The 2023–24 Budget
South Colonie residents to vote May 16 on proposed $122 million school spending plan

The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Sand Creek and Lisha Kill Middle Schools.

Following an extensive review of program priorities and evaluation of feedback from the school community, the South Colonie Board of Education adopted a proposed budget on April 19 totaling $122,194,702.

Budget highlights include an increase in projected foundation aid (24.4%) allowing South Colonie to sustain programs and academic opportunities for students, many which have been grant funded through stimulus funds for the past two years.

Additional priorities include the expansion of ENL (English as a new language) programming, expansion of universal pre-K programming, strengthening the continuum of services for our special education population, and planning for both the sustainability of our programs, staffing, and facilities for the next generation of Colonie.

The budget calls for a 7.7% spending increase over the current school year and an increase in the district tax levy of 1.99%—this is below the district’s projected tax levy limit of 2.19%. The spending plan factors a rise in expenses including health insurance, salaries and overall inflation.

Although assessments 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 $5.31 per month more in school taxes next year under the proposed spending plan (tax rate estimates can be found on page 2).

BUS PROPOSITION

In addition to voting on the school budget on Tuesday, May 16, South Colonie residents will be asked to consider authorizing the purchase of eight replacement school buses of various sizes—six (6) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 18/3 wheelchair bus and one (1) 42 passenger bus—overall cost not to exceed $1,518,000.

The bus purchase is part of an ongoing bus replacement plan designed to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards while allowing the district to phase out older, high mileage vehicles to avoid the cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service. Bus purchases are financed over a five year period and aided simultaneously. This proposition has no projected tax impact.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Two seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a five-year term.

In addition to voting on the proposed budget and propositions, on May 16, voters will elect candidates to fill two open seats on the Board of Education.

Stephanie Cogan is running unopposed for reelection for a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2028.

Three candidates are running for a five-year term expiring on June 30, 2028, to succeed Colleen Gizzi.

Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot:
- Eric McDowell
- Thomas (TJ) Blakley
- Denise Gangi-Pollacek

CANDIDATE BIOS AND BUDGET Q&A CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.SOUTHCOLONIESCHOOLS.ORG

**2023–24 BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Assigned Polling Locations</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
<th>On the Ballot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sand Creek Middle School</td>
<td>$122,194,702</td>
<td>Proposition 1: Annual Operating Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>329 Sand Creek Rd., Colonie, NY 12205</td>
<td>Budget-to-Budget spending increase 7.7%</td>
<td>Proposition 2: Bus Purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisha Kill Middle School</td>
<td>Property Tax Levy increase 1.99%</td>
<td>Board of Education Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 Waterman Ave., Colonie, NY 12205</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Budget Summary**

**PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>$91,542,916</td>
<td>$97,970,475</td>
<td>80.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td></td>
<td>$97,970,475</td>
<td>$11,427,569</td>
<td>80.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,399,369</td>
<td>$11,768,451</td>
<td>9.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,768,451</td>
<td>$13,369,082</td>
<td>9.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,516,600</td>
<td>$12,455,776</td>
<td>10.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12,455,776</td>
<td>$14,051,092</td>
<td>10.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Estimated Property Tax Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonie</td>
<td>$28.71</td>
<td>$29.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilderland</td>
<td>$17.59</td>
<td>$17.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niskayuna</td>
<td>$17.98</td>
<td>$18.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Assessed values are based on each town’s equalization rates.

House market value and related estimated tax increase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market Value</th>
<th>Estimated tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>+ $3.98/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>+ $5.31/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>+ $6.64/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>+ $7.97/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tax rates for next year are estimates only. The district will set final tax rates in August based on final assessment figures by the Town Assessors and equalization rates provided by the State Office of Real Property Services. To learn more about the Tax Levy Cap visit www.southcolonieschools.org.

Where does the money come from?  
A look at Revenues

**REVENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022-23 Budget</th>
<th>2023-24 Proposed</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes &amp; STAR</td>
<td>$77,413,709</td>
<td>$79,024,957</td>
<td>2.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*State Aid</td>
<td>$30,270,774</td>
<td>$37,657,306</td>
<td>24.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Misc./Medicaid</td>
<td>$2,674,402</td>
<td>$2,612,439</td>
<td>-2.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Fund Balance</td>
<td>$3,100,000</td>
<td>$2,900,000</td>
<td>-6.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$113,458,885</td>
<td>$122,194,702</td>
<td>7.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As required by Education Laws 1608 and 1716, the district estimates its 2023-24 State Aid to be $37,657,306 or 30.8% of total revenues.

**Miscellaneous revenues include tuition and services revenues from other public school districts, rental of school property, student fees, admissions, and continuing education.

