

SOUTH ORANGETOWN Central School District

Residents Vote May 16 on 2017-2018 Budget

Dear Community Members,

We are incredibly fortunate in the South Orangetown Central School District to have a community that supports students' growth and development and understands that an investment in our young learners is an investment in our future. The upcoming school budget referendum on Tuesday, May 16, is an opportunity for voters in our community to participate in the process of establishing a spending plan for the 2017-18 school year. This process also reflects the choices that we must make when confronted with limited resources.

Our Board of Education has adopted a school budget with a 1.75% tax levy increase that stays within the legally prescribed "tax cap." The tax levy will support a modest 2.67% increase in school spending and reserves any unspent funds for future tax stabilization and capital improvements, as needed.

The proposed 2017-18 budget supports our district's long-term vision for South Orangetown and its children, developed with preliminary feedback gathered through the recent community-wide survey. The voices of our families, students, staff, and community at-large have helped to shape a long-range plan that effectively and efficiently allocates resources to maintain all academic and extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

The quality of student learning will continue to improve given that we, as a district, continue to provide high-quality instruction, emphasize student perseverance and enhance family engagement at every grade level. The proposed 2017-18 budget was designed to accomplish all these things and more. **Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 16.**

Sincerely,

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Guy DeVincenzo
President, Board of Education

Questions regarding the school budget referendum or upcoming Board of Education election? Please contact District Clerk Kathy Muscari at kmuscari@socsd.org or (845) 680-1012.



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WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET:

- Secondary instructional coaches for literacy and math
- New science curriculum at SOMS
- Replacement of a part-time consultant with a full-time district employee to manage student transportation needs
- Supplies and furniture for hands-on, K-12 learning spaces
- Eight-day STEAM summer camp to extend learning opportunities for K-8 students

PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET

TAX LEVY INCREASE
1.75%

BUDGET-TO-BUDGET INCREASE
2.67%

TOTAL BUDGET
\$88,966,619



BUDGET Q&A

Q: What is a capital reserve fund?

A: A capital reserve fund allows school districts to set aside funds to cover the cost of future major construction projects and purchases. SOCS D's capital reserve fund was created and funded with voter approval in 2006, and modified in 2009 and 2014.

Q: What is Proposition #2?

A: SOCS D is asking voters to approve a five-year extension of its existing capital reserve fund to 2026 and authorize funding from budget surpluses, if any, up to \$15 million over this period.

Q: What is Proposition #3?

A: Voters are being asked to authorize the use of existing capital reserve funds not to exceed \$9.8 million to pay for capital improvements, which include: installation of a modular structure to be used as a library at Cottage Lane Elementary School; ADA compliance renovations; replacement of turf fields, stadium seating and press box at Tappan Zee High School; and, removal of underground fuel storage tanks at Tappan Zee Elementary School and Orangeburg Elementary School.

These proposed capital projects will be funded through existing capital reserve funds at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Q: What happens if voters reject the budget?

A: If voters do not approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education may put forward the same or a revised budget for a second vote OR adopt a contingency budget with a tax levy no greater than what was levied last year. If voters reject the spending plan twice, SOCS D must adopt a contingency budget which would require \$1.2 million in cuts.

Questions? Email budget@socsd.org

2016-17 ACHIEVEMENTS

Following are some of the many accomplishments this year to date:

- TZHS seniors *Samuel Gould, Andrew Kaplan* and *David Lustig* were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists; *Kai Canoll, Jane Choe, Gregory Kane* and *Andrew Mathew* received Letters of Commendation



- TZHS juniors *Mitchell Jacobs* and *Jake Laddis* placed 2nd in the New York State DECA Career Conference, qualifying them for the national contest in June and TZHS DECA earned the Chapter Award for the 3rd year
- At the New Balance Nationals, TZHS Track & Field athlete *Anastasios Mouzakis* finished 11th for weight throw and set a Section 1 and county record; *Tori Fears* ran the 800m in the #2 time in Rockland this year; and *Alexandra Thomas* ran the #6 all-time Rockland time for the 2 mile



