



South Orangetown SCHOOL NEWS

Residents vote May 17 on 2016-2017 Budget

Dear Community Members,

In the South Orangetown Central School District we are incredibly excited with the progress that our students have made in the past year. As a school district, we have a responsibility to ensure that their progress continues for the upcoming school year and beyond. Through the school budget process, we have formulated the spending plan for the 2016-2017 school year. It is through this process that we build an education program that prepares our students for unlimited opportunities for success. This process also illustrates the difficult choices that we must make when faced with the reality that we are dealing with limited resources. With this in mind, there are several features of the proposed 2016-2017 budget that voters should consider prior to the May 17 referendum.

The first feature of the proposed budget is that our Board of Education is planning for a school budget that ensures that the tax levy does not exceed the legally prescribed "Tax Cap". With voter support, the Board of Education will calculate a tax payment that is based on a 0.2% increase in the tax levy. This tax levy will support a modest increase in school spending of 0.8% and reserves any unspent funds toward future tax stabilization and preservation of publicly owned assets.

The second, and most important, feature of the proposed 2016-2017 school budget is that it maintains all academic, curricular, and co-curricular opportunities for our students. The quality of student learning will continue to improve given we, as a district, provide high-quality instructional events, focus on student perseverance, and enhance family engagement at every grade level. This budget is designed to accomplish all of these things...and more.

Lastly, we will continue to invest in our students by preparing them to be productive, 21st Century citizens. Our District will continue to emphasize creativity through the arts and humanities along with (and as part of) traditional skills development in the areas of mathematics, technology, engineering, and physical/social sciences. Our students will continue to benefit from courses that emphasize literacy, analytical and critical thinking, synthesis, and quantitative skills through project-based learning. We are proud to live and work in a community that supports our culture of innovation and strongly values those skills that students will need in order to thrive as productive and happy citizens in a global economy.

In summary, we are confident that the proposed 2016-2017 budget will position our school district for continued investment in student growth going forward while being mindful of the fiscal pressures on our taxpayers. Thank you in advance for your participation in this very important process and please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Robert Pritchard, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Guy DeVincenzo, President of the Board of Education

2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET.....\$ 86,653,782
0.80%

LESS

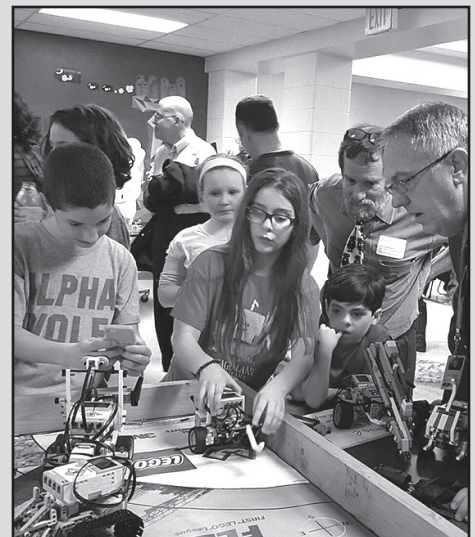
State Aid.....(10,275,070)
Fund Balance Used to Support District Budget0
Other Revenue(2,086,107)

TAX LEVY\$ 74,292,605

TAX LEVY INCREASE.. \$160,337

TAX LEVY PERCENTAGE INCREASE 0.22%

District's average tax levy increase over the past five years has been 2%





PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND REDUCE!

WHAT IS SOCSD DOING? (2009-2016)

Below is a list of some of the cost-containment measures the district has taken:

- **Consolidation of space:**
 - reduction in overhead
 - lease revenues
- **Debt repayment/refinancing to save expenses**
- **Use of Capital Reserve Funds in lieu of issuing debt**
- **Consolidation & restructuring of Transportation & Facilities Departments**
- **Local Retirement Incentive**
- **Fair, collaborative and consistent agreements with bargaining units**
- **Energy Conservation**
- **Use of Long-Range Infrastructure plan for technology & facilities to guide improvements**
- **Use of Unassigned Fund Balance to fund minor capital projects**
- **Shared services: (examples)**
 - Rockland County School Workers' Compensation Fund
 - NY Schools Insurance Reciprocal
 - BOCES shared services
 - Shared bids with other municipalities

vs...

