



## 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

### Preserving Programs While Preparing for State Aid Cuts

A community vote on Schodack CSD's 2020-21 budget will take place Tuesday, June 9. All voting will be by absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 pandemic, per New York State.

The 2020-21 school budget totals \$25,988,979 and requires a 2.625% tax levy increase, which is within New York State's Property Tax Cap.

Like school districts across New York, Schodack CSD expects significant cuts to state aid due to the state's \$13 billion deficit.

The state budget froze Foundation Aid, the largest category of school aid, at 2019-20 levels. In addition, New York is weighing further cuts to state spending depending on how state revenues and expenditures look during the rest of the year.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has said further cuts to state spending could be significant after it examines revenues and expenditures at three points during this year.

Faced with this financial uncertainty, the goal of Schodack CSD's 2020-21 budget is to preserve student programs and supports. The budget presented at this time does that but the situation may change depending on the depth of further state aid cuts.

"We have a very unclear picture for our budget for next year," said Superintendent Jason Chevrier. "We will do the best we can to preserve programs but we have to be prepared for what the state will do and unfortunately that may mean reductions in the future."

To reduce costs, additions to the budget that the district hoped to include were removed, a spending freeze has been initiated for anything not health or safety related, and the district plans to use reserves to help offset further state aid cuts.

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, which accounts for a \$3,000 net increase to the budget. The second proposition would allow the district to use money from a Capital Reserve Fund for infrastructure improvements, which can only be used for such expenses (see page 2.)

There are also seven individuals running for three Board of Education seats on the ballot (see page 4).

For further information about the school budget, our community is encouraged to visit our website and social media sites.



### Continuing to Serve Our Community Through Closure

Schodack CSD closed its buildings March 16 but we have never stopped caring for our students or community. We are incredibly proud of our faculty and staff for the countless ways they serve our community each day during the school closure. Here are just a few examples.

- Almost overnight, teachers had to change how they taught. Our faculty uses technology and creativity to keep students learning, engaged and connected with each other. During one month of remote learning, Schodack teachers and students participated in more than 3,500 Google Meet video conferencing sessions with an average duration of 38 minutes.
- Our IT Department made sure remote learning started day one, using the existing 400-plus student devices in grades 7-12 and loaning over 100 additional devices to K-6 families.
- We have continued to feed students through grab-and-go meals our food service staff prepares each day and food distributed through the Pat Wood Backpack Program.
- In addition to their regular work cleaning, sanitizing and maintaining buildings, our Facilities Department assisted our food programs and delivered laptops and calculators to students.
- Our bus drivers have helped deliver food, computer devices and countless other items to families as well as food to The Anchor Food Pantry.
- Administration and staff helped stock The Anchor Food Pantry by volunteering for two food drives.



## BUS PURCHASES PART OF REPLACEMENT PLAN

As part of the district's long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the June 9 ballot would allow the district to purchase one 66- passenger and one 25- passenger bus.

The total cost would not exceed \$173,000. 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.

## PROPOSITION WOULD ALLOW USE OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

A proposition on the June 9 ballot would allow the district to spend \$100,000 from a Capital Reserve Fund to pay for infrastructure improvements.

The Capital Reserve Fund was voter-approved in 2015 to reduce the amount of borrowing for the Capital Project and pay for repairs, maintenance and facility improvements. It is funded through savings set aside in previous years and can only be used for these types of expenses.

If approved, the \$100,000 would finance the replacement of the hot water system at the District Office Building (former Maple Hill Middle School).

The proposition is on the ballot because New York State requires voter approval before the district can use money from a Capital Reserve Fund.

