

Whether students are learning in-person or virtually, they have put in a tremendous amount of work this year.

2021-22 Budget Focuses on Maintaining Instructional Programs and Current Curriculum

Schodack Central School District community members will be asked to vote on a 2021-22 school budget on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Unlike last year, this vote will be held in-person. For more information on why the vote will be held in-person as opposed to via mail-in ballot only, see page 2.

The 2021-22 school budget totals \$26,159,094 and requires a 1.98% tax levy increase, which is within New York State's Property Tax Cap. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, District administrators have worked tirelessly to be good financial stewards in the community and the proposed budget adheres to these principles.

Schodack CSD's main priority for the 2021-22 budget is to preserve student programs and supports, giving students the best opportunities possible while continuing to be financially responsible in this time of great uncertainty.

Changes to the budget include a slight increase in Math support at the Jr/Sr High School; bringing two half time custodial staff to full time to enhance cleaning and disinfecting efforts; and increasing intervention support at CES. Program enhancements include the addition of social-emotional programming and training; continuation of software packages; District-wide asset inventory; and a snow removal truck. The budget also seeks to restore supports in Special Education and an Assistant Principal, both at the Jr/Sr High School level.

To assist in accommodating these changes, the District expects to receive an increase in State Foundation Aid;

will not replace some positions which were vacant this year; and will restructure the Transportation Department.

"This has been a year unlike any other filled with constant change and planning for the unknown," Superintendent Jason Chevrier said. "I am grateful that the state and federal funding came through to help support our schools. Throughout the pandemic we have had many unplanned expenses but we have been cautious with our financial resources. This budget begins to address the needs of our students, faculty, and staff as we begin to return to a new normal!"

You may be aware that, included in the American Rescue Plan and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations, school districts received funds to help offset the financial uncertainty that they have faced throughout the global pandemic. Please see the article on page 4 for an explanation of the stimulus package, how it will be used, and how it affects the school's operating budget.

Voters will also decide on a proposition to purchase one large school bus and one small bus with wheelchair accessibility as part of the district's long-term bus replacement plan (see page 2).

There is one individual running and three open seats on the Board of Education (see page 3).

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

BUS PURCHASES PART OF REPLACEMENT PLAN



The District needs to replace 1 large bus and 1 small wheelchair accessible bus. Note: Principal Derby not included

As part of the District's long-term bus replacement program, a proposition on the May 18 ballot would allow the District to purchase one 65-passenger bus and one small wheelchair accessible bus.

The total cost would not exceed \$195,500. The District pays less than one-third of the total cost because New York State reimburses the District for approximately 70.6% of bus purchases, resulting in an estimated cost of \$57,477 spread over 5 years.

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.

DISTRICT AWARDED FUNDS THROUGH SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT

The Schodack Central School District received \$308,984 in state funding for technology upgrades through the Smart Schools Bond Act in late-February. The District will be using these funds for infrastructure needs, including servers, wireless access points, switches and flat panels, ultimately updating out-of-date and unsupported equipment throughout the District.

There is no cost to taxpayers for the upgrades, which are scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer. In total, 78 Smart Schools Investment Plans, submitted from school districts across New York State and are aimed at providing school security and reshaping education for the 21st century, received approval through the Governor's office. The plans, which total \$59.9 million, are part of the \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act – a sweeping education technology initiative proposed by the Governor and approved by voters in 2014.

Funds being dispersed by the Act are rolling out in multiple phases and face a lengthy review process. The remaining available Smart Schools Bond Act funds will fill needs throughout the District as they are identified.

Voting FAQ

Will I receive a mail-in ballot like I did last year?

No, this year's vote will be held in-person unless you qualify for an absentee ballot. Last year's vote was an exclusively mail-in vote due to the Governor's executive order, which only applied to that specific vote.

How will you provide a safe voting environment?

The Schodack Central School District will provide a safe voting environment by staging voters in a socially distanced manner in accordance with current public

health guidance. Face coverings will be required at all times and hand sanitizer will be available before and after using voting machines. The District will follow all state and local health and safety guidelines set in place at the time of the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in-person can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive an absentee ballot. COVID-19 concerns will be considered an acceptable medical condition for

residents to request an absentee ballot. Applications may be requested by contacting the District Clerk. All ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Who can vote?

