



## Vote Tuesday, May 20, on the 2025-26 Budget & Board of Education

### Propositions on the Ballot

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Schodack Central School District community members will be asked to vote on whether to approve the following propositions. **See the back page for how and where to vote.**

1. Proposed Budget for the 2025-26 School Year
2. Purchase of 3 school buses
3. Use of Capital Reserve Funds to replace an aging electric transformer at the District Office Building

### Board of Education Election

Community members will also be asked to vote for three seats on the Schodack Board of Education. **See page 2 for candidate information.**

### What is the Proposed 2025-26 School Year Budget?

The proposed budget for the 2025-26 School Year is \$29,473,860. This budget represents a 0.45% tax levy increase, which meets the allowable New York State Property Tax Cap.

### What Will the Budget Be Used For?

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

- **Program (71.10%):** 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 (17.44%):** Salaries/benefits for custodial, maintenance & grounds staff, utilities, building repairs, operations & maintenance supplies, retiree benefits, and other district facilities-related expenses.

- **Administrative (11.46%):** Salaries/benefits of administrative staff, plus the salaries/benefits of supervisory, clerical, and other administrative support staff. Includes expenses for school board costs, curriculum development, building supervision, central printing & data processing, contracts for services, postage & copy costs, insurance, and other administrative-related expenses.

### Use of Capital Reserve Funds to Replace Electric Transformer

The district asks voters to consider approving the use of Capital Reserve Funds to replace and install an electric transformer at the District Office Building at a cost of no more than \$557,500. The current transformer was installed in 1966, and no replacement parts are available. If the transformer fails, it would likely result in lighting, heating, cooling, and security systems shutting down, which would disrupt operations and pose safety risks. Transformer failure would also likely result in a building closure of 8-12 months.

The **district already has this money** in its Capital Reserve Fund, but needs voter approval to use it for these purposes. If approved, the district's Capital Reserve Fund balance would be \$2,144,241 after installation of the new transformer.

### School Bus Purchases

The district asks voters to consider approval for purchasing 3 school buses at a cost of no more than \$450,000. This number represents the purchase price before the district receives NYS aid money, which will ultimately lessen the final impact on taxpayers.

### Transfer to Capital for Castleton Elementary Safety Enhancements

The proposed budget includes a \$100,000 transfer to capital, which will be allocated for important safety enhancements at Castleton Elementary School. A voter-approved budget would include safety enhancements such as window security film, improved door security hardware, and more video cameras.

## 2025 Board of Education Candidates

Residents of the Schodack Central School District will vote for three (3) seats on the Schodack Board of Education. Each seat is for a 3-year term (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028). This year's candidates and a statement from each in their own words are listed below. Candidate names are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

### MELISSA BOLES

My family—my husband Nathan, our twins Alexis and Drake, and I—moved to the district six years ago. Our twins will be entering 7th grade next year. Since our arrival, we have actively engaged in community activities. My husband has coached the CYO basketball team, and I have served for four years on the Castleton Elementary School PTO. As a corresponding secretary, I enjoyed taking meeting minutes and promoting events on social media. Volunteering at PTO-hosted events, from community fairs to science fairs, has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

Professionally, I am a science educator and currently serve as an Associate Professor at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, NY. My teaching focus includes human biology, anatomy and physiology, and microbiology. I am a strong advocate for public education and have witnessed firsthand the impact of teaching science to students pursuing careers in the health sciences, from nursing to physical therapy. Community colleges play a vital role in providing students with the academic foundation they need to transform their lives and contribute to their communities by achieving their career goals.

I am eager to serve on the school board because I am passionate about education, committed to improving our community, and believe I can make a positive impact on the lives of both students and educators.

