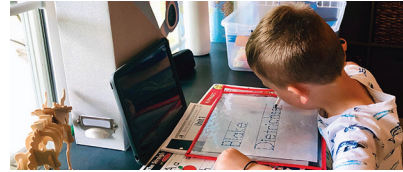




# Schuylerville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS AND INFORMATION: 2021-22 BUDGET VOTE



## Voters to decide on \$38 million budget proposal

Qualified voters of the Schuylerville Central School District will vote on a \$38 million proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education room. The \$38 million proposed budget calls for a 1.53% spending increase and an estimated tax levy increase of 0.9%. The district's projected 2021-22 maximum allowable tax levy under the NYS property tax cap is 3.45%, but under the current budget proposal, will be 0.9%. If the budget is approved, homeowners who qualify will again be eligible for the state's property tax relief credit. Tax rates for individual properties will be determined over the summer once equalization rates and assessments are available for the district's seven towns.

The district's five-year comparative spending plan exemplifies a continued effort to remain fiscally conservative for the taxpayers while maintaining academic programming and staffing.

"It is the district's goal to present a balanced and fiscally conservative budget each year that also provides continued opportunities for our students," said Schuylerville Central School District Business Manager Marian Chrisman. "The state aid projections provided the ability to keep the district's tax levy below the allowable tax cap of 1.23%."

### Budget Highlights

► Four term elementary positions were added for the 2020-21 school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reduce class sizes for physical distancing purposes. For the 2021-22 school year, three of those elementary positions will be maintained in the proposed budget, with the goal of keeping average class sizes between 15-18 students.

► Two K-5 reading Academic Intervention Support (AIS) teachers, currently assigned to classrooms, will be reinstated as AIS reading teachers.

"We are very excited about the ability to provide greater levels of AIS to K-5 students with a goal of addressing individual learning needs," said Elementary Principal Rose Beckett. "Early intervention is critical to student success and academic achievement. We look forward to continuing to offer this support."

► The fourth school nurse that was originally hired as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be retained for the 2021-22 school year to continue to aid in health and safety protocols in the district.

"We greatly appreciate the unwavering support of our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic uncertainty," said Board of Education President, Michael Bodnar. "We are confident that this budget will allow us to maintain the district's strong level of academic programs and continue to make our community proud."

### At a glance

 **PROPOSED BUDGET**  
\$38,037,598

 **BUDGET INCREASE**  
1.53%

 **TAX LEVY INCREASE**  
0.9%

#### ALSO ON THE BALLOT

► Bus lease proposition

► District Board of Education election

► Schuylerville Public Library Board of Trustees election

 **VOTE**  
► Tuesday, May 18

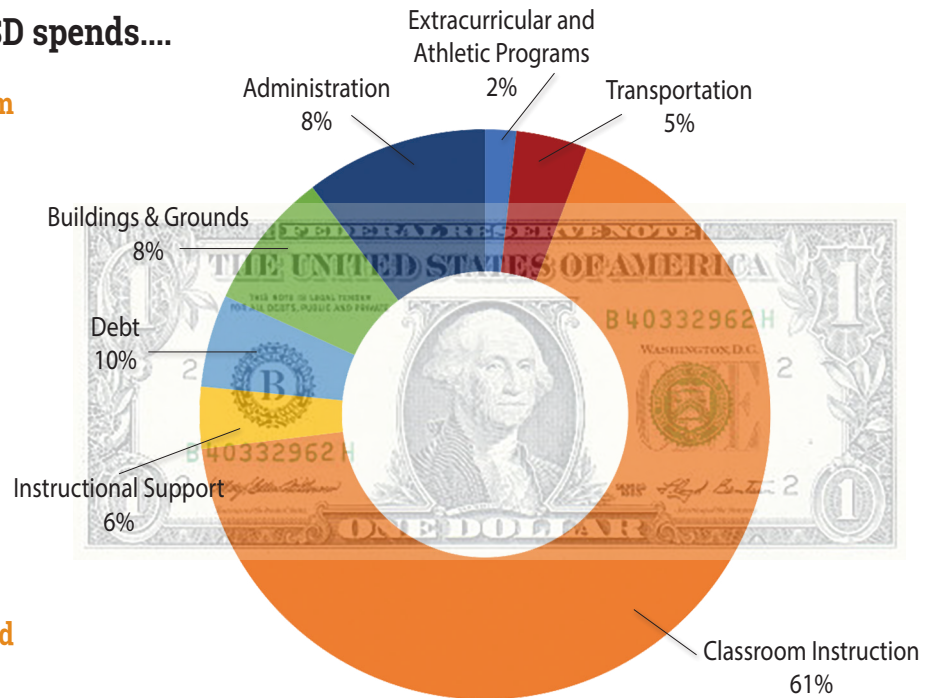
► 12:00-9:00 p.m.

► District Office Board of Education Room

## How is the money spent?

For every dollar Schuylerville CSD spends....