AID LOSS
\$38.5 million over 9 years

ACADEMICS

- TZHS seniors Robert Jablonski, Eric Sun, and Alice Tao are National Merit Scholarship Finalists; 11 TZHS students are National Merit Commended Students
- TZHS Math Team won Counties for 9th consecutive year
- More than 200 K-12 students showcased their projects and experiments at the 3rd Annual School Maker Faire
- TZHS National Honor Society inducted 64 new members
- Ten SOMS students received Patriot's Pen Essay Contest awards
- TZHS medaled as top DECA fundraising team for St. Jude
- TZHS's Isabel Wecht, Jake Laddis, Isaac Wecht and Alex Li comprised one of 20 teams chosen to advance in NASA James Webb Space Telescope Spinoff Technology competition
- TZHS's Livy Bartels placed 1st (Historical Paper) and Dominick Morrone, Thomas Nolan, Leo Ko and Alex Li placed 3rd (Group Documentary) at the Lower Hudson Valley National History Day Competition; Bartels advanced to the NYS contest
- TZHS Science Olympiad Team advanced to States after medaling in 17+ categories at the local competition
- SOCSD Debate Team tied for 7th place in New York City Urban Debate League tournament
- WOS created Pinwheels for Peace

WE ACHIEVE...

- Seven SOMS students received RCC Black Achievement Awards
- National Spanish Honor Society inducted 63 TZHS students
- RCC honored 14 TZHS students and 8 SOMS students with Hispanic Heritage Achievement Awards
- SOMS 6th graders participated in National Computer Science Education Week's Hour of Code
- FRC hosted Science Workshop for parents
- Forty-eight TZHS students toured Italy during March break

STAFF & DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Athletic Director Liam Frawley named NYSAAA Coach Educator of the Year
- CLE Science Teacher Kottie Christie-Blick presented on inspiring high-ability learners at World Council for Gifted and Talented Children
- SOCSD a Best Community for Music Recognition for 3rd consecutive year
- Instructional Science (K-8) Coach Samantha Levine and CLE's Kottie Christie-Blick presented on engaging students in climate science at the NSTA Annual Conference with virtual participation by CLE Instructional Technology Teacher Jacob Tanenbaum
- TZHS teachers presented TZ Bridge Project at Tri State Conference
- TZHS School Nurse & Blood Team Adviser Judy Flagg honored by NY Blood Center
- SOMS Assistant Principal Dr. Chad Corey honored by VFW Post 1615

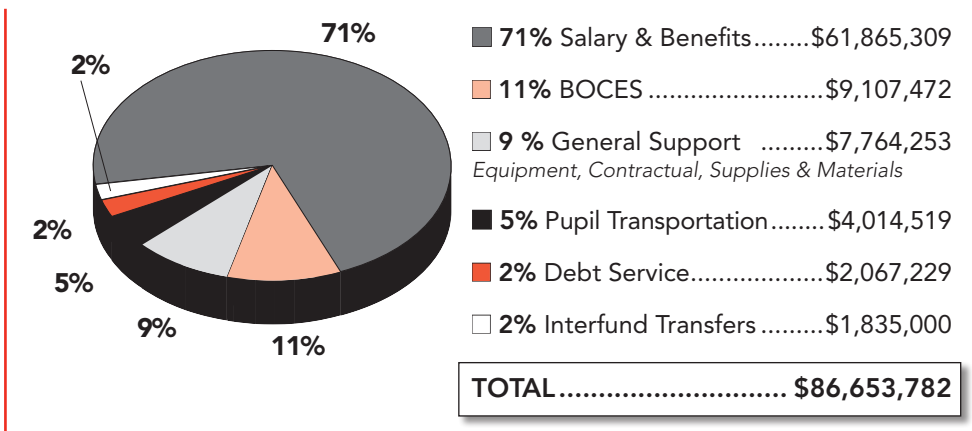
ARTS

- Twenty-one TZHS musicians selected to perform at Area All-State Music Festival
- Three SOMS students' entries recognized in regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards contest; works by two students advanced to national judging
- SOCSD musicians performed with the Band, Chorus and Orchestra ensembles at the Junior All-County Music Festival
- TZHS's 2015 *Tones* Magazine won 14 ESSPA awards

