

- CES Welcomes Grade 6
- Preserving Gr. 7/8 Culture & Opportunities
- New Opportunities for HS Students



2018-19 SCHOOL BUDGET

More Opportunities and Support for Students

Students in all grades will have more opportunities and support next year under the 2018-19 school budget as Schodack CSD transitions to K-6 and Gr. 7-12 schools.

“We’re excited about the school reconfiguration and the opportunities it creates for our students while we present a budget that is within the tax cap,” said Superintendent Jason Chevrier. “Going forward we expect to find even more opportunities for our students.”

The \$24,470,931 budget requires no cuts to faculty or staff, although some positions are reduced through retirements. The estimated 2.19% tax levy increase is within the Property Tax Cap.

As Castleton Elementary School expands to a K-6 building next year with nearly 500 students, the 2018-19 budget funds an assistant principal for the school. Administration costs will decrease overall, however, as the Middle School principal position is eliminated.

The budget also funds an additional 0.5 full-time equivalency (FTE) of guidance support. That also comes at a reduced cost as the Middle School Guidance Counselor position is eliminated.

The K-6 school creates opportunities for students including

bringing back band and chorus for grades 5 and 6 as well as art and music year-round for K-6 students. (See page 2 for more info on CES.)

Maple Hill Junior/Senior High School will teach more than 400 students in grades 7-12 next year, a transition that educators have been planning for years.

Grades 7 and 8 will have a Middle School wing in the upper floor of the school while grades 9-12 will largely be taught on the first floor. The grade reconfiguration allows the district to utilize existing staff to offer more supervision in hallways, particularly during unstructured times like lunches, at no additional cost.

The combined junior/senior school will offer Middle School students opportunities for acceleration and High School students opportunities for mentoring and leadership. The budget also funds an additional math teacher so the school can offer electives as well as increased math support. (See page 3 for more info on Maple Hill.)

The community vote will also include a proposition to purchase two school buses at a maximum cost of \$155,000 as part of the district’s long-term bus replacement plan (see page 4). The district receives state aid for bus purchases which helps offset the local cost.

A second proposition would allow the district to use money in a Capital Reserve fund to pay down borrowing costs for the Capital Project (see page 4).



Maple Hill High School had a 100% graduation rate in 2017, the highest in the Capital Region for the second straight year.

Budget Within NYS Property Tax Cap

Most homeowners should receive a property tax relief check from New York State in the fall due to the school’s 2018-19 budget staying within the Property Tax Cap.

Schodack CSD’s Property Tax Cap for next year is 2.19%. While state elected officials often call it a “2% tax cap” the figure actually changes each year due to a formula schools are required to use.

Because the district’s budget is within the Tax Cap, the community qualifies for New York’s Property Tax Relief Credit Program. That program provides a credit to homeowners who receive Basic or Enhanced STAR property tax relief, have an income of \$275,000 or less, and paid school property taxes in 2017.

The tax credit is calculated by New York State which also mails the checks to homeowners. For questions about the tax credit or the STAR program, please contact the state Department of Taxation and Finance or your local assessor.

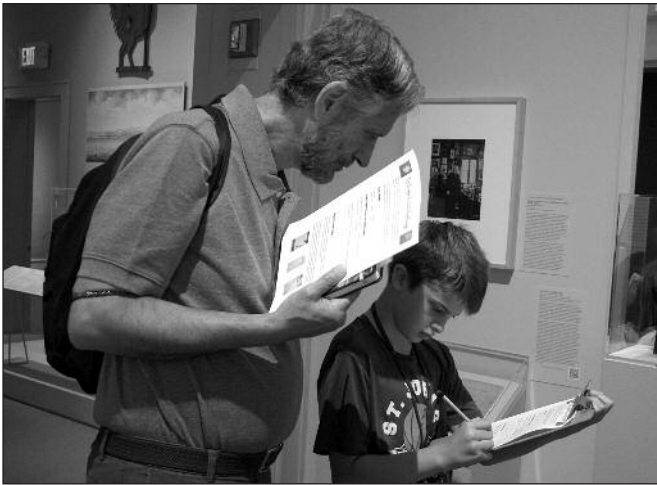
BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 15

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Maple Hill High School Gym

Castleton Elementary School Welcomes Grade 6



Castleton Elementary School students developed their researching and presentation skills by visiting the Albany Institute of History and Art in Albany this year.

