

in

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colonie
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schools

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May
2018

- Voting Information ... 2
- Revenue/expenditure charts 2
- Return on Investment 3
- BOE election 3



- Estimated taxes 4
- Budget summary 4
- Bus proposition 5
- Continued services ... 5
- Service expansions ... 5
- Budget notice 6



The 2018-2019 budget

South Colonie residents to vote May 15 on proposed \$102.19 million school spending plan

Polls open at all elementary schools 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

South Colonie Central School District residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 15, to vote on a proposed \$102.19 million budget for the 2018-2019 school year. 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*).



Following an extensive review of program priorities, the Board of Education adopted a proposed budget in April totaling \$102,196,466. The budget calls for a 2.75 percent spending increase over the current school year (see *details on page 2*), and an increase in the district tax levy of **2.95 percent** – below the state tax levy cap for South Colonie of 3.23 percent.

Although assessment and equalization rates will not be known until August, the district estimates the average Colonie property owner with a home market value of \$200,000 would pay \$8.70 per month more next school year to finance education (see *page 4 for more tax rate information*).

The South Colonie Board of Education, administration, and school community have worked together to advocate for increased New York State Foundation Aid. Board of Education members along with district officials met with elected officials to request progress toward full Foundation Aid funding in the future. With that work, some aid was restored for the coming budget year.

During 2018-2019 budget planning, the district adjusted for anti-

Continued on page 3

Proposed Budget at a Glance

- **Total 2018-2019 budget: \$102,196,466**
- **Property tax levy increase of 2.95 percent**
- **Budget-to-budget spending increase is 2.75 percent**
- **The district continues to focus on academic priorities, making use of its available resources**
- **Please vote on May 15 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. at one of the district's five elementary schools**



Students study in the new Forest Park Elementary School library, which opened in the fall.

Who can vote on May 15?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and are registered with the school district or the county Board of Elections. As posted previously, May 8 was the deadline to register with the district. Residents may vote at any location listed below.

Voting Hours

11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Voting Sites

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY

100 Forest Drive (518-869-3006)

ROESSLEVILLE ELEMENTARY

100 California Ave. (518-459-2157)

SADDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

100 Loralee Drive (518-456-2608)

SHAKER ROAD ELEMENTARY

512 Shaker Road (518-458-1440)

VEEDER ELEMENTARY

25 Veeder Drive (518-869-4661)

Absentee ballot applications are available by contacting the District Clerk at 518-869-3576 or by downloading an application from the district website. Absentee ballots must be submitted to the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 15.

Estimated revenues

| | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | Dollar Change |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Appropriated Fund Balance/Reserves | \$ 4,160,000 | \$ 4,088,414 | \$ - 71,586 |
| Continuing Education | 81,654 | 81,487 | - 167 |
| Interest on Investments | 40,000 | 150,000 | + 110,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,322,390 | 2,376,005 | + 53,615 |
| Rental-BOCES | 60,000 | 52,500 | - 7,500 |
| State Aid* | 22,927,492 | 23,519,512 | + 592,020 |
| Local Taxes | 69,316,336 | 71,361,168 | + 2,044,832 |
| Youth Detention Center | 409,377 | 427,380 | + 18,003 |
| Medicaid Reimbursement | 140,000 | 140,000 | 0 |
| TOTAL | \$99,457,249 | \$102,196,466 | + \$2,739,217 |

* As required by Education Laws 1608 and 1716, the district estimates its 2018-2019 State Aid to be \$23,519,512 or 23.01 percent of total revenues.