ATHLETICS

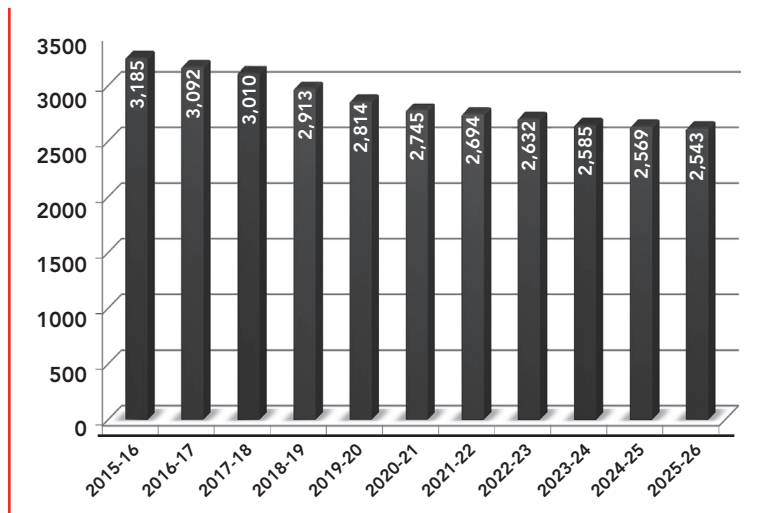
- TZHS Boys Basketball were League Champs, Section 1 Class A runner-up
- TZHS's Robert McWilliams named *Journal-News* Boys Basketball Player of the Year
- TZHS's Helen Joyner (Girls Track) set the County record for weight throw

WHERE THE MONEY GOES





ENROLLMENT 2015-16 to 2025-26*



*Including Outplaced Students

SOCSD'S LOSS IN STATE AID

YEAR	GAP ELIMINATION ADJUSTMENT	FOUNDATION AID "PROMISE" NOT KEPT	TOTAL LOSS IN STATE AID
2007-08		(\$2,356,640)	
2008-09		(\$2,019,116)	
2009-10	(\$1,328,921)	(\$3,008,646)	
2010-11	(\$1,676,518)	(\$2,999,509)	
2011-12	(\$2,121,052)	(\$3,682,097)	
2012-13	(\$1,865,881)	(\$3,697,404)	
2013-14	(\$1,737,217)	(\$3,466,491)	
2014-15	(\$1,491,749)	(\$3,012,157)	
2015-16	(\$940,490)*	(\$2,394,439)	
2016-17	(648,120)*	(\$2,148,259)	
Total Loss	(\$11,809,948)	(\$28,784,758)	(\$40,594,706) \$13,128 per student

WHAT IF THE BUDGET DOES NOT PASS?

**AT RISK: CLASS-SIZE ■ ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT STAFF ■ FACILITY USE & INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

2016-17 IS LIMITED TO 2015-16 TAX LEVY – ZERO INCREASE	\$74,132,268
Add: State Aid	10,275,070
Other Revenue	2,086,107
TOTAL REVENUE = Allowable Appropriations Budget = Maximum Contingency Budget Allowed	\$86,493,445
PROPOSED 2016-17 BUDGET	\$86,653,782
DIFFERENCE TO BE REDUCED FROM 2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET	(\$160,337)

The **South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education** is asking the voters to consider and vote on the following proposition on **May 17, 2016**:

■ PROPOSITION #1: 2016-17 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2016-17 budget in the amount of \$86,653,782 be approved?

■ ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

ELECTION OF TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS for two seats for a full three-year term each from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2019.

Candidates: Dan Lamadrid and Rosemary Pitruzzella

FOR A FULL LISTING OF POLLING SITES AND ADDRESSES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



Table with 4 columns: OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL, Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year, Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year, Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*. Rows include Total Budgeted Amount, Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year, Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget, Change in the Consumer Price Index, and various components (A-I).

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2016-17 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A Contingency Budget would require a reduction in the proposed budget of \$160,336. Per education law mandated removal of certain equipment, community use of facilities, removal of capital projects not deemed health & safety, and certain administrative costs will be reduced.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Table with 2 columns: DESCRIPTION, Amount. Row 1: N/A

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Row 1: Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹, \$1,123

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the South Orangetown Central School District, Rockland County, New York, will be held at District #1 – South Orangetown Middle School, District #2 – Tappan Zee High School, District #3 – William O. Schaefer and District #4 – Tappan Zee Elementary School on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913-1299 (845) 680-1000 • Website: www.socsd.org

Dr. Robert Pritchard, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION Guy DeVincenzo, President Dan Lamadrid, Vice President Leon Jacobs Ken Malpeli Rosemary Pitruzzella www.socsd.org

Editor: B.J. Greco This newsletter was produced in cooperation with Rockland BOCES Communications Department.

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Monsey, New York 10952 Permit No. 1375

POSTAL PATRON

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016 • 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM