



Schalmont

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

BUDGET EDITION 2022

2022-2023 School Budget: Preserving Student Programs & Investing in Support Areas

FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, SCHALMONT'S 2022-2023 BUDGET PRESERVES OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH NO INCREASE IN THE TAX LEVY.

School nurse support is also increased districtwide and Jefferson Elementary will add a second social worker to offer our youngest learners additional support.

All student programs—including art, music, electives and extracurricular activities—are maintained in the budget.

“With high gas prices and inflation, we wanted to keep our tax levy flat, as long as it didn’t harm opportunities for our students,” said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. “Thankfully, savings from retirements and an increase in state aid allowed us to do that and even invest in some critical support areas.”

Read more about the student opportunities and supports that each Schalmont school is planning

for next year on the following pages.

Capital Project & Propositions

Our community will also vote May 17 on a \$6.1 million Capital Project to improve traffic safety and flow at both school campuses. Air conditioning would also be installed in all classrooms and air quality improved.

The Capital Project would have no impact on local taxes. A Capital Reserve Fund, which voters approved in 2018, will be used along with federal grant funding. (See page 4.)

Our community will also vote on a proposition to purchase six school buses as part of the district’s



Students gather at this year’s Grade 4 Spring Concert. Music—along with arts, electives, extracurricular activities and other programs—are fully maintained in the 2022-2023 budget.

long-term bus replacement plan. (See page 5.)

A third proposition would create a new Capital Reserve Fund to help the district pay for a future Capital Project. While the district has no immediate plans for the next project, the fund would help Schalmont save for future improvements to its buildings and grounds and minimize the impact on taxes. (See page 5.)

Finally, the community will vote for the Board of Education where there are three three-year seats open on the Board (See page 5.)



Jefferson Adds Support for Students

Jefferson Elementary is excited for next school year as the school continues opportunities for students while expanding support for their social-emotional needs and develops curriculum areas like science and ELA.

The budget funds an additional social worker to join the school's mental health team with an emphasis on proactively working with students, as well as supporting individualized educational plans.

"Having an additional person will allow us to push into classrooms more and focus on things like peer remediation and conflict resolution, trying to catch problems before they happen," explained Principal Joby Gifford.

Jefferson Elementary will also focus on aligning science curriculum as the school adapts to new science standards. Similar to the work in recent years in ELA and math, Jefferson Elementary will look at how science is taught at each grade level as well as in a K-12 perspective.

Additional curriculum work in ELA would support reading in the area of sounds and letter recognition to support learners of all abilities and help resolve any gaps created in the past two years.

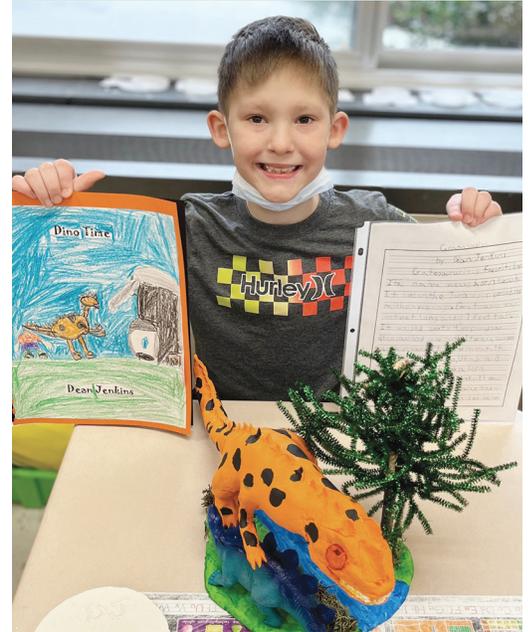
"We want to supply more opportunities for students to learn those foundational skills and provide structure and support for all

learners utilizing the phenomenal staff that we have here," said Assistant Principal Rebecca Grabicki.

Afterschool basketball and volleyball programs that were added last year, and proved popular with students, will continue next year along with other high-interest extracurricular activities for students.

