



# Schalmont

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

BUDGET EDITION 2024

## 2024-2025 Budget: Growing Opportunities & Supporting Students

FOR THE 4TH YEAR IN A ROW, SCHALMONT'S BUDGET REQUIRES NO TAX LEVY INCREASE WHILE BUILDING ON OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS IN 2024-2025.

All academic programs – including art, music and secondary electives – are fully funded along with support for students, athletics and extracurricular activities. There are no cuts to staffing in the budget.

“We are excited to continue to grow opportunities for our students without raising the tax levy for a 4th straight year,” said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. “We are careful to invest in what we need, great programs for our students and equitable pay for our employees. We truly are Schalmont proud!”

The budget adds IT staff to better support our students and faculty, funds a consistent athletic trainer to work with all teams and their players, and continues to support

professional development focused on literacy.

A 7th section of kindergarten is also funded, which may be needed based on student registration. We've added teachers at Jefferson and Schalmont Middle School in recent years to maintain reasonable class sizes as our enrollment grows.

The \$57,880,777 budget increases spending by about 3.5% over this year. (See page 6 for detailed tables and charts).

Voters will also decide on **Tuesday, May 21** on a proposition to purchase five school buses as part of our long-term bus replacement plan (see page 5), a proposition to create a Capital Reserve Fund (see page 4), and three seats on the Board of Education (see page 5).



Senior Hope Caufield joined a Women in the Trades panel this year, sharing insights about her education and work in automotive trades. Schalmont strongly supports every student's interest in CTE programs.

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 0% tax levy increase for 4th straight year.
- ✓ No cuts to student programs, support services or extracurriculars.
- ✓ Adds IT staff for growing technology needs.
- ✓ Funds Athletic Trainer for all home games and practices.
- ✓ Funds additional kindergarten section if needed due to growing enrollment.
- ✓ Professional development funding for K-5 literacy development.



# We are Schalmont

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE PROGRAMS, OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT THE 2024-2025 BUDGET PROVIDES OUR STUDENTS.

## FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Therapy dogs are a common, comforting sight at Schalmont schools.

We often open our doors to furry friends from Therapy Dogs International. Visits from our faculty's certified therapy dogs always create smiles as well.

It's a small part of Schalmont's focus on student mental health and wellness.

The budget continues additional support we've added in recent years to better serve the needs of our students and families.



## PROVIDING A STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION



Providing students from kindergarten to their senior year a strong academic foundation is at the core of Schalmont schools.

The 2024-2025 budget fully funds all academic programs including art, music and secondary electives. An additional kindergarten

section is also funded, which may be needed due to growing enrollment.

The budget also funds many clubs and afterschool activities, including our High School English Honor Society who visit Jefferson Elementary each year to read to younger students.



## SABRE ATHLETICS PRIDE!

Schalmont's student athletes continue to make us proud on and off the court and field.

Just look at our Sabre runners who continue to break school records like our Girls Indoor Track Team's 1:49.79 in the 4 x 200 meter relay and junior Carter Flowers' 1:57.71 in the 800 meters this year.

Just as impressive is these student athletes, and nearly all of our winter sports teams, were also named Scholar Athletes! The budget funds more than 20 sports across the varsity, junior varsity and modified levels.



## KEEPING SCHALMONT SCHOOLS SAFE



Schalmont is fortunate to have an eight-member security team and a Rotterdam Police Department School Resource Officer in our schools.

Most of our security team have law enforcement or military backgrounds. They, along with our School Resource Officer, are always

visible in our hallways and around our campuses as they focus on school safety while building relationships with students.

Schalmont also enjoys a great relationship with our local and state police agencies and we thank them for all they do to help keep our schools safe.

## STUDENT INTEREST GROWS FOR ARTS & MUSIC

Whether it's the sculptures and drawings created in our art classes or the music brought to life by our choruses and bands, Schalmont is always amazed by the talent, dedication and creativity of our students.

Schalmont's music and arts programs are again fully funded in 2024-2025. The programs continue to draw great student interest as our faculty explore newer offerings like Digital Photography, Piano & Performance, and Pop Choir.



## STUDENT CLUBS & EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES



Art Club, Drama Club, Sabre Nation, Marching Band, Science Olympiad, Student Council, Introspection Literary Magazine, Engineering Club, and Ski & Snowboard Club.

These are some of the 20+ extracurricular activities

available for Schalmont students. The 2024-2025 budget funds all current clubs and activities, including our MasterMinds Team, pictured here as they get ready to travel for a match against regional schools.



# CAPITAL RESERVE FUND



A PROPOSITION ON THE MAY 21 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 \$30 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 two years ago when voters approved a Capital Project to improve campus traffic and add A/C to classrooms. That project was completed this spring.

## Q WHAT ARE SCHALMONT'S PLANS FOR THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND?

A Schalmont does not yet have plans for another Capital Project but Jefferson Elementary likely would be a focus for future facility improvements. As our enrollment continues to grow, Jefferson is getting closer to capacity; additional learning space may be needed if we continue to add sections to maintain reasonable class sizes.

