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SCHODACK

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



MAY 2019

2019-20 SCHOOL BUDGET

More Opportunities and Support for Students K-12

Increasing opportunities for students and supporting district priorities such as mental health, ELA, Math and curriculum development is the focus of the 2019-20 school budget.

The budget raises the tax levy by 2.85%. New York's Property Tax Cap law allows the levy to increase by 4.3% but the district wanted to reduce the impact on taxpayers.

"School districts have primarily two sources of revenue, state aid and property taxes," said Superintendent Jason Chevrier. "We will receive about \$38,000 more in Foundation Aid next year. We continue to look at creative ways to enhance programs to minimize the burden on our taxpayers. I am proud of this budget and the opportunities it provides our students."

New student opportunities include more extracurricular activities and an Innovative Learning Lab at Castleton

Elementary School that will engage K-6 students in hands-on, collaborative projects.

Student mental health and wellness is supported by increasing the CES counselor position to full-time and adding professional development and resources for all grades.

Castleton Elementary School will strengthen its ELA program with more resources for classroom libraries and funding for professional development as the school looks to improve its curriculum.

Math support increases with an additional 0.5 full time equivalency for AIS (Academic Intervention Services) for elementary students and more math curriculum materials for Gr. 7 and 8.

The district's curriculum will be enhanced with resources to better articulate and organize the curriculum writing process.

Voters will also decide on two propositions, one to purchase

two school buses as a part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan and one to allow a high school student to serve as a non-voting member on the Board of Education.

More details about the budget are included in the pages of this newsletter. If you have a question, please contact the District Office at 518-732-2297.



Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School held its 1st Annual Mental Health and Wellness Day this year. The event was part of a districtwide focus on helping students and families in the area of mental health.

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Maple Hill High School Gym

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

- More funding for extracurricular activities
- Increase Math support for CES
- Additional Math curriculum materials for Gr. 7 & 8
- More books and resources for CES classroom libraries
- Innovative Learning Lab at CES will enhance learning in all grades
- CES counselor position will be full-time
- More Mental Health support K-12 with resources and professional development
- Support for curriculum development

CES Offers More Support and Opportunities for Students

CASTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL OFFER students more support in math, English Language Arts and counseling in next year's budget, as well as an Innovative Learning Lab that will engage students in all grades.

"There's a lot of things coming to CES to support students in the proposed budget," said Principal James Derby.

Math support will increase by 0.5 full-time equivalency (FTE) to provide additional help for students who struggle in that area. Much of that support will help upper elementary grades.

Classroom libraries will receive more funding for books and resources. The classroom materials are organized by reading levels that help put texts in students' hands that are challenging but understandable.

"When teachers have high quality books with a wide range of levels and topics, they can use them for instructional groups, recommend appropriate books and give students choice," said Assistant Principal Keri Rosher. "Having books that are high interest and appropriate really helps children be invested and engaged in reading for longer stretches of time, which research shows improves reading skills."

The budget also funds professional development opportunities as the school plans to improve its ELA curriculum.

To support the district's increased focus on mental health, and provide more support for 6th grade, the school counselor position will be made full-time (from its current 0.5 FTE).



To help students grow as readers, the 2019-20 budget includes funding for classroom libraries to put books and reading materials in the hands of students that are at their reading level.



Castleton Elementary School has encouraged mindfulness in students this year to help them focus and be more present during the school day. The efforts are part of a district-wide focus on mental health and wellness.

"More and more we see our students and families who need support," said Mr. Derby. "With the addition of 6th grade and helping students career plan and transition to high school, that type of support is critical."

Kindergarten through 6th grade will benefit from an Innovative Learning Lab, a hands-on, collaborative learning space created from the old main office as part of the last Capital Project.

A teacher will lead a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focused program for the Innovative Learning Lab by collaborating with classroom teachers to offer engaging learning opportunities.

"We'll operate it much like we do our library, where someone creates authentic, project-based learning experiences for students in a different way outside the traditional classroom space," explained Mr. Derby.

"More and more we see our students and families who need support."

Maple Hill Focuses on Successes as Gr. 7-12 School

BUILDING ON ITS first year as a Gr. 7-12 school, Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School will continue to create student opportunities next year through collaboration while increasing support for math and mental health.

"Having 7th and 8th graders here with our high school students has provided opportunities we wouldn't have had otherwise like peer mentorship and accelerated options," said Principal Jacqueline Hill. "We want to focus on our successes and continue to create opportunities for our students next year."

Peer mentoring pairs juniors, sophomores and seniors with 7th and 8th graders to help students with study skills, homework or social needs.