"We'll also continue with our Character Education initiatives to make sure that we're encouraging positive behaviors with our students and being proactive," said Mr. Gifford.

Second graders held a Dinosaur Museum this year where they showcased all the research and work they did learning about dinosaurs.



Fire Prevention Day is always a popular day at Jefferson Elementary where the South Schenectady Fire Department visits each year to teach fire safety.

HS Expands Course Sections to Create Opportunities

Next year, Schalmont High School looks to build on efforts to expand course sections and maximize schedules to help students get in the classes they want, receive the support they need, and create opportunities to graduate with an Advanced Regents degree.

Responding to student interest, two sections of Digital Photography will be added. Newer electives such as Creative Writing, Film & Literature, Drawing & Painting 2 and 3 will also continue and remain popular with students.

Additional sections of core subjects will help lower class sizes to provide more opportunities to support students in the classroom. The school also looks to grow College in the High School and Advanced Placement classes.

“Through thoughtful scheduling and thoughtful use of our teachers and staff, we’re able to lower teacher-to-student ratios and provide support within the class. And where students need academic support

outside of the class, we can do that as well,” said Principal Matthew Heckman.

Providing academic support more in the classroom also helps students take electives that interest them.

“Students want to take a lot of classes and when they’re scheduled for intervention periods, they no longer can take an elective because it takes up a period of their day. This offers a lot more flexibility for students,” said Assistant Principal Nicole Martyn.

The High School will also continue to expand pairing labs with certain class subjects to create double blocks of instruction every other day. The approach has had success for classes like Algebra I, where

students are able to take the Regents exam in one year instead of two.

“Students actually get more support and it allows them to take four math and four science courses instead of three with the goal of getting an Advanced Regents Diploma,” said Mr. Heckman. “We want to raise the bar because we know our students can do it.”



Seniors in the High School Pep Band gather for a photo at this year’s Senior Night, where students were honored.

Middle School Continues Opportunities for Students

Schalmont Middle School looks to continue its efforts next year to connect with students and offer programs and opportunities based on their interests.

“We’ll offer all the programs we offered this year, including the electives, clubs and activities,” said Principal Scott Ziomek. “We’ll also continue our focus on team building, community and what being a Sabre Citizen means.”

“We have many clubs that our students can get involved in. We try to make sure there’s a spot for everybody here whatever their interest,” said Assistant Principal Melissa Judge.

Digital and media literacy remains a focus at the Middle School whether it is supporting students in the classroom or offering popular electives and clubs that provide coding or makerspace opportunities.

The Middle School also looks forward to expanding opportunities for students to connect with the Schalmont community, including events such as the annual Veterans Day Celebration and the work of National Junior Honor Society collecting food donations for non-profit organizations and books for local preschools.

Other popular extracurricular activities such as Chef’s Club, Sabre Service Club and Student Council will also continue along with modified sports and intramural programs.

“We try to put students in positions of leadership for efforts involving the community so they are student-run as much as possible,” said Mr. Ziomek.



The Sabre Service Club is a popular activity for Middle School students who often raise money and donations for community organizations.



Capital Project Improves Traffic and Air Quality in Schools

In addition to the school budget, the Schalmont community will vote on a \$6.1 million Capital Project that would improve traffic flow and safety at both school campuses.

Air conditioning would also be installed in all classrooms and air quality improved at all three schools.

The Capital Project will have no impact on taxes. Funding comes from a Capital Reserve Fund, which voters approved the creation of in 2018, and federal funding.

If approved by the community, the project should be completed by September 2023. Capital Projects require state reviews and a bidding process that often delays their start.

Middle/High School Campus

Separating parent vehicles and buses during pick-up and drop-off times is a main focus of making arrival and dismissal smoother and safer at Schalmont Middle and High School.

A new roadway, loop and sidewalks just for parent pick-up and drop-off would be built behind the Middle School. At least 55 vehicles could queue up on the new road, helping to move vehicles more steadily through the campus and get students in to school quicker.