- SOMS Science Olympiad Team placed 26th in the New York State Championship, with six students medaling across four events

- TZHS musicians *Garrett Shin* (chorus) and *Jane Choe* (orchestra) were selected to represent New York State at the National Association of Music Educators All-Eastern Division Music Conference

- *Anastasios Mouzakis* placed 2nd in the State/4th in the Federation for weight throw and *Tori Fears* placed 6th in the State & Federation as part of the Section 1 Distance Medley Relay Team



- SOCS D honored with Best Communities for Music Education designation for 4th consecutive year



- More than 300 students across grades K-12 presented their innovative and exciting STEAM projects at the 4th Annual School Maker Faire

- TZHS Science Olympiad team advanced to States
- TZHS saxophonist *Stefano Malinverno* performed with the NYSSMA All-State Jazz Ensemble in the New York State Capitol
- TZHS freshman *Justin Lee* earned two Regional Silver Key Awards and an Honorable Mention in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition

- The SOMS MATHCOUNTS team advanced to States after placing 2nd locally



- TZHS Math Team earned the county's highest score in the New York Math League competitions; senior *David Lustig* and sophomores *Kevin Huang* and *Logan Tabor* competed on the Rockland team at the New York State Mathematics League championship

- Four TZHS musicians were selected for the New York State School Music Association All State Music Festival and 13 performed in the Area All-State Music Festival



- Seven SOMS students were honored at the Black Achievement Awards ceremony at Rockland Community College

- TZHS History Honor Society members *Eli Gordon, Jake Laddis* and *Ruben Sriskanda* placed 2nd at the Lower Hudson Valley Regional History Day Contest and advanced to States

- WOS secured a New York State Council on the Arts grant to provide theatre enrichment for all second-graders this spring



- Eight Fall 2016 and 11 Winter 2017 sports teams earned NYS PHSAA Scholar-Athlete status

- Nine SOMS students and 17 TZHS students were honored with Hispanic Heritage Achievement Awards

- Four TZHS athletes have earned Rockland Scholar-Athlete honors so far this year: *Brendan Hehir, Hayley Kousoulas, Kevin Lynch* and *Jack Samett*

- More than 220 students in grades K-8 participated in the district's first-ever Summer STEAM Camp in July 2016

- Individual athletics honors include: *George Gaine* (Coach of the Year, Boys Basketball), *Kieran Gibson* (All-County First Team, Boys Basketball), *Dylan Goldstein* (Rockland Boys Skier of the Year), *Ralph Iannucci* (Assistant Coach of the Season, Football), *Kevin Lynch* (Rockland Player of the Year, Boys Basketball), *Matthew Russell* (Boys Bowling, All-Section)

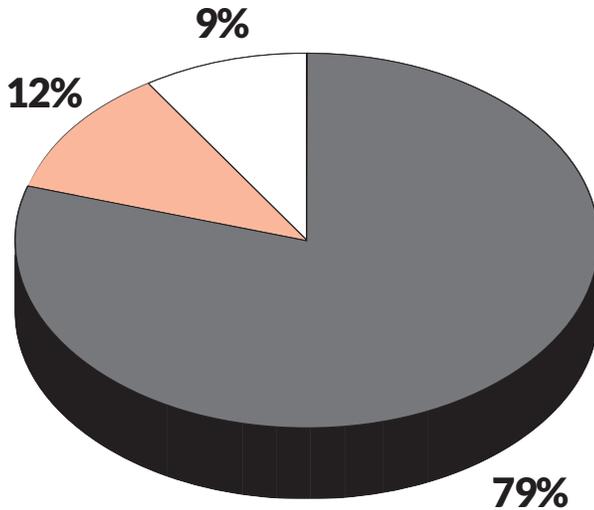


- Thirty-three fifth- and sixth-grade musicians were selected to perform at the Intermediate All-County Festival, and 40 musicians in grades 7-9 performed in the Junior All-County Festival

