County for relevy on County/Town tax rolls. The District is reimbursed by the County for all unpaid taxes the first week of April in each year and is thus assured of 100% collection of its annual levy.

The Town Tax Receiver distributes the collected tax money to the Town, fire and school districts prior to distributing the balance collected to the County. Uncollected amounts are not segregated by the Receiver and any deficiency in tax collection is the County’s liability. The District thereby is assured of full tax collection.

### The Tax Levy Limit Law

Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011, as amended, (herein referred to as the “Tax Levy Limit Law” or “Law”) modified previous law by imposing a limit on the amount of real property taxes that a school district may levy.

Prior to the enactment of the Law, there was no statutory limitation on the amount of real property taxes that a school district could levy if its budget had been approved by a simple majority of its voters. In the event the budget had been defeated by the voters, the school district was required to adopt a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, school budget increases were limited to the lesser of four percent (4%) of the prior year’s budget or one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the consumer price index (“CPI”).

Under the Tax Levy Limit Law, there is now a limitation on the amount of tax levy growth from one fiscal year to the next. Such limitation is the lesser of (i) 2% or (ii) the annual percentage increase in the consumer price index, subject to certain exclusions as mentioned below and as described in the Law. A budget with a tax levy that does not exceed such limit will require approval by at least 50% of the voters. Approval by at least 60% of the voters will be required for a budget with a tax levy in excess of the limit. In the event the voters reject the budget, the tax levy for the school district’s budget for the ensuing fiscal year may not exceed the amount of the tax levy for the prior fiscal year. School districts will be permitted to carry forward a certain portion of their unused tax levy limitation from a prior year.

The Law permits certain significant exclusions to the tax levy limit for school districts. These include taxes to pay the local share of debt service on bonds or notes (such as the Bonds) issued to finance voter approved capital expenditures and the refinancing or refunding of such bonds or notes, certain pension cost increases, and other items enumerated in the Law. However, such exclusion does NOT apply to taxes to pay debt service on tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, budget notes and deficiency notes; and any obligations issued to finance deficits and certain judgments, including tax certiorari refund payments.

### **STAR - School Tax Exemption**

The STAR (School Tax Relief) program provides State-funded exemptions from school property taxes to homeowners for their primary residences. Homeowners over 65 years of age with household adjusted gross incomes, less the taxable amount of total distributions from individual retirement accounts and individual retirement annuities (“STAR Adjusted Gross Income”) of \$107,300 or less, increased annually according to a cost of living adjustment, are eligible for a “full value” exemption of the first \$86,100 for the 2025-269 school year (adjusted annually). Other homeowners with household STAR Adjusted Gross income not in excess of \$250,000 are eligible for a \$30,000 “full value” exemption on their primary residence. School districts receive full reimbursement from the State for real property taxes exempted pursuant to the STAR program by the first business day in January of each year.

Part A of Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2016 of the State of New York (“Chapter 60”) gradually converts the STAR program from a real property tax exemption to a personal income tax credit. Chapter 60 prohibits new STAR exemptions from being granted unless at least one of the applicants held title to the property on the taxable status date of the assessment roll that was used to levy school district taxes for the 2015-2016 school year (generally, March 1, 2015), and the property was granted a STAR exemption on that assessment roll. However, a new homeowner may receive a new personal income tax credit in the form of a check. The dollar benefit to eligible taxpayers will not change. A taxpayer who is eligible for the new credit will receive a check from the State equal to the amount by which the STAR exemption would have reduced his or her school tax bill. A homeowner who owned his or her home on the taxable status date for the assessment roll used to levy taxes for the 2015-2016 school year, and who received a STAR exemption on that roll, may continue to receive a STAR exemption on that home as long as he or she still owns and primarily resides in it. No further action is required (unless the homeowner has been receiving Basic STAR and wants to apply for Enhanced STAR, which is permissible).

The State 2017-18 Enacted Budget included changes to Chapter 60. STAR checks are now expected to be mailed out prior to the date that school taxes are payable. The amount of the check will be based on the previous year’s amount adjusted by the levy growth factor used for the property tax cap. Any changes that must be made based on the final STAR credit compared to the estimate used will be factored into the subsequent year’s STAR credit check or taxpayers also may account for those changes in their State income taxes.

The 2019-20 Enacted State Budget makes several changes to the STAR program, which went into effect immediately. The changes are intended to encourage homeowners to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit. The income limit for the exemption has been lowered to \$250,000, compared with a \$500,000 limit for the credit. The amount of the STAR exemption will remain the same each year, while the amount of the STAR credit can increase up to two percent annually.

The State’s 2020-21 Enacted Budget withholds STAR benefits to taxpayers who are delinquent in the payment of their school taxes and maintains the income limit for the exemption to \$250,000, compared with a \$500,000 limit for the credit.