Buses could then use the front loop for arrival and dismissal, eliminating the need to park behind the schools for drop-off.

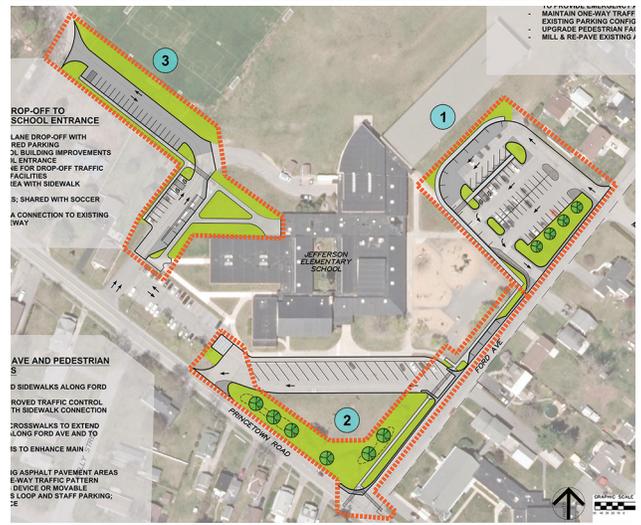
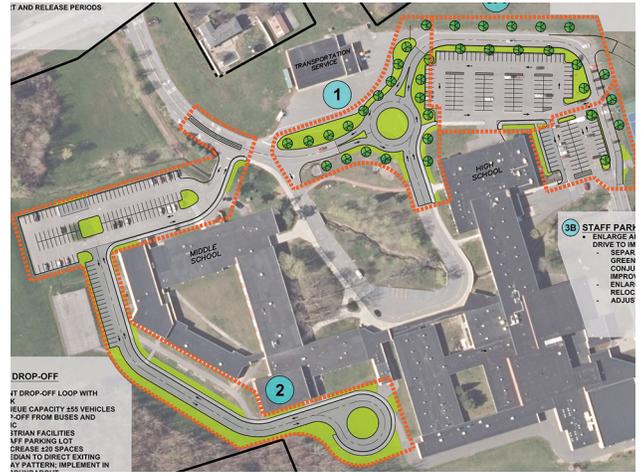
Student and employee parking would be reconfigured to improve traffic flow and separate the lots from the main drive by landscaped medians. A roundabout would help move traffic steadily and improve safety at the bus loop exit intersection.

Jefferson Elementary School

Making parent drop-off and pick-up smoother and safer is the main focus at Jefferson Elementary where one-way traffic patterns, improved parking, and additional sidewalks are planned.

The grades K-2 parking lot would be reconfigured to allow more cars to queue up. Parking spaces for parents to exit cars to walk younger students to the entrance would be added.

The grades 3-4 parking lot would have a new two-lane pick-up and drop-off area, with one-way traffic through a new exit near the soccer fields. Parking near the soccer fields would be paved for employee parking, that soccer families could also use.



To see larger renderings of the Capital Project plans and additional information, please visit www.schalmont.net.

Ventilation Upgrades

HVAC systems at all three schools would be improved to offer air conditioning, enhance air quality, and fix heating issues in a few Jefferson Elementary wings.

Air conditioning would be installed in all classrooms, cafeterias and play space at Jefferson Elementary.



Proposition Would Create Capital Reserve Fund

A proposition on the May 17 ballot would create a Capital Reserve Fund to help reduce the amount of borrowing needed for a future Capital Project.

Q WHY CREATE A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND?

A Capital Reserve Fund allows Schalmont to set aside savings at the end of a school year to help pay for future facility improvements.

Q HOW MUCH MONEY CAN BE SET ASIDE?

A The district can put up to \$5 million in the Capital Reserve Fund over the next 10 years.

Q WHERE DOES MONEY FOR THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND COME FROM?