Estimated expenditures

| | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | Dollar Change |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Board of Education | \$ 59,693 | \$ 67,188 | + 7,495 |
| Chief School Admin. Office | 236,035 | 253,274 | + 17,239 |
| Finance | 782,043 | 816,164 | + 34,121 |
| Legal/Personnel/Public Information | 471,624 | 476,291 | + 4,667 |
| Operation & Maintenance | 5,462,489 | 5,261,338 | - 201,151 |
| Messenger & Mailing | 152,296 | 140,344 | - 11,952 |
| Information Technology | 474,058 | 497,523 | + 23,465 |
| Special Items | 883,314 | 926,106 | + 42,792 |
| Instructional Improvement/Admin. | 2,984,978 | 3,031,620 | + 46,642 |
| Regular Instruction | 33,779,372 | 34,294,493 | + 515,121 |
| Special Education | 11,925,178 | 12,894,559 | + 969,381 |
| Occupational Education | 419,358 | 428,717 | + 9,359 |
| Summer School | 178,362 | 208,955 | + 30,593 |
| Instructional Library/Media | 1,138,545 | 1,116,529 | - 22,016 |
| Instructional Technology | 1,015,538 | 1,129,112 | + 113,574 |
| Pupil Services | 2,584,428 | 2,475,901 | - 108,527 |
| Co-Curricular Activities | 178,082 | 191,973 | + 13,891 |
| Interscholastic Athletics | 668,375 | 681,696 | + 13,321 |
| Transportation | 4,037,249 | 3,950,901 | - 86,348 |
| Community Services | 491,031 | 509,310 | + 18,279 |
| Employee Benefits | 26,519,912 | 27,741,876 | + 1,221,964 |
| Debt Service | 4,435,289 | 4,848,916 | + 413,627 |
| Interfund Transfers | 580,000 | 253,680 | - 326,320 |
| TOTAL | \$99,457,249 | \$102,196,466 | +2,739,217 |

Newcomers running unopposed for Board of Education

Two newcomers, Stephanie Cogan and Colleen Gizzi, are running unopposed for two open seats on the Board of Education. Incumbents Christine Badger Mele and Shelle Jaquish are not seeking re-election to office.



Stephanie Cogan

Stephanie Cogan is a lifelong resident of the district. She became active in district affairs when her children were in school, serving in officer roles on the Shaker Road Elementary School and Colonie Central High School PTAs, and as PTA Council president. She has also served on many district stakeholder committees. Cogan earned a bachelor's

degree in Finance from Pennsylvania State University and served as a commissioned bank examiner for the federal government for nine years. She has also been self-employed for 16 years in the management of professional associations. She is president of the South Colonie Girls Lacrosse Booster Club, trustee at Christ Our Light Church, and former treasurer of Boy Scout Troop 1022. She and her husband, Jim, have three children, two CCHS graduates and a CCHS sophomore.

Colleen Gizzi

Colleen Grizzi is seeking her first term on the school board. A graduate of Colonie Central High School's Class of 1982, she is the former owner of Copies by Colleen, a commercial copier for medical and business records. She has also worked since 2005 as an administrative assistant at Cool Insuring Agency. Gizzi has been a volunteer at Animal Lovers in Albany for many years, helping to rescue and rehabilitate animals. She has also been actively involved in girls youth ice hockey. She and her husband, Brian, have one daughter and two grandchildren.



... Budget overview

Continued from page 1

ated state aid increases combined with increased expenditures in areas that can fluxuate on an annual basis. Overall, the administration and Board of Education have worked to make sure the programs and supports reinstated this school year remain in place for the 2018-2019 school year.

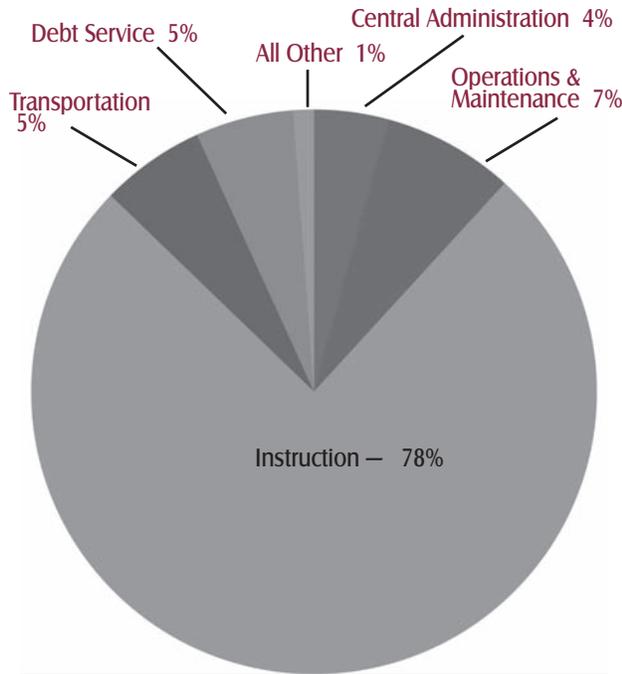
In addition to maintaining current programming, the district is proposing the following additions in the area of instruction (*see page 5 for more details*):