"We chose some juniors and sophomores so they'll still be here next year for our students and they can start in September with the same mentors," said Ms. Hill. "It gives them an opportunity to know older students but also to learn their work ethic."

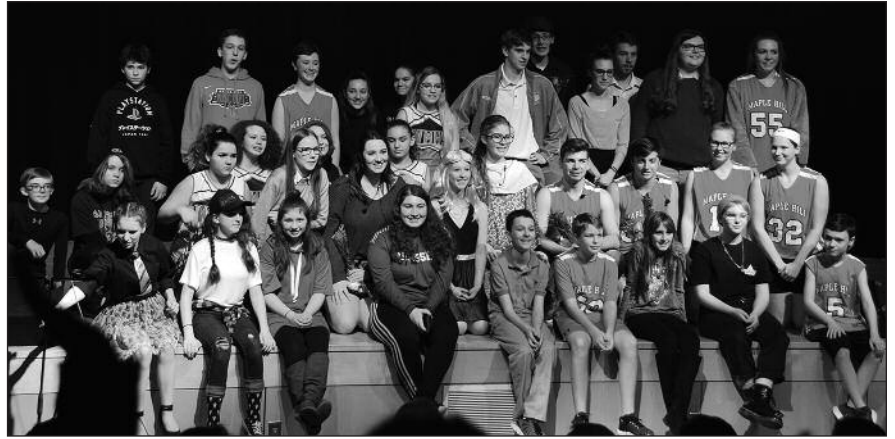
New accelerated class options this year include Spanish, where students can potentially earn high school credit, and Technology, where selected and interested 8th graders earned half a credit.

Younger and older students also worked together in the Maple Hill Drama Club, a grade 7-12 club who performed a musical this past spring. The 2019-20 budget increases money for extracurricular activities.

"They worked with each other to put on a great performance and our older students really mentored and modeled for our younger students. Hopefully that helps sustain a great program in the future," said Ms. Hill.

To increase math support next year, our math coach from CES instead will support grades 7-8 where some smaller sections will provide more individualized instruction. The budget also provides for supplemental math curriculum materials for those grades.

Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School will expand its focus on mental health next year with more resources to support students, families and staff. The school will continue this year's 1st Annual Wellness Day, where students learned about dozens of topics from community volunteers and organizations. Grade 7 also held restorative circles during their homeroom led by school psychologist, Jennifer Delaney, and school social worker, Michelle Stilson. The circles focused on talking about student interests and social and emotional issues students may face daily.



The Maple Hill Drama Club, featuring students in grades 7-12, performed "High School Musical Jr." this spring. The club is an example of how younger and old students work together at Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School.



Maple Hill High School seniors celebrated National College Decision Day on May 1 by wearing attire from colleges they plan to attend in the fall.

Volunteers Needed to Lead Wildcat Foundation

SCHODACK CSD IS SEEKING INDIVIDUALS interested in leading the Wildcat Foundation, a not-for-profit charity that expands academic opportunities for students.

The Wildcat Foundation formed in 2015 as a way for community members to lead fundraising efforts and direct those funds to grants, field trips, scholarships and other academic enrichment opportunities.

The organization's current Board of Directors includes several school district officials who have filled in to keep the Foundation active.

"The Wildcat Foundation really should be a community-led organization," said Superintendent Jason Chevrier. "The Foundation along with the Booster Club, PTO and Music Parents Association are great organizations that are always looking for new members to help them enhance programs for our students."

If interested in serving on the Foundation or any of these organizations, please call the District Office at 518-732-2297.

Proposition for High School Student to Join BOE

A proposition on the May 21 ballot will ask voters whether a high school student can join the Schodack CSD Board of Education as a non-voting member.

A Maple Hill High School student has joined the Board the past two years as an unofficial member, attending meetings and learning about school issues.

The district would like to make the position official, which requires a community vote under New York State law.



Maple Hill Has Highest Graduation Rate

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, Maple Hill High School had the highest graduation rate in the Capital Region in 2017.

The State Education Department released data in January that reported the High School's graduation rate was 98%. The district tied Clayton A. Bouton High School in the Voorheesville Central School District with the highest graduation rate in the Capital Region.

"What an outstanding accomplishment by faculty, staff, students and parents. I'm so proud of what we do together," said Superintendent Jason Chevrier.

In the two previous years, Maple Hill High School's graduation rate was 100% and 99%.

Bus Purchases Part of Replacement Plan

AS PART OF THE DISTRICT'S long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the May 21 ballot would allow the district to purchase one 65-passenger and one 25-passenger bus.

