

# South Colonie Schools

## District Remains Below Tax Levy Limitation While Focusing on Critical Academic Programming

- **Proposed tax levy increase of 1.5% which is below the NYS Tax Levy Limitation**
- **Proposed budget-to-budget spending increase of 0.81% or \$797,550**

South Colonie Central School District staff members have spent the last few months developing an operational plan to balance the proposed 2017-2018 school budget. The Board of Education, the Administrative Team, and the school community have made significant efforts to advocate for the return of state aid to the District. The District was able to lower the tax levy increase from 1.75 percent in the first draft of the budget to 1.5 percent. Also, through thoughtful discussion and planning, some priority items have been added to the proposed 2017-18 budget. As our District continues to recover from years of lost state foundation aid, we have worked hard to strategically restore specific academic priorities for students while considering overall costs and efficiencies.

### \* What will the budget cost property owners?

- Colonie home market valued at **\$225,000** ..... **\$5.15** more per month
- Colonie home market valued at **\$200,000** ..... **\$4.58** more per month
- Colonie home market valued at **\$175,000** ..... **\$4.01** more per month

*Please note that overall tax base growth within District boundaries may further reduce the actual cost per month for homeowners\**



### What is being restored or added to the proposed 2017-2018 budget?

- ▶ 2.0 K-4 Elementary Teachers
- ▶ 2.0 Teacher Assistants
- ▶ 1.0 Grade 5/6 STEM Teacher
- ▶ 0.5 Music Teacher
- ▶ 1.0 Special Education Teacher
- ▶ 1.0 Special Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ 1.0 K-4 Academic Intervention Teacher
- ▶ 3.0 K-4 Academic Intervention/ Classroom Support Teacher Assistants
- ▶ 1.0 English as New Language Learners Teacher
- ▶ 1.0 English as New Language Learners Teaching Assistant
- ▶ 1.0 Special Education Administrator
- ▶ 1.0 Supervisor Instructional Technology
- ▶ 2.0 School Social Workers
- ▶ 0.5 High School Art Teacher
- ▶ 0.7 Alternative Education Teacher for Mathematics and Science
- ▶ 2 part time Elementary Library Clerical Support positions
- ▶ Implementation of K-4 after school academic support program
- ▶ Support for administrative professional development
- ▶ 1.0 Computer Technician
- ▶ Part time after school Security Monitors (LK, SC and CCHS)
- ▶ Additional School Monitor support
- ▶ Lease with Pine Grove Methodist Church for Alternative Education programming space
- ▶ Upgraded Internet bandwidth from 200 to 300 MB; firewall web filter replacement and Distance Learning

- continued on back

## Other 2017-18 proposed budget adjustments

- ▶ New i-Ready universal academic growth tool for ELA/Math. Also, professional development and training to support this initiative.
- ▶ 20 additional security cameras
- ▶ Parking lot and road paving repairs
- ▶ Replacement of roof at the District Office
- ▶ Installation of a District Office back-up generator to maintain critical District operations during power outages
- ▶ Replacement of non-functioning scoreboard at Lisha Kill Middle School, and additional equipment funding to address District-wide needs
- ▶ Replacement of truck and plow and other required equipment for Operations & Maintenance Department
- ▶ Bus proposition to replace 10 school buses of various sizes. No impact on 2017-18 budget; first payment due in 2018-19 for average yearly net cost of \$121,320 after state transportation aid. The buses are financed over five years.

## **SOUTH COLONIE**

102 Loralee Drive • Albany  
• New York • 12205

## Budget Dates

### Public Hearing on the Budget

Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m.,  
Saddlewood Elementary  
School Cafetorium

Regular Board of Education meeting,  
immediately following Public Hearing

### Voting on the Budget

**Tuesday, May 16**

**11 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

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

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## Sharing Some Good News!

We have a great deal to be proud of:

- ▶ Academically, South Colonie is ranked 11th out of 83 Capital Region School Districts. (Buffalo Business First Guide to Upstate School Districts)
- ▶ Nationally recognized as a "Best Community For Music Education."
- ▶ The District ranks in the Top 10% in Upstate NY for Administrative Efficiency.
- ▶ The District continues to focus on our elementary early literacy as well as extensive college credit opportunities at the high school level.
- ▶ South Colonie graduation rate regularly reaches or exceeds 90% with recent graduates being accepted into universities such as RPI, Marist, Tulane, Binghamton, Niagara, Manhattan, Fordham, Cleveland Institute of Music, Emerson, St. John's, UNC Chapel Hill, LeMoyne, University of Buffalo, University at Albany, SUNY Oswego, Albany College of Pharmacy, Colgate, Syracuse, New Hampshire, RIT, Hartwick, Ithaca, Saint Rose, Russell Sage, Siena, HVCC, and SCCC.
- ▶ The District continues construction on the Colonie 2020 Capital Improvement Project. This work is modernizing facilities for Art, Music, and Technology at Colonie Central High School, adding WiFi District-wide, and adding new libraries to Roessleville and Forest Park elementary schools. The majority of the work will be completed during the 2017-2018 school year.

## Our Budget Summary

The budget proposed for the 2017-2018 school year maintains critical programming for South Colonie students, and adds targeted support to address specific student needs. We believe we have prioritized carefully, while still remaining below the New York State Tax Levy Limitation. Thank you for reviewing this information. If you have questions please contact the District Office at 869-3576, and visit the website often for updated budget development information.