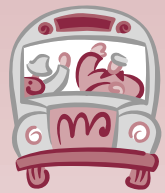


in

south  
colonie  
central  
schools



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# focus

## Preparing World Class Citizens



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May  
2019

### The 2019-2020 budget

**South Colonie residents to vote May 21 on proposed \$104.88 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 21, to vote on a proposed \$104.88 million budget for the 2019-2020 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 \$104,879,374. The budget calls for a 2.63 percent spending increase over the current school year (see details on page 2), and an increase in the District tax levy of **1.04 percent** – below the state tax levy cap for South Colonie of 1.18 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 \$3.02 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 in the implementation of full Foundation Aid funding in the future. With that work, limited aid was restored for the coming budget year.

The governor had proposed in his executive budget in January a \$40,608

*Continued on page 5*

### Proposed Budget at a Glance

- Total 2019-2020 budget is \$104,879,374
- Property tax levy increase of 1.04 percent
- Budget-to-Budget spending increase is 2.63 percent
- The District continues to focus on academic priorities, making use of its available resources
- Please vote on May 21 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. at one of the District's five elementary schools



Colonie Central High School iCARE students collected and donated some 300 items to Equinox Inc. this school year, supporting efforts to combat domestic violence.

## Who can vote on May 21?

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 14 is this year's deadline to register with the school district. Registered 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 21.*

## Estimated revenues

	2018-19	2019-20	Dollar Change
Appropriated Fund Balance/Reserves	\$ 4,288,414	\$ 4,429,647	\$ + 141,233
Continuing Education	81,487	82,670	+ 1,183
Interest on Investments	150,000	450,000	+ 300,000
Miscellaneous	2,376,005	2,624,474	+ 248,469
Rental-BOCES	52,500	24,000	- 28,500
State Aid*	23,519,512	24,765,097	+ 1,245,585
Local Taxes	71,161,168	71,900,000	+ 738,832
Youth Detention Center	427,380	453,486	+ 26,106
Medicaid Reimbursement	140,000	150,000	+ 10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$102,196,466</b>	<b>\$104,879,374</b>	<b>+ \$2,682,908</b>

\* As required by Education Laws 1608 and 1716, the district estimates its 2019-2020 State Aid to be \$24,765,097 or 23.61 percent of total revenues.

## Estimated expenditures

	2018-19	2019-20	Dollar Change
Board of Education	\$ 67,188	\$ 67,016	- 172
Chief School Admin. Office	253,274	259,542	+ 6,268
Finance	816,164	845,552	+ 29,388
Legal/Personnel/Public Information	476,291	488,996	+ 12,705
Operation & Maintenance	5,261,338	5,250,444	- 10,894
Messenger & Mailing	140,344	134,810	- 5,534
Information Technology	497,523	1,251,282	+ 753,759
Special Items	926,106	917,125	- 8,981
Instructional Improvement/Admin.	3,031,620	2,888,310	- 143,310
Regular Instruction	34,294,493	35,082,538	+ 788,045
Special Education	12,894,559	14,142,959	+ 1,248,400
Occupational Education	428,717	429,065	+ 348
Summer School	208,955	216,369	+ 7,414
Instructional Library/Media	1,116,529	1,047,381	- 69,148
Instructional Technology	1,129,112	878,842	- 250,270
Pupil Services	2,475,901	2,706,112	+ 230,211
Co-Curricular Activities	191,973	218,777	+ 26,804
Interscholastic Athletics	681,696	838,926	+ 157,230
Transportation	3,950,901	4,239,324	+ 288,423
Community Services	509,310	536,261	+ 26,951
Employee Benefits	27,741,876	27,482,979	- 258,897
Debt Service	4,848,916	4,748,324	- 100,592
Interfund Transfers	253,680	208,440	- 45,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$102,196,466</b>	<b>\$104,879,374</b>	<b>+ 2,682,908</b>

# Three running unopposed for Board of Education

Full Board of Education bios can be found on the District website



## James Tim Ryan

James Tim Ryan has served on the South Colonie Board of Education since 1994 and is seeking a new five-year term. He served as School Board President for 12 years and has been chair and/or member of numerous school board committees. He has also served as school board liaison for Town of Colonie Planning and Labor Management. Ryan has also presented at the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) and National School Board Association (NSBA) conventions. He was elected to the Colonie Central High School Hall of Fame in 2016. He is a 1970 graduate of Siena College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He worked in New York state government for 35 years, starting with the Commission for the Blind and Visual Handicapped, teaching visually impaired individuals business and independent life skills. He went on to manage and administer several statewide programs to help low income families and the elderly, including Food Stamp Outreach, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program), and EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit Program).

