



Vote Tuesday, May 21, on 24-25 Budget, School Bus Purchases & Board of Education

Propositions on the Ballot

On Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Schodack Central School District community members will be asked to vote on whether to approve the following propositions. **See the back page for how and where to vote.**

1. Proposed budget for the 2024-25 School Year
2. The purchase of 2 school buses

Board of Education Election

Residents of the Schodack Central School District will also vote for three (3) open seats on the Schodack Board of Education and a fourth vacant seat which is currently open. **See page 2 for candidate information.**

What is the Proposed 2024-25 School Year Budget?

The proposed budget for the 2024-2025 School Year is \$28,693,526. This budget represents a 2.85% tax levy increase which is below the allowable New York State Property Tax Cap of 3.958%.

What Will the Budget Be Used For?

The proposed budget is broken down for use in three categories each year:

- **Program (71.66%):** Teaching & student support staff salaries/benefits (this includes health services, guidance, library, occupational education, computer-assisted instruction, extracurricular and athletics staff), textbooks, instructional supplies, BOCES program costs, student transportation services and more.

- **Capital (17.22%):** Salaries/benefits for custodial, maintenance & grounds staff, utilities, building repairs, operations & maintenance supplies and other district facilities-related expenses.

- **Administrative (11.12%):** Salaries/benefits of administrative staff, plus the salaries/benefits of supervisory, clerical and other administrative support staff. Includes expenses for school board costs, curriculum development, building supervision, central printing & data processing, contracts for services, postage and copy costs, insurance and other administrative-related expenses.

Transfer to Capital for Maple Hill Safety Enhancements

Included in the proposed budget is a \$100,000 transfer to the capital projects fund, which will be allocated for security enhancements at Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School. These enhancements include additional anti-intrusion methods, improved door security hardware and modified library accessibility.

School Bus Purchases

Voters will be asked to consider approval for purchasing 2 school buses at a cost of no more than \$300,000. This number represents the purchase price before the district receives NYS aid money which will ultimately lessen the final impact on taxpayers.

Board of Education Candidates

Residents of the Schodack Central School District will vote for three (3) open seats on the Schodack Board of Education and a fourth vacant seat which is currently open. The three open seats are each for a 3-year term (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027) and the fourth vacant seat is for an approximately 1-year term (May 21, 2024-June 30, 2025). The vacant seat will be filled by the candidate with the fourth-highest number of votes. Candidate names and a statement from each in their own words are below.

MARION SPAR

My husband, Andre, and I have six children: Haylee (14), Ayva (13), Dylan (11), Aubrey (10), Payton (7), and Nate (3). Our family is very active and involved in various activities and functions throughout the community. We love and appreciate giving and supporting in any capacity. We are a certified foster/adoptive family and I volunteer to coach several youth athletic teams. I have served on the Board of Education since 2021 and look forward to continuing my work as a dedicated member to serve our community. With a master's degree from The College of Saint Rose, I hold a certification in School Psychology and have worked with students in grades Pre-K through 12. I am currently working for the local Justice Court. I am a very enthusiastic individual with a great sense of humor. I am a firm believer that life is what you make it. I love helping others and making every day a positive one! I feel that it is important not just to be actively involved for the sake of my children, but also to show and teach them that being an active and productive individual is what will guide them successfully through life. Education has such a great impact on all children in many ways and being a part of making that experience a positive and meaningful one is my goal. It is an honor to advocate for ALL our children and the community.

JENNIFER ROGOWSKI

My husband and I purchased our first home in Schodack in 2009. We quickly realized that this wonderful community was where we wanted to raise our family! We have 2 children who attend Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School and Castleton Elementary. I am a Special Education teacher for Questar III BOCES. I currently teach high school students but have experience teaching students from Pre-K through grade 12. I firmly believe in our public education system. I am running for a position on the Schodack CSD Board of Education to support the teachers, staff, students and community members of the Schodack Central School District.

TYLEA GEBBIE

It has been a privilege to serve on the Schodack Central School District's Board of Education since 2021. My husband and I made Schodack our home in 2012, drawn by its close-knit community and exceptional school system. We have three children, one enrolled at Castleton Elementary and two at Maple Hill Junior-Senior High School. I am a Nationally Certified School Psychologist who practices in a neighboring school district. As an educator, I value public education and believe strongly in a whole-child approach to education that prepares our students to become well-rounded and productive members of our society. I believe in fostering academic excellence, creating a positive school climate, ensuring school safety, providing robust mental health resources, offering enriching experiences in and out of the classroom, and fostering strong connections between families, schools, and communities. I hope to continue serving as an advocate for our students, teachers, families, and community members.