## Valuations, Rates Levies and Collections

The following table sets forth District's assessed and full valuations and tax rates for each of the years 2020 through 2024.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Assessed Valuation:					
Town:					
Austeriltz	\$336,550,668	\$341,524,674	\$344,364,321	\$351,917,289	\$352,791,780
Canaan	271,302,995	277,353,674	280,830,106	331,977,459	418,921,174
Chatham	331,734,319	336,418,594	674,612,460	682,124,818	689,062,925
Ghent	361,337,367	363,146,099	537,552,748	540,058,421	543,756,614
Kinderbrook	42,113,349	42,961,687	43,585,967	44,236,560	44,210,006
New Lebanon	21,261,537	21,405,373	21,391,706	25,527,228	29,342,098
Total Assessed Valuation	<u>\$1,364,300,235</u>	<u>\$1,382,810,101</u>	<u>\$1,902,337,308</u>	<u>\$1,975,841,775</u>	<u>\$2,078,084,597</u>
Equalization Rates:					
Town:					
Austeriltz	100.00%	100.00%	83.00%	71.00%	64.00%
Canaan	100.00%	100.00%	88.00%	88.00%	100.00%
Chatham	74.00%	69.50%	100.00%	93.00%	87.00%
Ghent	89.63%	86.00%	100.00%	95.00%	85.00%
Kinderbrook	100.00%	96.00%	79.00%	67.00%	64.00%
New Lebanon	100.00%	100.00%	90.00%	90.00%	100.00%
Full Valuation:					
Town:					
Austeriltz	\$336,550,668	\$341,524,674	\$414,896,772	\$495,658,154	\$551,237,156
Canaan	271,302,995	277,353,674	319,125,120	377,247,113	418,921,174
Chatham	448,289,620	484,055,531	674,612,460	733,467,546	792,026,351
Ghent	403,144,830	422,264,406	537,552,748	568,484,048	639,713,664
Kinderbrook	42,113,349	44,751,757	55,172,110	66,024,716	69,078,134
New Lebanon	21,261,537	21,405,373	23,768,562	28,363,587	29,342,098
Total Full Valuation	<u>\$1,522,663,000</u>	<u>\$1,591,355,415</u>	<u>\$2,025,127,772</u>	<u>\$2,269,245,164</u>	<u>\$2,500,318,577</u>

**Selected Listing of Large Taxable Properties**  
2023-2024 Assessment Roll <sup>a</sup>

Name	Type	Assessed Valuation
NYSEG	Utility	\$61,157,698
CSX Transportation Inc.	Transportation	17,128,929
Tennessee Pipeline	Utility	13,274,152
Fifth Garden Park LP	Private	8,200,000
Real Day, LLC	Commercial	7,765,000
Taconic Telephone Corporation	Commercial	6,659,772
Shear Jack	Private	6,392,000
Chatham Assoc. of Albany LP	Private	6,010,500
CR Farm Chatham LLC	Private	4,760,500
State of New York- DEC	Municipal	4,409,060
	Total <sup>b</sup>	<u><u>\$135,757,611</u></u>

a. Assessment Roll established in 2023-2024 for levy and collection of taxes during 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

b. Represents 6.48% of the total assessed valuation of the District for 2023-2024.

Source: Town Assessment Rolls.

**CYBERSECURITY**

The District, like many other public and private entities, relies on technology to conduct its operations. As a recipient and provider of personal, private, or sensitive information, the District faces multiple cyber threats including, but not limited to, hacking, viruses, malware and other attacks on computer and other sensitive digital networks and systems. To mitigate the risk of business operations impact and/or damage from cyber incidents or cyber-attacks, the District invests in various forms of cybersecurity and operational controls; however, no assurances can be given that such security and operational control measures will be completely successful to guard against cyber threats and attacks. To mitigate such risk the District has contracted with an outside technology firm to assist in the prevention detection and remediation of any such attacks. In addition, the District maintains an insurance policy covering cyber liability. The results of any such attack could impact business operations and/or damage District digital networks and systems and the costs of remedying any such damage could be substantial. The District has invested in school cyber insurance to mitigate liability and the cost of remedy, should a cyber attack occur.

**LITIGATION**

In common with other school districts, the District from time to time receives notices of claim and is party to litigation. In the opinion of the District, after consultation with its attorney, unless otherwise set forth herein and apart from matters provided for by applicable insurance coverage, there are no significant claims or actions pending in which the District has not asserted a substantial and adequate defense, nor which, if determined against the District, would have an adverse material effect on the financial condition of the District.

**RISKS FACTORS**

There are certain potential risks associated with an investment in the Bonds, and investors should be thoroughly familiar with this Official Statement, including its appendices, in order to make an informed investment decision. Investors should consider, in particular, the following factors:

The District's credit rating could be affected by circumstances beyond the District's control. Economic conditions such as the rate of unemployment and inflation, termination of commercial operations by corporate taxpayers and employers, as well as natural catastrophes, could adversely affect the assessed valuation of District property and its ability to maintain fund balances and other statistical indices commensurate with its current credit rating. As a consequence, a decline in the District's credit rating could adversely affect the market value of the Bonds.

If and when an owner of any of the Bonds should elect to sell all or a part of the Bonds prior to maturity, there can be no assurance that a market will have been established, maintained and continue in existence for the purchase and sale of any of those Bonds. The market value of the Bonds is dependent upon the ability of holder to potentially incur a capital loss if such Bonds are sold prior to its maturity.

There can be no assurance that adverse events including, for example, the seeking by another municipality in the State or elsewhere of remedies pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Act or otherwise, will not occur which might affect the market price of and the market for the Bonds. In particular, if a significant default or other financial crisis should occur in the affairs of the State or any of its municipalities, public authorities or other political subdivisions thereby possibly further impairing the acceptability of obligations issued by those entities, both the ability of the District to arrange for additional borrowing(s) as well as the market for and market value of outstanding debt obligations, including the Bonds, could be adversely affected.