## David Kiehle

David Kiehle began serving on the South Colonie Board of Education in 2009 and is seeking a new five-year term. He is a former School Board President and Vice President. He has lived in the District for more than 40 years. Now retired, he had been employed for 39 years as a Mathematics Teacher at Shaker High School in Latham, and still works part time as an Adjunct Mathematics Teacher at Siena College. Kiehle earned Master's Degrees in Advanced Classroom Teaching of Mathematics and Educational Administration, and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics Education, 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 helped with numerous South Colonie PTA and Friends of Music activities.



## Mike Keane

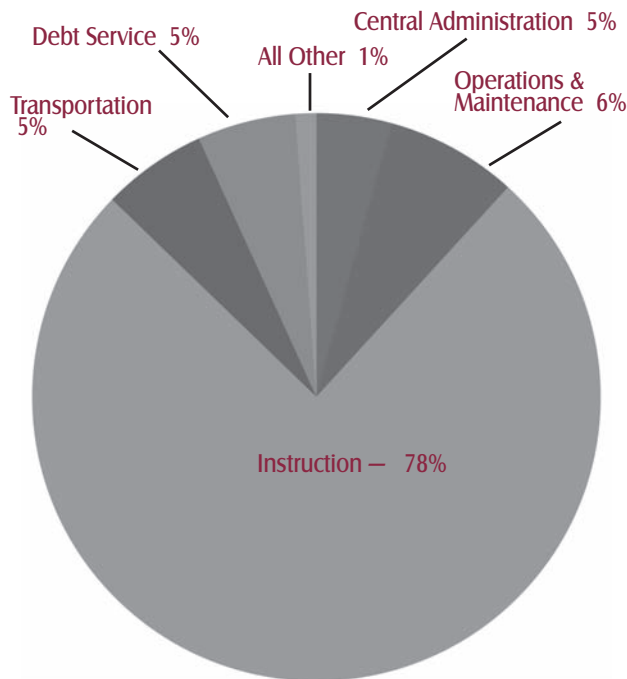
Mike Keane is running for his first term on the Board of Education. He has lived in the District for 16 years. Keane is employed as the Assistant Director of Human Resources for Living Resources Corporation. A 1992 graduate of Colonie Central High School, Keane earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the College of Saint Rose. He is PTA President at Sand Creek Middle School, Male Engagement Specialist for the Northeast Region of NY State PTA, Board Member of the South Colonie Youth Baseball/Girls Softball League and Manager/Coach of the South Colonie Girls Softball League. He is a former South Colonie PTA Council President, former President of the Roessville Elementary School PTA, and former Board Member of the Capital Region Human Resources Association.



# South Colonie Return on Investment

- South Colonie is ranked 15th academically out of 83 Capital Region School Districts. Additionally, the District is currently ranked fourth in administrative efficiency. (*Buffalo Business First Guide to Upstate School Districts*).
- The District's 5-year graduation rate is 92 percent.
- The District continues to offer summer programming to support academic progress. Examples include Literacy Academy, Special Needs Summer School, and 5-12 Summer School.
- The District continues to focus on elementary early literacy programs, middle school STEM initiatives, and expanded college credit opportunities for high school students.
- The District was nationally recognized as a "Best Community For Music Education."
- The Class of 2018 was accepted into competitive colleges and universities: Albany College of Pharmacy, Binghamton, Boston University, Bowie State, Bronx CC, Bucknell, Castleton, Chowan, Endicott, Erie CC, Georgia State, Hartwick, HVCC, Ithaca, Johnson & Wales, Keene State, Kingsborough CC, LeMoyne, Maria, Marist, Monmouth, New Hampshire, Niagara CC, Penn State, Queen's University, RPI, Russell Sage, Sacred Heart, Saint Rose, Savannah College, SCCC, Siena, Springfield College, St. John's Fisher, SUNY (Adirondack, Albany, Alfred, Buffalo, Canton, Cobleskill, Delhi, Fredonia, Geneseo, New Paltz, Oneonta, Oswego, Plattsburgh, Polytechnic, Potsdam, and Stony Brook), Syracuse, Tampa, Temple, UMass-Lowell, UNC-Wilmington, Union, Utica, and University of Vermont.
- Colonie 2020 Phase III planning is complete and has been submitted to the New York State Office of Facilities Planning for review and approval. This Districtwide renovation project is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2020.

