



Vote Tuesday, May 17, on 22-23 Budget, Bus Purchases and Capital Improvement Work

Propositions on the Ballot

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, Schodack Central School District community members will be asked to vote on whether to approve the following propositions:

1. A proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year
2. Purchase of 2 additional school buses
3. Capital improvement work

Board of Education Election

Community members will also be asked to vote for five seats on Schodack's Board of Education. Three of these seats are due to board member term expirations and two are to fill vacant spots on the board. There are a total of five candidates running for these seats. See page 3 for more.

What is the Proposed 2022-23 School Year Budget?

The proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year is \$26,891,553. This budget represents a 2.24% tax levy increase which meets New York State's Property Tax Cap.

What Will the Budget Be Used For?

The proposed budget is broken down for use in three categories each year:

- **Program (70.45%):** Teaching & student support staff salaries/benefits (this includes health services, guidance, library, occupational education, computer assisted instruction, extracurricular and athletics staff), textbooks, instructional supplies, BOCES program costs, student transportation services and more.

- **Capital (18.80%):** Salaries/benefits for custodial, maintenance & grounds staff, utilities, building repairs, operations & maintenance supplies and other district facilities related expenses.

- **Administrative (10.75%):** Salaries/benefits of administrative staff, plus the salaries/benefits of supervisory, clerical and other administrative support staff. Also includes expenses for school board costs, curriculum development, building supervision, central printing & data processing, contracts for services, postage and copy costs, insurance and other administrative related expenses.

School Bus Purchases

The district asks voters to consider approval for purchasing 2 additional school buses at a cost of no more than \$251,463. This number represents the purchase price before the district receives NYS aid money which will ultimately lessen the final impact on taxpayers.

What is the Capital Improvement Work Up for Approval?

The proposed capital improvement work would include repairs, renovations and improvements at all three primary district sites (Castleton Elementary, Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School and the District Office/Bus Garage) budgeted at a cost of \$8,764,559. The district currently has a unique opportunity to pay for this work with no expected additional impact on taxpayers. See page 3 for more.

How & Where to Vote

In-person voting will take place in the Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Gym from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. If voting by absentee or military ballot, they must be returned to the District Clerk, Michele Reickert, no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 17.

Schodack's New Director of Teaching and Learning and Director of Student Services

When Assistant Superintendent Michael Bennett said farewell to Schodack for a new opportunity earlier this year it gave the district an opportunity to reevaluate the duties of his role. After careful consideration, the district decided the best way to serve students and school families going forward would be to split up the Assistant Superintendent's responsibilities between two new positions: Director of Teaching & Learning and Director of Student Services.

Alyssa Sabbatino started as Director of Teaching & Learning this past March and Jacqueline Hill will transition out of her role as Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Principal into the role of Director of Student Services this July. We checked in with each of them so the Schodack community could learn a bit more about these important new positions and the people who will fill them.



ALYSSA SABBATINO
Director of Teaching & Learning

What's your background in education and what drew you to Schodack?

I started my education career as an English teacher and an instructional coach. Literacy and reading curriculum was a huge part of my work during that time. I moved from there to school administrator work and became further

invested in understanding student behaviors and needs.

That balance of curriculum and instructional work with developmental and social-emotional work is so important to me. In my previous job, that led me to a district leadership role as Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement where I could focus on both of those worlds. When this opportunity came up in Schodack, I knew it was a role where I could not only use and expand my skill set but focus even more on those areas of public education I'm particularly passionate about.

Tell us a bit about this new position in Schodack. What is it and what drew you to it?

In this role, I'm working on fine-tuning and developing curriculum with our teachers and coordinating professional development. I'm also meeting with our students and teachers to learn what they each need to learn and teach better, respectively. In the last couple of months, I've been listening to all the district stakeholders (faculty, staff, parents, students & board members) I can and becoming engaged in so many of the incredible things that were already happening here.

What have been some of your early goals in Schodack and what do you hope to accomplish during the rest of the school year?

I started this role with a plan in place that allowed me to get out and meet with all of those stakeholder groups. Now that I've established a relationship with them my biggest priority for the rest of this year is building on those relationships and ensuring I'm accessible to those groups. This is a new role and I want them all to know I'm present and excited to be a part of their lives in Schodack.



JACQUELINE HILL
Director of Student Services
(Effective July 2022)

Can you tell us what your role as Director of Student Services will be once you start in July?

As Director of Student Services, my job will be providing leadership for all Schodack's pupil personnel services. That means I'll be responsible for guiding and supporting the special education program, health services, counseling programs, student support services and social-emotional learning.

You've worked in Schodack for some time. What drew you to this role and how will your experiences in the district help you?

