



SCHENEVUS CENTRAL SCHOOL

2021 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

BUDGET VOTE

**Tuesday,
May 18, 2021
12-9 p.m.
Schenevus
Central School**

**ON THE
BALLOT**

Total Budget
\$9,582,185

**Year-to-Year
Increase** \$119,086
(+1.26%)

Tax Levy Increase
\$229,118
(6.5%)

**Candidates for
Board of Education:**

Jamie Osborne
Cory Spooner

Bus Proposition:

Purchase one
65-passenger bus

Visit schenevuscso.org
for more information

Proposed \$9.58M budget preserves programs, services
Budget vote to be May 18

Schenevus Central School District residents will vote May 18 on a \$9,582,185 proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year. The budget proposal would increase spending by \$119,086, a 1.26% increase over the current year’s budget.

The district’s “tax cap,” or tax levy limit, is negative (-0.357%), meaning that the budget can only pass with the approval of a supermajority of voters (60% or more). The proposed budget would increase the tax levy by 6.5%, or \$229,118. Residents will also be asked to elect a candidate to the Schenevus Board of Education and consider a bus proposition.

While the proposal does include cost savings in several areas, including employee benefits, overall spending is up, including for technology, and services for students with disabilities. Because the proposed spending exceeds expected revenues from state and local sources, the proposal calls for using \$30,896 from fund balance.

What a ‘no’ vote means

If voters do not approve the budget, the district could move to a re-vote. If no proposal were approved, the district would be required to adopt a contingent budget. The required 0% tax levy increase would cut revenue and would restrict any spending on new equipment, and community building usage.

Pandemic aid not part of budget

While some aid increases were announced this year, the impact on the proposed 2021-

Tax levy vs. tax rate

The tax levy and the tax rate both affect the amount of taxes district residents pay.

The **tax levy** is the total amount of money a district raises from local taxpayers. This dollar amount is **proposed by the district, and approved by voters**, in the spring. The **tax rate** is the amount of tax that property owners pay per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Tax rates are **set by each town** over the summer.

Visit the Budget page on the Schenevus website to estimate what your tax bill might look like under the proposed budget.

22 budget is minimal. Increases in state Foundation Aid will be phased in over a period of three years. The increase for 2021-22 is \$104,104, which represents about 1% of the proposed budget.

In addition, the district will have the opportunity to apply for federal pandemic aid, but this funding cannot be used as part of the General Fund budget, and the amount of available aid is not yet known. While the district is thankful for these monies to offset some of the challenges of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, pandemic aid has nothing to do with the budget that voters will be asked to consider on May 18 and cannot be used to fix the district’s budget gap.



Budget Proposal Not Impacted by Merger Talks

Merger process ongoing

The Schenevus and Worcester central school districts conducted an annexation merger study in 2020 to evaluate the possibility of Worcester annexing Schenevus. The merger study report was presented to both districts' boards of education in January 2021. On June 15, the boards will decide whether to put the proposed merger to a public vote.

Merger and the proposed budget

The 2021-22 budget proposal is completely independent of that process. A merged district would not begin operation until July 1, 2022, at the earliest. Regardless of whether the merger process moves forward, the district is responsible for operations throughout the entire 2021-22 school year. This proposed budget ensures the district can uphold that responsibility.

Merger Mondays to continue

The "Merger Mondays" series of public forums began in February and will continue throughout the spring, with the next session scheduled for May 10. Details will be posted to the district website and Facebook page. Merger Monday recording and summaries can be found at www.msosw.org.

A future without merger

In the long term, the district continues to face the rising costs and shrinking enrollment that indicate future funding challenges. Even with projected increases in state aid, the district's costs are expected to outpace those revenues, causing a funding gap. Raising taxes and/or using fund balance would be needed to fill the gap.

Meet Your School Board Candidates

Each candidate was asked to provide a biographical statement. Statements are listed alphabetically by candidates' last names.