THIS YEAR'S 5TH GRADERS will stay at Castleton Elementary School this fall as the school moves to a K-6 building in 2018-19.

"We're excited to have our 5th graders another year," said Principal James Derby. "Our 6th grade teachers have already started working with our teachers here at CES to plan instruction for next year. We'll have a great program for all our K-6 learners next year."

Grades 4-6, and most of Grade 3, will be taught on the 2nd floor of Castleton Elementary next year. Grades K-2, and one Grade 3 classroom, will be taught on the 1st floor.

With the addition of 6th grade at CES, the district will bring back band and chorus for 5th and 6th graders. Also, all CES students will have art and music year-round instead of one semester of each.

The district is also looking at the possibility of adding extracurricular activities at CES, particularly for older students.

"Part of the opportunity of having 6th grade here is we can enhance program," said Mr. Derby. "Not only are teachers excited but students are excited too."

To help oversee a school with nearly 500 students, an assistant principal will be added at CES. Administration costs will decrease overall, however, as the Middle School principal position is eliminated.

The budget also funds an additional 0.5 full-time equivalency (FTE) of guidance to support K-6 students. That also comes at a reduced cost as the Middle School Guidance Counselor position is eliminated (Cheryl Petilli is retiring in June).

Educational and Cultural Opportunities for Gr. 7/8 Students Preserved

SEVENTH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS will find largely the same courses, electives, and extracurricular activities next fall when they attend classes in Maple Hill Junior/Senior High School.

"The Middle School program will be very similar to what our 7th and 8th graders experience now but there will be more opportunities for enrichment, particularly in areas such as technology and CTE (Careers and Technical Education) for our 8th graders to start the pathway sooner," said Principal Jacqueline Hill.

Students will take most of their courses in the upstairs Middle School hallway in classrooms that were renovated during the Capital Project. The school social worker and counselor will also be located in the upstairs wing to directly support students.

Specials and electives will be offered in downstairs classrooms. A separate lunch period where 7th and 8th grade students can eat together will also be offered downstairs in the cafeteria. Ms. Hill noted that hall monitors will be utilized to offer more supervision in hallways, particularly during unstructured times like lunches.

The move to a combined Gr. 7-12 school will create more accelerated class opportunities for students. It also will allow the district to offer some smaller class sizes with more individualized and differentiated instruction. Extracurricular activities such as modified sports, Book Club, Builders Club, Student Council and Newspaper Club will also continue.

Popular traditions such as the annual Flag Football and Volleyball tournaments along with Grade 7/8 dances will continue for Middle School students as well.

"Our goal is to preserve the culture that already exists," explained Ms. Hill. "It's extremely important for our middle school students to have their own experiences and have things to look forward to when they get to the upper level grades."



Each year, 7th grade students visit the Peter Andrews Castleton Memorial VFW Post 7337 to learn from local veterans.

New Math, Art and Athletic Opportunities for HS Students



Maple Hill High School will expand its arts program next year by adding a digital animation course after students expressed interest.

MAPLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL will offer more electives and a new sport next year, opportunities students helped spearhead by sharing their interests with administrators.

The High School will add a digital animation course, for example, as an art elective next year. The course not only will help students interested in an art pathway but it offers an important presentation skill.

"Digital animation really is a 21st century skill that our students have told us they want to learn more about," explained Principal Jacqueline Hill. "It's something that they will need to be successful in the field in the future."

The school will increase math electives and support with the addition of a math teacher in the 2018-19 budget.

"Math is currently the only class that doesn't offer an elective so we are adding one or two math electives that we haven't offered in a long time for students who are interested in that field," said Ms. Hill. "It also allows us to offer more math intervention."

The indoor track team, which has been self-funded the past three years as student interest was evaluated, will be funded in the 2018-19 budget. Golf will be added as a sport next year for male or female students after students asked to add it.

The school's Career Exploration Internship Program expects to grow next year, connecting students with more internships opportunities. The combined Junior/Senior High School also offers its own mentoring opportunities.