The District relies in part on State aid to fund its operations. There can be no assurance that the State appropriation for State aid to school districts will be continued in future years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. State aid appropriated and apportioned to the District can be paid only if the State has such monies available therefore. The availability of such monies and the timeliness of such payment may also be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget, the impact to the State's economy and financial condition due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other circumstances, including State fiscal stress. In any event, State aid appropriated and apportioned to the District can be paid only if the State has such monies available therefore. (See "*State Aid*" and "*Events Affecting New York School Districts*" herein). Should the District fail to receive State aid expected from the State in the amounts or at the times expected, occasioned by a delay in the payment of such monies or by a reduction in State aid, the District is authorized by the Local Finance Law to provide operating funds by borrowing on account of the uncollected State aid.

An outbreak of disease or similar public health threat, such as the COVID-19 outbreak, or fear of such an event, could have an adverse impact on the District's financial condition and operating results by potentially delaying the receipt of real property taxes or resulting in a delay or reduction by the State in the payment of State aid.

Future amendments to applicable statutes whether enacted by the State or the United States of America affecting the treatment of interest paid on municipal obligations, including the Bonds, for income taxation purposes could have an adverse effect on the market value of the Bonds (see "*TAX MATTERS*" herein).

The enactment of the Tax Levy Limit Law, which imposes a tax levy limitation upon municipalities, school districts and fire districts in the State, including the District, without providing exclusion for debt service on obligations issued by municipalities and fire districts, may affect the market price and/or marketability for the Bonds. (See "*The Tax Levy Limit Law*" under "*TAX INFORMATION*" herein.)

Federal or State legislation imposing new or increased mandatory expenditures by municipalities, school districts and fire districts in the State, including the District could impair the financial condition of such entities, including the District and the ability of such entities, including the District to pay debt service on the Bonds.

The Trump administration has publicly discussed dismantling the federal Education Department. It is not possible to know what impact that would have on school districts across the country, including the School District.

## **TAX MATTERS**

### **Opinion of Bond Counsel**

In the opinion of Barclay Damon LLP, Bond Counsel to the District, under existing statutes and court decisions and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, (i) interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and (ii) interest on the Bonds is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code, however, interest on the Bonds is included in the "adjusted financial statement income" of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. The Tax Certificate of the District (the "Tax Certificate"), which will be delivered concurrently with the delivery of the Bonds, will contain provisions and procedures relating to compliance with applicable requirements of the Code. In rendering its opinion, Bond Counsel has relied on certain representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectations made by the District in connection with the Bonds, and Bond Counsel has assumed compliance by the District with certain ongoing provisions and procedures set forth in the Tax Certificate relating to compliance with applicable requirements of the Code to assure the exclusion of interest on the Bonds from gross income under Section 103 of the Code.

In addition, in the opinion of Bond Counsel to the District, under existing statutes, interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including The City of New York.

Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to any other federal, state or local tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds, or the ownership or disposition thereof, except as stated above. Bond Counsel renders its opinion under existing statutes and court decisions as of the issue date, and assumes no obligation to update, revise or supplement its opinion to reflect any action thereafter taken or not taken, any fact or circumstance that may thereafter come to its attention, any change in law or interpretation thereof that may thereafter occur, or for any other reason. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to the consequence of any of the events described in the preceding sentence or the likelihood of their occurrence. In addition, Bond Counsel expresses no opinion on the effect of any action taken or not taken in reliance upon an opinion of other counsel regarding federal, state or local tax matters, including, without limitation, exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on the Bonds.

### **Certain Ongoing Federal Tax Requirements and Certifications**

The Code establishes certain ongoing requirements that must be met subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds in order that interest on the Bonds be and remain excluded from gross income under Section 103 of the Code. These requirements include, but are not limited to, requirements relating to use and expenditure of gross proceeds of the Bonds, yield and other restrictions on investments of gross proceeds, and the arbitrage rebate requirement that certain excess earnings on gross proceeds be rebated to the federal government. Noncompliance with such requirements may cause interest on the Bonds to become included in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to their issue date, irrespective of the date on which such noncompliance occurs or is discovered. The District, in executing the Tax Certificate, will certify to the effect that the District will comply with the provisions and procedures set forth therein and that it will do and perform all acts and things necessary or desirable to assure the exclusion of interest on the Bonds from gross income under Section 103 of the Code.

### **Certain Collateral Federal Tax Consequences**

The following is a brief discussion of certain collateral federal income tax matters with respect to the Bonds. It does not purport to address all aspects of federal taxation that may be relevant to a particular owner of a Bond. Prospective investors, particularly those who may be subject to special rules, are advised to consult their own tax advisors regarding the federal tax consequences of owning and disposing of the Bonds.

Prospective owners of the Bonds should be aware that the ownership of such obligations may result in collateral federal income tax consequences to various categories of persons, such as corporations (including S corporations and foreign corporations), financial institutions, property and casualty and life insurance companies, individual recipients of Social Security and railroad retirement benefits, individuals otherwise eligible for the earned income tax credit, and taxpayers deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry obligations the interest on which is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Interest on the Bonds may be taken into account in determining the tax liability of foreign corporations subject to the branch profits tax imposed by Section 884 of the Code.

