

NEW ISSUE**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES**

In the opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, interest on the Notes is excludable, under existing statutes and court decisions, and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, from the gross income of the recipients thereof for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Under existing statutes, interest on the Notes will not be treated as a preference item for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax for individual. See "Tax Exemption" herein. In the opinion of Bond Counsel, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from New York State and New York City personal income taxes.

The Notes will be designated by the District as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK
(the "District")
\$2,000,000
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, 2018
(the "Notes")

Date of Issue: February 15, 2018

Maturity Dates: February 14, 2019

The Notes 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 of and interest on the Notes and, unless paid from other sources, the Notes 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 (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York [the "Tax Levy Limitation Law"]; see "TAX INFORMATION--Tax Levy Limitation Law," herein).

The Notes will be issued as registered notes, and at the option of the purchaser, may be registered to the Depository Trust Company ("DTC" or the "Securities Depository"), or may be registered in the name of the purchaser.

To the extent that the Notes are issued through DTC, the Notes will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC in New York, New York, which will act as Securities Depository for the Notes. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry-only form, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. Purchasers of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Notes. Payments of principal of and interest on the Notes will be made by the District to DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its Participants, for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Notes.

If the Notes are registered in the name of the purchaser, principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable in Federal Funds at such bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York as may be selected by the successful bidder. In such case, the Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, as may be determined by such successful bidder.

The Notes are dated February 15, 2018 and will bear interest from that date until February 14, 2019, the maturity date, at the annual rate as specified by the purchaser of the Notes. The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

The Notes are offered when, as and if issued and received by the purchaser and subject to the final approving opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel. Hodgson Russ LLP has neither participated in the preparation of the demographic, financial or statistical data contained in this Official Statement, nor verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof, and, accordingly, expresses no opinion with respect thereto. It is expected that the Notes will be available for delivery through the offices of DTC in New York, New York, or at such other place as may be agreed upon with the purchaser, on or about February 15, 2018.

THE DISTRICT DEEMS THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO BE FINAL FOR PURPOSES OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12 (THE "RULE"), EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN OMITTED HEREFROM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULE AND THAT WILL BE SUPPLIED WHEN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS UPDATED FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE NOTES. THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT WILL BE SO UPDATED UPON REQUEST OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE NOTICE OF SALE WITH RESPECT TO THE NOTES HEREIN DESCRIBED. UNLESS THE NOTES ARE PURCHASED FOR THE BUYER'S OWN ACCOUNT AS PRINCIPAL FOR INVESTMENT AND NOT FOR RESALE, THE DISTRICT WILL COVENANT IN AN UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CONTINUING DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO THE RULE. SEE "DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING," HEREIN.

Dated: January 30, 2018

**AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Paul Steimle	President
Mrs. Jeanne Ernst	Vice President
Mr. Paul Batt	Board Member
Mrs. Lorry Goldhawk	Board Member
Mrs. Jessica McLaughlin	Board Member
Mr. Mark Smith	Board Member
Mr. Dominic Vivolo	Board Member

DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Anthony J. Panella	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Ryan Schoenfeld	Assistant Superintendent-Curriculum, Instruction and Technology
Laura Bosinski	School Business Administrator
Barbara Williams	District Treasurer
Hodgson Russ LLP	Legal Counsel

BOND COUNSEL

HODGSON RUSS LLP
Buffalo, New York

MUNICIPAL ADVISOR



Capital Markets Advisors, LLC
Hudson Valley * Long Island * Southern Tier * Western New York
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No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized by the District or the Municipal Advisor to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this Official Statement and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the foregoing. 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 Notes 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 from the District from sources which are believed to be reliable, but it is not to be 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
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF
AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**\$2,000,000
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, 2018
(the "Notes")**

This Official Statement (the "Official Statement"), which includes the cover page and appendices hereto, presents certain information relating to the Amherst Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District," "County" and "State," respectively), in connection with the sale of the District's \$2,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2018 (the "Notes").

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 Notes and the proceedings of the District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive form of the Notes and such proceedings.

THE NOTES

Description of the Notes

The Notes will be issued as registered notes, and at the option of the purchaser, may be registered to DTC or may be registered in the name of the purchaser.

If the Notes will be issued through DTC, the Notes will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC in New York, New York, which will act as Securities Depository for the Notes. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry-only form, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. Purchasers of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Notes. Payments of principal of and interest on the Notes will be made by the District to DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its Participants, for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Notes.

If the Notes are registered in the name of the purchaser, principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable in Federal Funds at such bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York as may be selected by the successful bidder. In such case, the Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, as may be determined by such successful bidder.

The Notes are dated February 15, 2018 and bear interest from that date until February 14, 2019, the maturity date, at the annual rate as specified by the purchaser of the Notes. The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

Authority for and Purpose of the Notes

The Notes are issued pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of the State, including the Local Finance Law and the Education Law, and pursuant to a bond resolution dated December 20, 2016 that was adopted following a vote of the qualified voters of the District on December 13, 2016, authorizing the issuance of obligations of the District in an aggregate maximum principal amount of \$28,266,340 for the financing of

the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof). The proceeds of the Notes will provide original financing for such project.

Nature of Obligation

The Notes, when duly issued and paid for, will constitute a contract between the District and the holder thereof.

The Notes 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 thereof and the interest thereon. For the payment of such principal and interest, the District has the power and statutory authorization to levy *ad valorem* taxes on all taxable real property in the District, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by the Tax Levy Limitation Law); see "TAX INFORMATION-Tax Levy Limitation Law," herein.

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 Notes, and the State is specifically precluded from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate therefor. On June 24, 2011, the Tax Levy Limitation Law was adopted in the State. The Tax Levy Limitation Law established certain limitations on the power of local governments and school districts to increase the property tax levy beyond certain prescribed limits (without following certain prescribed procedures). The Tax Levy Limitation Law had its first application with respect to the District's budget for 2012-13. The Tax Levy Limitation Law does make certain allowances for the exclusion of tax levy increases associated with capital expenses by school districts. See "TAX INFORMATION-Tax Levy Limitation Law," herein. Also, certain special protective procedures and remedies available to holders of school district debt remain in place and are not affected by the Tax Levy Limitation Law. See "DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS—Remedies Upon Default," herein.

Book-Entry-Only System

The following applies to the extent that the Notes are issued in book-entry form. The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York, will act as securities depository for the Notes. The Notes will be issued as fully-registered notes registered 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 note certificate will be issued for each Note which bears the same rate of interest and CUSIP number, in the aggregate principal amount of such issue, and will be deposited with DTC. One fully registered note certificate will be issued and deposited with DTC for each maturity of the Notes in the aggregate principal amount of the issue. DTC, the world's largest depository, is a 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 securities 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"). 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 and www.dtc.org.

Purchases of the Notes under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Note ("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 Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all the Notes 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 Notes 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 Notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Notes are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account 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. Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the securities within an issue are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such issue to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Notes unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the District 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 Notes are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments on the Notes 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 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 or the District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Payment of principal and interest 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 Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, note certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

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

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the District believes to be reliable, but the District takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

THE DISTRICT CANNOT AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY ASSURANCE THAT DTC DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC WILL DISTRIBUTE TO THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE NOTES (1) PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES (2) CONFIRMATIONS OF THEIR OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE NOTES OR (3) OTHER NOTICES SENT TO DTC OR CEDE & CO., ITS PARTNERSHIP NOMINEE, AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE NOTES, OR THAT THEY WILL DO SO ON A TIMELY BASIS, OR THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL SERVE AND ACT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

THE DISTRICT WILL NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATION TO DTC, THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO (1) THE ACCURACY OF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC (2) THE PAYMENT BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY AMOUNT DUE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER IN RESPECT OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES; (3) THE DELIVERY BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY NOTICE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER THAT IS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED TO BE GIVEN TO OWNERS; OR (4) ANY CONSENT GIVEN OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY DTC AS THE REGISTERED HOLDER OF THE NOTES.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN CONCERNING DTC AND ITS BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM DTC AND THE DISTRICT MAKES NO REPRESENTATION AS TO THE COMPLETENESS OR THE ACCURACY OF SUCH INFORMATION OR AS TO THE ABSENCE OF MATERIAL ADVERSE CHANGES IN SUCH INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE HEREOF.

Source: The Depository Trust Company

MARKET FACTORS

The financial condition of the District as well as the market for the Notes could be affected by a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the District's control. There can be no assurance that adverse events in the State, including, for example, the seeking by a municipality 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 Notes. If a significant default or other financial crisis should occur in the affairs of the State or at any of its agencies or political subdivisions thereby further impairing the acceptability of obligations issued by borrowers within the State, both the ability of the District to arrange for additional borrowings and the market for and market value of outstanding debt obligations, including the Notes, could be adversely affected.