In order to vote, you must be 18 years old and a U.S. citizen. Advance registration is not required, however, voters will be asked to swear or affirm that they are residents of the Schodack Central School District and have been for at least thirty days prior to the vote.

Board of Education Candidates

This year, there is one person running and three open seats on the Board of Education. These seats are for three-year terms. A longer candidate biography is on the district website.

Marion Gurdineer-Spar

I am seeking a position on the Board to become an advocate on behalf of our community. As a mother of five children within this district, it is important to me to be actively involved in all aspects of guiding educational development and the well-being of our school community.

PROPOSITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO JOIN BOE

A proposition on the May 18 ballot will ask voters whether a high school student can join the Schodack CSD Board of Education as a non-voting member.

Historically, a Maple Hill High School student has joined the Board in the past 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 every two years under New York State law.

BUDGET TRANSFER TO CAPITAL REPLACES GARAGE ROOF

The 2021-22 budget includes a \$100,000 transfer to capital that will replace a 26-year-old bus garage roof.

On the outside, bad foam will be replaced and the roof will be resealed. On the inside, the roof will be scraped to metal, rust will be reduced, and it will be painted to seal.

Repair, or replacement, of garage doors will take place as the project allows, not to exceed \$100,000.

PARKING NOTICE:

Please be aware that due to COVID-19 protocols this year with parent pick-up at the high school, traffic is congested between 1:40-2:15 p.m.

STUDENTS, STAFF SUCCEED DESPITE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The 2020-2021 school year has presented challenges never before seen in education. Certain situations can bring out the best in all of us, and force us to adapt and overcome. This is just what the Schodack Central School District did over the past year.

In early 2020, many of us knew little to nothing about virtual meetings, online learning platforms or internet hotspots. Now, many of us are experts in Google Meet and Canvas.

The district is extremely proud of the way that our instructors adapted to teaching students in multiple classrooms at the same time, helping us adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Others taught remote students who were learning at home. Our special area teachers found new ways to deliver lessons. Who would have thought that physical education class could exist with students remaining six feet apart?

Our technology department helped keep students connected, whether they were learning in-person or remotely. The food service department made sure that anyone who needed a meal received one, whether they could pick it up on-site or if they needed it delivered to their home. Nurses and maintenance crews had to constantly stay up-to-date on new state guidelines regarding health and safety. Athletics continued and staff created a new way for fans to view live-streamed games from the comfort of their own home.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with an endless list of challenges, but our community has come together to give our students the best education possible in one of our most trying times. We have learned a lot over the past year, and will continue to grow from our experiences. The pandemic is not over and we will continue to play our part in creating a safe, friendly environment where our students can flourish.



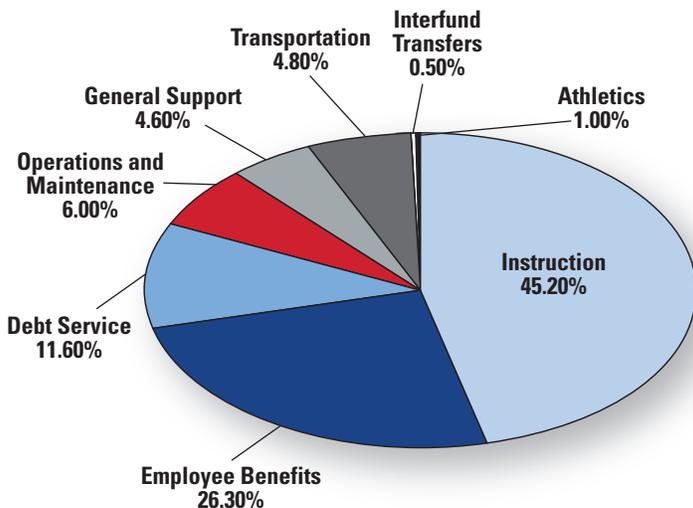
Expenditures

Category	2020-2021	Proposed 2021-2022	Change from 2020-2021	% of Budget
Instruction	\$ 11,672,711	\$ 11,824,133	\$ 151,422	45.20%
Employee Benefits	6,884,422	6,888,973	4,551	26.30%
Debt Service	3,085,498	3,028,461	(57,037)	11.60%
Operations and Maintenance	1,468,004	1,540,915	72,911	6.00%
Transportation	1,276,378	1,260,127	(16,251)	4.80%
General Support	1,209,007	1,215,419	6,412	4.60%
Athletics	260,809	268,916	8,107	1.00%
Interfund Transfers	132,150	132,150	—	0.50%
Total Expenditures	\$ 25,988,979	\$ 26,159,094	\$ 170,115	100.00%

