

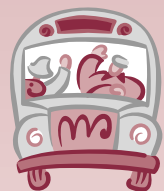
in

south  
colonie  
central  
schools

# focus

May  
2007

Preparing World Class Citizens



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## The 2007-2008 budget

### South Colonie residents to vote May 15th on proposed \$83.8 million school spending plan

South Colonie Central School District residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 15, to vote on a proposed \$83.8 million budget for the 2007-08 school year. The budget continues to support a strong educational program, small class sizes and a wide range of academic intervention services to help all students succeed.

The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the district's five elementary schools (see *voting locations on page 2*).

Next year's proposed budget totals \$83,864,400 and represents a 4.94 percent spending increase over the current school year (see *complete figures on page 3*). Though equalization rates will not be known until July, the district projects about a 4.12 percent Colonie residential property tax increase next year based on the budget submitted to voters. This means that the average Colonie homeowner whose property is assessed at \$150,000 would pay an additional \$126.78 in school property taxes next year or about \$10.57 more per month to finance education. This is a base increase and does not reflect any STAR savings a homeowner may be entitled to.

"Costs continue to rise each year but this administration and Board of Education have worked hard to provide the funding necessary to continue this district's tradition of educational excellence," said Superintendent Michael Marcelle. "We do so realizing the financial impact the budget has on our local taxpayers."

### Increased costs

Several factors are driving up the cost of education here and in most school districts across the state. Employee health insurance continues to escalate from one year to the next and legally-required district contributions to New York State retirement systems are increasing as well.

*Continued on page 2 ... budget*

## NEW BUDGET AT A GLANCE

- **Total 2007-08 budget: \$83,864,400**
- **Budget-to-budget increase: 4.94%**
- **Projected property tax increase of 4.12%**
- **Maintains facilities and existing educational programs**
- **Continues wide range of academic intervention services**



Shaker Road Elementary School held a Family Math Night this spring to help students and parents realize that math doesn't have to be intimidating, it can be fun too! The event included a steak dinner, activities galore and a Girl Scout bake sale.

## Who can vote on Tuesday, May 15?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Residents may vote at any location listed below.

## Voting Sites

### FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY

100 Forest Drive (869-3006)

### ROESSLEVILLE ELEMENTARY

100 California Ave. (459-2157)

### SADDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

100 Loralee Drive (456-2608)

### SHAKER ROAD ELEMENTARY

512 Shaker Road (458-1440)

### VEEDER ELEMENTARY

25 Veeder Drive (869-4661)

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**All of the voting will take place in the elementary school gymnasiums. Also, there is NO voting at the high school or either middle**

## ... Budget

*Continued from page 1*

Employee benefits alone account for a \$1,054,126 or 6.1 percent increase in the 2007-08 budget. Making up the rest of the projected increase are instruction (+\$1,371,907), special education costs (+\$598,975), student transportation (+\$211,036), operations and maintenance (+\$407,148), and library & media instruction (+\$52,581).

A new state mandate is also requiring the district to budget approximately \$312,000 in additional monies next school year to pay the cost of special education services for private and parochial school students – with only some of those costs reimbursed to the district.

Additional program costs include \$72,000 to expand Transitional Kindergarten to Shaker Road Elementary School and \$72,000 to add another first grade section at Roessleville Elementary School to meet enrollment demands.

### A lengthy process

The South Colonie Board of Education has been working since January to put together a district budget that continues to support a strong educational program for all students while remaining fiscally responsible to local taxpayers. This included revisions to the first draft of the budget in March that reduced spending by \$1,672,440. Those reductions lowered the original proposed budget figure for next school year from \$85,554,840 to \$83,864,400, or by more than \$1.6 million. (see page 6).