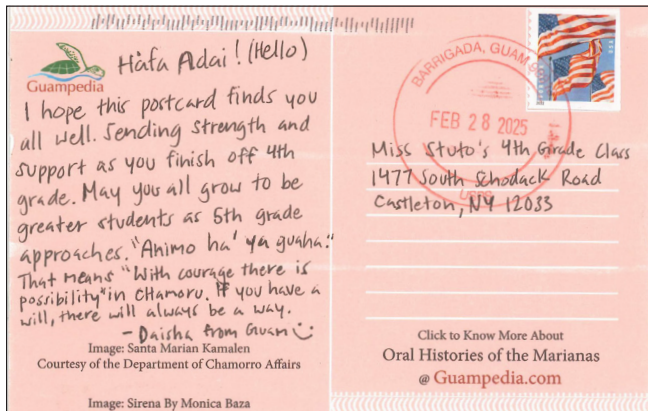
### ANGELA BEBER

My husband, Jay, and our sons, Christian (class of 2019) and Joe (class of 2020), have lived in Schodack for almost 25 years. As a family, we are committed to improving the community we live in. Jay and Joe both take pride in their work for the district. I left my 15-year career at Schodack CSD to work for Questar III, which has allowed me to further my involvement in public education. We have always been active participants in the schools, local athletics and civic organizations, most recently with Kiwanis. I am a strong advocate for public education and providing equal access for all. We continue to be faced with unique challenges in our education system. We have to work together to balance the needs of the students while also supporting the faculty and staff, as well as being fiscally responsible. I look forward to being given the opportunity to continue to work with the district to support our strong school community.

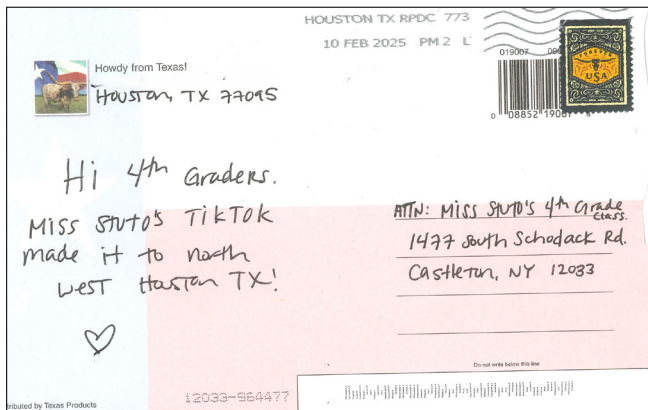
### MARION SPAR

My husband, Andre, and I have six children: Haylee (15), Ayva (14), Dylan (12), Aubrey (11), Payton (8), and Nate (4). We have lived in Schodack since 2013. Our family is very active and involved in various activities and functions throughout the community. We love and appreciate giving and supporting in any capacity. We are a certified foster/adoptive family and I volunteer to coach several youth athletic teams. I have served on the Board of Education since 2021 and look forward to continuing my work as a dedicated member to serve our community. With a master's degree from The College of Saint Rose, I hold a certification in School Psychology and have worked with students in grades Pre-K through 12. I am currently working for the local Justice Court. I am a very enthusiastic individual with a great sense of humor and a firm believer that life is what you make it. I love helping others and making every day a positive one! I feel that it is important not just to be actively involved for the sake of my children, but also to show and teach them that being an active and productive individual is what will guide them successfully through life. Education has such a great impact on all children in many ways and being a part of making that experience a positive and meaningful one is my goal. It is an honor to advocate for ALL our children and the community.

# Castleton Elementary Class Makes Global Connections



Postcard from Guam



Postcard from Houston, TX

This year, one Castleton Elementary School class and teacher made it their mission to make connections with as many people around the world as possible! Alexandra Stuto's 4th-grade class started the "Hearts Around the World" project as a fun and meaningful way to spread kindness and connect with people from across the USA and beyond. With their goal of receiving as many postcards as possible from the US States and other countries, Miss Stuto and the class began spreading the word about the project through social media, local news outreach (it was featured on News Channel 10), and word of mouth.

Between February and March, postcards arrived at CES almost daily from all across the globe with words of encouragement and facts about the places they were sent from. The class was overwhelmed by the positive response to the project. As more postcards arrived, they were learning about new places and cultures, all while building a sense of global community! Along the way, they were also honing their geography and mapping skills to keep track of all the postcards.

In total, the class received nearly 400 postcards from: All 50 US States and Australia, the Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Grand Cayman, Greece, Guam, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Tasmania, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe!