## 2019-2020 Budget Breakdown



## Estimated Property Tax Rate

Year	Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value		
	Colonie	Guilderland	Niskayuna
2018-19	\$27.13	\$22.42	\$17.46
*2019-20	\$27.42	\$22.65	\$17.64

\* 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 2019-2020?

\* Colonie home market valued at **\$175,000** = **\$2.64 more per month**

\* Colonie home market valued at **\$200,000** = **\$3.02 more per month**

\* Colonie home market valued at **\$225,000** = **\$3.40 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>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Dollar amount	\$81,029,202	\$83,278,518
% of Total Budget	79.29%	79.40%

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>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Dollar amount	\$9,757,594	\$10,449,253
% of Total Budget	9.55%	9.97%

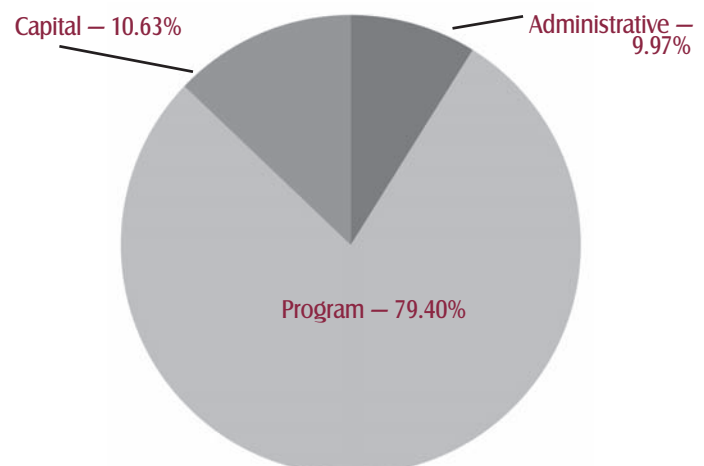
The Administrative category includes: salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors and administrative clerical staff; public information and printing; curriculum and staff development; school board costs; tax collection and some legal costs.

### CAPITAL BUDGET CATEGORY

	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Dollar amount	\$11,409,670	\$11,151,603
% of Total Budget	11.16%	10.63%

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.

### 2019-2020 BUDGET SUMMARY



# South Colonie community members will be voting on three items on May 21...



## Highlights in the proposed 2019-2020 District budget

- Additional staffing to support the District's K-12 Co-Teaching/Inclusion initiative for Special Needs students
- Additional 0.50 ENL Teacher and 0.10 Family & Consumer Science Teacher
- Additional Social Worker and Mental Health Clinician to provide more mental health support for students
- Additional training to support ongoing initiatives related to the use of Instructional Technology among students and staff
- Increased Committee on Special Education support for Special Education Program oversight
- Continued K-12 Academic Intervention Services
- Continued training for the implementation and use of software focusing on academic growth
- Continued installation of internal and external security cameras in various buildings
- Replacement of a utility truck with a plow for the Operations and Maintenance Department



### Proposition No. 1 – 2019-2020 District Budget

Consideration of the proposed 2019-2020 operational budget with a **levy increase of 1.04 percent** (which is below the New York State Tax Levy Limitation) with a proposed spending increase of 2.63 percent or \$2,682,908.



### Proposition No. 2 – School Bus Purchases

School Bus Replacement Plan to purchase 10 school buses of various sizes to allow continuation of the District's 8-year replacement plan. This includes (7) 66-passenger buses, (1) 35-passenger bus, (1) 6-passenger utility vehicle bus and (1) 6-passenger minivan bus. The total estimated cost of the bus proposition is \$1,082,700. After state aid the District's average net cost would be \$123,100 or 4.46 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value per year. On an average property in the Town of Colonie assessed at \$150,000, the average cost would be \$6.69 annually.