Helping to offset next year's spending increases:

## Major budget increases

<b>Benefits .....</b>	<b>+ \$1,054,126 .....</b>	<b>+6.1%</b>
<b>Instruction .....</b>	<b>+ \$1,371,907 .....</b>	<b>+4.6%</b>
<b>Special Ed .....</b>	<b>+ \$598,975 .....</b>	<b>+6.0%</b>
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance ....</b>	<b>+ \$407,148 .....</b>	<b>+7.2%</b>
<b>Transportation .</b>	<b>+ \$211,036 .....</b>	<b>+5.2%</b>
<b>Library/Media Instruction .....</b>	<b>+ \$52,581 .....</b>	<b>+2.6%</b>

## Additional Revenues

<b>General State Aid &amp; Construction Aid for Capital Project .....</b>	<b>+ \$911,847 .....</b>	<b>+4.4%</b>
<b>Interest on Investments .....</b>	<b>+ \$255,000 .....</b>	<b>+24%</b>

## New program costs

**New state mandate for Pupil Services (Up front Special Ed costs for private and parochial school students with only some costs reimbursed)**

..... + \$312,000

**Addition of Transitional Kindergarten at Shaker Road Elementary School**

..... + \$72,000

**Addition of new first grade section at Roessleville Elementary School to meet rising enrollment**

..... + \$72,000

- The New York State Legislature allotted the district about \$912,000 in additional state aid this year – a 4.4 percent increase over the current school year.

- With the moderate resurgence of the stock market, the district is budgeting about \$255,000 more in interest returns on investments next school year.

- An aggressive energy management program has saved the district more than \$1.5 million over the last five years, and is expected to generate more than \$4.5 million in total energy savings by 2011.

**What's new in next year's budget?****Transitional Kindergarten debuts at Shaker Road**

After a successful pilot year at Roessleville Elementary School in 2006-07, next year's budget calls for expanding the district's Transitional Kindergarten program to a second school – Shaker Road Elementary.

In response to the New York State Education Department's discussion regarding full day kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten is a concept designed to ease youngsters into that full day setting.

In September, kindergarten children at Shaker Road and Roessleville will be divided into AM and PM classes of 10-12 students. Those students will attend school on a traditional half day schedule (2.5 hours per day). But in January, each class will begin an extended day schedule and transition into a full day program by the end of that month.

This transition helps teachers get to know students better, determine their learning tendencies and addresses the specific skill needs of each child. The full day schedule in the second half of the year accommodates longer periods to devote to concept development, reading comprehension, skills development and socialization time. It also offers more time for students to become active participants in their learning and become better prepared for a full day program in first grade.

**Estimated revenues**

	2006-07	2007-08	Dollar Change
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,340,000	\$ 1,350,000	+ 10,000
Continuing Education	91,500	85,000	- 6,500
Interest on Investments	800,000	1,055,000	+ 255,000
Miscellaneous	676,200	880,350	+ 204,150
Rental-BOCES	26,000	26,000	0
State Aid*	19,657,786	20,569,633	+ 911,847
Local Taxes	56,852,098	59,398,417	+ 2,546,319
Youth Detention Center	296,981	300,000	+ 3,019
Medicaid Reimbursement	175,000	200,000	+ 25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,915,565</b>	<b>\$83,864,400</b>	<b>+ 3,948,835</b>

\* As required by Education Laws 1608 and 1716, the district estimates its 2007 - 2008 State Aid to be \$20,569,633 or 24.5 percent of total expenditures.

**Proposed expenditures**

	2006-07	2007-08	Dollar Change
Board of Education	\$ 105,276	\$ 118,326	+ 13,050
Central Administration	205,048	213,836	+ 8,788
Finance	650,637	638,608	- 12,029
Legal/Personnel/Public Information	454,459	511,356	+ 56,897
Operation & Maintenance	5,253,647	5,660,795	+ 407,148
Information Technology	393,604	407,764	+ 14,160
Special Items	1,137,432	1,112,335	- 25,097
Instructional Improvement/Admin	2,439,658	2,497,791	+ 58,133
Regular Instruction	28,487,310	29,859,217	+ 1,371,907
Special Education	9,087,151	10,025,633	+ 598,975
Summer School	260,573	263,096	- 1,566
Library/Technology Instruction	1,993,358	2,045,939	+ 52,581
Pupil Services	2,280,574	2,306,629	+ 26,055
Community Services	388,481	383,217	- 5,264
Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular	763,461	836,547	+ 73,086
Transportation	3,849,583	4,060,619	+ 211,036
Employee Benefits	16,291,320	17,345,446	+ 1,054,126
Debt Service/Interfund Transfer	5,873,993	5,557,246	- 316,747
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,915,565</b>	<b>\$83,864,400</b>	<b>+ 3,948,835</b>