The total cost would not exceed \$160,000. The district pays approximately one-third of the total cost because New York State reimburses the district for approximately 65% of bus purchases.

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 five people running for four seats on the Board of Education. Three of the seats are three-year terms. One seat is a one-year term, which is to fill the remaining term of the late Board of Education member Paul Puccio. The three candidates with the most votes will receive three-year terms. The candidate with the fourth most votes will fill the one-year term.

SHERRI (COLVIN) GIBSON

Upon completion of my K-12 education in the Schodack Central School District, I received my Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Northeastern University and currently work full time at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. My husband, Adam, and I decided to start our family in Schodack in order to expose our children (Tyler, 4th grade; Lexi, 3rd grade; and Brady, 2nd grade) to the high-quality education and strong sense of community for which the district is known. I am actively involved in the community as a volunteer for youth athletics, church functions, and girl scouts. As a member of the school board, I believe I could help to improve the overall quality of education that the district provides.

DAN GRANDINETTI

It has been a privilege serving on the Board of Education for the past six years. Like many of you, I am raising children (three) here in Schodack. Balancing the needs of quality education while paying close attention to every tax dollar is critical in sustaining an extraordinary community like this. The “Community” is the School and the School is the “Community”. I remain committed to our “Blue Ribbon” School District and in making sure we maximize every resource available to our students/taxpayers. It would be an honor to serve on the Board of Education for another three years.

SHELLEY PALMER

In 2014, my husband, Zac, and I relocated our family from Massachusetts to New York. Valuing both community and education, we decided to settle in Schodack. Our children, Vivienne and Andrew, are currently in 3rd grade. I have 10+ years of high school chemistry and physics teaching experience. During that time, I coached and chaired the science department. Since moving to Schodack, I have volunteered with girl scouts, youth sports, and church activities. I believe that a strong school is at the heart of a community. As a member of the Board, I would work to continue to strengthen Schodack.

MARY YURISTA

It's been my privilege to serve our community on the Board for 6 years. I am so pleased that we have delivered an exceptional Capital Project that has transformed Maple Hill into a 21st century learning facility for grades 7-12. Having technical and business experience in the private sector, I can offer beneficial guidance and progressive ideas to sustain and improve the quality of education in a fiscally responsible manner. A resident of Schodack over 32 years, we've raised three successful graduates (Chris, Ryan, and Casey) of Maple Hill. I want the same success for every student that my children have been able to enjoy. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

BRUCE ROMANCHAK

I looked back at my first candidate statement in 1997 and the basic issues remain the same. Like many of you I grew up in Schodack and my daughters and I received excellent educations at SCSD. I agree with you that for the sake of our children's future and the value of our homes Schodack must have the best schools possible. We all acknowledge that we must do this while making sure that every dollar spent is necessary and effectively utilized. I ask for your support for the opportunity to continue to serve you as a member of the governing body of the organization that sits at the heart of our community.

Budget Transfer Replaces Internet Connection and Cafeteria Floor

The 2019-20 budget includes a \$100,000 transfer to capital that will replace an aging internet connection and replace the Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria floor.

The internet connection runs between Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School and the District Office Building (former Middle School) and is decades old. The district's security and communication systems rely on the connection. The work is estimated to cost \$56,000.

The cafeteria floor in Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School would also be replaced, at an estimated cost of \$30,000. Others fees will increase the cost for both projects to no more than \$100,000.

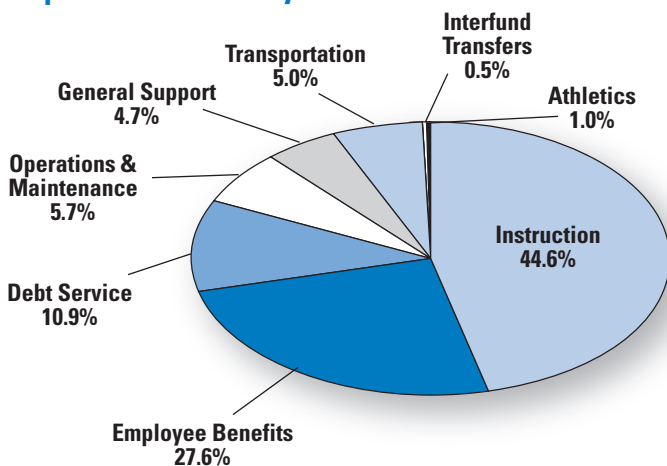
Expenditures

Category	2018-2019	Proposed 2019-2020	Change from 2018-2019	% of Budget
Instruction	\$11,003,347	\$11,158,825	\$155,478	44.6%
Employee Benefits	\$6,817,475	\$6,907,087	\$89,612	27.6%
Debt Service	\$2,542,584	\$2,731,036	\$188,452	10.9%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,385,578	\$1,432,923	\$47,345	5.7%
Transportation	\$1,212,783	\$1,245,205	\$32,422	5.0%
General Support	\$1,114,748	\$1,171,452	\$56,704	4.7%
Athletics	\$262,266	\$262,780	\$514	1.0%
Interfund Transfers	\$132,150	\$132,150	\$0	0.5%
Total Expenditures	\$24,470,931	\$25,041,458	\$570,527	100.0%