"We're looking to increase our leadership opportunities for our High School students," said Ms. Hill. "Having some of our younger students in the building, we hope our older students will find ways to demonstrate leadership through different clubs and activities."

Plans for Maple Hill Middle School

WHILE MAPLE HILL Middle School will no longer educate Schodack CSD students in the fall, the building will continue to be used for offices and leased space that brings revenue into the district.

"As we move grades 6-8 to our other two schools, we won't abandon Maple Hill Middle School," said Superintendent Jason Chevrier. "We have plans for the space including opportunities for our students."

District offices, which moved to the building last year, will continue to be located in the former Middle School. Students will still be able to use the school gym and cafeteria. The district is exploring the possibility of creating a weight lifting room in the school library from donated YMCA equipment.

Empty classrooms will continue to be leased to Questar III BOCES and Story Place Preschool for their special education and day care programs, respectively. Schodack CSD earned \$210,850 in 2017-18 from these agreements. Castleton Kids will move their after-school program to the building as well.

The immediate plans for Maple Hill Middle School do not require any major renovations. That will make it easier for the district to bring students back to the building in the event enrollment increases in the future.

STATE AID INCREASE DESIGNATED FOR CAPITAL PROJECT

Schodack CSD will get an estimated 21.5% increase in state aid in 2018-19 but nearly all of the additional funding is designated to pay for the Capital Project.

To help school districts pay for building improvements, New York State provides Building Aid that can only be used for State Education Department approved projects.

Schodack CSD's Building Aid will increase by 151% in 2018-19 as New York State covers approximately 75% of the cost of the district's Capital Project. That funding cannot be used for anything else.

Schodack CSD's Foundation Aid, state aid that supports general educational programming, will increase by 2.25% in 2018-19.

Proposition Would Allow Use of Capital Reserve Fund

A proposition on the May 15 ballot would allow the district to spend \$1,000,000 from a Capital Reserve Fund to pay for a portion of the current Capital Project.

Q: Why does the district want to use money from the Capital Reserve Fund?

A: Similar to a homeowner using money in a savings account to pay down their mortgage, Schodack CSD wants to use money from the Capital Reserve Fund to reduce borrowing costs for the Capital Project.

Q: Is the \$1,000,000 new money?

A: No. The money comes from the Capital Reserve Fund that was voter-approved in 2015. District savings was put into the fund so the district could use it later to reduce Capital Project debt.

Q: Is the Capital Project over budget?

A: No. The Capital Project is currently under budget. The \$1,000,000 from the Capital Reserve is only to reduce borrowing costs.

Q: Why does the district need voter approval?

A: New York State requires voter approval before school districts can use money from a Capital Reserve Fund.

Student Achievement

The best measure of the education Schodack CSD offers is the success of our students.

Here are some examples:

- **Maple Hill High School had a graduation rate of 100% in 2017, the highest in the Capital Region for the second year in a row according to figures released by the Department of Education in February.**
- **89% of the Class of 2017 continues their education after graduation. They earned \$5,386,079 in scholarships and awards.**
- **The Class of 2017 went on to attend colleges such as Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, Clarkson University, SUNY Binghamton University, Ithaca College, Emerson College, University of Virginia, and University of Oklahoma.**
- **Junior Lexi Cartwright visited Washington, D.C. in April to meet with U.S. Senate and Congress members and their staff to raise awareness about epilepsy.**
- **Sophomore Paige Padilla will attend John Hopkins University this summer after she was selected for the National Youth Leadership Forum: Advanced Medicine and Health Care.**
- **Organizations such as the YMCA, Rotary International and Veterans of Foreign War honored students for leadership and patriotism.**



Bus Purchases Part of Replacement Plan

As part of the district's long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the May 15 ballot would allow the district to purchase one 66-passenger and one 25-passenger bus.

The total cost would not exceed \$155,000. The district pays approximately one-third of the total cost because New York State reimburses the district for 65.4% of bus purchases. The local cost for both buses would be \$53,480.

The district purchases school buses as part of its long-term bus replacement plan to keep the district's fleet in safe, working order. New buses replace old buses based on the vehicle's mileage, age, repair history and condition.