The District is dependent in substantial part on financial assistance from the State in the form of State aid. No delay in payment of State aid for the remainder of the District's current fiscal year is presently anticipated although no assurance can be given that there will not be a delay in payment thereof. If the State should experience difficulty in borrowing funds in anticipation of the receipt of State taxes in order to pay State aid to municipalities and school districts in the State, including the District, in this year or future years, the District may be affected by a delay, until sufficient State taxes have been received by the State to make State aid payments to the District.

Should the District fail to receive moneys expected from the State in the amounts and at the times expected, 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 market for the Notes could also be affected if the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") were to be amended to reduce or eliminate the favorable tax treatment granted to municipal debt, including the Notes and other debt issued by the District. See the discussion in "TAX EXEMPTION" herein.

TAX EXEMPTION

Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, will deliver an opinion that, under existing law, the interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income of the holders thereof for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for the purpose of the individual alternative minimum tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). However, such opinion will note that the District, by failing to comply with certain restrictions contained in the Code, may cause interest on the Notes to become subject to federal income taxation from the date of issuance of the Notes. Such opinion will state that interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State or any political subdivision thereof (including The City of New York).

In rendering the foregoing opinions, Hodgson Russ LLP will note that the exclusion of the interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes is subject to, among other things, continuing compliance by the District with the applicable requirements of Code sections 141, 148, and 149, and the regulations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the "Tax Requirements"). In the opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, the tax certificate and nonarbitrage certificate that will be executed and delivered by the District in connection with the issuance of the Notes (collectively, the "Certificates") establishes requirements and procedures, compliance with which will satisfy the Tax Requirements.

The Tax Requirements referred to above, which must be complied with in order that interest on the Notes remains excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, include, but are not limited to:

- 1 The requirement that the proceeds of the Notes be used in a manner so that the Notes are not obligations which meet the definition of a "private activity bond" within the meaning of Code section 141;
- 2 The requirements contained in Code section 148 relating to arbitrage bonds; and
- 3 The requirements that payment of principal or interest on the Notes not be directly or indirectly guaranteed (in whole or in part) by the United States (or any agency or instrumentality thereof) as provided in Code section 149(b).

In the Certificates, the District will covenant to comply with the Tax Requirements, and to refrain from taking any action which would cause the interest on the Notes to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes. Any violation of the Tax Requirements may cause the interest on the Notes to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes from the date of issuance of the Notes. Hodgson Russ LLP expresses no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Notes.

Prospective purchasers of the Notes should be aware that ownership of, accrual or receipt of interest on, or disposition of, the Notes may have collateral federal income tax consequences for certain taxpayers, including financial institutions, property and casualty insurance companies, S corporations, certain foreign corporations, individual recipients of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, and taxpayers who may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry such obligations. Prospective purchasers should consult their tax advisors as to any possible collateral consequences from their ownership of, or receipt of interest on, or disposition of, the Notes. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding any such collateral federal income tax consequences.

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to non-corporate holders with respect to payments of principal, payments of interest, and the proceeds of the sale of a bond or note before maturity within the United States. Backup withholding may apply to a holder of the Notes under Code section 3406, if such holder fails to provide the information required on Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, or the IRS has specifically identified the holder as being subject to backup withholding because of prior underreporting. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a beneficial owner, and which constitutes over-withholding, would be allowed as a refund or a credit against such beneficial owner’s United States federal income tax provided the required information is furnished to the IRS. Neither the information reporting requirement nor the backup withholding requirement affects the excludability of interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

Bond Counsel has not undertaken to advise in the future whether any events occurring after the date of issuance of the Notes may affect the tax status of interest on the Notes. The Code has been continuously subject to legislative modifications, amendments, and revisions, and proposals for further changes are regularly submitted by leaders of the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. No representation is made as to the likelihood of such proposals being enacted in their current or similar form, or if enacted, the effective date of any such legislation, and no assurances can be given that such proposals or amendments will not materially and adversely affect the economic value of the Notes or the tax consequences of ownership of the Notes. Prospective purchasers are encouraged to consult with their own legal and tax advisors with respect to these matters.

DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING DELIVERY OF THE NOTES

Absence of Litigation

Upon delivery of the Notes, the District will furnish certificates, dated the date of delivery of the Notes, to the effect that there is no controversy or litigation of any nature pending or threatened to restrain or enjoin the issuance, sale, execution or delivery of the Notes, or in any way contesting or affecting the validity of the Notes or any of the proceedings taken with respect to the issuance and sale thereof or the application of moneys to the payment of the Notes. Additional certificates will state that there is no controversy or litigation of any nature now pending or threatened by or against the District wherein an adverse judgment or ruling could have a material adverse impact on the financial condition of the District or adversely affect the power of the District to levy, collect, and enforce the collection of taxes or other revenues for the payment of its Notes, which has not been disclosed in this Official Statement.

Legal Matters

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale of the Notes will be subject to the final approving opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, Bond Counsel. Such opinion will be available at the time of delivery of the Notes and will be to the effect that the Notes are valid and legally binding general obligations of the District for which the District has validly pledged its faith and credit, and all the taxable real property within the District is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* real estate taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of the State). Such opinion shall also contain further statements to the effect that (a) the enforceability of rights or remedies with respect to the Notes may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, or other laws affecting creditors’ rights or remedies heretofore or hereafter enacted, and (b) such law firm has not been requested to examine or review and has not examined or reviewed the accuracy or sufficiency of the Official Statement, or any additional proceedings, reports, correspondence, financial statements or other documents, containing financial or other information relative to the District which has been or may have been furnished or disclosed to purchasers of the Notes, and expresses no opinion with respect to such financial or other information, or the accuracy or sufficiency thereof.

Closing Certificates

Upon the delivery of the Notes, the purchaser will be furnished with the following items: (i) a certificate of the President of the Board of Education of the District to the effect that as of the date of this Official Statement and at all times subsequent thereto, up to and including the time of the delivery of the Notes, this Official Statement did not and does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and further stating that there has been no adverse material change in the financial condition of the District since the date of this Official Statement to the date of issuance of the Notes; and having attached thereto a copy of this Official Statement; (ii) a certificate signed by an officer of the District evidencing payment for the Notes; (iii) a closing certificate evidencing the due execution of the Notes, including statements that (a) no litigation of any nature is pending or, to the knowledge of the signers, threatened, restraining or enjoining the issuance and delivery of the Notes or the levy and collection of taxes to pay the principal of and interest thereon, nor in any manner questioning the proceedings and authority under which the Notes were authorized or affecting the validity of the Notes thereunder, (b) neither the corporate existence or boundaries of the District nor the title of the signers to their respective offices is being contested, (c) no authority or proceedings for the issuance of the Notes have been repealed, revoked or rescinded; and (iv) a nonarbitrage certificate and tax certificate executed by the President of the Board of Education, as described under "TAX EXEMPTION" herein.

DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING

This Official Statement is in a form "deemed final" by the District for the purposes of Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule"). At the time of the delivery of the Notes, unless the Notes are purchased for the buyer's own account as principal for investment and not for resale, the District will provide an executed copy of its "Disclosure Undertaking" (the "Undertaking"). Such Undertaking will constitute a written agreement or contract of the District for the benefit of holders of and owners of beneficial interests in the Notes, to provide, or cause to be provided, to (i) the Electronic Municipal Market Access ("EMMA") system established and operated by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") currently at <http://www.emma.msrb.org>, or such other similar system established and operated by the MSRB, and (ii) the appropriate state information depository ("SID"), if any, for the State of New York, as designated by the Commission in accordance with the Rule, notice of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Notes in a timely manner (i.e., not in excess of ten business days after the occurrence of the event):

- (i) principal and interest payment delinquencies; (ii) non-payment related defaults, if material; (iii) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties; (iv) in the case of credit enhancement, if any, provided in connection with the issuance of the Notes, unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties; (v) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform; (vi) 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 Notes, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Notes; (vii) modifications to rights of Noteholders, if material; (viii) bond and note calls, if material, and tender offers; (ix) defeasances; (x) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Notes; (xi) rating changes; (xii) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the District; (xiii) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the District or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the 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; and (xiv) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of the name of a trustee, if material.

Event (iii) is included pursuant to a letter from the SEC staff to the National Association of Bond Lawyers

dated September 19, 1995. However, event (iii) is not applicable, since no “debt service reserves” will be established for the Notes.

With respect to event (iv), the District does not undertake to provide any notice with respect to credit enhancement added after the primary offering of the securities.