- An additional school psychologist to address changes within the special needs continuum
- Additional support for clinical mental health services
- Additional Special Education teachers to continue the district's co-teaching/inclusion initiative for students with special needs
- Additional teachers for academic support in the areas of Mathematics, English, Science, Foreign Language, Social Studies, Adaptive Physical Education, Speech and English as a New Language

South Colonie Return on Investment

- Academically, South Colonie is ranked 11th out of 83 Capital Region School Districts. (Buffalo Business First Guide to Upstate School Districts).
- The district's 4-year graduation rate is at 92 percent.
- The district was nationally recognized as a "Best Community For Music Education."
- The district continues to implement its 1.69 megawatt solar power initiative.
- The district continues to focus on elementary early literacy as well as expanding college credit opportunities at the high school level.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 graduates go on to attend two- and four-year colleges and universities. The Class of 2017 was accepted into numerous colleges and universities such as: Aesthetic Science Institute, Albany College of Pharmacy, Arizona State, Binghamton University, Boston University, Cazenovia, Clarkson, Colgate, College of Saint Rose, Cornell, Eckerd, Endicott, Farleigh Dickinson, Hofstra, HVCC, Liberty, Mount Ida, University of New Hampshire, Northeastern, RPI, Rhode Island, Roberts Wesleyan, RIT, Roger Williams, Russell Sage, SCCC, Siena, St. John Fisher, UAlbany, Union, University of Buffalo, Utica College and University of Vermont.
- The district is completing construction on the Colonie 2020 Phases I & II Capital Improvement Project. This work modernized facilities for Art, Music, and Technology at Colonie Central High School, added WiFi and voiceover Internet phone systems districtwide, and new libraries at Roessleville and Forest Park elementary schools. Planning for Colonie 2020 Phases III & IV is ongoing, with a projected groundbreaking date during summer 2020.

2018-2019 Budget Breakdown



Estimated Property Tax Rate

| Year | Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value | | |
|----------|--|-------------|-----------|
| | Colonie | Guilderland | Niskayuna |
| 2017-18 | \$26.57 | \$23.39 | \$17.68 |
| *2018-19 | \$27.36 | \$24.08 | \$18.20 |

* Tax rates and increases for next year are estimates only. The district will set final tax rates in August based on final assessment figures and equalization rates as provided by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services.

What will the budget cost property owners in 2018-2019?

* Colonie home market valued at **\$175,000** = **\$7.61 more per month**

* Colonie home market valued at **\$200,000** = **\$8.70 more per month**

* Colonie home market valued at **\$225,000** = **\$9.78 more per month**

* Estimates above do not include the impact of other exemptions such as STAR, Alternative Veterans, Senior Citizens, disabilities, etc.

Budget Summary

New York State law requires all school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories – Program, Administrative and Capital – and compare them to the current year's amounts. South Colonie's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

PROGRAM BUDGET CATEGORY

| | <u>2017-2018</u> | <u>2018-2019</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dollar amount | \$78,515,573 | \$81,029,202 |
| % of Total Budget | 78.94% | 79.29% |

The Program category includes: salaries and benefits of teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks and equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics and transportation costs (except bus purchases).

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET CATEGORY

| | <u>2017-2018</u> | <u>2018-2019</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dollar amount | \$9,446,211 | \$9,757,594 |
| % of Total Budget | 9.50% | 9.55% |

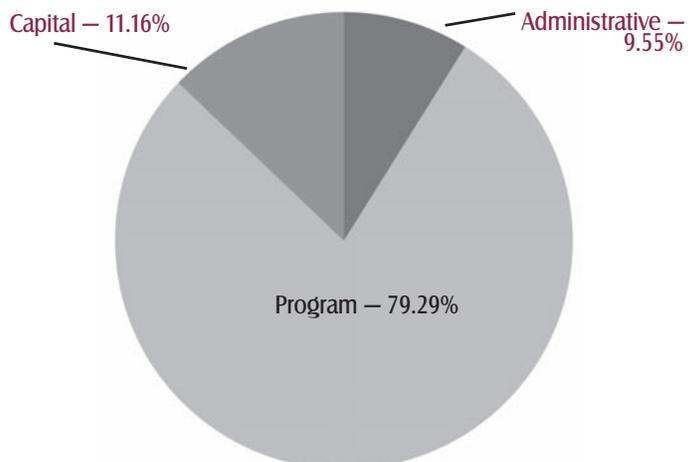
The Administrative category includes: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; curriculum and staff development; school board costs; tax collection and some legal costs.