Where does the money go?  
A look at Expenditures

**EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022-23 Budget</th>
<th>2023-24 Proposed</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$63,524,940</td>
<td>$69,851,205</td>
<td>9.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Equipment</td>
<td>$867,330</td>
<td>$1,007,467</td>
<td>16.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOCES Services</td>
<td>$4,122,376</td>
<td>$4,208,902</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies/Contracts</td>
<td>$9,051,170</td>
<td>$10,446,034</td>
<td>15.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$3,921,945</td>
<td>$3,909,214</td>
<td>-0.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>$3,143,124</td>
<td>$3,256,880</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Interfund Transfer</td>
<td>$534,000</td>
<td>$265,000</td>
<td>-50.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$113,458,885</td>
<td>$122,194,702</td>
<td>7.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Equipment category includes state aided hardware expenditures.

**Interfund transfer includes $100,000 to Capital Fund for a small aidable capital project to be done during the 2023-24 school year.

**REVENUES**

- Taxes - 64.7%
- State Aid - 30.8%
- Program - 80.2%
- Administrative - 9.6%
- Capital - 10.2%
- Misc. - 2.4%

**EXPENDITURES**

- Taxes - 64.7%
- State Aid - 30.8%
- Program - 80.2%
- Administrative - 9.6%
- Capital - 10.2%
- Misc. - 2.4%
Residents to vote on two propositions

**Proposition No. 1 —**
Consideration of the proposed 2023-24 operational budget $122,194,702 with a levy increase of 1.99% (which is below the New York State Tax Levy Limitation) with a proposed spending increase of 7.7% or $8,753,788.

**Proposition No. 2 —**
School bus replacement plan to purchase school buses of various sizes. Purchase includes—six (6) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 18/3 wheelchair bus and one (1) 42 passenger bus — overall cost not to exceed $1,318,000.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

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 9 is this year’s deadline to register with the school district.

Registered voters can find out their voting locations online at https://vip.ntsteamed.com/

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

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 16.

More details on the 2023-24 school budget & board election can be found online at southcolonieschools.org.

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### Required School District Budget Notice

**OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year</th>
<th>Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year</th>
<th>Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</td>
<td>$113,458,885</td>
<td>$122,194,702</td>
<td>$120,595,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year</td>
<td>$8,735,817</td>
<td>$7,136,740</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</td>
<td>7.70%</td>
<td>6.29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in the Consumer Price Index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | $76,548,708 | $78,072,027 |
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) | $76,548,708 | $78,072,027 | $76,472,950 |
F. Total Permissible Exclusions | $1,760,533 | $1,556,025 |
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions | $75,384,175 | $76,669,972 |
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D) | $74,788,175 | $76,516,002 |
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | $596,533 | $153,970 |

### Administrative Component

- $10,399,369
- $11,768,451
- $11,057,551

### Program Component

- $91,542,916
- $97,970,475
- $97,321,068

### Capital Component

- $11,516,600
- $12,455,776
- $12,217,006

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**Description**

**Proposition #2: Bus Purchase**
Purchase and expend up to $1,318,000.00, and for a term not to exceed five (5) years, the following motor vehicles: Six (6) 66 passenger buses, one (1) 18/3 wheelchair bus and one (1) 42 passenger bus.

**Amount**

- $1,318,000

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**Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings**

- $508

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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the South Colonie Central school district, Albany County, New York, will be held at Lisha Kill Middle School and Sand Creek Middle School on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the above listed school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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1 The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.
2023–24 Program Enhancements

The proposed 2023-24 budget preserves all current programs and services including 50 positions that were previously funded by stimulus funds.

Student Support Services
- Additional staff to support the growing needs of ENL (English as a New Language) and special education student populations.
- Continued emphasis on social-emotional health through sustaining previously added staffing for those areas.
- New Staffing: +3 special education teachers, +2 TAs, +2 ENL teachers, +1 ENL TA, +2 monitors, and +1 administrator.

Instructional
- Additional teachers to enhance programs and support smaller class sizes.
- Additional staff to support expanded UPK programming.
- Continued STEAM education programming at the elementary and middle school levels.
- Continued career exploration program at the high school levels.
- Implementation of districtwide technology replacement plan to support on-going wear and tear and applicable upgrades.
- Staffing: +7.6 teachers, +2 teachers/TAs (UPK), +50 stimulus funded positions, coaching/advisor positions and +1 administrator.

Transportation and O&M
- Bus maintenance replacement plan to ensure students are transported on buses that meet the latest safety standards while allowing the district to phase out older, high mileage vehicles to avoid the cost inefficiencies related to keeping them in service.
- New Staffing: +1 full-time sub bus driver and +1 pupil transportation analyst.

Full details: www.southcolonieschools.org.