The budget by Administration, Program and Capital Expenses

**ADMINISTRATION:**  
**8.74 percent (\$7,329,443)**

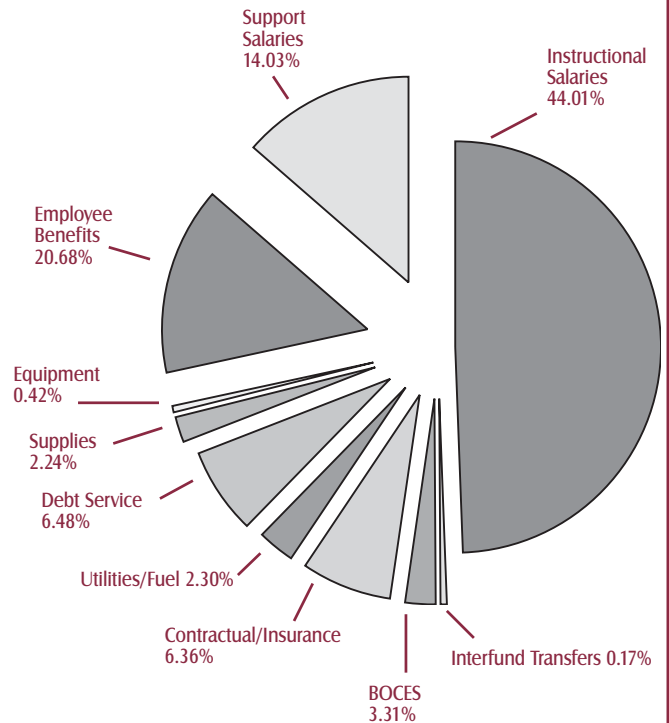
Administration includes: Board of Education, central administration, finance, legal services, personnel, records management, public information, central services, special items, curriculum development and supplies, regular school supplies, instruction supervision and employee benefits.

**PROGRAM:**  
**76.95 percent (\$64,535,834)**

Program includes: instruction, transportation and garage, contract transportation, community service, employee benefits and transfers.

**CAPITAL:**  
**14.31 percent (\$11,999,123)**

Capital includes: Operation of buildings, maintenance of buildings, judgments and claims, employee benefits and debt service.



2007-2008 Proposed Budget by Percentages

Budget savings

District/Board work to reduce costs in 2007-2008 school year

The South Colonie district administration and Board of Education worked for several months to reduce costs and expenditures for the 2007-08 school year.

The first draft of the proposed budget presented to the public in January totaled \$85,554,840 and called for a 7.06 percent spending increase over the current school year. Several adjustments were made over the last five months. The result: the proposed budget to be presented to voters on May 15 was scaled back by \$1,672,440. It now totals \$83,864,400 and calls for a 4.94 percent spending increase. The chart on the right illustrates some of the budget savings that were realized from the original draft.

- \$272,000** The district has restructured the way it will borrow to pay back debt on the capital improvement project approved by voters last October – borrowing in stages instead of all at once – thus saving money.
- \$128,000** Elementary staff reductions to account for less pupil enrollments, while keeping class sizes favorable.
- \$75,000** Reductions in the number of school monitors.
- \$70,000** Fewer property tax certiorari cases has enabled the district to lower its reserve fund.
- \$20,000** The district has consolidated home instruction programs requiring fewer staff.
- \$18,000** Elimination of tuition for new Tech Valley High School.
- \$10,000** Reduction in field trip costs districtwide.
- \$10,000** Reduction in maintenance supply costs districtwide.
- \$7,300** Elimination of two assistant coaching positions and athletic managers at CCHS.

