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## School proposal would cut jobs in Canandaigua

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Canandaigua City School District officials might eliminate 40 positions to help close a \$7.1 million budget gap.

About 100 people crammed into the board's meeting room Thursday for Superintendent Donald Raw Jr.'s presentation of a \$64.5 million preliminary spending plan.

The proposal, which includes cutting the equivalent of 40 full-time workers; reductions and cuts in several programs; and lowered equipment, supplies and material purchases, is about \$2.5 million more than the current budget. The job cuts would save about \$1.4 million, Raw said.

The situation that Raw called "an unprecedented financial crisis" is due to a proposed state aid cut of about \$3.4 million, combined with increased expenses, especially in the areas of salaries, health insurance and retirement costs.

In the past two years, the district cut a total of 66 other positions.

The job cuts would affect a wide range of programs and services in the district, including academics, special education, summer school, extracurricular activities, field trips, transportation, administration, technology and custodial services.

The board must approve a new budget by April 22 to send it to voters for a vote on May 17. In the meantime, the board has scheduled several budget workshops and public presentations, and further changes to the spending plan are likely.

The tentative budget presented by Raw would increase the tax levy from \$35.6 million to about \$38 million, but Raw did not discuss the potential effect on the district property tax rate.

Raw pointed out that he is discussing possible concessions with employee unions, but no agreements have been reached. Last year, unions agreed to about \$500,000 in concessions.

"That made a huge difference. That amount easily represents 15 positions," Raw said.

"We recognize that's a difficult deliberation for our employees given what they did last year."

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