### **Original Issue Discount**

“Original issue discount” (“OID”) is the excess of the sum of all amounts payable at the stated maturity of a Bond (excluding certain “qualified stated interest” that is unconditionally payable at least annually at prescribed rates) over the issue price of that maturity. In general, the “issue price” of a maturity (a bond with the same maturity date, interest rate, and credit terms) means the first price at which at least 10 percent of such maturity was sold to the public, i.e., a purchaser who is not, directly or indirectly, a signatory to a written contract to participate in the initial sale of the Bonds. In general, the issue price for each maturity of the Bonds is expected to be the initial public offering price set forth in this Official Statement. Bond Counsel further is of the opinion that, for any Bonds having OID (a “Discount Bond”), OID that has accrued and is properly allocable to the owners of the Discount Bonds under Section 1288 of the Code is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes to the same extent as other interest on the Bonds.

In general, under Section 1288 of the Code, OID on a Discount Bond accrues under a constant yield method, based on periodic compounding of interest over prescribed accrual periods using a compounding rate determined by reference to the yield on that Discount Bond. An owner’s adjusted basis in a Discount Bond is increased by accrued OID for purposes of determining gain or loss on sale, exchange, or other disposition of such Discount Bond. Accrued OID may be taken into account as an increase in the amount of tax-exempt income received or deemed to have been received for purposes of determining various other tax consequences of owning a Discount Bond even though there will not be a corresponding cash payment.

Owners of Discount Bonds should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the treatment of original issue discount for federal income tax purposes, including various special rules relating thereto, and the state and local tax consequences of acquiring, holding, and disposing of Discount Bonds.

## **Bond Premium**

In general, if an owner acquires a Bond for a purchase price (excluding accrued interest) or otherwise at a tax basis that reflects a premium over the sum of all amounts payable on the Bond after the acquisition date (excluding certain “qualified stated interest” that is unconditionally payable at least annually at prescribed rates), that premium constitutes “bond premium” on that Bond (a “Premium Bond”). In general, under Section 171 of the Code, an owner of a Premium Bond must amortize the bond premium over the remaining term of the Premium Bond, based on the owner’s yield over the remaining term of the Premium Bond determined based on constant yield principles (in certain cases involving a Premium Bond callable prior to its stated maturity date, the amortization period and yield may be required to be determined on the basis of an earlier call date that results in the lowest yield on such bond). An owner of a Premium Bond must amortize the bond premium by offsetting the qualified stated interest allocable to each interest accrual period under the owner’s regular method of accounting against the bond premium allocable to that period. In the case of a tax-exempt Premium Bond, if the bond premium allocable to an accrual period exceeds the qualified stated interest allocable to that accrual period, the excess is a nondeductible loss. Under certain circumstances, the owner of a Premium Bond may realize a taxable gain upon disposition of the Premium Bond even though it is sold or redeemed for an amount less than or equal to the owner’s original acquisition cost. Owners of any Premium Bonds should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of bond premium for federal income tax purposes, including various special rules relating thereto, and state and local tax consequences, in connection with the acquisition, ownership, amortization of bond premium on, sale, exchange, or other disposition of Premium Bonds.

## **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding**

Information reporting requirements apply to interest paid on tax-exempt obligations, including the Bonds. In general, such requirements are satisfied if the interest recipient completes and provides the payor with, a Form W-9, “Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification,” or if the recipient is one of a limited class of exempt recipients. A recipient not otherwise exempt from information reporting who fails to satisfy the information reporting requirements will be subject to “backup withholding,” which means that the payor is required to deduct and withhold a tax from the interest payment, calculated in the manner set forth in the Code. For the foregoing purpose, a “payor” generally refers to the person or entity from whom a recipient receives its payments of interest or who collects such payments on behalf of the recipient.

If an owner purchasing a Bond through a brokerage account has executed a Form W-9 in connection with the establishment of such account, as generally can be expected, no backup withholding should occur. In any event, backup withholding does not affect the excludability of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Any amounts withheld pursuant to backup withholding would be allowed as a refund or a credit against the owner’s federal income tax once the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

## **Miscellaneous**

Tax legislation, administrative actions taken by tax authorities, or court decisions, whether at the federal or state level, could adversely affect the tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds under federal or state law or otherwise prevent beneficial owners of the Bonds from realizing the full current benefit of the tax status of such interest. In addition, such legislation or actions (whether currently proposed, proposed in the future, or enacted) or such decisions could affect the market price or marketability of the Bonds.

Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors regarding the foregoing matters.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale of the Bonds are subject to the approving legal opinion of Barclay Damon LLP, New York, New York, Bond Counsel. Bond Counsel’s opinion will be in substantially the form attached hereto in Appendix C.

## **DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING**

In order to assist the purchasers of the Bonds in complying with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Rule 15c2-12”), the District will execute an Undertaking to Provide Continuing Disclosure, the form of which is attached hereto as Appendix D.