JAMIE OSBORNE

My name is Jamie Osborne. I have lived in the Schenevus Central School District for the better part of 30 years. I am a Licensed Practical Nurse employee for a local Home Care Agency. I collaborate and communicate well with others, especially given my experience with coworkers and patients in the medical field, working in office and healthcare settings, and as a clinical lead for the onboarding LPNs within my agency.

I am running for the Board of Education to give back to our community and advocate for the children of our school district. I have a vested interest in Schenevus as an alumna of the school who was actively involved in many extracurricular activities, as well as a parent of four children enrolled in the school, Hannah (a senior), Samantha (a sophomore), Allen (seventh grade) and Gavin (fourth grade).

I have been involved as both a student and a parent in school activities and organizations, such as coaching youth

basketball and softball, leading a Girl Scout troop, as well as a parent classroom and community volunteer events. I myself played soccer, basketball and track while attending Schenevus. I can be found most of the time at one of the local sports fields/courts cheering on our young athletes in basketball, soccer, baseball, and softball. Although I am mainly found at sporting events, I absolutely love the arts. As a student, I was active in the music programs in school, such as band, chorus and marching band, and understand the importance of music and arts in the school. I feel schools should offer opportunities of all interests to students including sports, the arts, clubs and special educational needs and any other programs that may benefit the needs of the students.

My goal is for every child to have an exceptional education, opportunity for growth, and access to programs, while working with the school faculty, staff, and community members. I feel a board member needs to be able to listen to all information being presented, ask questions to learn more about the issue and to bring an unbiased view to make a fair decision. I also feel that we need to have board members who have children enrolled in the district, with an active interest in what is best for the children

currently in attendance, who will be affected daily by the Board's decisions. I believe I have the skill set, experience, and concern for the investment and attention to the future of our school district.

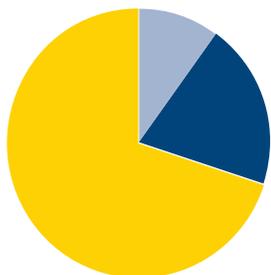
CORY SPOONER

Hello, my name is Cory Spooner. I was born and raised in the town of Schenevus. I am a 1994 graduate of Schenevus Central School. My family has deep roots in the area and I have a vested interest in the future of our school district.

Generations of the Spooner family have spent many years in the halls of our dear alma mater, spanning from grandparents, myself and now my son. I take deep pride in my roots and I have chosen to stay, start my own business and continue to live and raise my son here. This choice has created the opportunity for me to build relationships centered around respect and honesty in the community.

With that being said, becoming a valued member of the Board of Education at my own alma mater is a position that I would hold with great honor, serving, helping and speaking for the families of the community I have come to love so much.

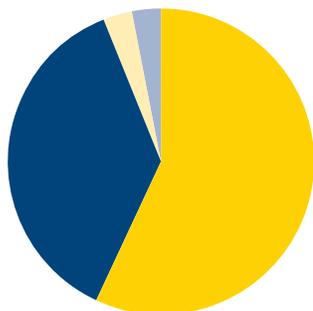
Proposed expenses



EXPENSES	2020-21 BUDGETED	2021-22 PROPOSED	\$ Change '20-'21 to '21-'22	% Change '20-'21 to '21-'22
Program	\$6,663,149	\$6,751,841	\$88,692	1.33%
Capital	\$1,861,749	\$1,846,115	-\$15,634	-0.84%
Administrative	\$938,201	\$984,229	\$46,028	4.91%
Total Expenses	\$9,463,099	\$9,582,185	\$119,086	1.26%

- Program (71%):** Salaries and benefits of all certified faculty and staff, teacher aides, monitors and nurses as well as in-service training, library costs, transportation, co-curricular programs and interscholastic athletics.
- Capital (19%):** Debt service on building additions and renovations, bus purchases, tax certiorari and court-ordered costs and operations and maintenance costs, including staff.
- Administration (10%):** Salaries and benefits of all professional staff who spend 50% or more time in administration, finance and supervision; clerical staff; public information; curriculum development and supervision; planning; legal services and school board costs.