With respect to event (xii), the event is considered to occur when any of the following occur: the appointment of a receiver, fiscal agent or similar officer for the District in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or in any other proceeding under state or federal law in which a court or governmental authority has assumed jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the District, or if such jurisdiction has been assumed by leaving the existing governing body and officials or officers in possession but subject to the supervision and orders of a court or governmental authority, or the entry of an order confirming a plan of reorganization, arrangement or liquidation by a court or governmental authority having supervision or jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the District.

The District may provide notice of the occurrence of certain other events, in addition to those listed above, if it determines that any such other event is material with respect to the Notes; but the District does not undertake to commit to provide any such notice of the occurrence of any material event except those events listed above.

The District’s Undertaking shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the principal of, redemption premiums, if any, and interest on the Notes shall have been paid in full. The sole and exclusive remedy for breach or default under the Undertaking is an action to compel specific performance of the undertakings of the District, and no person or entity, including a holder of the Notes, shall be entitled to recover monetary damages thereunder under any circumstances. Any failure by the District to comply with the Undertaking will not constitute a default with respect to the Notes.

The District reserves the right to amend or modify the Undertaking under certain circumstances set forth therein; provided that any such amendment or modification will be done in a manner consistent with the Rule as then in effect.

Prior Disclosure History

Except as indicated in this paragraph, the District is in compliance in all material respects with all previous undertakings made pursuant to the Rule. For the District’s fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, the District filed through EMMA certain annual financial information and operating data on April 1, 2013. A failure to file notice regarding such late filing was posted to EMMA on June 13, 2016. The District’s Audited Financial Statements were all filed in a timely manner. Additionally, the District failed to file various ratings changes to bond insurers of certain outstanding bonds of the District in a timely fashion. Notice of such rating changes was posted on August 1, 2014. The District has implemented procedures to ensure that all future filings will be made in compliance with the Rule and the District’s Disclosure Undertakings.

RATING

The District did not apply for a rating on the Notes.

Moody’s has assigned an underlying rating of “Aa3” to the uninsured outstanding bonded indebtedness of the District.

Such rating reflects only the view of such organization and any desired explanation of the significance of such rating should be obtained from the rating agency furnishing the same, at the following addresses: Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., 250 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10007. Generally, a rating agency bases its rating on the information and materials furnished to it and on investigations, studies and assumptions of its own. There is no assurance such rating will continue for any given period of time or that such rating will not be revised downward or withdrawn entirely by the rating agency, if in the judgment of

such rating agency, circumstances so warrant. Any such downward revision or withdrawal of any of the rating may have an adverse effect on the market price of the Notes.

MISCELLANEOUS

So far as any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinions or estimates, whether or not so expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the opinions or estimates will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made orally or in writing is to be construed as a contract with the holders of the Notes.

Statements in this official statement, and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements, which are based on the District 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 files with the repositories. When used in District documents or oral presentation, the words "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", "objective", "projection", "forecast", "goal", or similar words are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel to the District, expresses no opinions as to the accuracy or completeness of information in any documents prepared by or on behalf of the District for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Notes, including but not limited to, the financial or statistical information in this Official Statement.

References herein to the Constitution of the State and various State and federal laws are only brief outlines of certain provisions thereof and do not purport to summarize or describe all of such provisions.

Concurrently with the delivery of the Notes, the District will furnish a certificate to the effect that as of the date of the Official Statement, the Official Statement did not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, subject to a limitation as to information in the Official Statement obtained from sources other than the District.

The Official Statement is submitted only in connection with the sale of the Notes by the District and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

MUNICIPAL ADVISOR

Capital Markets Advisors, LLC, Orchard Park, New York, (the "Municipal Advisor") is an independent municipal advisor registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The Municipal Advisor has served as the independent municipal advisor to the District in connection with this transaction.

In preparing the Official Statement, the Municipal Advisor has relied upon governmental officials, and other sources, who have access to relevant data to provide accurate information for the Official Statement. The Municipal Advisor has not been engaged, nor has it undertaken, to independently verify the accuracy of such information. The Municipal Advisor is not a public accounting firm and has not been engaged by the District to compile, review, examine or audit any information in the Official Statement in accordance with accounting standards. The Municipal Advisor is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice with respect to this or any debt offerings of the District. The Municipal Advisor is an independent advisory firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities and therefore will not participate in the underwriting of the Notes.

APPENDIX A

THE DISTRICT

General Information

The District, with an estimated population of 24,096, comprises approximately 15 square miles in the north central portion of Erie County wholly within the Town of Amherst (the “Town”) and just north of the City of Buffalo.

Effective July 1, 1979, three former districts, Amherst Snyder Common School District, Eggertsville Common School District and the Amherst Central High School District were centralized and became known as the Amherst Central School District.

The area itself is residential in nature with some retail and commercial enterprises. Many of the residents are employed within the District while others find employment in the commercial and industrial activities of the City of Buffalo and the Western New York area.

A network of highways provides transportation means for local motor freight, and airport facilities are available at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Hospital, banking, recreational and utility facilities are available to the residents of the District, either within the District or in nearby areas. Public safety is provided by the Town Police. Fire protection is provided by volunteer fire companies.

District Organization

Subject to the provisions of the State Constitution, the District operates pursuant to the Education Law, the Local Finance Law, other laws generally applicable to the District, and any special laws applicable to the District. Under such laws, there is no authority for the District to have a charter or adopt local laws.

The legislative power of the District is vested in the Board, which consists of seven members including the President and Vice President. Board members are elected for overlapping terms of three years such that as nearly as possible an equal number of members are elected to the Board on the third Tuesday of May each year. The administrative officers of the District, whose duty it is to implement the policies of the Board and who are appointed by the Board, include the Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, School Business Administrator, District Clerk and District Treasurer.

Financial Organization

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the President of the Board is the chief fiscal officer of the District. However, certain of the financial functions of the District are the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, the School Business Administrator and the District Treasurer.

District Facilities

The District currently operates the following facilities:

TABLE 1
School Statistics

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Year of Construction</u>	<u>Year of Last Addition</u>	<u>Designed Capacity</u>
Amherst Senior High School	9-12	1930	2001	1,250
Amherst Middle School	6-8	1955	1958	1,100
Smallwood Drive Elementary	K-5	1952	1995	773
Windermere Blvd. Elementary	K-5	1950	2001	1,000
			TOTAL:	<u>4,123</u>

Source: District Officials.

Employees

There are approximately 423 full-time and 131 part-time persons employed by the District. The collective bargaining agents, if any, which represent them and the dates of expirations of the various collective bargaining agreements are as follows:

TABLE 2
Employees

<u>Approximate No. of Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>	<u>Contract Expiration Date</u>
297	Amherst Education Association	6/30/18
38	Amherst Service Staff Association	6/30/20
31	Amherst Office Personnel Association	6/30/18
19	Amherst Lunch Employees Association	6/30/18
4	Amherst Cook-Managers Association	6/30/18
12	Amherst Administrators Association	6/30/21
123	Amherst Paraprofessional Association	6/30/18
9	Amherst Nurses	6/30/18
4	District Central Office Administrators	Individual contracts
16	Non-represented employees	Individual contracts

Source: District Officials.

Employee Pension Benefits

All non-teaching and non-certified administrative 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 and Local Employees' Retirement System ("ERS").

Teachers and certified administrators are members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS" and, collectively with the ERS, the "Retirement Systems"). Payments to the Retirement Systems are deducted from the District's State aid payments.

Both the ERS and the TRS are non-contributing with respect to members hired prior to July 27, 1976. The Retirement Systems are non-contributory with respect to members working ten or more years. All members working less than ten years must contribute 3% of gross annual salary toward the cost of retirement programs.

The following table details the District's contractually required contributions to the ERS for the preceding three audited fiscal years, and the budgeted amount for the fiscal year March 31, 2018 (for ERS, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the Systems' fiscal year ending March 31):

<u>Fiscal Year End 3/31</u>	<u>ERS</u>
2018 (<i>Budgeted</i>)	\$776,288
2017	781,647
2016	897,880
2015	933,653

Source: Audited Financial Statements and District Officials.

The following table details the District's actual required contributions to the TRS for the preceding three audited fiscal years ended June 30, and the budgeted amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018:

<u>Fiscal Year End 6/30</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2018 (<i>Budgeted</i>)	\$2,252,596
2017	2,676,548
2016	2,984,186
2015	3,772,377

Source: Audited Financial Statements and District Officials.

On December 10, 2009, former Governor Paterson signed into law a new Tier 5. The law is effective for new ERS and TRS employees hired after January 1, 2010. Under Tier 5, new ERS employees would contribute 3% of their salaries and new TRS employees would contribute 3.5% of their salaries. There is no provision for these contributions to cease after a certain period of service.

