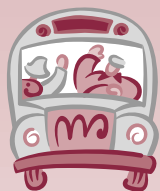


in

south  
colonie  
central  
schools



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South Colonie Schools will hold its Go Home Early Drill on November 10th. Students will be dismissed 15 minutes early to test the Emergency system.



# focus

Preparing World Class Citizens

October, 2011



### Did you know?

The annual replacement plan of the South Colonie school bus fleet has helped maintain student safety and control repair and maintenance costs.



## High grades for South Colonie school buses on state inspections

The South Colonie Transportation Department has earned a high rating on a recent New York State Department of Transportation school bus safety inspection report for the 2010-2011 school year.

Of the 164 district school transportation vehicles inspected by NYSDOT in June, 96.3 percent passed. All school buses are subject to a comprehensive inspection by NYSDOT at least every six months. Vehicles that do not pass are placed out of service until the problems are corrected.

NYSDOT performs semi-annual vehicle safety inspections on a wide variety of vehicles that are subject to inspections. Of approximately 154,000 inspections conducted each year, almost 80 percent are performed on vehicles used in school transportation service, either directly by a public or private school or by a contractor hired to provide that service.

The remaining inspections are performed on vehicles used in other services regulated by NYSDOT: motor coach charter service, transit, ambulette, etc. According to NYSDOT, South Colonie had an inspection passing rate of 96.3 percent in 2009-2010, and 92 percent in 2008-2009.

## New school buses on October voting ballot

**South Colonie residents to vote October 12**  
**Polls are open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

South Colonie residents will go to the polls on Wednesday, October 12th, to vote on the annual school bus proposition to upgrade the district Transportation Department. The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the district's five elementary schools. There is **NO** voting at the high school or middle schools. *(More voting information on back page)*

*Continued on back page ... school bus vote October 12*

**Jonathan W. Buhner**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Tim Backus**  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Sherri Fisher**  
Assistant Superintendent/  
Management Services and Strategic  
Planning

**David Seaver**  
Director of Human Resources

**Board of Education**  
Leonard Motto, President  
James (Tim) Ryan, Vice President  
Brian Casey  
Robert Domenici  
Rick Dunn  
Shelle Jaquish  
Neil Johanning  
David Kiehle  
Edward Sim

**In Focus Editor:** John K. Noetzel

## Can I vote?

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.

## 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)

## Absentee ballots online

Absentee ballots may now be downloaded online from the district web site. Look under the drop down menu under Transportation.

## SOUTH COLONIE

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## ... School bus vote October 12

*Continued from page 1*

The district is seeking voter approval to spend \$630,000 to purchase seven new transportation vehicles to meet the district's annual replacement schedule. The School Bus Proposition breaks down as follows:

- \$446,000 for the purchase of four, 66-passenger school buses, at \$111,500 per vehicle;
- \$115,000 for the purchase of one, 20-passenger school bus with two-wheelchair station;
- \$92,000 for the purchase of two, 20-passenger school bus vans at \$46,000 per vehicle.

Some have asked: Why vote on the purchase of new buses every year? The answer is simple. The annual replacement plan of the existing bus fleet has helped to maintain student safety and control repair and maintenance costs on older buses. A well thought out bus replacement plan is more cost effective and enables the district to consolidate routes and adjust its fleet as needed from year to year. The replacement plan has also helped the district establish an excellent safety record with the New York State Department of Transportation.

The district's 82-unit bus fleet travels nearly 1 million miles a year. The average life of a bus is 12 years and 150,000-175,000 miles. The buses are usually never retired for mechanical reasons, said Transportation Director Peter Tunny, but because the bodies wear out.

The total estimated cost of the seven new vehicles is \$653,000. After receiving an estimated \$23,000 trade-in value on the buses that will be taken out of service, the total cost to the district for the seven new vehicles would be \$630,000.

**The district also is eligible to receive 51 percent of the principal and interest cost in state aid making the district's net cost \$320,226 or 49 percent.** The money would be borrowed over a five-year period. The cost to South Colonie property owners would be about 2.6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value if the bus proposition is approved. On an average home/business property in the Town of Colonie assessed at \$150,000, the total cost would be about \$4 per property. *(See tax rate chart below).*

## Bus property tax impact

### Annual School Bus Purchase Proposition — \$630,000

*Estimated tax rate increase Year 1 (Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value)*

	<u>Colonie</u>	<u>Niskayuna</u>	<u>Guilderland</u>
Residential/Business	\$0.026701	\$0.018023	\$0.020897