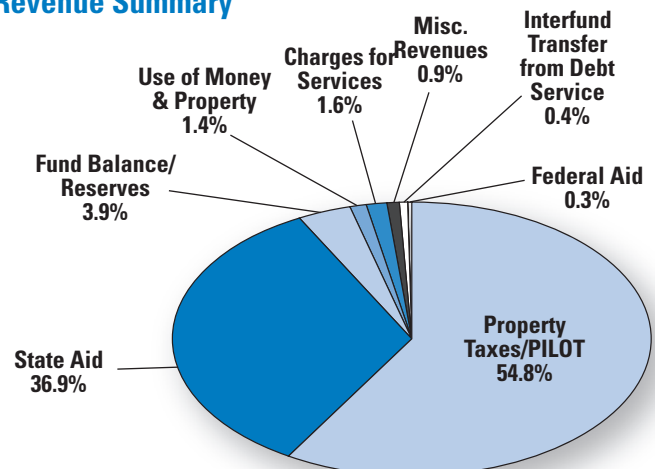
Revenues

Category	2018-2019	Proposed 2019-2020	Change from 2018-2019	% of Revenues
Property Taxes/PILOT	\$13,408,860	\$13,717,327	\$308,467	54.8%
State Aid	\$9,024,256	\$9,237,925	\$213,669	36.9%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$1,000,000	\$900,000	-\$100,000	3.6%
Charges for Services	\$386,713	\$407,595	\$20,882	1.6%
Use of Money & Property	\$238,000	\$357,084	\$119,084	1.4%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$328,102	\$236,527	-\$91,575	0.9%
Interfund Transfers from Debt Service	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	0.4%
Federal Aid	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$0	0.3%
Total	\$24,470,931	\$25,041,458	\$570,527	100.0%

Expenditure Summary



Revenue Summary



SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *						
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 24,470,931	\$ 25,041,458	\$ 24,662,241						
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$ 570,527	\$ 191,131						
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.33 %	.78 %						
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44 %							
<hr/>									
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$13,305,862	\$13,685,079							
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)	\$13,305,862	\$13,685,079	\$13,305,862						
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$558,446	\$722,569							
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$12,747,416	\$13,156,606							
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$12,747,416	\$12,962,510							
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$194,096							
<hr/>									
Administrative Component	\$2,722,317	\$2,805,460	\$2,752,692						
Program Component	\$17,374,728	\$17,509,663	\$17,363,186						
Capital Component	\$4,373,886	\$4,726,335	\$4,546,363						
<hr/>									
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;"></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Purchase 1 small bus and 1 large bus</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$160,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <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 State Education Law Requirements. The tax levy will remain at the 18-19 school year level as required by law.</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>					Description	Amount	Purchase 1 small bus and 1 large bus		\$160,000
	Description	Amount							
Purchase 1 small bus and 1 large bus		\$160,000							

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

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2019-20 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$662

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Schodack Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Maple Hill High school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Schodack Central school(s), 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.

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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Why is a 2.85% Increase Within the Tax Cap?

While New York State's Property Tax cap is often referred to as a "2% tax cap", it rarely equals 2% for school districts.

That is because the New York State law that created the Property Tax Cap requires schools to use an eight-step formula to determine how much they can increase their tax levy by.

For 2019-20, New York State set Schodack CSD's Property Tax Cap at 4.3%. The budget requires a tax levy increase of 2.85%. The district decided to go below the Property Tax Cap to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Over the years, the district's Tax Cap has varied greatly. Last year, it was 2.19%. Three years ago, the district had a Tax Cap of negative 0.3%.

VOTER INFORMATION

What am I voting on?

A \$25,041,458 budget for the 2019-20 school year, a proposition to purchase two school buses, a proposition to allow a high school student to serve as non-voting member of the BOE and four candidates for the BOE.

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Maple Hill High School gym.

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 21 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, visit the district website or call the district office at 518-732-2297. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the District Office at 518-732-2297 or visit our school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, and click on our "Budget Information" link.