On March 16, 2012, Governor Cuomo signed into law the new Tier 6 pension program, effective for new ERS and TRS employees hired after April 1, 2012. The Tier 6 legislation provides for increased employee contribution rates of between 3% and 6%, an increase in the retirement age from 62 years to 63 years, a readjustment of the pension multiplier, and a change in the time period for final average salary calculation from three years to five years. Tier 6 employees will vest in the system after ten years of employment and will continue to make employee contributions throughout employment.

Pension reform legislation enacted in 2003 and 2004 changed the cycle of ERS billing to match budget cycles of the District. Under the previous method, the District was unsure of how much it paid to the system until after its budget was implemented. Under the current method the contribution for a given fiscal year will be based on the value of the pension fund on the prior April 1 instead of the following April 1 so that the District will be able to more accurately include the cost of the contribution into its budget. The reform legislation also (i) required the District 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 contribution possible and (ii) moved the annual payment date for contributions from December 15th to February 1st, effective December 15, 2004.

The New York State ERS rate for the 2016-17 fiscal year is 16.1%. The 2017-18 TRS rate is not expected to change. The New York State TRS rate for the 2016-17 fiscal year is 11.72%. The 2017-18 TRS rate is expected to be 9.8%.

In recent years, due to prior poor performance of the investment portfolio of the State Retirement System in the wake of the 2008-09 recession, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli announced that the employer contribution rates for required pension contributions to the SRS would continue to increase. To help mitigate the impact of their ERS increases, legislation has been enacted that permits local governments and school districts to amortize a portion of such contributions. Under such legislation, local governments and school districts that choose to amortize a portion of their ERS contributions will be required to set aside and reserve funds with the SRS for certain future rate increases. The District did not opt into the pension amortization plan.

In Spring 2013, the State and TRS approved a Stable Contribution Option (“SCO”) that gives school districts the ability to better manage the spikes in Actuarially Required Contribution rates (“ARCs”). ERS followed suit and modified its existing SCO, which was adopted in 2010. Each plan allows school districts to pay the SCO amount in lieu of the ARC amount, which is higher, and defer the difference in payment amounts as described below. The plan, which was approved in Governor Cuomo’s 2016-17 budget would let districts contribute 14.13% of employee costs toward pensions. The District has not opted into the pension smoothing plan.

The TRS SCO deferral plan is available to school districts for seven years after enactment. Under the TRS SCO plan, payment of the deferred amount will commence in year six of the program (2018-19) and continue for five years. School districts can elect to no longer participate in the plan at any time, resume paying the ARC and begin repayment of deferred amounts over five years. Under the ERS SCO, payment of deferred amounts begins the year immediately following the deferral and the repayment period is 12 years. Once made, the election to participate in the ERS SCO is permanent. However, the school districts can choose not to defer payment in any given year. In both plans, interest on the deferred amounts is based on the yield of 10-year U.S. Treasury securities plus 1%.

The primary benefit of participation in the SCO plans is the elimination of the uncertainty in the volatility of future pension contribution ARCs in the near term, thereby providing school districts with significant assistance in its ability to create a stable and reliable fiscal plan. The District has not and does not plan to participate in the ERS or TRS SCO program.

Other Post-Employment Benefits

The District provides post-retirement healthcare benefits to various categories of former employees. These costs have been rising substantially, and 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.

Up through the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2017, the District has been subject to GASB Statement No. 45 (“GASB 45”), which 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 nonpension benefits (“OPEB”). GASB 45 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 45 requires municipalities and school districts to account for OPEB liabilities much like they already account for pension liabilities, generally adopting the actuarial methodologies used for pensions, with adjustments for the different characteristics of OPEB and the fact that most municipalities and school districts had not set aside any funds against this liability. Unlike GASB Statement No. 27, which covers accounting for pensions, GASB 45 does not require municipalities or school districts to report a net OPEB obligation at the start.

Under GASB 45, based on actuarial valuation, an annual required contribution (“ARC”) is determined for each municipality or school district. 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 or school district 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 45 does not require that the unfunded liability actually be amortized nor that it be advance funded, only that the municipality or school district account for its unfunded accrued liability and compliance in meeting its ARC. The District is in compliance with the requirements of GASB 45.

Actuarial Valuation is required every two years for OPEB plans with more than 200 members, and every three years if there are less than 200 members.

In June 2015, GASB released GASB Statement No. 75 (“GASB 75”), which is required to be implemented in the District’s current fiscal year. GASB 75 replaces the requirements of GASB 45 and establishes new standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. Under GASB 75, governments must report a liability on the face of the financial statements for the OPEB that they provide; it can no longer be a footnote as was allowed under GASB 45.

The table below shows the components of the District’s annual OPEB cost for the past two years, the amounts actually contributed to the plan, and changes in the net OPEB obligation.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Annual required contribution	\$297,334	\$202,241
Interest on net OPEB obligation	(12,687)	(9,072)
Adjustment to annual required contribution	<u>13,702</u>	<u>9,395</u>
Annual OPEB cost (expense)	298,349	202,564
Expected Contributions	<u>(297,405)</u>	<u>(292,944)</u>
Change in net OPEB obligation	944	(90,380)
Net OPEB obligation – beginning of year	<u>(317,183)</u>	<u>(226,803)</u>
Net OPEB obligation – end of year	<u><u>\$(316,239)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(317,183)</u></u>

Source: Audited Financial Statements.

As of February 1, 2017, the plan was not funded. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability for benefits for governmental activities was \$5,104,421.

There is no authority under State law to establish a reserve fund to meet this liability. The District continues to meet this liability on a pay-as-you-go basis.

FINANCIAL FACTORS

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 last five fiscal years and estimated revenues for the current fiscal year may be found in Appendix B.

Property Tax and Tax Items

The following table sets forth total general fund revenues and real property tax and tax item revenues received during the last five audited fiscal years and the amounts budgeted for the current fiscal year.

TABLE 3
Property Taxes

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Real Property Taxes and Tax Items</u>	<u>Real Property Taxes to Revenues</u>
2013	\$47,102,407	\$31,649,859	67.2%
2014	49,106,168	32,999,054	67.2%
2015	50,071,204	33,716,685	67.3%
2016	52,429,613	34,916,886	66.6%
2017	56,186,446	34,421,516	61.3%
2018 <i>Budgeted</i>	55,631,762	34,921,929	62.7%

⁽¹⁾ General Fund only

Source: District's audited financial statements and adopted budget.

State Aid

The District receives a significant portion of its revenues in the form of State aid for operating and other purposes at various times throughout its fiscal year, pursuant to formulas and payment schedules set forth by statute.

The following table sets forth total general fund revenues and State aid revenues received during the last five audited fiscal years and the amount budgeted for the current fiscal year.

TABLE 4
State Aid

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>State Aid</u>	<u>State Aid to Revenues</u>
2013	\$47,102,407	\$10,514,869	22.3%
2014	49,106,168	10,630,449	21.6%
2015	50,071,204	11,391,879	22.8%
2016	52,429,613	12,153,430	23.2%
2017	56,186,446	16,445,678	29.3%
2018 <i>Budgeted</i>	55,631,762	14,956,527	26.8%

⁽¹⁾ General Fund only

Source: *District's audited financial statements and adopted budget.*

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"). The District has received timely STAR aid from the State for the previous fiscal year and anticipates timely receipt for the current fiscal year.

In January 2001, the State Supreme Court issued a decision in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity ("CFE") 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 State-wide remedy and instead limited its ruling solely to the New York City school system.

More recently, the plaintiffs in *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights ("NYSER") v. State of New York* alleged that the State failed to comply with the original decision in the CFE case and asked 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. In a June 27, 2017 decision, the Court of Appeals dismissed these claims, stating that the CFE decision does not presently impose any injunctive remedy on the State and that the Court will not intrude upon the policy-making and discretionary decisions that are reserved to the legislative and executive branches.

While the increases in State aid following this case have been targeted to high-needs schools, other schools did share in the overall increase of State aid. The District is unable to predict whether this pattern of distribution will continue beyond that which is included in later legislation dealing with foundation aid. Increased State aid for New York City schools and other high-needs schools may result in reductions in the future of State aid to certain school districts, including the District.

In any event, the outcome of this matter does not affect the validity of any obligations issued by the District, including the Notes, nor the ability of the District to levy taxes on the taxable real property in the District to pay the Notes and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable.