## **RATING**

The District has applied to Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), 7 WTC at Greenwich Street, New York, NY, Phone: (212) 553-4055 and Fax: (212) 298-6761 for rating on the Bonds. Such application is pending at this time. This rating will reflect only the view of such rating agency and an explanation of the significance of such rating should be obtained from the respective rating agency. There can be no assurance that such rating will not be revised or withdrawn, if in the judgement of agency circumstances so warrant. Any change or withdrawal of such rating may have an adverse effect on the market price and the availability of a secondary market for the outstanding bonds and notes of the District.

## **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Munistat Services, Inc. (the "Municipal Advisor"), is a Municipal Advisor, registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The Municipal Advisor serves as independent municipal advisor to the District on matters relating to debt management. The Municipal Advisor is a municipal advisory and consulting organization and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, marketing, or trading municipal securities or any other negotiated instruments. The Municipal Advisor has assisted the District as to the plan of finance and the structuring of the Bonds and has reviewed and commented on certain legal documents, including this Official Statement. The advice on the plan of financing and the structuring of the Bonds was based on materials provided by the District and other sources of information believed to be reliable. The Municipal Advisor has not audited, authenticated, or otherwise verified the information provided by the District or the information set forth in this Official Statement or any other information available to the District with respect to the appropriateness, accuracy, or completeness of disclosure of such information and no guarantee, warranty, or other representation is made by the Municipal Advisor respecting the accuracy and completeness of or any other matter related to such information and this Official Statement.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information may be obtained upon request from the business office of the District: Michael Chudy, Business Administrator, Chatham Central School District, 50 Woodbridge Avenue, Chatham, New York 12301, Phone (518) 392-1511 and email: [chudym@chatham.k12.ny.us](mailto:chudym@chatham.k12.ny.us) or from the office of Munistat Services, Inc., 12 Roosevelt Avenue, Port Jefferson Station, New York 11776, telephone number (631) 331-8888.

Statements in the Official Statement, and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements", within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which involve a number of risks and uncertainties, and which are based on the District's management's beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the District's management and staff. Because the statements are based on expectations about future events and economic performance and are not statements of fact, actual results may differ materially from those projected. Important factors that could cause future results to differ include legislative and regulatory changes, changes in the economy, and other factors discussed in this and other documents that the District's files with the repositories. When used in District's documents or oral presentation, the words "anticipate", "believe", "intend", "plan", "foresee", "likely", "estimate", "expect", "objective", "projection", "forecast", "goal", "will", or "should", or similar words or phrases are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

To the extent any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinion or estimates whether or not expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the statements will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made verbally or in writing is to be construed as a contract with the holder of the Bonds.

Munistat Services, Inc. may place a copy of this Official Statement on its website at [www.munistat.com](http://www.munistat.com). Unless this Official Statement specifically indicates otherwise, no statement on such website is included by specific reference or constitutes a part of this Official Statement. Munistat Services, Inc. has prepared such website information for convenience, but no decisions should be made in reliance upon that information. Typographical or other errors may have occurred in converting original source documents to digital format, and neither the District nor Munistat Services, Inc. assumes any liability or responsibility for errors or omissions on such website. Further, Munistat Services, Inc. and the District disclaim any duty or obligation either to update or to maintain that information or any responsibility or liability for any damages caused by viruses in the electronic files on the website. Munistat Services, Inc. and the District also assume no liability or responsibility for any errors or omissions or unauthorized editing or for any updates to dated website information.

Any statements in this Official Statement involving matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly stated, are intended as such and not as representations of fact. No representation is made that any of such statements will be, in fact, realized. This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement between the District and the original purchasers or owners of any of the Bonds.

By: s/s MARIANNE PIERRO  
President of the Board of Education  
Chatham Central School District  
Chatham, New York

March , 2025

**APPENDIX A**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Balance Sheet**  
**General Fund**

	Fiscal Year Ending June 30:		
	2022	2023	2024
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash	\$ 20,054,982	\$ 13,812,680	\$ 16,950,078
Due From Other Funds	470,860	548,439	1,101,940
State and Federal Aid	155,696	271,891	169,038
Due From Other Governments	293,385	312,270	345,920
Other	20,712	9,739	29,832
Total Assets	\$ 20,995,635	\$ 14,955,019	\$ 18,596,808
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 168,583	\$ 193,768	\$ 136,675
Accrued Liabilities	841,626	718,003	748,329
Due to other Funds	48,718		6,595
Due to other Governments	26,302	26,302	
Due to Employees Retirement Systems	113,495	142,475	180,300
Due to Teachers Retirement System	1,136,310	1,190,414	1,253,127
Total Liabilities	2,335,034	2,270,962	2,325,026
<b>Fund Balances:</b>			
Restricted	15,656,951	9,672,532	13,105,483
Assigned	1,661,246	1,636,633	1,749,157
Unassigned	1,342,404	1,374,892	1,417,142
Total Fund Balance	18,660,601	12,684,057	16,271,782
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 20,995,635	\$ 14,955,019	\$ 18,596,808

NOTE: This schedule itself is NOT audited.  
Source: Audited Financial Statements (2022-2024)