## Key Points Emerge in Pre-K Study

Schalmont would like to share some key points of agreement from our Pre-K Advisory Committee, a group of families, educators and community members who meet regularly to discuss a possible Pre-K program for Schalmont.



### Our community has great interest in Pre-K.

From the first committee meeting to a community survey, we have heard overwhelming support for starting a Pre-K program.

### The earliest Schalmont could start a Pre-K program would be the 2025-2026 school year.

Decisions on operating hours, staffing needs, and curriculum as well as logistics like breakfast/lunches, furniture, and arrival/dismissal plans will take time to be done right.

### Pre-K would be a universal, full-day program.

Our community is clear they desire a full-day program run by Schalmont staff that is open to all families with preschool-aged children in our district.

### Woestina Elementary School would be used for the program.

The building and grounds remain in excellent condition and need minimal work to reopen for a Pre-K program. The school is also designed for young learners.

### Cost is the largest challenge.

While Schalmont would receive additional state aid, it would not offset the total cost. We are planning this carefully to ensure adding Pre-K doesn't impact opportunities for our K-12 students nor create a burden for our taxpayers.

We will continue to share updates with our community. If you have a question, please email Dr. Reardon at [treardon@schalmont.net](mailto:treardon@schalmont.net).



## Bus Purchases Part of Long-Term Plan

As part of Schalmont’s long-term bus replacement plan, a proposition on the May 21 ballot would allow the district to purchase three 66-passenger school buses and two 35-passenger mini school buses.

The total cost would not exceed \$685,000. 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.



## RECENT BUDGETS BY THE NUMBERS

The tax levy has **not increased in four years.**

Schalmont has **never gone over the Property Tax Cap** (that’s 13 straight years).

In 11 of the past 13 years, the tax levy increase has been **2% or lower.**

## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

THIS YEAR, THERE ARE FOUR INDIVIDUALS RUNNING FOR THREE SEATS ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. TWO SEATS ARE THREE-YEAR TERMS AND ONE SEAT IS A PARTIAL, TWO-YEAR TERM. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER, AS THEY WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.



**Angelo D. Santabarbara** is serving his third term on the Schalmont Board of Education. Mr. Santabarbara is a firm believer in enriching the Schalmont education to build better students within the constraints of budgets that our community can afford. Mr. Santabarbara and his wife, Melissa, are proud parents of four past and present Schalmont students (one in middle school, two attending college and another in the workforce). Angelo is currently the Board of Education President and has served on the Audit, Budget Advisory, Policy, Profile of a Graduate, and Technology Committees. Mr. Santabarbara is the Director Networks & Systems | Information Security Officer at Siena College. He earned his MBA in Information Systems & Technology Management from the Rochester Institute of Technology after receiving his bachelor’s degree from RIT.



I am **William Mau**, and I am running for the Schalmont Board of Education, motivated by my profound connection to the district and a strong desire to contribute to its future. As the current Chief Operating Officer for a company in California, I bring a wealth of experience in leadership, strategic oversight, and operational management. My professional journey is underpinned by a solid foundation in education, having earned my teaching degree from The College of Saint Rose. Having grown up in Schalmont, attending its schools, and now seeing my two children do the same, I have both a personal and generational stake in the quality and integrity of our educational environment. This deep-rooted connection to the community inspires my commitment to ensure that our schools not only maintain high standards but also innovate and improve to meet the challenges of tomorrow. I am eager to leverage my skills and experiences to enhance the educational landscape at Schalmont, ensuring it remains a place where future generations can thrive and succeed.



**David Lawrence** has a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Social Studies Adolescent Education and History from SUNY Cortland and a master’s degree in Curriculum Design and Instructional Technology from SUNY Albany. He has been teaching high school social studies for 18 years. He and his wife, Melanie, have two boys in the Schalmont School District. David is an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 54 and also coaches RC Little League, Sabre Youth Football and CDYBL for Schalmont. He is running for school board to continue to create more K-12 educational opportunities (academic, social, and emotional) that are accessible to all students, continue to be a line of communication between the Board, community, and parents, and to help ensure a positive learning environment for all Schalmont students. It takes a parent and educator in the classroom to know what students and educators need, and David Lawrence is both.



**Kyrish Iyer**, a committed parent of two Schalmont students, is actively pursuing re-election to the Schalmont School Board. With nearly two decades of advancing expertise in Supply Chain management at GE and Regeneration, complemented by an MBA from Clarkson University and over a decade serving as a professor at Albany, Kyrish offers a unique perspective. Notably, his previous tenure on the school board underscores his dedication to educational leadership. Kyrish helped spearhead the transition and succession plan for the Schalmont Superintendent position, as well as navigating a challenging period during the pandemic, showcasing his strategic acumen and commitment to the district’s future.