The Gap Elimination Adjustment ("GEA") law was first introduced for the 2010-11 fiscal year (although it existed in 2009-10 and was called "Deficit Reduction Assessment") as a way to help close the State's then \$10 billion budget deficit. Under legislation, a portion of the funding shortfall at the State level is divided among all school districts throughout the State and reflected as a reduction in school district State aid. The GEA is a negative number, money that is deducted from the aid originally due to the District. Since the program began, the GEA and Deficit Reduction Assessment reduction in State aid for the District has

amounted to approximately \$1.54 million annually. As a result, the District has been forced to reduce programs, services, and staff accordingly. Beginning in the 2013-14 fiscal year, the State made modest restorations to the GEA. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, the GEA was reduced by \$218,716, dropping the total GEA to \$1.32 million. In the 2015-16 fiscal year, it was reduced by \$520,044, yielding a remaining annual GEA figure of \$809,125. In the 2016-17 fiscal year, the GEA has been eliminated.

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed as part of the Enacted 2014-15 State Budget. The Smart Schools Bond Act authorizes the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State. The District's estimated allocation of funds is \$1,043,273. The District has not yet developed its plans for the utilization of such funds.

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. The 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 could be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget.

The State 2017-18 Enacted Budget allows the Governor to reduce expenditures (including aid to school districts) mid-year if revenues (including, but not limited to, funding from the federal government) are less than what was expected. If federal support is reduced by \$850 million or more, the Governor will develop a plan to make uniform spending reductions. Such plan would take effect automatically unless the Legislature passes their own plan within 90 days.

No delay in payment of State aid for the District's 2017-18 fiscal year is presently anticipated, although no assurance can be given that there will not be a delay in payment thereof. Should the District fail to receive monies expected from the State in the amounts and at the times expected, the District is permitted to issue revenue anticipation notes in anticipation of the receipt of delayed State aid.

Recent Events Affecting New York School Districts

School district fiscal year (2012-13): The State Legislature adopted the State budget on March 30, 2012. The budget included an increase of \$751 million in State aid for school districts.

School district fiscal year (2013-14): The State Legislature adopted the State budget on March 29, 2013. The budget included an increase of \$1.0 billion in State aid for school districts.

School district fiscal year (2014-15): The State Legislature adopted the State budget on April 1, 2014. The budget included an increase of \$807 million in State aid for school districts totally \$21.88 billion in State aid for New York school districts.

School district fiscal year (2015-16): The State Legislature adopted the State budget on April 1, 2015. The budget provided for school aid of approximately \$23.5 billion, which represented an increase of approximately \$1.3 billion, or 7.4%, in total school aid spending from the 2014-15 school year. The budget continued a three-year appropriation methodology established in the 2011-12 State fiscal year and limited future school aid increases to growth as measured by the total personal income of residents of the State.

School district fiscal year (2016-17): The State Legislature adopted the State budget on March 31, 2016. The budget included an increase of \$991 million in State aid for school districts over the 2015-16 budget, \$863 million of which consisted of traditional operating aid. In addition to the \$408 million of expense based aid, the budget included a \$266 million increase in Foundation Aid and a \$189 million restoration to the Gap Elimination Adjustment. The majority of the remaining increase included \$100 million in Community Schools Aid, a newly adopted aid category, to support school districts that wish to create community schools. The funds could only be used for certain purposes such as providing health, mental

health and nutritional services to students and their families. The budget included total School Aid spending of \$24.8 billion, a \$1.5 billion increase (6.5% increase) from the prior fiscal year.

School district fiscal year (2017-18): The State budget provisions relating to school districts for the forthcoming School District fiscal year were adopted on April 9, 2017 and signed by the Governor on April 20, 2017.

The budget increased Education Aid by \$1.1 billion, including a \$700 million increase in Foundation Aid, without revision to the formula, bringing the new Education Aid total to \$25.8 billion or an increase of 4.4 percent. It is reported in the press that approximately \$3.6 billion in Foundation Aid will continue to be due in order to fully phase-in and implement the existing formula.

Expense-based aids to support school construction, pupil transportation, BOCES and special education were continued in full, as has been customary in recent years. Transportation Aid increased 5.5 percent and Building Aid increased 4.8 percent.

The budget continues to link school aid increases for 2017-18 and 2018-19 with teacher and principal evaluation plans approved by September 1 of the current year in compliance with Education Law section 3012-d.

The budget includes a provision to permit school districts to authorize and establish conditions for the partial payment of property taxes.

The School District presently anticipates an increase in its State Aid not related to building aid for its 2017-2018 fiscal year in an amount of \$605,118.

The State's 2017-18 Enacted Budget and the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget each provide for an increase of \$1.1 billion and \$769 million in school aid for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, respectively. The proposed Executive Budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year provides \$15.8 million of State Aid to the District, a 1.07% decrease from the District's 2017-18 school year.

It should also be noted that the School District receives federal aid for certain programs. In its last audited fiscal year, the School District received \$486,341 in such direct federal aid. It is not possible to predict whether such aid will continue in the future, or if continued, whether it will be funded at present levels.

The State 2017-18 Enacted Budget allows the Governor to reduce expenditures (including aid to school districts) mid-year if revenues (including, but not limited to, funding from the federal government) are less than what was expected. See the discussion in "State Aid" herein.

The District cannot predict at this time whether there will be any reductions in and/or delays in the receipt of State aid during the District's 2017-18 fiscal year. The District believes that it would mitigate the impact of any delays or the reduction in State aid by reducing expenditures, increasing revenues, appropriating other available funds on hand, and/or by any combination of the foregoing.

Independent Audit

The District retains independent certified public accountants to audit its financial statements. Appendix B to the Official Statement presents excerpts from the District's most recent audited reports. In addition, the District is subject to audit by the State Comptroller to review compliance with legal requirements and the rules and regulations established by the State.

Fund Structure and Accounts

The General Fund is the principal operating fund for the District which is used to account for substantially all financial resources except those accounted for in another fund. The General Fund accounts for all revenues and expenditures of the District except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds include: the School Lunch Fund and the Special Aid Fund. A Capital Projects Fund is used to account for and report financial resources used to construct or acquire capital assets.

Expendable trust funds and funds held in an agency capacity are accounted for in the Trust and Agency Fund. The District also maintains account groups for its General Fixed Asset and General Long-Term Debt Accounts in order to maintain accountability for its fixed assets and long-term debt, respectively. The Long-Term Debt Group is used to account for long-term obligations of the District including bonds, most obligations under lease/purchase and other financing arrangements, certain pension contributions, compensated absences, and other long-term obligations.

Basis of Accounting

The District's governmental funds are accounted for on a modified accrual basis whereby revenues, other than those susceptible ("measurable" and "available" to finance current operations) to accrual, are recorded when received in cash. Revenues susceptible to accrual include real property taxes, charges for services and intergovernmental revenues. The District generally records expenditures on the accrual basis when fund liabilities are incurred, except as follows: interest on general obligation debt which is recorded when it becomes due and accumulated vacation and sick leave are accounted for in the general long-term debt account group. Inventories are generally not recorded but expensed at the time of purchase. Fixed assets are recorded at actual (historical) cost or estimated historical cost or, in the case of gifts and contributions at fair market value at the time received. There is no provision for depreciation expense.

The State Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System

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 district 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 district's ST-3 report filed with the State Education Department annually, and each municipality's annual report filed with the State Comptroller. 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 the State Comptroller designates the District as "No Designation" (See <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/schools/pdf/2017/summary-list.pdf>).

New York State Comptroller's Audit

School districts throughout the State can be subject to an audit of the New York State Office of the Comptroller ("OSC") pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution and the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article 3 of the New York State General Municipal Law.

On September 2, 2016, the OSC Division of Local Government and School Accountability released an audit of the District to review the District's management of financial activities for the period July 1, 2012 through May 31, 2016. The audit found that the Board did not appropriately budget for certain expenditures totaling approximately \$1.4 million (2.6 percent of 2015-16 appropriations) and did not properly monitor spending during the year. Additionally, the audit found that the District improperly used

more than \$330,000 from one reserve and overfunded two reserves with balances totaling \$954,000. The OSC audit recommended that the District conduct a careful and thorough review of the monthly budget status reports and review fund balance projections to develop the ensuing year's budget, monitor the District's financial condition and ensure that reserve fund balances are maintained at reasonable levels; take appropriate action, in accordance with applicable statutes, to reduce reserves with excess funds; and restrict the use of reserves to authorized expenditures.

The link to this OSC report is: www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/schools/2016/amherst.pdf.

The OSC Division of Local Government and School Accountability has not conducted any other audits of the District in the past five years.

Budgetary Procedure

Pursuant to the State Education Law, the Board annually prepares or causes to be prepared a proposed budget of the District for the ensuing year. A public hearing is held about two weeks prior to the referendum to adopt the budget now held on the third Tuesday in May of each year. If the voters approve the budget, the Board of Education, by resolution, shall adopt the proposed budget as the budget of the District for the following fiscal year. If the budget is not so approved, the Board may make changes to the budget and resubmit it, as revised, to the voters one additional time. Alternatively, the Board may, by resolution, adopt a contingency budget for the following fiscal year.