- ▶ **61 cents** will go directly to **classroom instruction**
- ▶ **10 cents** will go to **debt service**
- ▶ **8 cents** will go to **buildings and grounds**
- ▶ **8 cents** will go to **administrative**
- ▶ **6 cents** will go to **supporting instructional activities**
- ▶ **5 cents** will go to **transporting students** to and from school and school-related activities
- ▶ **2 cents** will go to **extracurricular and athletic programs** for students



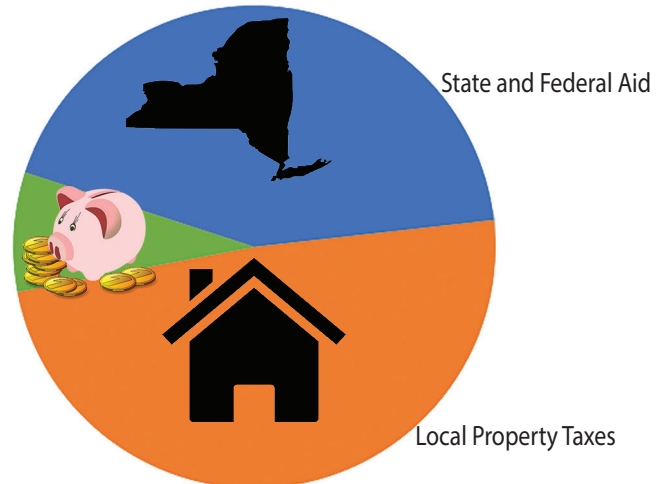
## Projected Expenditures

Budget Category	2020-21 Budget	Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Difference
Salaries	\$15,519,206	\$16,195,459	\$676,253
Benefits	\$11,414,566	\$10,930,410	-\$484,156
BOCES Services	\$2,923,645	\$2,931,986	\$8,341
Supplies	\$739,497	\$779,497	\$40,000
Contractual Costs	\$1,891,006	\$1,863,306	-\$27,700
Debt Service	\$3,457,610	\$3,784,890	\$327,280
Equipment	\$184,700	\$159,700	-\$25,000
Utilities	\$484,200	\$534,200	\$50,000
Insurance	\$182,500	\$191,000	\$8,500
Tuition, ESY	\$497,650	\$497,650	\$0
Textbooks, Library, Software	\$149,500	\$149,500	\$0
Transfer to Other Funds	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$37,464,080</b>	<b>\$38,037,598</b>	<b>\$573,518</b>

## Where does the money come from?

- ▶ **State & Federal Aid: 44.65%**
- ▶ **Fund Balance & Other Local Revenue:**
  - ▶ **Fund Balance 5.78%**
  - ▶ **Other Local Revenue 1.73%**
- ▶ **Local Property Taxes: 47.83%**

Interest, After School Program, Athletic Events, Refunds, Fund Balance and Reserves



Income Sources	2020-21 Budget	Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Difference
Local Property Taxes	\$18,031,493	\$18,193,776	\$162,283
State Aid	\$16,763,334	\$17,062,722	\$299,388
Interest Earnings, Tax Penalties,			
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$111,000	\$101,000	-\$10,000
Misc. Charges for Services	\$358,253	\$480,100	\$121,847
Appropriated Reserves	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$37,464,080</b>	<b>\$38,037,598</b>	<b>\$573,518</b>

## Public Library proposition and Schuylerville CSD Board of Education election also part of May 18 vote

As part of the May 18 vote, residents will vote in the Board of Trustees election for the Schuylerville Public Library. There will be no library budget proposition on the ballot, because there is no proposed tax levy increase to voters.

The Schuylerville Public Library is holding elections for three seats on its Board of Trustees this year. The three candidates who receive the highest total number of votes cast in their favor shall each fill a three-year term ending in 2024, created by the expiration of the current terms of Trustees Dennis Kagel, Courtney Sayward, and Katie

Brunson. For more details on the library elections or for nominating petitions, please visit the library's website ([schuylervillelibrary.sals.edu](http://schuylervillelibrary.sals.edu)) or call 518-695-6641. Please note: the election for the library's Board of Trustees is separate and distinct from the school district's budget and Board of Education election.

### Schuylerville Central School District Board of Education election

▶ Voters will elect **one** member to the Board of Education

▶ A five-year term beginning on July 1, 2021

Full candidate profiles can be found on the district website: <https://www.schuylervilleschools.org/budget>

The two candidates are:



Amanda Medick



Katie Brunson



## School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 37,464,080	\$38,037,598	\$ 37,877,898										
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 573,518	\$ 413,818										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.53%	1.1%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 18,031,493	\$ 18,193,776											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$	\$											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$	\$											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$	\$											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 18,031,493	\$ 18,193,776	\$ 18,031,493										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 648,263	\$ 757,648											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 18,059,302	\$ 17,887,747											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 18,031,493	\$ 17,436,128											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 27,808	\$ 451,619											
Administrative Component	\$ 3,282,180	\$ 3,250,987	\$ 3,250,987										
Program Component	\$ 27,616,095	\$ 28,000,224	\$ 27,895,524										
Capital Component	\$ 6,565,805	\$ 6,786,387	\$ 6,731,387										
* If voters do not approve the 2021-22 budget as presented, the Board must adopt a contingent budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, no exclusions. Deliberations would center around removing equipment line items and shifting amounts from other expenses, as well as possible reductions in staffing and programming.													
** 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)													
<table><tr><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Proposition #1 Bus Leasing</td><td>\$ 988,375</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr></table>				Description	Amount	Proposition #1 Bus Leasing	\$ 988,375		\$		\$		\$
Description	Amount												
Proposition #1 Bus Leasing	\$ 988,375												
	\$												
	\$												
	\$												

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$ 702.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Schuylerville Central school district, Saratoga County, New York, will be held at Schuylerville Central School District Office in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time in the Schuylerville Central School Administration Office Board Room, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting absentee ballot or machine.