KURT MAIER

My wife Regina and I have lived in Schodack for 20+ years. We have two children; Makaila, who is a 2020 Maple Hill graduate, and currently in her master's program at SUNY Plattsburgh, and Ethan, who is a 2023 Maple Hill graduate, and currently in his Bachelor's program at UAlbany. After high school, I joined the Marine Corps, serving proudly until 1996. I am currently employed as a Cost of Care Director for Anthem, where I utilize my Lean Six Sigma and analytical skills to identify and deploy process improvements to achieve cost reductions. My experience as a community member includes volunteering in the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, VFW, the PTO, and various other community events. After many years of supporting our youth, I've gained a strong perspective of the district and what it has to offer our children and the community. As a Board member, I am committed to helping guide the district toward its vision of success through learning, planning, and hard work.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Schodack's capital improvement project approved by voters in May 2022 is approaching its final stretch. The project has been broken into two construction phases. Phase 1 began in Spring 2023 and was completed in Fall 2023. Phase 2 began this year and we anticipate work to be completed by the time students and faculty/staff return in September 2024. Highlighted project components completed within the last year and components remaining are listed here. For more information about all the improvements included in this project visit www.schodack.k12.ny.us.

Completed in the Last Year

- Maple Hill Parking Lot Resurfacing
- Maple Hill Tennis Courts Replacement
- Castleton Elementary Parking Lot Expansion
- Bus Garage Door Replacement

In Progress & Upcoming

- Maple Hill Technology Suite Renovation
- Gym Partition Replacement in District Office
- New Ventilation Equipment in Maple Hill Kitchen
- New Boiler Installation at Maple Hill
- Rooftop Air Conditioning Installation for Maple Hill Auditorium
- Selected Exterior Door Replacement at District Office & Castleton Elementary
- Improved Heating/Cooling Controls at Castleton Elementary

Checking in with Schodack's New School Resource Officer (SRO)

In March 2024, Town of Schodack Police Officer Rich Eckel started as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for Schodack Central School District. Officer Eckel's appointment was made possible thanks to support from the Town of Schodack, the Schodack Police Department, the Schodack Board of Education and the school community.

Officer Eckel is now a full-time presence in Schodack schools and we checked in with him so you could learn more about him and the new SRO role in the district.



What is an SRO and why is it a unique job in law enforcement?

A School Resource Officer (SRO) combines law enforcement, education and mentoring roles in schools. Our responsibilities include ensuring safety, providing education, intervening in crises, community engagement, ongoing training and advising school officials on the law. Overall, an SRO's role is to foster a secure and supportive environment while building positive relationships within the school community. It's unique because it allows me to concentrate all my time at the schools, focusing solely on building relationships with those in them and ensuring their safety.

What about your background made you a good fit to be Schodack's SRO?

I'm a lifetime resident of the area and a 1995 Maple Hill graduate. I was hired by the Town of Schodack Police in 2006 as a "part-time" officer until I went "full-time" in 2011. I worked nights for several years but when I started working days, I took more of an interest in the schools. In the years leading up to having an SRO in the district, I established many relationships in the schools, making it an easy transition for me into this role.

You've been SRO for a couple of months now. What's been rewarding about it so far?

Two things stand out so far. One is getting to know our students' personalities while also trying to be a positive role model for them. Second, is seeing the dedication of all the faculty and staff here working together daily for the greater good and benefit of our students. After just a few months, it's already very rewarding to be a part of that.

What do you want the school community to know about you and your workstyle?

I take the approach of giving people second chances when they are dealing with different situations. Everyone makes mistakes, but if they are willing to learn from them and become a better person, I think it benefits everyone. Whenever possible in my job, I find it more rewarding to help someone get the tools they need to make themselves better, rather than just putting more stress on them.

Finally, what's life like for you outside of work?

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family. My wife Heidi and I have five daughters who keep us busy. If I'm not doing family things, I like spending time in my garage repairing and fabricating different things.



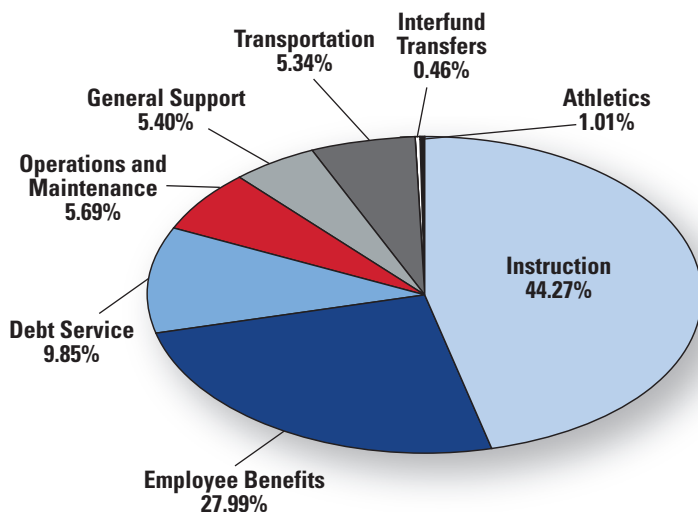
Expenditures

Category	2023-2024	Proposed 2024-2025	Change from 2023-2024	% of Budget
Instruction	\$ 12,839,572	\$ 12,702,994	-\$ 136,578	44.27%
Employee Benefits	7,211,012	8,030,980	819,968	27.99%
Debt Service	2,826,748	2,826,748	0	9.85%
Operations and Maintenance	1,592,513	1,632,109	39,596	5.69%
General Support	1,604,496	1,549,017	-55,479	5.40%
Transportation	1,544,384	1,530,914	-13,470	5.34%
Athletics	269,234	288,614	19,380	1.01%
Interfund Transfers	132,150	132,150	0	0.46%
Total Expenditures	\$ 28,020,109	\$ 28,693,526	\$ 637,417	100.00%