The voters approved the District's 2017-18 budget on May 16, 2017.

Investment Policy/Permitted Investments

Pursuant to State law, including Sections 10 and 11 of the General Municipal Law (the "GML"), the District is generally permitted to deposit monies in banks and 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; (4) with the approval of the State Comptroller, tax anticipation notes or revenue anticipation notes issued by any municipality, school district, or district corporation, other than those issued by the District; (5) certificates of participation issued 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, obligations of the District.

All of the foregoing instruments and 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 monies were provided and, in the case of instruments and investments 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 in Section 10 of the GML.

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

TAX INFORMATION

Real Property Tax Assessment and Rates - Fiscal Years Ending June 30

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 Town. Assessment valuations are determined by the Town assessor and the State Board of Equalization and Assessment which is responsible for certain utility and railroad property. In addition, the State Board of Equalization and Assessment 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 of debt contracting and real property taxing limitations.

TABLE 5
Real Property Tax Assessment and Rates

	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Total Assessed Valuation	\$1,508,686,213	\$1,512,224,870	\$1,507,777,017	\$1,507,114,943	\$1,826,020,396
NYS Equalization Rate	100.00%	100.00%	97.00%	91.00%	100.00%
Total Full Valuation:	1,508,686,213	1,512,224,870	1,554,409,296	1,656,170,267	\$1,826,020,396
Tax Levy:	32,559,006	33,234,186	34,153,763	33,990,163	\$34,921,929
Tax Rate/\$1,000 of AV	\$21.58	\$21.98	\$22.65	\$22.55	\$19.12

Source: District Officials.

Tax Limit

The Constitution does not limit the amount that may be raised by the District-wide tax levy on real estate in any fiscal year. The District is not subject to constitutional real property taxing limitations. See, however, the discussion immediately below under the subheading “Tax Levy Limitation Law.”

Tax Levy Limitation Law

On June 24, 2011, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 was signed into law by the Governor (the “Tax Levy Limitation Law”). The Tax Levy Limitation Law applies to all local governments, including school districts (with the exception of New York City, and the counties comprising New York City). The discussion herein does not include school districts in New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, or Yonkers.

On June 25, 2015, Chapter 20 of the 2015 Laws of New York (“Chapter 20”) amended the Tax Levy Limitation Law to extend its expiration from June 15, 2016 to June 15, 2020. Chapter 20 also affects the calculation of tax base growth factor and exclusions available to school districts, and introduces a new real property tax rebate, as outlined below.

Prior to the enactment of the Tax Levy Limitation Law, there was no statutory limitation on the amount of real property taxes that a school district could levy as part of its budget 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”).

The Tax Levy Limitation Law restricts, among other things, the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of a school district in a particular year. Pursuant to the Tax Levy Limitation Law, the tax levy of a school district cannot increase by more than the lesser of (i) two percent (2%) or (ii) the annual increase in the CPI, over the amount of the prior year’s tax levy. Certain adjustments are permitted for taxable real property full valuation increases or changes in physical or quantity growth in the real property base as defined in Section 1220 of the Real Property Tax Law. The newly enacted Chapter 20

additionally allows the State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to adjust for changes in the real property base to reflect development on tax exempt real property.

Beginning with the 2012-13 fiscal year, school districts have had to submit their proposed tax levies to the voters each year. A school district could exceed the tax levy limitation for the coming fiscal year only if the voters of such school district first approve a budget by at least 60% affirmative vote of those voting to override such limitation for such coming fiscal year only. Tax levies that do not exceed the limitation only require approval by at least a simple majority of those voting. In the event that a budget is defeated and not re-proposed, or in the event of two budget vote defeats in the same year, a school district may not levy taxes in an amount greater than the amount levied in the most recent year when a budget was approved. A school district's calculation of each fiscal year's tax levy limit is subject to review by the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance prior to adoption of each fiscal year budget.

There are exceptions for school districts to the tax levy limitation provided in the Tax Levy Limitation Law, including expenditures made on account of certain tort settlements and certain increases in the average actuarial contribution rates of the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System, and the Teachers' Retirement System. School districts are also permitted to carry forward a certain portion of their unused levy limitation from a prior year.

There is also an exception for school districts for "Capital Local Expenditures" subject to voter approval where required by law. This term is defined in a manner that does not include certain items for which a school district may issue debt including the payment of judgments or settled claims, including tax certiorari payments, and cashflow borrowings including tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, budget notes and deficiency notes. "Capital Local Expenditures" are defined as "the taxes associated with budgeted expenditures resulting from the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of or otherwise providing for school district capital facilities or school district capital equipment, including debt service and lease expenditures, and transportation capital debt service, subject to the approval of the qualified voters where required by law". The newly enacted Chapter 20 also allows the State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to adjust the exclusion to reflect a school district's share of capital expenditures related to projects funded through a board of cooperative education services ("BOCES"). The portion of the tax levy necessary to support "Capital Local Expenditures" is defined as the "Capital Tax Levy", and this is an exclusion from the tax levy limitation (except in a case when the District would be prohibited from raising the tax levy amount at all due budget vote results, as explained above).

Real Property Tax Rebate (Chapter 20). Chapter 20 introduced a new real property tax rebate program that will provide state-financed tax rebate checks and credits to taxpayers who are eligible for the STAR exemption (see "STAR - School Tax Exemption," herein) in the years 2016-19. Residents of New York City are not eligible for the Chapter 20 Real Property Tax Rebate. For 2016, eligible taxpayers who reside outside New York City but within the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District ("MCTD") will receive \$130, and eligible taxpayers who reside outside the MCTD will receive \$185. Credits in 2017-2019 vary based on a taxpayer's personal income level and STAR tax savings.

The eligibility of real property taxpayers for the tax credit in each year depends on such jurisdiction's compliance with the provisions of the Tax Levy Limitation Law. For many taxpayers only the compliance of the school district in which the taxpayer resides is relevant. Municipal compliance with the Tax Levy Limitation Law is only required in the case of the "Big 4" cities that have fiscally dependent school districts. In such cases, the joint school/city levy must remain in compliance with the Tax Levy Limitation Law. In either scenario, the relevant jurisdiction (independent school district or joint city/school district) must certify its compliance with the provisions of the Tax Levy Limitation Law.

While the tax rebate provisions do not directly further restrict the taxing power of the affected municipalities, school districts and special districts, they do provide an incentive for such tax levies to remain within the tax cap limits established by the Tax Levy Limitation Law. The implications of this for future tax levies and for operations and services of the District are uncertain at this time.

Tax Collection Procedure

The real property taxes of the District are collected by the Town. Such taxes are due on September 15, and may be paid without penalty through October 15. The Town pays to the District the amounts collected on a periodic basis. The penalty on unpaid taxes is 5% from October 16 through October 31 and additional 1% for each month thereafter. On or about December 1, the Town files a report of any uncollected District taxes with the County. The County thereafter on or before April pays to the District the full amount of its uncollected taxes. Thus, the full amount of the District’s real property tax levy is collected by the District in the fiscal year of the levy. The County has the power to issue and sell tax anticipation notes to fund the reimbursement of uncollected taxes due to the District.

The District is not responsible for the collection of taxes of any other unit of government.

Ten of the Largest Taxpayers

The following table presents the total 2017 assessed valuations of ten of the District’s largest property owners used for the 2018 tax levy.

TABLE 6
Ten Largest Taxpayers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Value</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Percentage of Total Assessed Valuation</u>
National Grid	Utility	\$19,115,277	1.05%
MJ Peterson	Apartments	14,406,600	0.79%
Campus Realty Co	Apartments	14,134,800	0.77%
Benderson	Retail	9,825,000	0.54%
Genrich	Office/Restaurant	9,825,000	0.54%
Ciminelli	Office	9,690,000	0.53%
ACG Main Eggert Assoc LP	Office	9,000,000	0.49%
Uniplaza, Inc.	Retail	8,910,000	0.49%
Verizon New York Inc	Utility	6,545,237	0.36%
National Fuel Gas	Utility	<u>6,525,490</u>	<u>0.36%</u>
	Total:	<u>\$107,977,404</u>	<u>5.91%</u>

⁽¹⁾ The above ten taxpayers represent 5.91% of the School District’s total assessed valuation of \$1,826,020,396.

STAR - School Tax Exemption

The STAR (School Tax Relief) program provides State-funded exemptions from school property taxes to homeowners for their primary residences. School districts are reimbursed by the State for real property taxes exempted pursuant to the STAR Program.