Before I was the Principal of Maple Hill, I worked here for 8 years as a Special Education Teacher. I'm fortunate that my work in Schodack has given me not only a unique skill set but also a perspective as both a school educator and a school administrator that I think is needed for this role. Those aspects coupled with a passion I've had since working in public education to advocate for students and student families are what drew me to take on these new responsibilities.

You'll be starting this role in the summer. During that time, what are some goals and how will you be preparing for the 2022-23 school year in this role?

This summer I'll be supporting and leading the district's special education Extended School Year program. I'm looking forward to getting to know those students and their families better during those weeks, particularly at the elementary level.

I'll also be familiarizing myself more with out-of-district programming where some of our students receive their education.

Additionally, as a principal, it became clear how important it is to bring social-emotional learning into classrooms. That way we ensure our students are not only academically prepared for the world but also feel confident and supported as they develop into young adults. During the summer, I'll be working with all of our district counselors and mental health providers to evaluate and enhance our current social-emotional programming in preparation for the next school year.

Proposition for Capital Improvement Project

Also on the May 17 ballot will be a proposed capital improvement project budgeted at \$8,764,559. If the project is approved, the money would be used for necessary maintenance, renovations and improvements to district facilities that would benefit both current and future Schodack students.

This project is being put up for a vote this May because there is a unique, but time-sensitive funding opportunity to pay for all of the proposed work with **no expected additional impact on taxpayers**. To learn even more about this project, visit the district website: www.schodack.k12.ny.us

How Will the Project Be Paid For?

1. Retiring Debt – \$6,300,000: Most of the money is available due to the district's retiring debt. That debt was approved in a past vote and taxes increased then to raise "debt service" money to ensure the district could repay the bank. Because that money now already exists, more does not need to be raised when borrowing for this project. Retiring debt is an opportunity for districts to strategically plan improvement work with minimal to no additional tax impact. Schodack won't have retiring debt to use again like this until 2034.

2. Capital Reserve Fund – \$893,795: Money would also come from the district's capital reserve fund, which voters previously approved the creation of in 2015. The money is currently in the reserve fund but requires voter approval to use it for these purposes.

3. Fund Balance – \$1,570,764: This amount comes from a fund balance of money the district set aside in anticipation of cuts to NYS school aid last year. Ultimately that didn't happen and this money did not need to be used to preserve school programs and services. The district would now like to invest the money in the long-term integrity of its facilities.

What Improvements Will Be Included in the Project?

If the project is approved, examples of improvements would include but not be limited to:

Castleton Elementary School

1. Installing Air Conditioning in More Learning Areas
2. New Outdoor Lighting at the Front Entrance
3. 25 New Parking Spaces

Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School

1. Renovating/Modernizing the Technology Suite
2. Installing Air Conditioning in More Classrooms & Learning Spaces
3. Replacement of the Parking Lot
4. Replacement of Tennis Courts

District Office and Bus Garage

1. Replacement of Sidewalks & Exterior Stairs at District Office
2. Replacing Gym Partition with Easier & Safer Divider Curtain
3. Replacing the Fueling Island & Garage Doors at Bus Garage



Current MH Parking Lot



Current MH Technology Suite



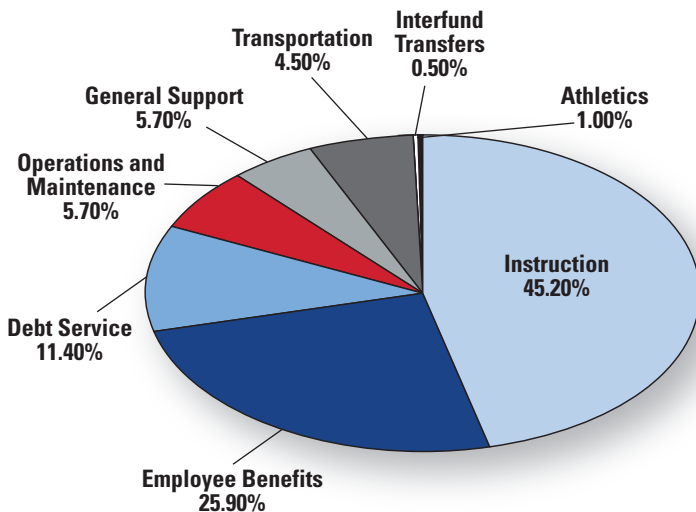
Expenditures

Category	2021-2022	Proposed 2022-2023	Change from 2021-2022	% of Budget
Instruction	\$ 11,824,133	\$ 12,172,355	\$ 348,221	45.20%
Employee Benefits	6,888,973	6,953,643	64,670	25.90%
Debt Service	3,028,461	3,076,211	47,750	11.40%
Operations and Maintenance	1,540,915	1,543,456	2,541	5.70%
General Support	1,215,419	1,545,010	329,591	5.70%
Transportation	1,260,127	1,198,969	(61,158)	4.50%
Athletics	268,916	269,760	845	1.00%
Interfund Transfers	132,150	132,150	—	0.50%
Total Expenditures	\$ 26,159,094	\$ 26,891,554	\$ 732,460	100.00%