CAPITAL BUDGET CATEGORY

| | <u>2017-2018</u> | <u>2018-2019</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dollar amount | \$11,495,465 | \$11,409,670 |
| % of Total Budget | 11.56% | 11.16% |

The Capital category includes: salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff; debt service on buildings; school bus purchases; utilities; general insurance; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.

2018-2019 BUDGET SUMMARY



School bus replacement plan proposal to purchase 10 buses on May 15 ballot

South Colonie residents will be asked to consider a special proposition on the May 15 ballot allowing for the purchase of 10 school bus vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$1,072,500. The purchase is eligible for New York State Transportation Aid of 54.1 percent — **making the average annual net cost to the district \$123,192 after the aid.** Similar to previous years, money to fund the purchase would be borrowed over five years. The average annual net tax impact would be less than 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value after aid. The first payment would not be due until the 2019-2020 school year. The proposed purchase plan helps the district to replace older, high mileage/high maintenance buses which eventually become expensive to repair.

The proposition calls for purchasing:

- Six 66-passenger school buses
- One 24-passenger wheelchair bus
- One 36-passenger school bus
- One 16-passenger school bus
- One 6-passenger bus



The proposition's average annual net cost to the district to purchase 10 new school buses would be \$123,192 after NYS Transportation Aid or less than 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Service expansions in the proposed budget

- Support for K-4 clinical mental health services
- Expanded Summer Literacy Program - 5 additional sections
- 2.5 Special Education teachers to continue the district's co-teaching/inclusion initiative for students with special needs
- 1.0 School psychologist to address special needs continuum changes
- 1.8 Mathematics teachers
- 0.6 English teacher
- 0.2 Science teacher
- 0.4 Foreign Language teacher
- 1.6 Social Studies teachers
- 0.2 Adaptive Physical Education teacher
- 0.2 Speech teacher
- 1.0 teacher assistant for the English as a New Language program
- Continued installation of security cameras in all buildings
- Replacement of non-functioning scoreboards at Sand Creek Middle School
- Replacement of a dump truck with a plow, a utility truck, and other required equipment for the Operations & Maintenance Department
- Ongoing support of Instructional Technology priorities including the 1:1 device initiative at Colonie High School
- Increasing the Wide Area Network Internet connection to ensure student access (300 MB to 1 GB bandwidth)

Services continued in the proposed budget

- K-4 after school academic support programs
- Additional K-12 Academic Intervention Services (AIS)
- Training and support for the implementation of student academic growth software
- Additional staffing to support the district's co-teaching/inclusion initiative for students with special needs
- Additional social work support to address student and family needs
- Staff training to support the district's ongoing initiative related to technology utilization for teachers using technology as instructional tools for students

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South Colonie Central School District Budget Notice

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year | Contingent Budget for the 2018-19 School Year* |
|---|--|---|--|
| Total Budget Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$99,457,249 | \$102,196,466 | \$100,151,634 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year | | \$2,739,217 | \$694,385 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 2.75% | 0.70% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) | | 2.13% | |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$69,316,336 | \$71,361,168 | |
| 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) | \$69,316,336 | \$71,361,168 | \$69,316,336 |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit | \$2,493,875 | \$2,729,496 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$69,197,937 | \$68,826,545 | |
| H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>Excluding</u> Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D) | \$66,822,461 | \$68,631,672 | |
| I. Difference (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | \$2,375,476 | \$194,873 | |
| Administrative Component | \$9,446,211 | \$9,757,594 | \$9,559,356 |
| Program Component | \$ 78,515,573 | \$81,029,202 | \$79,410,902 |
| Capital Component | \$11,495,465 | \$11,409,670 | \$11,181,376 |

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingent budget for the 2018-19 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 Education Law:
Elimination of all non-contingent items: equipment purchases (\$558,951) and further reductions (\$1,485,881) in teaching, administration and non-instructional program areas would be necessary to reduce the tax levy to the 2017-18 level as required by the current contingent budget rules.

**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 |
|--|--------------------|
| School bus purchase of 10 school buses, financed over 5 years. No financial impact in the 2018-19 budget. The first debt payment would be due in the 2019-20 school year. The average annual net cost after Transportation Aid is projected at \$123,192 per year. | \$1,072,500 |

| | Under Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year |
|---|---|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹ | \$545.78 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 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, 2018 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.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.