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity**  
**General Fund**

	Fiscal Year Ending June 30:				
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Real Property Taxes	\$ 21,276,140	\$ 21,686,120	\$ 22,128,831	\$ 23,872,634	\$ 24,352,264
Other Tax Items	1,230,037	1,199,821	1,136,462	45,286	62,740
Charges for Services	143,588	182,732	169,679	129,840	108,615
Use of Money and Property	222,756	41,071	41,162	435,987	1,054,017
Sale of Property & Comp. for Loss		91,705		9,544	17,027
Miscellaneous	475,777	355,983	838,685	868,347	992,002
State Sources	7,441,166	7,737,986	7,777,504	8,073,432	8,250,388
Federal Sources	116,569	233,846	98,874	49,274	110,356
Total Revenues	<u>30,906,033</u>	<u>31,529,264</u>	<u>32,191,197</u>	<u>33,484,344</u>	<u>34,947,409</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
General Support	3,222,371	3,404,119	3,622,491	4,009,220	3,998,757
Instruction	13,981,377	13,681,714	14,255,892	14,724,387	14,826,211
Pupil Transportation	1,656,250	1,568,247	1,822,213	1,911,743	2,013,095
Employee Benefits	8,492,064	8,509,540	8,051,960	8,616,833	8,688,208
Debt Service	768,500	1,053,376	1,058,025	1,056,025	1,058,075
Total Expenditures	<u>28,120,562</u>	<u>28,216,996</u>	<u>28,810,581</u>	<u>30,318,208</u>	<u>30,584,346</u>
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>2,785,471</u>	<u>3,312,268</u>	<u>3,380,616</u>	<u>3,166,136</u>	<u>4,363,063</u>
<b>Other Sources and Uses:</b>					
Operating Transfers In			417,998	14,407	46,040
Operating Transfers (Out)	(1,022,329)	(954,613)	(1,067,148)	(9,157,087)	(821,378)
Total Other Sources	<u>(1,022,329)</u>	<u>(954,613)</u>	<u>(649,150)</u>	<u>(9,142,680)</u>	<u>(775,338)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources over Expenditures and other Uses	<u>1,763,142</u>	<u>2,357,655</u>	<u>2,731,466</u>	<u>(5,976,544)</u>	<u>3,587,725</u>
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	<u>11,808,338</u>	<u>13,571,480</u>	<u>15,929,135</u>	<u>18,660,601</u>	<u>12,684,057</u>
Fund Balance End of Year	<u>\$ 13,571,480</u>	<u>\$ 15,929,135</u>	<u>\$ 18,660,601</u>	<u>\$ 12,684,057</u>	<u>\$ 16,271,782</u>

NOTE: This schedule itself is NOT audited.  
Source: Audited Financial Statements (2020-2024)

**Budget Summary  
General Fund**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Revenues:			
Real Property Taxes and Tax Items	\$ 23,884,492	\$ 24,357,405	\$ 25,061,334
Local Support	50,000	50,000	67,000
State Aid	7,993,706	8,153,638	8,045,174
Miscellaneous	348,303	469,649	822,004
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,341,600	1,341,600	1,341,600
Use of Reserves			91,439
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenues	\$ <u>33,618,101</u>	\$ <u>34,372,292</u>	\$ <u>35,428,551</u>
Expenditures:			
General Support	\$ 3,969,644	\$ 4,086,498	\$ 4,152,386
Instruction	15,783,845	16,134,027	16,653,043
Pupil Transportation	2,067,327	2,073,087	2,120,516
Employee Benefits	9,803,384	10,045,976	10,439,580
Debt Service	1,061,025	1,063,075	1,058,057
Interfund Transfer	932,876	969,629	1,004,969
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditures	\$ <u>33,618,101</u>	\$ <u>34,372,292</u>	\$ <u>35,428,551</u>

Source: Adopted budgets of the School District (2023-2025)

The 2024-2025 budget was approved by the voters of the District on May 21, 2024.

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBIA COUNTY**

**APPENDIX B**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**[▶ Click Here For 2024 Audit](#)**

NOTE: SUCH FINANCIAL REPORT AND OPINIONS WERE PREPARED AS OF THE DATE THEREOF AND HAVE NOT BEEN REVIEWED AND/OR UPDATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT. CONSENT OF THE AUDITORS HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED OR OBTAINED.

**APPENDIX C**

**FORM OF APPROVING OPINION OF BOND COUNSEL**

March [ ], 2025

Board of Education of the  
Chatham Central School District  
in the County of Columbia, New York

Re: Chatham Central School District  
\$9,783,651 School District Serial Bonds - 2025

Dear Board Members:

We have examined a record of proceedings relating to the issuance of \$9,783,651 aggregate principal amount of School District Serial Bonds – 2025 (the “Bonds”) of the Chatham Central School District (the “Issuer”), a school district of the State of New York, situate in the County of Columbia. The Bonds are dated March 26, 2025, mature in various amounts set forth therein on March 15 in the years 2027 through 2040, bear interest at various rates per annum set forth therein payable on September 15, 2025 and on each March 15 and September 15 thereafter and are issued pursuant to the Local Finance Law of the State of New York, a Bond Resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$9,783,651, and a certificate of the President of the Board of Education authorizing the issuance of the Bonds.