For the 2017-18 school levy year, homeowners subject to certain household income limitations are eligible for an enhanced exemption and basic exemption as follows:

<u>Town of:</u>	<u>Enhanced Exemption</u>	<u>Basic Exemption</u>
Amherst	\$70,580	\$32,330

Date Certified: 8/11/17

The enhanced or basic STAR exemption is the amount that an assessment is reduced prior to the levy of school taxes. For example, the owner of a house that is assessed at \$150,000, assuming an enhanced STAR exemption of \$50,000, would pay school taxes on a taxable assessment of \$100,000 (\$150,000 - \$50,000).

Since the 2011-12 school tax bills, there has been a 2% limit on STAR savings increases, the savings results from the Basic or Enhanced STAR exemptions are limited to a 2% increase over the prior year. When school district initially calculates their tax bills, for each municipal segment they will compare the

amount of STAR savings to the maximum. If the STAR savings exceeded the maximum, the school district will use the maximum when calculating tax bills for the segment.

The maximum savings for each of the municipalities within the District for the 2017-18 are as follows:

<u>Town of:</u>	<u>Basic Maximum Savings</u>	<u>Enhanced Maximum Savings</u>
Amherst	\$669	\$1,361

Updated: 07/17/17

The District has received full reimbursement of such exempt taxes from the State during the current fiscal year and expects to receive full reimbursement of such exempt taxes from the State during the ensuing fiscal year.

DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS

Constitutional 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 otherwise contract indebtedness. Such constitutional limitations include the following, in summary form, and are generally applicable to the District and the Notes .

Purpose and Pledge. Subject to certain enumerated exceptions, 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, 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 expiration of the period of probable usefulness of the object or purpose as determined by statute; no installment may be more than fifty per centum in excess of the smallest prior installment, unless the District has authorized 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, as has been noted under "THE NOTES - Nature of Obligation" in previously issued Official Statements, 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.

Statutory Procedure

In general, the State Legislature has, by enactment of the Local Finance Law, authorized the power and procedure for the District to borrow and incur indebtedness subject, of course, to the constitutional and 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 or notes in anticipation of 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 a twenty-day statute of limitations after publication of a bond resolution, together with a statutory form of notice which, in effect, estops legal challenges to the validity of obligations authorized by such bond resolution except for alleged constitutional violations. The District has complied with this estoppel procedure with respect to the bond resolution under which the Notes are being issued.

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. However, such finance board may delegate the power to sell securities to the President of the Board, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to the Local Finance Law

Debt Limit

The District has the power to contract indebtedness for any District purpose so long as the principal amount thereof shall not exceed ten per centum of the full valuation of taxable real estate of the District and subject to certain enumerated deductions such as State aid for building purposes. The 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 which such assessed valuation bears to the full valuation as determined by the State Board of Equalization and Assessment. The State Legislature is required to prescribe the manner by which such ratio shall be determined.

Statutory Debt Limit and Net Indebtedness

The debt limit of the District is \$182,602,039. This is calculated by taking 10% of the current full value of taxable property within the District as of January 30, 2018.

TABLE 7
Statutory Debt Limit and Net Indebtedness

Full Value:	\$1,826,020,396
Debt Limit: 10% of Full Valuation:	\$182,602,039
Gross Indebtedness:	
Serial Bonds	31,815,000
Exclusions:	
Estimated Building Aid ⁽¹⁾	<u>0</u>
Total Net Indebtedness:	<u>\$ 31,815,000</u>
Net Debt Contracting Margin:	<u>\$ 150,787,0139</u>
Percentage of Debt Contracting Margin Exhausted:	17.42%

(1) The District has received and expects to continue to receive State Aid on a portion of existing indebtedness contracted for school building purposes pursuant to Section 121.20 of the Local Finance Law. However, since the District has not applied for a building aid exclusion certificate from the Commissioner of Education, the District may not exclude such portion from the gross indebtedness. State aid for qualifying building purposes is currently estimated by District officials at 74.5%.

Remedies Upon Default

Section 99-b of the State Finance Law (the "SFL") provides for a covenant between the State of New York (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.

Such 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 such 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 such provisions of the SFL.

Under current law, provision is made for contract creditors (including the Noteholders) of the District to enforce payments upon such contracts, if necessary, through court action, although the present statute limits interest on the amount adjudged due to 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 servicing the public welfare and interest have not been judicially subjected to execution or attachment to satisfy a judgment, although judicial mandates have been issued to officials to appropriate and pay judgments out of current funds or the proceeds of a tax levy.

Remedies for enforcement of payment are not expressly included in the District's contract with holders of its bonds and notes, although any permanent repeal by statute or constitutional amendment of a Bondholders remedial right to judicial enforcement of the contract should, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, be held unconstitutional.

In recent times, certain events and legislation affecting remedies on default have resulted in litigation. While courts of final jurisdiction have upheld and sustained the rights of bondholders and noteholders, such courts might hold that future events including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in municipalities of the State require the exercise by the State of its emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services.

There is in the Constitution of the State, Article VIII, Section 2, the following provision relating to the annual appropriation of monies for the payment of due principal of and interest on indebtedness of every county, city, town, village and school district in the State: "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 such indebtedness.”

The constitutional provision providing for first revenue set asides does not apply to tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, or bond anticipation notes.

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

Short-Term Indebtedness

Following the issuance of the Notes, the District will have \$2,000,000 in outstanding bond anticipation notes which will mature on February 14, 2019.

Energy Performance Contract

In 2005 the District entered into an energy performance contract. The District makes principal and interest payments on September 19 and March 19. As of January 30, 2018, the District has \$304,799 of principal outstanding.

Authorized but Unissued Indebtedness

Following the issuance of the Notes, the District will have \$26,266,340 of authorized but unissued debt related to a bond resolution adopted on December 20, 2016, authorizing the issuance of \$28,266,340 for a capital improvements project consisting of the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof). The District plans to issue additional debt over the next three years against this authorization. This is the project for which the Notes are being issued.

Trend of Outstanding Indebtedness

The following table provides information relating to outstanding long-term indebtedness, not including refunded bonds, on June 30, for the last seven fiscal years.

TABLE 8
Outstanding Bond Indebtedness

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year End</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Serial Bonds</u>
2011	\$6,435,000
2012	21,170,000
2013	19,230,000
2014	17,090,000
2015	15,130,000
2016	13,140,000
2017	29,600,000

Overlapping and Underlying Debt

In addition to the District, other political subdivisions have the power to issue bonds and to levy taxes or cause taxes to be levied on taxable real property in the District. The real property taxpayers of the District are responsible for a proportionate share of outstanding debt obligations of these subdivisions. Such taxpayers' share of overlapping and underlying debt is based on the amount of the District's equalized property values taken as a percentage of each separate unit's total values. The following table presents an estimate of the amount of overlapping and underlying debt and the District's share of this debt.

TABLE 9
Statement of Direct and Overlapping Indebtedness

<u>Overlapping Units</u>	<u>Total Net Indebtedness</u>	<u>As of:</u>	<u>Percentage Applicable</u>	<u>Applicable Net Indebtedness</u>
County of Erie	\$475,089,545	09/30/17	2.92%	\$ 13,872,614
Town of Amherst	80,025,251	10/05/17	17.00%	<u>13,604,292</u>
Total Net Overlapping Debt				27,476,906
Net Direct Debt				<u>31,815,000</u>
Total Net Direct and Overlapping Debt				<u>\$ 59,291,906</u>

Source: Annual Reports of the respective units for the most recently completed fiscal year on file with the Office of the State Comptroller, local officials or more recently published official statements.

Debt Ratios

The following table presents certain debt ratios relating to the District's direct and overlapping indebtedness.

TABLE 10
Debt Ratios

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Debt Per Capita</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Debt to Full Value</u> ⁽²⁾
Net Direct Debt	\$ 31,815,000	\$1,320	1.74%
Net Direct and Overlapping Debt	\$ 59,291,906	\$2,460	3.25%

⁽¹⁾ The population of the District is estimated by District officials to be approximately 24,096.

⁽²⁾ The District's full value of taxable real property for fiscal year 2017-18 is \$1,826,020,396.

Debt Service Schedule

The following table sets forth all principal and interest payments required on the District's outstanding bonded indebtedness in each fiscal year exclusive of bonds that have been economically defeased.

