

South Colonie Schools

District Remains Below Tax Levy Limitation While Maintaining Academic Programming

- **Proposed tax levy increase of 2.95% which is below the NYS Tax Levy Limitation**
- **Proposed budget-to-budget spending increase of 2.75% or \$2,739,217**

South Colonie Central School District staff members have spent the last few months developing an operational spending plan to balance the proposed 2018-2019 school budget. The Board of Education, Administrative Team, and the school community have made significant efforts to advocate for reasonable state aid increases for the 2018-19 school year. The District has worked diligently to maintain critical program restorations which were implemented during the 2017-18 school year. Many of the programs that were restored are designed to support individual growth and provide important intervention services. These essential supports have been maintained and targeted academic programs have been added for the upcoming year, to ensure the needs of our students can be met.

What will the budget cost property owners?

- 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

Please note the overall tax base growth within District boundaries may further reduce the actual cost per month for homeowners. Over the last two years, the actual levy percentage was lower than the projected number provided in the annual budget newsletter.



Service expansions in the proposed 2018-2019 budget

- ▶ Support for Clinical Mental Health Services K-4
- ▶ Expanded Summer Literacy Program - 5 additional sections
- ▶ 2.5 Special Education Teachers to continue the District's Co-Teaching/Inclusion initiatives for students with Special Needs
- ▶ 1.0 School Psychologist to address changes in the continuum
- ▶ 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

- continued on back

Services continued in the proposed 2018-2019 budget

- ▶ K-4 after school academic support programs
- ▶ Additional K-12 Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Training and support for the implementation of student 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
- ▶ Staffing and training to support the District's ongoing initiatives related to technology utilization among students and staff members

South Colonie has a great deal to be proud of

- ▶ 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 92 percent.
- ▶ Nationally recognized as a "Best Community For Music Education."
- ▶ Continued implementation of the District's 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 or four year colleges and universities. The Class of 2017 was accepted into many excellent 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 CCHS, added WiFi and District-wide voiceover Internet phone systems, as well as new libraries at Roessleville and Forest Park Elementary Schools. Planning for Colonie 2020 Phases III & IV is ongoing with a projected groundbreaking date of summer, 2020.

SOUTH COLONIE

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Service expansions proposed in budget

- continued from front

- ▶ 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 and other required equipment for the Operations & Maintenance Department
- ▶ Replacement of a utility truck for the Operations & Maintenance Department
- ▶ Ongoing support of Instructional Technology priorities including the 1:1 device initiative at Colonie Central High School
- ▶ Increasing the Wide Area Network (WAN) Internet connection to ensure student access (300 MG to 1 GB bandwidth)

If a special bus proposition is approved by voters, the District would purchase 10 new school buses of various sizes to continue its 8-year replacement plan. This would include six (66) passenger, one (24) passenger wheelchair, one (36) passenger, one (16) passenger and one (6) passenger buses.

Budget Dates

Public Hearing on the Budget

Tuesday, May 8, 7 p.m.,
Saddlewood Elementary
School Cafetorium

Regular Board of Education meeting,
immediately following Public Hearing

Voting on the Budget

Tuesday, May 15

11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Voting is held at the five elementary schools: Forest Park, Shaker Road, Roessleville, Saddlewood and Veeder

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Budget Summary

The budget proposed for the 2018-2019 school year maintains critical programming for South Colonie students and adds targeted support to address identified academic priorities. We have allocated available resources carefully, while still remaining below the New York State Tax Levy Limitation. Thank you for reviewing this information. If you have questions please contact the District Office at (518) 869-3576, or visit the website for updated budget development information.