As to questions of fact material to our opinion, we have relied upon the certified proceedings and other certifications of public officials and others furnished to us without undertaking to verify the same by independent investigation.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that under existing law:

1. The Bonds are valid and binding general obligations of the Issuer.
2. All taxable property in the territory of the Issuer is subject to ad valorem taxation, without limitation as to rate or amount to pay the Bonds. The Issuer is required by law to include in its annual tax levy the principal and interest coming due on the Bonds to the extent the necessary funds are not provided from other sources.
3. Interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), however, interest on the Bonds is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. The opinion set forth in the preceding sentence is subject to the condition that the Issuer comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The Issuer has covenanted to comply with all such requirements. Failure to comply with all such requirements may cause interest on the Bonds to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes

retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. We express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds.

4. In our opinion, interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State or any political subdivision thereof, including The City of New York.

Except as expressly stated above, we express no opinion as to any other federal or state income tax consequences of acquiring, carrying, owning or disposing of the Bonds. Owners of the Bonds should consult their tax advisors as to the applicability of any collateral tax consequences of ownership of the Bonds, which may include original issuance discount, purchase at a market discount or at a premium, taxation upon sale, redemption or other disposition, and various withholding requirements.

It is to be understood that the rights of the owners of the Bonds and the enforceability of the Bonds may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and by equitable principles, whether considered at law or in equity.

We express no opinion herein as to the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the Official Statement relating to the Bonds.

This opinion is given as of the date hereof and we assume no obligation to update or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention or any changes in law that may hereafter occur.

Very truly yours,

**APPENDIX D**

**FORM OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

## **Transcript Document #10**

### CONTINUING DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING CERTIFICATE CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT \$9,783,651 SCHOOL DISTRICT (SERIAL) BONDS, 2025

This Continuing Disclosure Certificate (“the “Disclosure Certificate”) is executed and delivered by the Chatham Central School District (the “School District”) in connection with the issuance of \$9,783,651 School District (Serial) Bonds, 2025 (the “Bonds”). The School District covenants and agrees as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose of the Disclosure Certificate. This Disclosure Certificate is being executed and delivered by the School District for the benefit of the Holders and Beneficial Owners of the Bonds and in order to assist the Participating Underwriter in complying with SEC Rule 15c2-12(b)(5).

SECTION 2. Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in the Resolution, which apply to any capitalized term used in this Disclosure Certificate unless otherwise defined in this Section, the following capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

“Annual Report” shall mean any Annual Report provided by the School District pursuant to, and as described in, Sections 3 and 4 of this Disclosure Certificate.

“Beneficial Owner” shall mean any person which has or shares the power, directly or indirectly, to make investment decisions concerning ownership of any Bonds (including persons holding Bonds through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries).

“Dissemination Agent” shall mean the Dissemination Agent designated in writing by the School District and which has filed with the School District a written acceptance of such designation.

“Listed Events” shall mean any of the events listed in Section 5 of this Disclosure Certificate.

“MSRB” shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

“Rule” shall mean Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as the same may be amended from time to time.

“State” shall mean the State of New York.

“Underwriter” shall mean \_\_\_\_\_.

### SECTION 3. Provision of Annual Reports.

(a) The School District shall, or shall cause the Dissemination Agent to, not later than six months after the end of the School District's fiscal year (presently June 30), commencing with the report for the 2025 Fiscal Year, provide to the Electronic Municipal Market Access system maintained by the MSRB, in such form and in such manner as prescribed by the rules of the MSRB, an Annual Report which is consistent with the requirements of Section 4 of this Disclosure Certificate. The Annual Report may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package, and may cross-reference other information as provided in Section 4 of this Disclosure Certificate. If the School District's fiscal year changes, it shall give notice of such change in the same manner as for a Listed Event under Section 5. If audited financial statements are not available by the date specified in the first sentence of this paragraph (a), unaudited financial statements shall be filed. In that event, audited financial statements, if prepared, shall be filed within sixty days following receipt thereof by the School District, but, in any event, not later than the last business day of each such succeeding fiscal year; provided however, that provision of unaudited financial statements in any year shall be further conditioned upon a determination by the District of whether such provision is compliant with the requirements of federal securities laws including Rule 10b-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933.

(b) Not later than ten (10) Business Days prior to said date, the School District shall provide the Annual Report to the Dissemination Agent (if other than the School District). If the School District is unable to provide to the MSRB an Annual Report by the date required in subsection (a), the School District shall send a notice to the MSRB in substantially the form attached as Exhibit A.

(c) The Dissemination Agent shall, if the Dissemination Agent is other than the School District, file a report with the School District certifying that the Annual Report has been provided pursuant to this Disclosure Certificate and stating the date it was provided.

SECTION 4. Content of Annual Reports. The School District's Annual Report shall contain or include by reference the following:

(a) The audited financial statements of the School District for the prior fiscal year prepared in accordance with the accounting principles generally acceptable in the United States of America in effect at the time of the audit. If the School District's audited financial statements are not available by the time the Annual Report is required to be filed pursuant to Section 3(a), the Annual Report shall contain unaudited financial statements in a format similar to the financial statements contained in the final Official Statement, and the audited financial statements shall be filed in the same manner as the Annual Report when they become available, subject to the conditions set forth in Section 3(a).

(b) Other annual financial and operating data, in a form generally consistent with the information contained or cross-referenced in the Official Statement dated March 12, 2025 under the headings "The District", "Economic and Demographic Information", "Indebtedness of the District", "Finances of the District", "Tax Information" "Litigation", and in Appendix A.