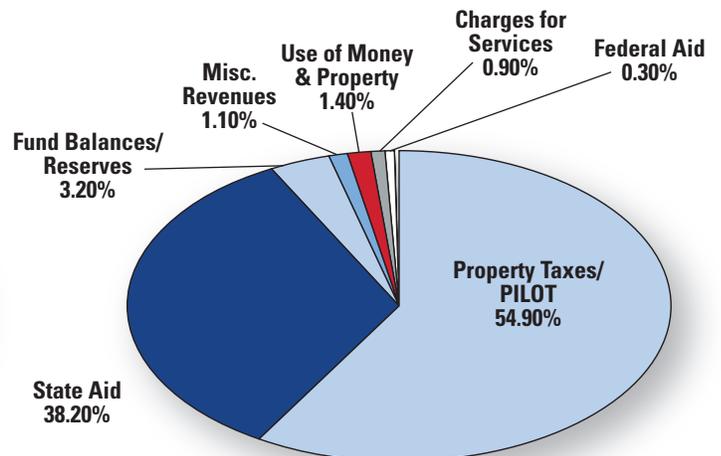
Revenues

Category	2020-2021	Proposed 2021-2022	Change from 2020-2021	% of Revenues
Property Taxes/PILOT	\$ 14,089,103	\$ 14,367,730	\$ 278,627	54.90%
State Aid	9,658,762	9,999,089	340,327	38.20%
Fund Balances/Reserves	870,614	830,100	(40,514)	3.20%
Charges for Services	380,772	224,500	(156,272)	0.90%
Use of Money & Property	379,084	357,384	(21,700)	1.40%
Miscellaneous Revenues	290,644	290,291	(353)	1.10%
Interfund Transfers and Debt Service	230,000	—	(230,000)	0.00%
Federal Aid	90,000	90,000	—	0.30%
Total Revenues	\$ 25,988,979	\$ 26,159,094	\$ 170,115	100.00%

Expenditure Summary



Revenue Summary





School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 25,988,979	\$26,159,094	\$25,880,333
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$170,115	\$(108,646)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		.65%	(.41)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$14,044,355	\$14,323,119	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$14,044,355	\$14,323,119	\$14,044,355
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$786,163	\$819,367	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$13,258,192	\$13,503,752	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$13,258,192	\$13,503,752	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,805,129	\$2,770,511	\$2,741,511
Program Component	\$18,207,975	\$18,387,118	\$18,349,138
Capital Component	\$4,985,859	\$5,001,465	\$4,789,681

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. It is anticipated that a contingent budget would require \$278,764 in reductions including the elimination of most equipment, modifications and increase to some FTE.

** 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)

Description	Amount
Bus Purchase	\$195,500
	\$
	\$
	\$

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

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$662
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Schodack Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Jr/Sr High School in said District on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Schodack 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.



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Stimulus Package Funds Are One-Shot Infusion

The Schodack Central School District has been made aware of the fact that it will receive approximately \$1.9 million in stimulus funds as part of the American Rescue Plan and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations, \$758,000 of which must be designated specifically for learning loss.

These funds are to be used to provide summer enrichment and afterschool programs, provide professional development, and for other specific items. Each of the items must have a limited life expectancy so that the District does not have to raise taxes in future years to sustain additional programs.

While we are encouraged about receiving these funds, please know that they are completely separate from the normal operating budget that community members will be voting on, and are not a recurring source of revenue. Once the stimulus money is spent, our normal operating budget must be able to continue to support our programs so that we do not have to make cuts that may negatively impact our students' learning.

Community input will be sought regarding these funds in the form of a public comment period. Once the use of the funds has been solidified, the District will post a detailed list of items on its website.

VOTER INFORMATION

What am I voting on?

A \$26,159,094 budget for the 2021-22 school year, a proposition to purchase school buses, a student BOE representative and three candidates for the BOE.

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 18 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Maple Hill High School gym.

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."