## Three candidates running for two open seats on the South Colonie Board of Education ballot

South Colonie voters will be asked to fill two open seats on the nine-member South Colonie Board of Education. The three candidates appearing on the May 15 election ballot are below.

### Dunn/Kiehle square off for open school board seat

**Rick Dunn and David Kiehle are running for the seat being vacated by longtime school board member John Monteiro, who is not seeking re-election.**



**Rick Dunn**

Rick Dunn, of 19 Campagna Drive, has lived in the South Colonie Central School District for more than 20 years and is a 1978 graduate of Colonie Central High School. He has been employed as a Senior Benefits Consultant with the Ayco Co. for 11 years.

Dunn earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the State University at Albany and received his Certified Employee Benefits Specialist (CEBS) designation from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He is also a social member of the Fuller Road Fire Co. He and his wife, LeeAnn, a South Colonie native, have a three-year-old son.

David Kiehle, of 6 Fuller Place, has lived in the South Colonie Central School District for more than 35 years. He has been employed for 39 years as a Mathematics teacher at Shaker High School and as an adjunct mathematics teacher at Siena College for five years.

Kiehle earned master's degrees in Advanced Classroom Teaching of Mathematics and Educational Administration, and a bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education, all from the State University at Albany. He also earned an associate's degree from Corning Community College.

Kiehle is a former President of the North Colonie Teachers Association and member of the Town of Colonie Community Partnership. He is a former Cub Scout pack leader and football coach at Shaker High School, and has assisted over the years with South Colonie PTA and Friends of Music activities. He and his wife, Sheila, have two grown children, both graduates of South Colonie.



**David Kiehle**



### Motto to run unopposed

Leonard Motto, of 20 Hackett Ave., is running unopposed for a new five-year term on the Board of Education. Last year, Motto was elected to fill the remaining year on the term of a former board member who died while in office.

Motto is a lifelong resident of South Colonie and a 1978 graduate of Colonie Central High School. He has been employed for the past nine years as Director of Operations for Camelot Legal Copy overseeing the daily operations of the copying production staff. As a member of the school board, Motto currently serves on the Policy Committee, the Audit and Finance Committee and the Accountability Committee. He is also the liaison for the Labor Management Committee.

He and his wife Sheryl, a special education teacher and Colonie Central High School graduate, have two teenage daughters, Tara and Rachel, both students at CCHS.

**Roessleville Elementary students take flight**

Roessleville Elementary School students enjoyed Dr. Quinton Quark's presentation of "Flight!" this spring. The educational program combined history, physics and comedy to show whose work lead the Wright Brothers to succeeding in self-sustained heavier than air flight.



**CCHS bands perform at Festival of Music event**

The Colonie Central High School wind ensemble and symphonic band were invited to perform at April's Festival of Music in Virginia. The Colonie bands competed against other high school bands from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.



The wind ensemble is directed by Lon Walker and the symphonic band by Joel Miller. A panel of college and U.S. military band directors judged the competition. The students also spent time touring Virginia Beach and Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia.

**June textbook Return Schedule for South Colonie Private and Parochial Students**

Textbooks loaned to private and parochial school students for the 2006-07 school year must be returned to the textbook depository located at Veeder Elementary School, 25 Veeder Drive, Colonie, no later than June 29, according to the following schedule:

- June 15 (Friday), 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- June 18-21 (Monday - Thursday), 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- June 25-28 (Monday - Thursday), 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- June 29 (Friday), 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Questions should be directed to Textbook Coordinator Madonna Katsares at 869-3576, Ext. 2454 or 464-1009.



**CCHS Line & Cue stages 'Little Shop of Horrors'**

The Colonie Central High School Line & Cue actors staged their annual spring musical — "Little Shop of Horrors" in March to large crowds.

## Sand Creek wins Puffs tissues contest

The sixth grade class at Sand Creek Middle School is a winner in the Puffs Plus Magical Moments contest.

Students were asked to enter their Puffs Plus Magical Moments as a class or as individuals, but James Brown's sixth grade class did both. The class submitted 23 individual entries and came together to produce one class video. Their commitment to the contest paid off.