## Expenditures

Category	2019-2020	Proposed 2020-2021	Change from 2019-2020	% of Budget
Instruction	\$11,158,825	\$11,672,711	\$513,886	44.9%
Employee Benefits	\$6,907,087	\$6,884,422	-\$22,665	26.5%
Debt Service	\$2,731,036	\$3,085,498	\$354,462	11.9%
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,432,923	\$1,468,004	\$35,081	5.6%
Transportation	\$1,245,205	\$1,276,378	\$31,173	4.9%
General Support	\$1,171,452	\$1,209,007	\$37,555	4.7%
Athletics	\$262,780	\$260,809	-\$1,971	1.0%
Interfund Transfers	\$132,150	\$132,150	\$0	0.5%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$25,041,458</b>	<b>\$25,988,979</b>	<b>\$947,521</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Revenues

Category	2019-2020	Proposed 2020-2021	Change from 2019-2020	% of Revenues
Property Taxes/PILOT	\$13,717,327	\$14,089,103	\$371,776	54.2%
State Aid	\$9,237,925	\$9,658,762	\$420,837	37.2%
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$900,000	\$850,000	-\$50,000	3.3%
Charges for Services	\$407,595	\$380,772	-\$26,823	1.4%
Use of Money & Property	\$357,084	\$379,084	\$22,000	1.5%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$236,527	\$311,258	\$74,731	1.2%
Interfund Transfers from Debt Service	\$100,000	\$230,000	\$130,000	0.9%
Federal Aid	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$5,000	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,041,458</b>	<b>\$25,988,979</b>	<b>\$947,521</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 25,041,458	\$25,988,879	\$25,629,604										
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$947,521	\$588,246										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.78 %	2.295%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$13,685,079	\$14,044,355											
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)	\$13,685,079	\$14,044,355	\$13,685,079										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$722,569	\$786,163											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$13,156,606	\$13,258,192											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$12,962,510	\$13,258,192											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$194,096	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$2,805,460	\$2,805,107	\$2,704,791										
Program Component	\$17,509,663	\$18,207,683	\$18,100,950										
Capital Component	\$4,726,335	\$4,985,859	\$4,833,633										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. In making reductions for a contingency budget, equipment and other non-contingent items would be removed from the proposed budget and Administrative Cap would be applied in accordance with New York State Education Law requirements. The tax levy would remain at the 2019-2020 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> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Use of Capital Reserve</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bus Purchase Proposition</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$173,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	Use of Capital Reserve	\$100,000	Bus Purchase Proposition	\$173,000				
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Use of Capital Reserve	\$100,000												
Bus Purchase Proposition	\$173,000												

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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
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Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$662
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of Schodack Central School District will be held Tuesday, June 9, 2020 per the Governor's Executive Order No. 202.26. Qualified voters must return an absentee ballot via a postage paid return envelope to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

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





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# Board of Education Candidates

Seven people are running for three Board of Education seats.  
Longer candidate biographies are on the district website.

### **Bradley Feldman**

My name is Brad Feldman and I'm interested in joining the Board of Education to help ensure the strong academic programs our community is known for continue providing a foundation of success for our children.

### **Marion Gurdineer-Spar**

I am seeking a position on the Board to become a part of creating a positive educational experience. As a mother of five children within this district, it's important to me to be actively involved in all aspects of guiding educational development.

### **Kyle Hurysz**

Kyle Hurysz was raised in Schodack, graduating from Maple Hill High School, and earning Eagle Scout. He studies economics and political science at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, was appointed to the University's Council of Trustees, and has strategic planning experience.

### **Thomas McKeown**

I've been a member of this community for three years. My wife and I are proud parents of twin boys going into 7th Grade. Giving

back to my community is important to me and something I instill in my boys.

### **Alexander Nicholson**

I am a father of two young schoolers for the 2020/2021 school year with more on the way and a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. I am eager to contribute to the district/town and hopeful my experience in mental-health may offer a unique perspective to the board.

### **Charles Peter**

Charles Peter is a farmer, father, public servant and graduate of Maple Hill. He is continuing his family's tradition of service as a member of the Board of Education, and is working to expand educational opportunity and improve affordability.

### **Mary Yurista**

The future for our children may be different but it is bright. While we face unprecedented challenges, I offer Board experience (from Schodack and soon, Questar III), business, professional, and technical insight, and a desire for all children to be safe and successful.

## VOTING INFORMATION

The budget vote date is Tuesday, June 9. All voting will be conducted by absentee ballot. There will be no in-person voting this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than **5 p.m. on June 9**. Ballots can be dropped off at District Office June 9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 518-732-2297 or email [clerk@schodack.k12.ny.us](mailto:clerk@schodack.k12.ny.us) with questions.