## First Year with School Resource Officer Brings Added Safety, Support & Education

In March 2024, Town of Schodack Police Officer Rich Eckel was assigned as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for Schodack CSD. SROs help their assigned districts with a variety of important tasks, not only collaborating with them to ensure the safety of everyone in the schools, but also providing education and mentorship. In the past year, Officer Eckel has done invaluable work for the district since becoming a full-time presence in its schools. Below are some examples of what Officer Eckel has done to benefit Schodack this past year:

- Regular daily safety checks during school hours to ensure that buildings are secure.
- Fostering relationships with students across grade levels by spending weekly time in classrooms and teaching them about a variety of relevant legal and safety topics.

- Helps oversee all district safety drills, ensuring consistent standardization and efficiency during them.
- Refining entry procedures at events to ensure that unscreened visitors do not enter the schools.
- Attending multiple behavioral threat assessment trainings and helping finalize the district's threat assessment teams.
- Regularly attending district and building-level safety meetings to give SRO updates, listen to faculty/staff concerns, and answer questions.

Officer Eckel's appointment as the district's SRO was made possible thanks to ongoing support and cooperation from the Town of Schodack, the Schodack Police Department, the Board of Education, and the school community. Thank you to all of them for their ongoing support in making Schodack schools safer, and thank you to Officer Eckel for all his efforts so far!





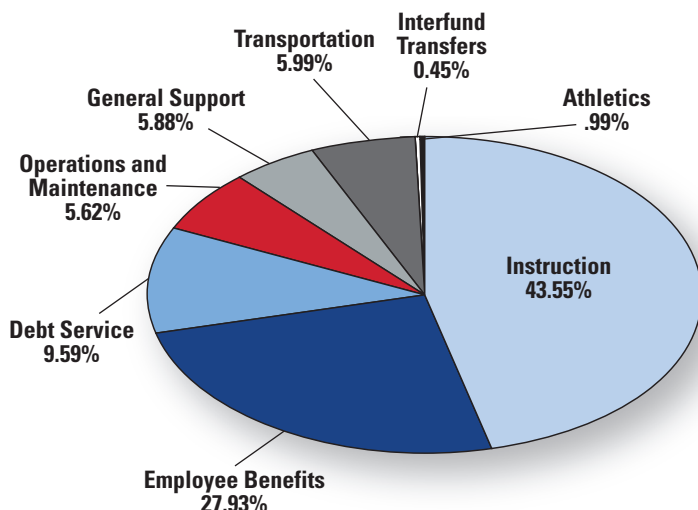
## Expenditures

Category	2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026	Change from 2024-2025	% of Budget
Instruction	\$12,702,994	\$12,834,523	\$131,529	43.55%
Employee Benefits	\$8,030,980	\$8,233,469	\$202,489	27.93%
Debt Service	\$2,826,748	\$2,826,747	-\$1	9.59%
Transportation	\$1,530,914	\$1,766,553	\$235,639	5.99%
General Support	\$1,549,017	\$1,732,307	\$183,290	5.88%
Operations and Maintenance	\$1,632,109	\$1,656,596	\$24,487	5.62%
Athletics	\$288,614	\$291,516	\$2,902	0.99%
Interfund Transfers	\$132,150	\$132,150	0	0.45%
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$28,693,526</b>	<b>\$29,473,860</b>	<b>\$780,334</b>	<b>100%</b>