Board of Education Candidates

This year there are three people running for three open Board of Education seats. Each seat is a three-year non-paid term.

MICHAEL CHARSKY

I've been an active member of Schodack's academic, athletic and religious community for 20+ years. I have financial, Information Technology, educational and project management expertise that is beneficial as the future of Schodack schools is discussed. My financial background stems from experience creating and managing budgets at Sacred Heart Church, Maple Hill Booster Club and 30+ years of financial IT application expertise. I held certification as a Math Teacher, taught mathematics, participated in Schodack CSD's Kindergarten curriculum study, participated in Instrumental classes and coached soccer and basketball for 20 years. I've been a Board member for the past 6 ½ years.

MICHAEL TUTTLE

My wife, Liz, and I are Maple Hill graduates (1987) and our kids, Sidney (2020) and Jace (2022) attend Maple Hill. I retired from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Chief Warrant Officer and hold a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy from Stony Brook University. I co-own an environmental inspection company based in Long Island and a mining services company based in southern Africa. I have found my first three years on the Board of Education to be an enlightening and rewarding experience and would very much like to continue serving the children, parents, and community members of Schodack for another term.

MICHAEL HISER

My wife and I have lived in our home on Main Street/River Road, adjacent to the Village of Castleton, since 1990. We've raised two children in this community and we've had many of the same experiences as many of our neighbors – we've volunteered in youth athletics, church functions, helped with scouting, and been involved with other community activities. Through it all, the school community has been a constant, positive presence. The next three years will be particularly significant as we become a two-building district with upgraded facilities while we seek to retain our academic edge and our school culture. I would like to remain involved to use my experience in this important time so that the district remains a constant positive presence for the next generation as well.

Flag Raising Event to Celebrate Blue Ribbon Honor

Schodack CSD will hold a flag raising event on Tuesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Maple Hill High School where the district's National Blue Ribbon School Award flag will be raised.

Maple Hill High School was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in September, the only school in the Capital Region to receive the honor. The recognition was awarded to 342 schools throughout the country and only 19 in New York State.

"We want to invite our community to join us to celebrate this great honor," said Superintendent Jason Chevrier. "The award is a credit to the hard work and talent of our dedicated faculty, staff, and administration who work tirelessly on behalf of the students of our community."

The National Blue Ribbon School Program honors public and private schools where students achieve very high learning standards or make notable improvements. Maple Hill High School had a graduation rate of 99% in 2016, the highest in the Capital Region.



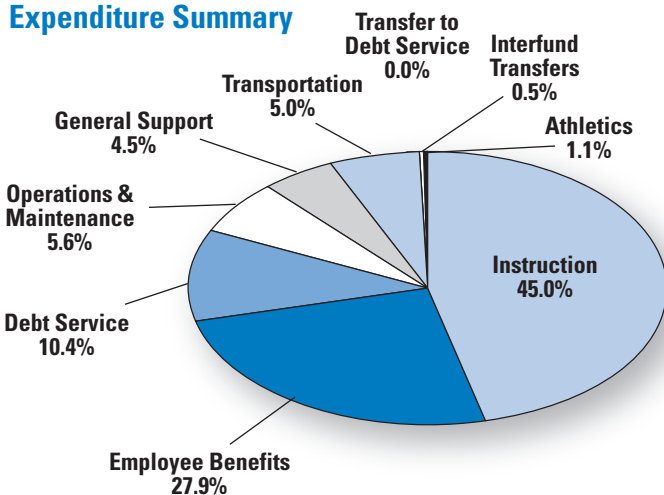
Expenditures

Category	2017-2018	Proposed 2018-2019	Change from 2017-2018	% of Budget
Instruction	\$10,789,427	\$11,003,347	\$213,920	45.0%
Employee Benefits	\$6,575,952	\$6,817,475	\$241,523	27.9%
Debt Service	\$1,596,593	\$2,542,584	\$945,991	10.4%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,325,361	\$1,385,578	\$60,217	5.6%
Transportation	\$1,146,874	\$1,212,783	\$65,909	5.0%
General Support	\$1,011,631	\$1,114,748	\$103,117	4.5%
Athletics	\$231,977	\$262,266	\$30,289	1.1%
Interfund Transfers	\$122,150	\$132,150	\$10,000	0.5%
Transfer to Debt Service	\$250,000	\$0	-\$250,000	0.0%
Total Expenditures	\$23,049,965	\$24,470,931	\$1,420,966	100.0%