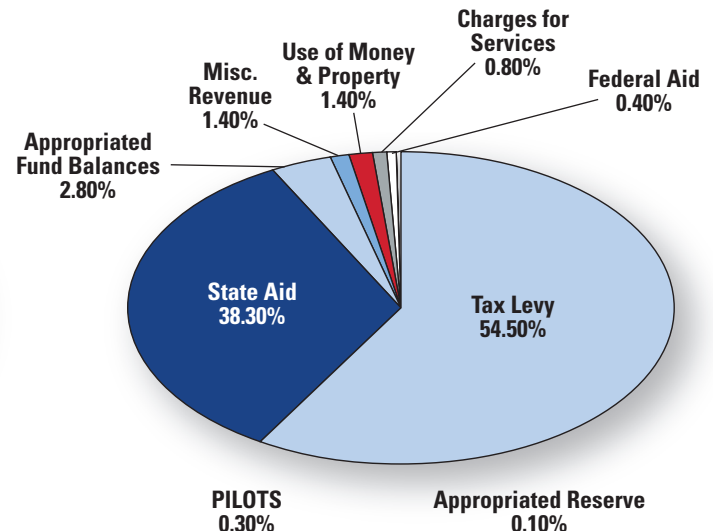
Revenues

Category	2021-2022	Proposed 2022-2023	Change from 2021-2022	% of Revenues
Tax Levy	\$ 14,323,119	\$ 14,643,450	\$ 320,331	54.50%
State Aid	9,999,089	10,309,437	310,348	38.30%
Appropriated Fund Balance	800,000	750,000	(50,000)	2.80%
Use of Money & Property	357,384	385,723	28,339	1.40%
Miscellaneous Revenue	290,291	386,179	95,888	1.40%
Charges for Services	224,500	204,500	(20,000)	0.80%
Federal Aid	90,000	95,000	5,000	0.40%
PILOTS	44,611	83,138	38,527	0.30%
Appropriated Reserve	30,100	34,126	4,026	0.10%
Total Revenues	\$ 26,159,094	\$ 26,891,553	\$ 732,459	100.00%

Expenditure Summary



Revenue Summary



SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 26,159,097	\$26,891,553	\$26,661,222
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$732,459	\$412,128
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.8 %	1.6%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$14,323,119	\$14,643,450	
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)	\$14,323,119	\$14,643,450	\$14,323,119
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$819,367	\$786,941	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$13,503,752	\$13,856,509	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$13,503,752	\$13,856,509	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$2,770,511	\$2,891,344	\$2,784,705
Program Component	\$18,387,118	\$18,945,214	\$18,895,962
Capital Component	\$5,001,465	\$5,054,995	\$4,890,555
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmqts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$662

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Schodack Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Jr./Sr. High School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 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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VOTING FAQ

What am I voting on?

Residents will vote on a proposed \$26,891,553 budget for the 2022-23 School Year, a proposition to purchase school buses, a proposed capital improvement project and five seats on Schodack's Board of Education.

When and where is the vote?

Voting will take place in the Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Gym on Tuesday, May 17, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Who can vote?

You must be at least 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 district and have been for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Residents who will be out of town or unable to vote in-person can vote by absentee ballot. Applications may be requested by contacting the District Office (518-732-2297). All ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 PM on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the District Office at 518-732-2297 or visit the district website: www.schodack.k12.ny.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Below are the names of the five candidates running for five open seats on the Board of Education. Three seats are due to term expirations and two are to fill vacant seats. The three seats opening are each for a 3-year term (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025), while the seats to fill vacancies are each for an approximately 1-year term (May, 18, 2022-June 30, 2023).

The names of the candidates running are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot. Candidate bios are available on the district website: www.schodack.k12.ny.us

- Angela Beber
- Sherri Gibson
- Daniel Grandinetti
- Ashley Palmer
- Shelley Palmer

A FOND FAREWELL TO RETIRING SCHODACK FACULTY AND STAFF!

Schodack bids a fond farewell to the following retiring faculty and staff members. The district thanks them all for the many things they have done to benefit the students and this school community. We wish them a very happy retirement!

- Christine Charsky - Elementary Education Teacher
- Lisa Clevenger - Teaching Assistant
- Betsy Croft - School Nurse
- Diane Duffy - Teaching Assistant
- Lauren MacDonald - Occupational Therapist
- Wendy Nolan - Special Education Teacher
- Timothy Ryan - Mathematics Teacher
- Christine Yager - Elementary Education Teacher