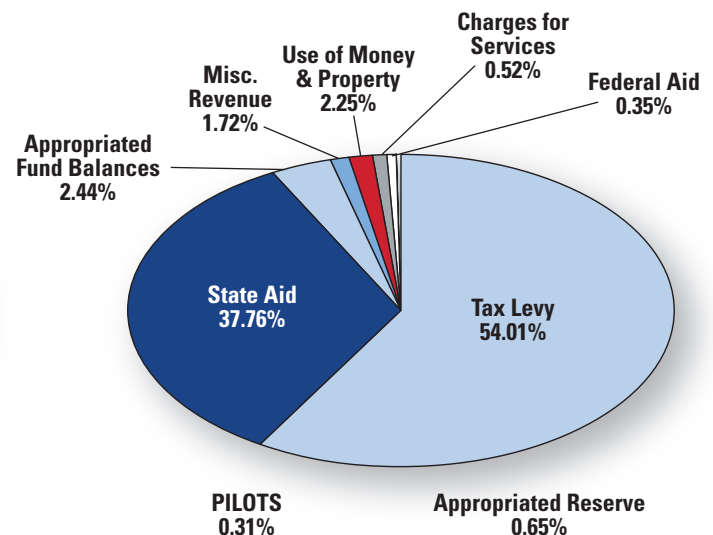
Revenues

Category	2023-2024	Proposed 2024-2025	Change from 2023-2024	% of Revenues
Tax Levy	\$ 15,068,110	\$ 15,497,551	\$ 429,441	54.01%
State Aid	11,000,789	10,834,049	-166,740	37.76%
Appropriated Fund Balance	700,000	700,000	0	2.44%
Use of Money & Property	507,985	645,304	137,319	2.25%
Miscellaneous Revenue	359,706	492,116	132,410	1.72%
Appropriated Reserve	49,525	187,459	137,934	0.65%
Charges for Services	149,500	149,500	0	0.52%
Federal Aid	100,000	100,000	0	0.35%
PILOTS	84,494	87,547	3,053	0.31%
Total Revenues	\$ 28,020,109	\$ 28,693,526	\$673,417	100.00%

Expenditure Summary



Revenue Summary





SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 28,020,109	\$28,693,526	\$28,268,866
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$673,417	\$248,757
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.40 %	.89%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$15,068,110	\$15,497,551	
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)	\$15,068,110	\$15,497,551	\$
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,011,192	\$1,184,693	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$14,232,526	\$14,476,774	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$14,056,918	\$14,312,588	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$175,608	\$163,916	
Administrative Component	\$3,030,152	\$3,190,630	\$3,025,150
Program Component	\$20,092,637	\$20,560,800	\$20,399,801
Capital Component	\$4,789,320	\$4,942,096	\$4,839,134
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
** 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)	Description		Amount
	Bus Purchase (Not to exceed)		\$300,000
	2024 Capital Outlay Project –Jr/Sr HS Safety Enhancements		\$100,000
			\$
			\$

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$614

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Schodack Central School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Jr/Sr High school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Schodack school(s), 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.



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VOTING FAQ

What am I voting on?

Residents will vote on a proposed \$ 28,693,526 budget for the 2024-25 School Year and a proposition to purchase school buses. Additionally, residents will elect four individuals to sit on Schodack's Board of Education.

When and where is the vote?

Voting will take place in the Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Gym on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Who can vote?

You must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen. Advance registration is not required, however, voters will be asked to swear or affirm that they are residents of the district and have been for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Can I vote by absentee ballot or vote early?

Completed applications for absentee ballots or early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be given personally to the voter. Any qualified voter may request an early mail ballot. To request an absentee ballot application or early mail ballot application, please contact District Clerk Michele Reickert at (518) 732-2297.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please call the District Office at (518) 732-2297 or visit the district website: www.schodack.k12.ny.us

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Join Us in Supporting Our Students!

Whether you're a school parent, an alumni or a community member who just wants to be more involved with their local schools, Schodack CSD welcomes new volunteers year-round! There are multiple ongoing opportunities and groups you can be involved in to support Schodack students and to make a positive impact on your school community.

Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO):

Plan/organize and help at popular events for students and families. Examples include the Fall Community Fair, the Holiday Bazaar, the Science Fair, the Strawberry Festival and many more! Email amyg_teach@yahoo.com to learn more.

Music Parents Association: Support and expand music education in Schodack and help at annual district music events! Email mhmusicpa@gmail.com to learn more.

Athletic Booster Club: Help support Maple Hill student-athletes at some of the district's year-round games/matches and tournaments! Email MapleHillBoosterClub@gmail.com to learn more.

Schodack Wildcat Foundation: A New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation founded by local members of our school community with a passion for helping Schodack students. This can take many forms, like organizing student programs/activities, holding fundraisers, helping locate grant opportunities and more. Contact the District Office at 518-732-2297 to learn more.