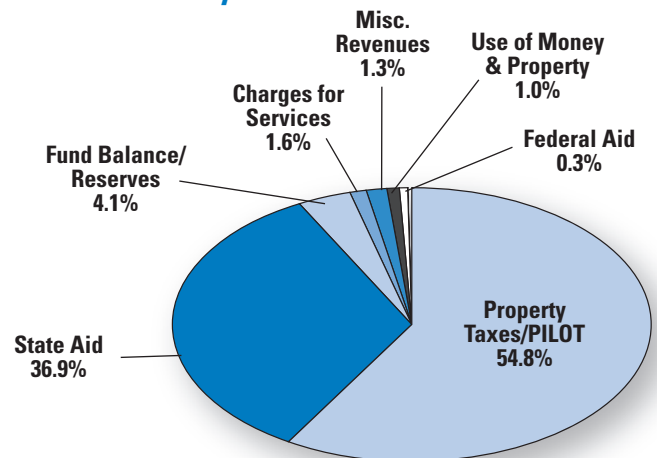
Revenues

Category	2017-2018	Proposed 2018-2019	Change from 2017-2018	% of Revenues
Property Taxes/PILOT	\$13,121,918	\$13,408,860	\$286,942	54.8%
State Aid	\$7,913,654	\$9,024,256	\$1,110,602	36.9%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	4.1%
Charges for Services	\$391,838	\$386,713	-\$5,125	1.6%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$310,555	\$328,102	\$17,547	1.3%
Use of Money & Property	\$227,000	\$238,000	\$11,000	1.0%
Federal Aid	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$0	0.3%
Total	\$23,049,965	\$24,470,931	\$1,420,966	100.0%

Expenditure Summary



Revenue Summary



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 23,049,965	\$24,470,931	\$24,184,758
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$1,420,966	\$1,134,793
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		6.16%	4.92%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	13,019,689	13,305,862	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	13,019,689	13,305,862	2.19%
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$523,473	\$588,446	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$12,512,217	\$12,747,416	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$12,496,216	\$12,747,416	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$16,001	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,863,640	\$2,722,317	\$2,691,401
Program Component	\$16,384,821	\$17,374,728	\$17,332,634
Capital Component	\$3,801,504	\$4,373,886	\$4,160,723
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-19 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>In making reductions for a contingency budget, equipment and other non-contingent items would be removed from the proposed budget and the Administrative Cap would be applied in accordance with New York Stated Education Law requirements. The tax levy will remain at the 17-18 school year level as required by Law.</p> <p>Description Amount Purchase 1 Small and 1 large buses \$155,000 Use \$1,000,000 from Capital Reserve Fund to finance part of the voter approved 2014 Capital Project \$1,000,000</p> <p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>			

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

Under the Budget Proposed for
the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$662

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Schodack Central School District, Rensselaer and Columbia Counties, New York, will be held at Maple Hill High School in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Maple Hill High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Schodack Central School District
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Why is a 2.19% Increase Within the Tax Cap?

When New York State passed the Property Tax Cap law, elected officials often touted the new law as a "2% tax cap".

But the law they passed instead requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy by. Not a single school district in Rensselaer County had a tax cap equal to 2% in 2018-19 or 2017-18.

This past year, Schodack CSD had a tax cap of 3.04. The year before, Schodack CSD has a tax cap of negative 0.3%.

For 2018-19, New York State set Schodack CSD's property tax cap at 2.19%.

VOTER INFORMATION

What am I voting on?

A \$24,470,931 budget for the 2018-19 school year, a proposition to purchase two school buses, a proposition to use money from the Capital Reserve to reduce borrowing costs, and three candidates for the BOE.

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 15 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Maple Hill High School gym. **Please note, New York State requires schools to use optical scanners, similar to other elections.**

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and a resident of the Schodack Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 15 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, visit the district website or call the district office at 732-2297. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the District Office at 732-2297 or visit our school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, and click on our "Budget Information" link.