### Proposition No. 3 – School Safety Capital Project Proposal

School safety capital project proposal to replace the fire alarm and public address systems in all five elementary schools, along with improving the high school multi-use gymnasium sound system. The total cost for both projects would not exceed \$750,000 and the funding would come from the Capital Reserve Fund. **There would be no tax increase for this school safety project.**

## ... Budget overview

*Continued from page 1*

or 0.25 percent (quarter of 1 percent) increase in Foundation Aid for 2019-2020 over the current school year. Foundation Aid is the District's primary source of state funding for everyday school operations. The final state budget slightly added to that Foundation Aid total for South Colonie, with an increase of \$121,826 or 0.75 percent (three quarters of 1 percent) over the current school year.

During 2019-2020 budget planning, the District adjusted for anticipated state aid increases combined with increased expenditures in areas that can fluctuate on an annual basis. Overall, the administration and Board of Education have worked to address the most immediate needs and make sure the programs and supports reinstated this school year remain in place for the 2019-2020 school year (*see list in the box on the left*).

In addition to maintaining current programming, the District is proposing the following staffing additions: 6.5 Special Education Teachers, 6 Special Education Teaching Assistants, 1 Mental Health Clinician, 1 Social Worker, 0.50 English as a New Language Teacher, and 0.10 Family & Consumer Science Teacher.

Board of Education  
 Ed Sim, President  
 Rose Gigliello, Vice President  
 Jamie Blot  
 Brian Casey  
 Stephanie Cogan  
 Colleen Gizzi  
 Neil Johanning  
 David Kiehle  
 James Tim Ryan

Jonathan W. Buhner  
 Superintendent of Schools

Tim Backus  
 Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Sherri Fisher  
 Assistant Superintendent for  
 Management Services and Strategic Planning

David Perry  
 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources,  
 Safe Schools, and IT

# SOUTH COLONIE

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## South Colonie Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingent Budget for the 2019-20 School Year*
<b>Total Budget Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</b>	<b>\$102,196,466</b>	<b>\$104,879,374</b>	<b>\$104,140,542</b>
<b>Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year</b>		<b>\$2,682,908</b>	<b>\$1,944,076</b>
<b>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</b>		<b>2.63%</b>	<b>1.90%</b>
<b>Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI)</b>		<b>2.44%</b>	
<b>A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>\$71,161,168</b>	<b>\$71,900,000</b>	
<b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$71,161,168</b>	<b>\$71,900,000</b>	<b>\$71,161,168</b>
<b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>	<b>\$2,722,914</b>	<b>\$1,750,579</b>	
<b>G. School Tax Levy Limit Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>	<b>\$68,739,077</b>	<b>\$70,249,862</b>	
<b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b>	<b>\$68,438,254</b>	<b>\$70,149,421</b>	
<b>I. Difference (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>	<b>\$300,823</b>	<b>\$100,441</b>	
<b>Administrative Component</b>	<b>\$9,757,594</b>	<b>\$10,449,253</b>	<b>\$10,008,643</b>
<b>Program Component</b>	<b>\$ 81,029,202</b>	<b>\$83,278,518</b>	<b>\$83,058,856</b>
<b>Capital Component</b>	<b>\$11,409,670</b>	<b>\$11,151,603</b>	<b>\$11,073,043</b>

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingent budget for the 2019-20 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 Education Law:  
 Elimination of all non-contingent items including equipment purchases and further reductions in non-instructional program and administrative areas would be necessary to reduce the tax levy to the 2018-19 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
Proposition #2: School Bus Purchase of 10 buses, financed over 5 years. No financial impact in 2019-20. The first payment would be made in 2020-21. Average annual net cost after aid is \$123,100 or 4.46 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.	<b>\$1,082,700</b>
Proposition #3: School Safety Capital Improvement Project to replace Fire Alarm and Public Address Systems in various schools and complete sound system upgrades in the Colonie Central High School Multi-Use Gymnasium. Project to be funded from the District Capital Reserve. There is no tax increase for the project.	<b>\$750,000</b>

	Under Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
<b>Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$528.58</b>

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 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 21, 2019, 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.

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