A Funding primarily comes from fund balance. Schalmont’s proposed budget is an estimate of costs for the upcoming year. When costs are less than projected, or revenues are higher, some of those savings can be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Q HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY KNOW HOW FUNDING IS USED?

A Schalmont needs voter approval to use money from the Capital Reserve Fund, like this year’s proposition for the Capital Project.

Voters to Decide on BOE Candidates

This year there are three open seats on the Board of Education. Each term is three years.

Please see our website, www.schalmont.org, for biographies and photos of each candidate running.

Schalmont did not include candidate information in the newsletter this year

due to concerns about mail delays and getting newsletters to our community before the vote.

State law allows candidates to submit Board petitions until April 18. This newsletter had to go to print before that date to ensure it got in voters hands given recent delays we have experienced.

Bus Purchases Part of Long-Term Plan



As part of Schalmont’s long-term bus replacement plan, a proposition on the May 17 ballot would allow the district to purchase three new 66-passenger school buses and one new 28-passenger mini school bus.

Schalmont would also purchase two 66-passenger school buses the district currently uses that have leases ending this year.

The total cost would not exceed \$540,000. Schalmont pays about one-third of the cost because New

York State reimburses the district for approximately 65% on bus purchases.

Schalmont purchases school buses each year as part of a long-term plan to keep the district’s fleet in safe, working order. New buses replace old buses based on the vehicle’s mileage, age, repair history and condition.

To avoid interest payments, buses would be purchased with money from the district’s fund balance. This also maximizes our state aid, lowering the local cost to taxpayers.



EXPENDITURES – *Where does the money go?*

Category	2021-2022 Budget	Proposed 2022-2023 Budget	Change from 2021-2022	% of Budget
Instruction	\$25,972,675	\$26,301,092	\$328,417	49.2%
Benefits	\$15,541,490	\$16,192,760	\$651,270	30.3%
General Operations & Central Administration	\$4,499,414	\$4,604,282	\$104,868	8.6%
Transportation	\$3,476,898	\$3,811,432	\$334,534	7.1%
Debt Service	\$2,846,900	\$2,523,424	-\$323,476	4.7%
Interfund Transfer	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$5,000	0.1%
Totals	\$52,397,377	\$53,497,990	\$1,100,613	100.0%

REVENUES – *Where does the money come from?*

Category	2021-2022 Budget	Estimated 2022-2023	Change from 2021-2022	% of Revenues
Property Tax Levy for Budget	\$29,973,572	\$29,973,572	\$0	56.0%
State and Federal Aid	\$15,412,659	\$16,512,659	\$1,100,000	30.9%
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$3,742,790	\$3,743,403	\$613	7.0%
Fund Balance Appropriations	\$1,818,356	\$1,818,356	\$0	3.4%
Reserve Appropriations	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$0	1.6%
Interest Earnings/Building Use/Refunds	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0	1.1%
Total Revenue	\$52,397,377	\$53,497,990	\$1,100,613	100.0%

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Interfund Transfer: **0.1%**