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

## Voters to decide on 5-year bus leasing proposition



The district has a fleet of 41 vehicles, including 37 buses and four vans. The vehicles travel more than 390,000 miles a year, between daily runs, private school runs, sports trips, field trips and summer travel. Keeping an up-to-date fleet allows the district to reduce and simplify the parts inventory, eliminate large repairs (the buses are all warrantied for five years), and cut down on fuel usage due to the industry standards regarding emissions. After the five-year lease ends, the district has the option of purchasing the vehicles or entering a new lease to begin the replacement cycle.

As part of the May 18 budget vote, voters will also consider a proposition that would allow the district to renew a five-year bus lease agreement. The lease would replace eight, 65-passenger buses and three 25-passenger buses for the 2021-22 school year. The proposition reflects the five-year total cost of \$988,375 and will be budgeted annually over five years. Under the proposal, 71 percent of the cost would be reimbursed through transportation aid each year; the net cost of a five-year lease would cost the district \$57,262 per year.

"The idea is to maximize our transportation aid dollars while maintaining an up-to-date fleet," said Business Manager Marian Chrisman. "Leasing provides the perfect blend of this concept with the least impact to taxpayers."

## Perseverance, resilience and growth through the COVID-19 pandemic

Maintain physical distance, but still engage. Teach and learn within a hybrid model. Provide healthy meals for all students, including those in a remote setting. There have been many changes made to the school day this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the changes have exemplified the resilience and adaptation of teachers, students and staff throughout the Schuylerville Central School District.

For example, the elementary school's special area teachers visit students in their classrooms on a seven-day cycle schedule, still providing instruction in music, library, art, social-emotional learning (SEL) and physical education.

Through these efforts, the robust educational program students have grown accustomed to has been maintained, and health and safety protocols kept intact.

At the middle school, hands-on learning is still emphasized. Science teacher Ivy Rechak's labs are designed to incorporate both in-person and remote learners, with set-ups that can be executed either in-class or at home.

**"You can be told what will happen, but to actually see what happens is such a different experience. As much as possible, I try to modify our labs to maintain safety in the classroom and also allow our students to actively participate at home."**

-Ivy Rechak, Earth Science/Science 8 teacher



Middle school students work on an acids and bases lab.

Independent Science Research class are used to this model, spending two years enrolled in the University in the High School course and earning 12 college credits. Students choose a topic, complete extensive reading outside of class, attain a mentor in the field they are studying and ultimately present a scientific research paper at the annual science symposium. Conneally says for any high school student, the use of Google Meets and Google Classroom has transformed the academic approach.

**"I've seen students use whatever technology they have available to them to complete assignments. There's a lot more accountability and it's getting students ready for the next level, which is our goal."**

-Dave Conneally, High School Science teacher



High school students complete work using their individually assigned devices.



Art teacher Michael Shea teaches a color weaving lesson to second grade students.

High school students have also spent the past year learning in a hybrid model, attending school on an alphabetical rotation. For many, the shift from a traditional five-day a week in-person attendance has sped up the adaptation to and readiness for independent study. Students in Dave Conneally's



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# Schuylerville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**| VOTE | Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

**District Office Board of Education Room; enter through the concession stand entrance**

## 2021-22 Budget Vote Information

### Who is eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote, a person must be 18 years old, a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote and a U.S. citizen.

### When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 12-9 p.m. in the District Office Board of Education Room, 14 Spring St. (enter through the concession stand entrance).

### What will I be voting on?

The proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year, a bus lease proposition, a candidate to fill one seat on the Schuylerville CSD Board of Education and three seats on the Schuylerville Public Library's Board of Trustees.

### Is the district using fund balance to help balance the budget?

Yes. The district will be using funds from several reserves to offset expenditures.



Schuylerville High School students work on a project in an Ag/Tech class.

### What if the proposed budget is voted down?

The Board of Education has the option of putting another budget (revised or not) up for a vote in June or immediately adopting a contingent budget. After two unsuccessful votes, a district must adopt a contingent budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, with no exclusions.

### Can I vote by absentee ballot?

If you would like an application for an absentee ballot, please call the Superintendent's Office at 518-695-3255, extension 3242. Absentee ballots must be returned to the district office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18.

### How can I get more information about the budget proposal?

If you'd like more details, please call the Superintendent's Office at 518-695-3255, extension 3242 or visit the district website ([schuylervilleschools.org/budget](http://schuylervilleschools.org/budget)). Additionally, the district's plain-language budget and the School Report Card are available at the district office located inside Schuylerville High School at 14 Spring Street, Schuylerville.