Projected revenues



REVENUES	2020-21 BUDGETED	2021-22 PROJECTED	\$ Change '20-'21 to '21-'22	% Change '20-'21 to '21-'22
State Aid	\$5,433,514	\$5,557,782	\$124,268	2.29%
Property Taxes	\$3,524,889	\$3,754,007	\$229,118	6.50%
Other	\$260,546	\$239,500	-\$21,046	-8.08%
Reserves	\$244,150	\$0	-\$244,150	-100%
Fund Balance	\$0	\$30,896	\$30,896	100%
Total Revenues	\$9,463,099	\$9,582,185	\$119,086	1.26%

- State aid (58%):** The district receives funding from New York state as allocated in the state's annual budget.
- Property taxes (39.2%):** Property taxes are determined based on several factors, including the tax levy, the tax rate and a property's assessed value. The tax levy is the total amount of money a district raises from local taxpayers. This dollar amount is proposed by the district, and approved by voters. The tax rate is the amount of tax that property owners pay per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Tax rates are set by each individual town.
- Other (2.5%):** The district may receive revenues from interest and penalties on real property taxes; tuition payments from out-of-district students, transportation revenue; yearbook sales; interest and earnings; refund of prior year's expenditures from BOCES; Medicaid reimbursements; and sale of scrap and excess transportation equipment.
- Reserves (0%):** The district's reserves include unemployment insurance, and employee benefit accrued liability reserve (EBLAR). These reserve funds are intended to cover costs that may arise during the course of a year that may not be anticipated during the budget planning process. No money from reserves is included in the proposed 2021-22 budget.
- Fund balance (0.3%):** Fund balance represents any funds that were budgeted but not spent during a given year. Any funds that are unappropriated — money that is not set aside for any specific purpose — cannot exceed 4% of the upcoming year's budget.

SCHENEVUS CENTRAL SCHOOL

159 MAIN STREET
SCHENEVUS, NY 12155

www.schenevuscsd.org

Bulk Rate
Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #18
Norwich, NY
13815

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jay Deitchman

Stacie Haynes, Board President

Elizabeth Reed

Thomas Snyder

Timothy Walke

SUPERINTENDENT

Theresa Carlin

Produced in cooperation with the Capital
Region BOCES Communications Service.

Current Resident or

**ECRWSS
BOXHOLDER**



Schenevus

Everyone will be Challenged. Everyone will Contribute. Everyone will be Responsible.

The Annual School Budget Vote is Tuesday, May 18

WHEN and WHERE can I vote? Polls will be open at Schenevus Central School from **noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 18.**

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Call the district office at (607) 638-5530 for information on how to obtain an absentee ballot application. Voters who would like an absentee ballot mailed to them must submit their application at least seven days before the election (by May 11).

Voters who plan to pick up their absentee ballot must submit an application by May 17. All completed absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 18.

WHO can vote? Voters must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. The district must verify voters' primary residency before the vote. If you have not already done so, you can fill out the form found on our website and bring it with you or obtain a form on the day of the vote. For more information, contact the District Office at 607-638-5530.

WHAT am I voting on? Residents are voting on a \$9,582,185 proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year that

would increase spending by 1.26% and increase the tax levy by 6.5% — above the district's tax levy limit of -0.4%. Because the proposal exceeds the district's tax levy limit, a supermajority of voters (60%) is needed to pass the budget.

Two candidates have submitted petitions for the two available seats on the Board of Education (see P2). Voters are also asked to consider a proposition to purchase one 65-passenger bus at a cost not to exceed \$122,000.

WHY does the district need to purchase a new bus? All school buses must meet stringent safety codes established by the state. Replacing aging buses is typically more cost-effective than performing repairs.

Vehicle purchases are eligible for state aid at 90%, making the approximate annual cost of this vehicles much lower than the cost of continued maintenance on an older bus. In addition, the district can offset some of the cost of a new bus by trading in the older model.

WHERE can I get more information? Additional details about the budget are available at the district office and online at www.schenevuscsd.org.