

# South Colonie Schools

## District Remains Below Tax Levy Limitation While Maintaining Academic Programming

- **Proposed tax levy increase of 1.04% which is below the NYS Tax Levy Limitation**
- **Proposed budget-to-budget spending increase of 2.63% or \$2,682,908**

South Colonie Central School District staff members have spent the last few months developing an operational spending plan to balance the proposed 2019-2020 school budget. As would be expected, the Board of Education, Administrative Team, and the school community have made significant efforts to advocate for reasonable state aid increases for the 2019-20 school year. The District has also worked diligently to maintain critical programs added or implemented over the past several years. Many of the programs that have been restored are designed to support individual academic student success, and provide valuable intervention services.

## What will the budget cost property owners?

- 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

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

*First graders at Veeder Elementary School work on a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) experiment. The challenge was to build a bridge to help the Gingerbread Man cross the river and escape from the Tricky Fox.*



## Highlights in the proposed 2019-2020 budget

- ▶ Additional instructional staffing to support the District's Co-Teaching/Inclusion initiative
- ▶ Additional 0.50 ENL Teacher and 0.10 Family & Consumer Science Teacher
- ▶ Additional 1.0 Social Worker and 1.0 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 administrative support for Special Education oversight
- ▶ Continued K-12 Academic Intervention Services
- ▶ Continued training for the implementation 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

## Did you know?

- ▶ More than half of the Class of 2018 earned an Advanced Regents diploma
- ▶ In May of 2018, 254 students completed 364 AP exams
- ▶ The Class of 2018 received more than \$2.8 million in college scholarships
- ▶ Nearly 9 of 10 graduates go on to attend 2- or 4-year colleges and universities, vocational schools or join the military
- ▶ 65 percent of the Class of 2018 was involved in athletics and/or student clubs and organizations
- ▶ South Colonie student athletes have been named NYS Scholar Athletes for numerous years

## Taking pride in South Colonie achievement ...

- ▶ South Colonie is ranked 15th academically out of 83 Capital Region School Districts. Additionally, the District is currently ranked 4th 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 is nationally recognized as a "Best Community For Music Education."
- ▶ The District continues to focus on elementary early literacy programs, middle school Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math initiatives, and expanded college credit opportunities for high school students.
- ▶ The Class of 2018 was accepted into excellent colleges and universities: Albany College of Pharmacy, Binghamton, Boston University, Bowie State, Bronx CC, Bucknell, Castleton, Chowan, Saint Rose, Endicott, Erie CC, Georgia State, Hartwick, HVCC, Ithaca, Johnson & Wales, Keene State, Kingsborough CC, LeMoyne, Maria, Marist, UMass-Lowell, Monmouth, New Hampshire, Niagara CC, UNC-Wilmington, Penn State, Queen's University, RPI, Sacred Heart, Savannah College, SCCC, Siena, St. John's Fisher, SUNY New Paltz, Stony Brook, Adirondack, Albany, Alfred, Buffalo, Cobleskill, Geneseo, Oneonta, Potsdam, Canton, Delhi, Fredonia, Oswego, Plattsburgh, Polytechnic, Syracuse, Tampa, Temple, Sage, Union, Utica, and Vermont.
- ▶ Colonie 2020 Phase III planning is complete and has been submitted to the New York State Office of Facilities Management for review and approval. This District-wide renovation project is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2020. Stay tuned for more information.

## SOUTH COLONIE

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## Budget Dates

### Public Hearing on the Budget

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

Regular Board of Education meeting,  
immediately following Public Hearing

### Voting on the Budget

Tuesday, May 21

11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Albany, New York  
Permit #135

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



1

The District's 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.



2

School Bus Replacement Plan to purchase 10 school buses of various sizes to continue 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. On an average property in the Town of Colonie assessed at \$150,000, the average cost would be \$6.69 annually.



3

School safety/capital project proposal to replace fire alarm and public address systems in all elementary schools and improve 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 Summary

The budget proposed for the 2019-2020 school year maintains critical programming for South Colonie students and adds targeted support to address identified academic and social/emotional needs. We have worked to allocate available resources carefully, while maintaining a low tax levy. 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.