As a result of their group effort, the sixth grade class won \$1,000 worth of Puffs Plus tissues for their school. The tissues were delivered in March. Additionally, sixth graders Jaelyn Welch and Kailey Kowalski were named winners of the individual essay portion of the contest. Each was awarded a savings bond valued at \$1,000 to help further her education.

In the video, the class came together to develop a creative skit about feeling better during cold and flu season. Jaelyn Welch's poem entitled, "Second Grade Sickness" is written in the Puffs poetic rhyme scheme and talks about a time she was sick and blew her nose with Puffs Plus tissue. Kailey Kowalski's poem entitled, "A Magical Moment" is also written in the Puffs poetic rhyme scheme and talks about a time when she was sick and had a runny nose and felt better after her mom gave her Puffs tissue and a cup of tea.



Sand Creek Middle School students in James Brown's class get a special delivery of Puffs tissues for winning the Puffs Plus Magical Moments contest.

## Colonie High trio takes second place at HVCC Viking Challenge event

Colonie Central High School students Sean Lee, Elizabeth Cardella and Elyn Fyan captured second place at Hudson Valley Community College's 11th annual Viking Challenge in Trivial Pursuit.

The Viking Challenge is a fast-paced, computerized trivia game based on the popular board game. The students won scientific calculators, Trivial Pursuit CD-Rom editions, Microsoft Encarta reference libraries and other prizes for their efforts.

A record number 19 teams from high schools around the region competed in the event held this spring in Hudson Valley's Bulmer

Telecommunications Center. The Viking Challenge is organized each year by HVCC's Office of School Programs and Educational Outreach. The office oversees the College in the High School initiative, which helps hundreds of high school students each year jump start their college careers by taking college-level courses in their high schools.

## Summer Music Program

**Looking for summer music? Check out the South Colonie Friends of Music Summer Music Program!**

July 9 - July 26

Monday - Thursday Mornings

At Sand Creek Middle School in Colonie

This program is open to students from all school districts. Enjoy band, chorus, orchestra, jazz, composition, theater, keyboard, small ensembles, percussion and more. Or enroll in four private lessons.

**For more information contact:**

Phone: 459-1220, Ext. 3453 or Email: [csymband@yahoo.com](mailto:csymband@yahoo.com)

## SkillsUSA award

Congratulations to Colonie Central High School student Jennifer Mahonski for winning an award for her knowledge of Office Technology/Computer Applications at the 2007 New York State SkillsUSA regional competition held this spring in Schenectady.

## South Colonie Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2006-07 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-08 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2007-08 School Year*
Total Budget amount	\$ 79,915,565	\$ 83,864,400	\$ 83,513,019
Increase/decrease for the 2007-08 school year		\$ 3,948,835	\$ 3,597,454
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		4.94%	4.50%
Change in the consumer price index		3.2%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2006-07 school year		\$ 59,398,417	\$ 59,047,036
Administrative component	\$ 7,284,698	\$ 7,329,443	\$ 7,323,199
Program component	\$ 60,797,232	\$ 64,535,834	\$ 64,288,197
Capital component	\$ 11,833,635	\$ 11,999,123	\$ 11,901,623

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2007-08 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.  
 Elimination of instructional and maintenance equipment and computer purchases.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact — Estimated Basic STAR<sup>2</sup> Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

	Budget Adopted for the 2006-07 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-08 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 446	\$ 444
School tax increase/decrease	\$ - 234	\$ - 8
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 212	\$ 436

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2007-08 by the qualified voters of the South Colonie Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Forest Park, Roessleville, Saddlewood, Shaker Road, and Veeder Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the above listed schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

**Michael Marcelle**  
 Superintendent of Schools

**Anthony DeBlois**  
 Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Beverly Miller**  
 Assistant Superintendent/  
 Management Services

**David Seaver**  
 Director of Human Resources

**Board of Education**  
 James (Tim) Ryan, President  
 Paul Gordon, Vice President  
 Brian Casey  
 Robert Domenici  
 Vernon Fonda  
 Shelle Jaquish  
 Neil Johanning  
 John Monteiro  
 Leonard Motto

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