Any or all of the items listed above may be included by specific reference to other documents, including official statements of debt issues of the School District or related public entities, which have been submitted to the MSRB. If the document included by reference is a final official statement, it must be available from the MSRB. The School District shall clearly identify each such other document so included by reference.

SECTION 5. Reporting of Significant Events. Pursuant to the provisions of this Section 5, the School District shall give, or cause to be given to the MSRB, notice of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds no later than ten (10) Business Days after the occurrence of such event (each, a “Listed Event”):

- a) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- b) non-payment related defaults, if material;
- c) unscheduled draws on the debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- d) in the case of credit enhancement, if any, provided in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- e) substitution of the credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- f) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701 TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Bonds, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Bonds;
- g) modifications to rights of Bond holders, if material;
- h) bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- i) defeasances;
10. release, substitution or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds, if material;
11. rating changes;
12. bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the School District;
13. the consummation of a merger, consolidation or acquisition involving the School District or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the School District, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;

14. appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;

15. incurrence of a financial obligation of the School District or obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the School District or obligated person, any of which affect security holders, if material; and

16. default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of the financial obligation of the School District or obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

SECTION 6. Notice of Failure to File. The School District shall give notice in a timely manner to EMMA or any other entity designated or authorized by the Commission to receive reports pursuant to the Rule, notice of its failure to provide the annual financial information and operating data and such audited financial statement as required pursuant to this Disclosure Certificate, if any, on or before the date specified.

SECTION 7. Termination of Reporting Obligation. The School District's obligations under this Disclosure Certificate shall terminate upon the legal defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all of the Bonds. If such termination occurs prior to the final maturity of the Bonds, the School District shall give notice of such termination in the same manner as for a Listed Event under Section 5.

SECTION 8. Dissemination Agent. The School District may, from time to time, appoint or engage a Dissemination Agent to assist it in carrying out its obligations under this Disclosure Certificate, and may discharge any such Agent, with or without appointing a successor Dissemination Agent. The Dissemination Agent shall not be responsible in any manner for the content of any notice or report prepared by the School District pursuant to this Disclosure Certificate.

SECTION 9. Amendment; Waiver. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the School District may amend this Disclosure Certificate, and any provision of this Disclosure Certificate may be waived, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) If the amendment or waiver relates to the provisions of Sections 3(a), 4 or 5, it may only be made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law, or change in the identity, nature or status of an obligated person with respect to the Bonds, or the type of business conducted;

(b) The undertaking, as amended or taking into account such waiver, would, in the opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the original issuance of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances; and

(c) The amendment or waiver either (i) is approved by the Holders of the Bonds, or (ii) does not, in the opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, materially impair the interests of the Holders or Beneficial Owners of the Bonds.

In the event of any amendment or waiver of a provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the School District shall describe such amendment in the next Annual Report, and shall include, as applicable, a narrative explanation of the reason for the amendment or waiver and its impact on the type (or in the case of a change of accounting principles, on the presentation) of financial information or operating data being presented by the School District. In addition, if the amendment relates to the accounting principles to be followed in preparing financial statements (i) notice of such change shall be given in the same manner as for a Listed Event under Section 5, and (ii) the Annual Report for the year in which the change is made should present a comparison (in narrative form and also, if feasible, in quantitative form) between the financial statements as prepared on the basis of the new accounting principles and those prepared on the basis of the former accounting principles.

SECTION 10. Additional Information. Nothing in this Disclosure Certificate shall be deemed to prevent the School District from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in this Disclosure Certificate or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by this Disclosure Certificate. If the School District chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event in addition to that which is specifically required by this Disclosure Certificate, the School District shall have no obligation under this Certificate to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

SECTION 11. Default. In the event of a failure of the School District to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Certificate any Holder or Beneficial Owner of the Bonds may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandate or specific performance by court order, to cause the School District to comply with its obligations under this Disclosure Certificate. A default under this Disclosure Certificate shall not be deemed a default under the Bonds, and the sole remedy under this Disclosure Certificate in the event of any failure of the School District to comply with this Disclosure Certificate shall be an action to compel performance.

SECTION 12. Duties, Immunities and Liabilities of Dissemination Agent. The Dissemination Agent shall have only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Disclosure Certificate, and the School District agrees to indemnify and save the Dissemination Agent, its officers, directors, employees and agents, harmless against any loss, expense and liabilities which it may incur arising out of or in the exercise or performance of its powers and duties hereunder, including the costs and expenses (including attorney's fees) of defending against any claim of liability, but excluding liabilities due to the Dissemination Agent's negligence or willful misconduct. The obligations of the School District under this Section shall survive resignation or removal of the Dissemination Agent and payment of the Bonds.

SECTION 13. Beneficiaries. This Disclosure Certificate shall inure solely to the benefit of the School District, the Dissemination Agent, the Participating Underwriter and Holders and Beneficial Owners from time to time of the Bonds, and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

Dated: March 26, 2025

CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marianne Pierro, President  
Board of Education

EXHIBIT "A"

NOTICE TO MSRB OF FAILURE TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT

Name of School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bond Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issuance: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the School District has not provided an Annual Report with respect to the above-named Bonds. [The School District anticipates that the Annual Report will be filed by \_\_\_\_\_].

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

[SCHOOL DISTRICT]

By: \_\_\_\_\_