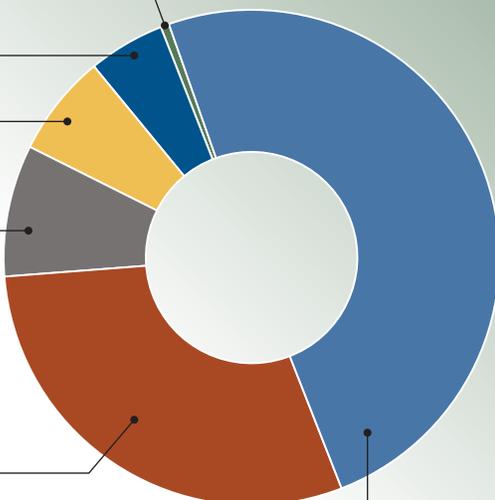
Debt Service: **4.7%**

Transportation: **7.1%**

General Operations & Central Administration: **8.6%**

Benefits: **30.3%**

Instruction: **49.2%**



REVENUE SUMMARY

Interest, Building Use, Refunds: **1.1%**

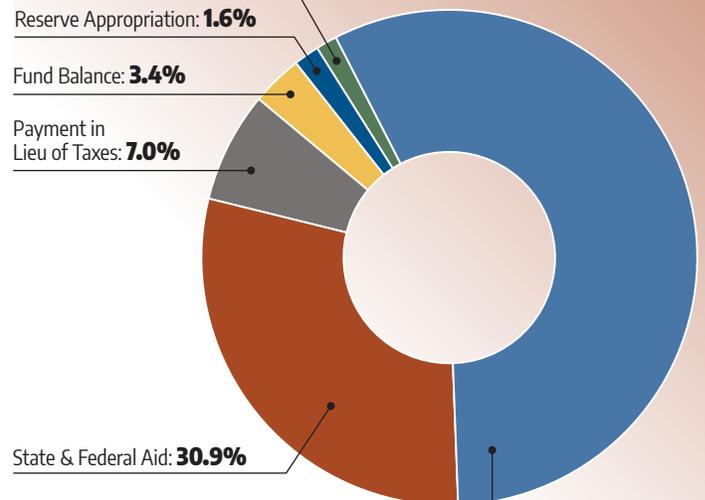
Reserve Appropriation: **1.6%**

Fund Balance: **3.4%**

Payment in Lieu of Taxes: **7.0%**

State & Federal Aid: **30.9%**

Property Tax Levy: **56.0%**





School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$52,397,377	\$53,497,990	\$53,389,895
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$1,100,613	\$992,518
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.100%	1.894%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.02%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$29,973,572	\$29,973,572	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$29,973,572	\$29,973,572	\$29,973,572
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$379,048	\$414,693	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$30,288,754	\$30,821,151	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$29,594,524	\$29,558,879	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$694,230	\$1,262,272	
Administrative Component	\$3,093,119	\$3,274,189	\$3,203,390
Program Component	\$43,469,397	\$44,271,402	\$44,271,402
Capital Component	\$5,834,861	\$5,952,399	\$5,915,103

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2022-23 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	\$540,000.00

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$420
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Schalmont Central School District, Schenectady County, New York, will be held at Schalmont High School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Schalmont High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



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8 BUDGET 2022 NEWSLETTER

**Tax Levy Is One Part of
School Tax Bill Calculation**

NEXT YEAR'S SCHOOL BUDGET REQUIRES NO INCREASE IN THE TAX LEVY, THE FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR THE INCREASE HAS BEEN AT OR BELOW 2%.

The **0% tax levy increase** means the district will collect the same total amount in school property taxes as the previous year. While homeowners' school tax bills will be similar to last year, they may not be exactly the same.

A property's current assessed value and a town's final assessment rolls (determined by your town) as well as the equalization rate and a homeowner's STAR

exemption value (determined by New York State) may vary year to year, which can impact a homeowner's school tax bill.

"The only thing the district controls is how much total revenue from property taxes our budget requires. Given the challenges many families are facing, the administration and Board of Education decided to limit the tax levy increase to 0%," explained Assistant Superintendent for Business Joseph Karas.

VOTER INFORMATION

What am I voting on?

A \$53,497,990 budget for the 2022-2023 school year that does not raise the tax levy, a proposition to approve a \$6.1 million Capital Project that does not impact taxes, a proposition to purchase six school buses, a proposition to create a Capital Reserve Fund, and candidates for the Board of Education.

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 17 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Schalmont High School gymnasium.

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and a resident of the Schalmont Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

How can I vote by absentee ballot?

Please call the District Office at 518-355-9200 to request an application for an absentee ballot. Any eligible voter can vote by absentee if they prefer.

What if I have questions?

For further information, please visit www.schalmont.org and click on our Budget Information link. Residents are also encouraged to call the District Office at 518-355-9200 with any questions they may have.