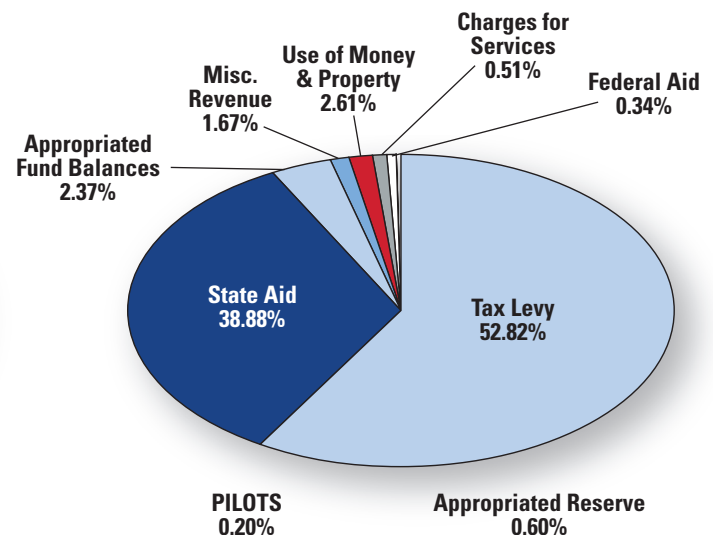
## Revenues

Category	2024-2025	Proposed 2025-2026	Change from 2024-2025	% of Revenues
Tax Levy	\$15,497,551	\$15,567,824	\$70,273	52.82%
State Aid	\$10,834,049	\$11,460,501	\$626,452	38.88%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$0	2.37%
Use of Money and Property	\$645,304	\$769,052	\$123,748	2.61%
Misc. Revenue	\$492,116	\$492,593	\$477	1.67%
Appropriated Reserve	\$187,459	\$175,893	-\$11,566	0.60%
Charges for Services	\$149,500	\$149,500	\$0	0.51%
Federal Aid	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.34%
PILOTS	\$87,547	\$58,497	-\$29,050	0.20%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$28,693,526</b>	<b>\$29,473,860</b>	<b>\$780,334</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Expenditure Summary



## Revenue Summary



## SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *			
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 28,693,526	\$29,473,860	\$29,076,407			
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$780,334	\$328,881			
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.72%	1.33%			
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%				
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$15,497,551	\$15,567,824				
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)	\$15,497,551	\$15,567,824	\$15,497,551			
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,184,693	\$830,682				
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$14,476,774	\$14,737,142				
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$14,312,588	\$14,737,142				
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$163,916	\$0				
Administrative Component	\$3,190,630	\$3,378,995	\$3,236,861			
Program Component	\$20,560,800	\$20,953,940	\$20,861,171			
Capital Component	\$4,942,096	\$5,139,925	\$4,977,375			
*A contingent budget would result in \$397,453 in budget cuts. Elimination of non-contingent items (all equipment purchases) and further adjustments to administrative, program, and capital areas would be necessary to reduce the tax levy to the 2024-25 level as required by current contingent budget rules.						
<div>** 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)</div>						
				Description		Amount
				Bus Purchase (Not to exceed)		\$450,000
				District Office Capital Outlay Project - Electric Transformer		\$557,500

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

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$589
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 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 20, 2025 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Schodack 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.



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## VOTING FAQ

### What am I voting on?

Residents will vote on a proposed \$29,473,860 budget for the 2025-26 School Year, a proposition to purchase school buses, and the use of Capital Reserve Funds to replace an aging electric transformer at the District Office Building. Additionally, residents will elect three (3) individuals to sit 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 20, 2025, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

### 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 or vote early?

Completed applications for absentee ballots or early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be given personally to the voter. Any qualified voter may request an early mail ballot. To request an absentee ballot application or early mail ballot application, please contact the District Office at (518) 732-2297.

### 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](http://www.schodack.k12.ny.us)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

# Join Us in Supporting Our Students!

Whether you're a school parent, an alumnus, or a community member who wants to be more involved with their local schools, Schodack CSD welcomes new volunteers year-round!

**Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO):** Plan/organize and help at popular events for students and families. Examples include the Fall Community Fair, the Holiday Bazaar, the Science Fair, the Strawberry Festival, and many more! Email [thecespto@gmail.com](mailto:thecespto@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Music Parents Association:** Support and expand music education in Schodack and help at annual district music events! Email [mhmusicpa@gmail.com](mailto:mhmusicpa@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Athletic Booster Club:** Help support Maple Hill student-athletes at some of the district's year-round games/matches and tournaments! Contact Booster Club at [mhboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:mhboosterclub@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Schodack Wildcat Foundation:** A New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation founded by local members of our school community with a passion for helping Schodack students. This can take many forms, like organizing student programs/activities, holding fundraisers, helping locate grant opportunities, and more. Contact the District Office at **518-732-2297** to learn more.