- Championship teams this year include: Fencing (Section), Boys JV Basketball (County), Boys Varsity Basketball (League) & Boys Wrestling (League)

- Participation in band, orchestra and chorus has grown to 875 students in grades 3-8 since the district expanded instrumental music instruction last year

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES



| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ■ 79% Program | \$70,487,928 |
| ■ 12 % Capital | \$10,169,608 |
| ■ 9 % Adminstrative | \$8,309,083 |
| TOTAL..... | \$88,966,619 |

The South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education asks voters to consider and vote on the following propositions on **May 16, 2017**:

■ PROPOSITION #1: 2017-18 BUDGET

Shall the sums set forth by the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District in the 2017-18 budget in the amount of \$88,966,619 be approved?

■ PROPOSITION #2

Shall the South Orangetown Central School District increase the ultimate amount of the capital reserve fund established in 2006, and thereafter modified in 2009 and 2014, known as the “District-wide Renovations and Reconstruction Reserve Fund”, which is for the purpose of paying the costs of the renovations and reconstruction of the District’s school buildings and facilities, by an additional \$15 million over the duration of the fund, and to extend the duration of the capital reserve fund by five years (through 2026), with the capital reserve fund to be funded through the transfer from unassigned appropriations in the general fund at the end of each fiscal year to the “District-wide Renovations and Reconstruction Reserve Fund”?

■ PROPOSITION #3: USE OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Shall the Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District be authorized to transfer funds not to exceed \$9,800,000 from the “District-wide Renovations and Reconstruction Reserve Fund” to the capital fund during the 2017-2018 school year for the purpose of purchasing and installation of a modular unit to be used as a library at Cottage Lane Elementary School, replacement of the turf fields, stadium seating and press box at Tappan Zee High School, removal of underground tanks at Tappan Zee Elementary and Orangeburg Elementary Schools, as well as ADA compliance renovations and other minor capital projects in the District’s schools?

■ ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Elections will be held for two Board of Education vacancies. The full three-year term for each vacancy is July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2020. Following are the candidates for the two vacancies, in the order they will appear on the ballot, based on a random selection process administered by the District Clerk on April 18*:

Seat 1 (vote for one): Guy DeVincenzo (*incumbent*), Christine Lee and Ira Steinberg

Seat 2 (vote for one): Scott Vanderhoef and Leon “Lonnie” Jacobs (*incumbent*)

Please note: Voters may cast their ballot for only one candidate per seat.

**All candidates were invited to attend the random selection process.*

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL | Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year* |
|--|---|--|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$ 86,653,782 | \$88,966,619 | \$87,770,694 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year | | \$2,312,837 | \$ 1,195,925 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 2.67% | 1.34% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 1.26% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve | \$ 74,292,605 | \$ 75,590,290 | |
| 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) | \$ 74,292,605 | \$ 75,590,290 | \$ 74,292,605 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$ 624,407 | \$ 678,810 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$ 73,668,198 | \$ 74,911,480 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D) | \$ 73,668,198 | \$ 74,911,480 | |
| I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | |
| Administrative Component | \$ 8,302,924 | \$ 8,309,358 | \$ 8,207,080 |
| Program Component | \$ 68,218,696 | \$ 70,487,928 | \$ 69,584,939 |
| Capital Component | \$ 10,132,162 | \$ 10,169,608 | \$ 9,978,675 |

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2017-18 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 \$1,195,925. As a result, the following reductions will be required: reduction in teacher staffing, thereby increasing class-size, loss of modified sports, loss of certain extracurricular programs, per education law mandated removal of certain equipment, community use of facilities, removal of capital projects not deemed health and safety, a reduction in instructional supplies, conferences/memberships, support staff and certain administrative costs.

Separate Propositions not included in the Total Budgeted Amount are described on page 3 (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

| | Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year |
|---|--|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ | \$1,123 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 Elementary School, and District #4 – Tappan Zee Elementary School on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 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**
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Editors: B.J. Greco & Jen Citrolo
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 with Rockland BOCES Communications Department.*

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SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE
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