TABLE 11
Schedule of Principal and Interest on Long-Term Bond Indebtedness

(As of January 30, 2018)

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30</u>	<u>Total Principal</u>	<u>Total Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	\$985,000	\$519,172	\$1,504,171
2019	2,600,000	1,191,409	3,791,409
2020	2,755,000	1,110,381	3,865,381
2021	2,860,000	999,844	3,859,844
2022	2,710,000	889,869	3,599,869
2023	2,815,000	779,222	3,594,222
2024	2,940,000	662,300	3,602,300
2025	2,755,000	542,600	3,297,600
2026	1,700,000	441,900	2,141,900
2027	1,780,000	356,900	2,136,900
2028	1,870,000	267,900	2,137,900
2029	1,960,000	174,400	2,134,400
2030	2,015,000	118,150	2,133,150
2031	<u>2,070,000</u>	<u>60,325</u>	<u>2,130,325</u>
Total	<u>\$31,815,000</u>	<u>\$8,114,372</u>	<u>\$39,929,371</u>

ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

School Enrollment Trends

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

TABLE 12
School Enrollment Trends

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual Enrollment</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Projected Enrollment</u>
2014-15	2,958	2017-18	2,950
2015-16	2,986	2018-19	2,969
2016-17	2,939	2019-20	2,944

Source: District Officials.

Population

The District estimates its population to be approximately 24,096. The following table presents population trends for the Town, County and State based upon recent census data and is not necessarily representative of the District.

TABLE 13
Population Trend

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Percentage Change 2000/2010</u>
Town	116,510	122,366	5.0%
County	950,265	914,200	(3.2)%
State	18,976,457	19,378,102	2.1%

Source: U.S. Census.

Employment and Unemployment

The following tables provide information concerning employment and unemployment in the County and State. Data provided for the County and State is not necessarily representative of the District.

TABLE 14
Civilian Labor Force
(000s)

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Town	62.8	62.6	62.0	62.2	61.9
County	461.8	458.9	450.7	449.9	446.6
State	9,612.2	9,623.1	9,570.7	9,591.2	9,584.5

Source: New York State Department of Labor. Information not seasonally adjusted.

Unemployment rates are not compiled for the District, but are available for the County and State. The following table is not necessarily representative of the District.

TABLE 15
Yearly Average Unemployment Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
2012	6.5%	8.3%	8.5%
2013	5.7%	7.4%	7.7%
2014	4.6%	6.1%	6.3%
2015	4.1%	5.3%	5.3%
2016	3.8%	4.9%	4.8%

Source: New York State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information not seasonally adjusted.

TABLE 16
Monthly Unemployment Rates

<u>Month</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
December 2016	3.5%	4.9%	4.5%
January 2017	3.9%	5.5%	4.9%
February	4.2%	5.6%	5.0%
March	3.6%	4.9%	4.4%
April	3.8%	4.8%	4.2%
May	3.8%	4.7%	4.3%
June	4.3%	5.0%	4.5%
July	4.3%	5.2%	4.9%
August	4.2%	5.1%	4.9%
September	4.2%	4.8%	4.7%
October	3.9%	4.7%	4.6%
November	4.1%	5.2%	4.5%

Source: New York State Department of Labor. Information not seasonally adjusted.

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 consultations with its attorneys, unless otherwise set forth herein and apart from matters provided for by applicable insurance coverage, there are no claims or action pending which, if determined against the District, would have an adverse material effect on the financial condition of the District.

END OF APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS AND BUDGETS**

AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Balance Sheet
General Fund
Fiscal Year Ended June 30:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
ASSETS:		
Cash	\$4,011,918	\$4,682,890
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,326,647	3,832,208
Due From Other Funds	91,786	292,778
Due From Other Governments	886,241	848,656
Other Receivables	2,424,782	2,637,497
Prepaid Items	<u>21,214</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$11,762,588</u></u>	<u><u>\$12,294,029</u></u>
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	\$1,194,458	\$1,433,825
Accrued Liabilities	500,677	446,945
Intergovernmental Payables	54,435	54,435
Due to Retirement Systems	3,328,000	3,021,000
Deferred Revenues	<u>38,390</u>	<u>34,470</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>5,115,960</u></u>	<u><u>4,990,675</u></u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
State Aid excess proceeds	<u>92,870</u>	<u>92,870</u>
FUND BALANCES:		
Nonspendable	21,214	
Restricted	4,288,257	3,797,738
Assigned	30,812	1,182,983
Unassigned	<u>2,193,475</u>	<u>2,229,763</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u><u>6,533,758</u></u>	<u><u>7,210,484</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u><u>\$11,742,588</u></u>	<u><u>\$12,294,029</u></u>

Source: Annual Audited Financial Reports of the District.
Summary not subject to audit.

AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance
General Fund
Fiscal Year Ending June 30

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Revenues					
Real Property Taxes and other Tax Items	\$31,649,859	\$32,999,054	\$33,716,685	\$34,916,886	\$34,421,516
Non Property Taxes	3,114,722	3,228,945	3,304,491	3,295,642	3,279,035
Charges for Services	1,048,715	1,009,743	1,003,554	1,142,532	958,247
Use of Money and Property	95,538	106,364	77,619	88,072	49,539
Sale of Property & Comp. For Loss	8,353	9,451	1,627	37,842	7,723
Miscellaneous	184,622	244,005	155,479	308,868	362,490
State Sources	10,514,869	10,630,449	11,391,879	12,153,430	16,445,678
Federal Sources	<u>485,729</u>	<u>878,157</u>	<u>419,870</u>	<u>486,341</u>	<u>662,218</u>
Total Revenues	<u>47,102,407</u>	<u>49,106,168</u>	<u>50,071,204</u>	<u>52,429,613</u>	<u>56,186,446</u>
Expenditures					
General Support	5,031,216	5,060,523	5,266,382	5,213,638	5,110,468
Instruction	26,383,591	27,881,673	28,136,082	29,780,929	30,990,616
Pupil Transportation	2,152,184	2,249,523	2,275,373	3,304,684	3,301,140
Community Services	7,806	7,287	6,811	6,434	0
Employee Benefits	9,890,000	11,270,057	11,635,184	11,960,573	12,156,274
Debt Service	<u>2,849,335</u>	<u>2,811,043</u>	<u>2,702,740</u>	<u>3,016,841</u>	<u>2,563,521</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>46,314,132</u>	<u>49,280,106</u>	<u>50,022,572</u>	<u>53,283,099</u>	<u>54,122,019</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	788,275	(173,938)	48,632	(853,486)	2,064,427
Other Sources and (Uses)					
Transfers In	878,841	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	<u>(1,051,372)</u>	<u>(59,996)</u>	<u>(186,477)</u>	<u>(647,727)</u>	<u>(1,387,701)</u>
Total Other Sources and (Uses)	<u>(172,531)</u>	<u>(59,996)</u>	<u>(186,477)</u>	<u>(647,727)</u>	<u>(1,387,701)</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other (Uses)	615,744	(233,934)	(137,845)	(1,501,213)	676,726
FUND EQUITY					
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	<u>7,791,006</u>	<u>8,406,750</u>	<u>8,172,816</u>	<u>8,034,971</u>	<u>6,533,758</u>
Fund Balance End of Year	<u><u>\$8,406,750</u></u>	<u><u>\$8,172,816</u></u>	<u><u>\$8,034,971</u></u>	<u><u>\$6,533,758</u></u>	<u><u>\$7,210,484</u></u>

Source: Annual Audited Financial Reports of the District.
Summary not subject to audit.

AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Statement of Estimated Revenues and Budgetary Appropriations
General Fund

	Adopted Budget <u>2016-17</u>	Adopted Budget <u>2017-18</u>
Estimated Revenues:		
Real Property Taxes and Tax Items	\$33,990,163	\$34,921,929
Other Real Property Tax Items	220,897	285,291
Non-Property Taxes	3,423,638	3,512,653
Community Education	421,014	444,170
Use of Money and Property	18,602	18,973
Miscellaneous	1,232,052	1,392,219
State Sources	16,343,879	14,956,527
Use of Reserves	0	100,000
Total Estimated Revenues	55,650,245	55,631,762
Appropriated Fund Balance	0	929,881
Interfund Transfer	0	742,336
Total Estimated Revenues and Appropriated Fund Balance	\$55,650,245	\$57,303,979
Appropriations:		
Personnel & Benefits	\$39,584,008	\$40,012,256
General Support	2,314,945	2,211,244
Instruction	3,346,745	3,413,680
BOCES	3,106,012	3,354,493
Transportation	3,539,243	3,370,307
Debt Service and Transfers	3,759,292	4,441,999
Contingency	0	500,000
Total Appropriations	\$55,650,245	\$57,303,979

Source: Adopted budgets of the District.

APPENDIX C

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2017**

**Can be accessed on the Electronic Municipal Market Access (“EMMA”) website
of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”)
at the following link:**

<https://emma.msrb.org/ER1113857-ER857217-ER1257867.pdf>

**The audited financial statements referenced above are hereby incorporated into the
attached Official Statement.**

*** Such Financial Statements and opinion are intended to be representative only as
of the date thereof. Drescher & Malecki LLP has not been requested by the District
to further review and/or update such Financial Statements or opinion in connection
with the preparation and dissemination of this Official Statement.**