## EXPENDITURES – *Where does the money go?*

Category	2023-2024 Budget	Proposed 2024-2025 Budget	Change from 2023-2024	% of Budget
Instruction	\$27,324,509	\$28,719,866	\$1,395,357	49.6%
Includes: Teacher, TAs and Aide salaries, textbooks, supplies, computers				
Benefits	\$16,843,718	\$18,099,979	\$1,256,261	31.3%
Cost to insure all full-time and retired district employees				
General Operations & Central Administration	\$5,018,550	\$5,072,380	\$53,830	8.8%
Includes: Administrative, Facilities, Maintenance and Support Staff salaries, supplies to maintain campuses				
Transportation	\$4,187,400	\$4,536,500	\$349,100	7.8%
Includes: Bus Drivers, Bus Attendants and Mechanic salaries, cost of buses, parts, repairs, fuel				
Debt Service	\$2,438,861	\$1,412,052	-\$1,026,809	2.4%
Payment for money borrowed for prior Capital Projects (usually offset by Building Aid)				
Interfund Transfer	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	0.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$55,853,038</b>	<b>\$57,880,777</b>	<b>\$2,027,739</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## REVENUES – *Where does the money come from?*

Category	2023-2024 Budget	Proposed 2024-2025 Budget	Change from 2023-2024	% of Revenues
Property Tax Levy for Budget	\$29,973,572	\$29,973,572	\$0	51.8%
State and Federal Aid	\$16,988,599	\$17,298,000	\$309,401	29.9%
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$3,858,516	\$3,858,516	\$0	6.7%
Fund Balance Appropriations	\$2,977,351	\$4,800,689	\$1,823,338	8.3%
Debt Service Payment	\$1,455,000	\$0	-\$1,455,000	0.0%
Reserve Appropriations	\$0	\$650,000	\$650,000	1.1%
Interest Earnings, Building Use, Refunds	\$600,000	\$1,300,000	\$700,000	2.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$55,853,038</b>	<b>\$57,880,777</b>	<b>\$2,027,739</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Interfund Transfer: **0.1%**

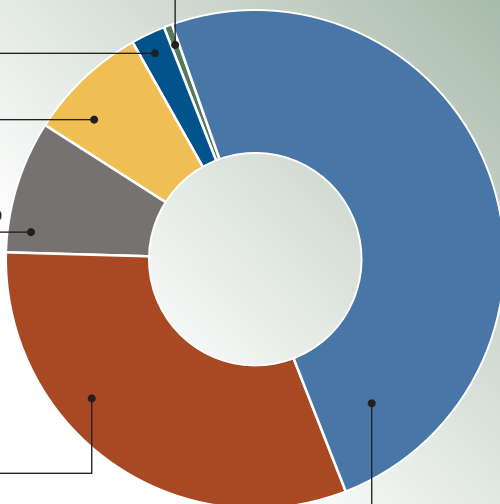
Debt Service: **2.4%**

Transportation: **7.8%**

General Operations  
& Central  
Administration: **8.8%**

Benefits: **31.3%**

Instruction: **49.6%**



### REVENUE SUMMARY

Interest, Building Use, Refunds: **2.2%**

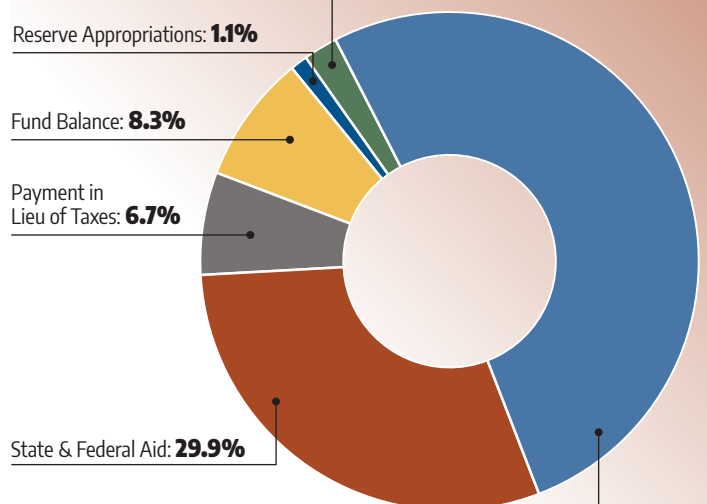
Reserve Appropriations: **1.1%**

Fund Balance: **8.3%**

Payment in  
Lieu of Taxes: **6.7%**

State & Federal Aid: **29.9%**

Property Tax Levy: **51.8%**





# School District Budget Notice

NEW YORK STATE REQUIRES EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MAIL THE BUDGET NOTICE BELOW TO THEIR COMMUNITY.

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	\$55,853,038	\$57,880,777	\$57,780,277
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$2,027,739	\$1,927,239
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.63%	3.45%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
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	\$1,129,121	\$918,532	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$31,102,693	\$30,892,104	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$28,844,451	\$29,055,040	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$2,258,242	\$1,837,064	
Administrative Component	\$3,094,790	\$3,047,900	\$3,047,900
Program Component	\$46,455,112	\$49,440,845	\$49,440,845
Capital Component	\$6,303,136	\$5,392,032	\$5,291,532

\* 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.  
All instructional programming will remain. We will reduce supply and contractual costs in the administrative and capital components of the budget for contingency purposes.

\*\* 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	\$685,000

\* NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$450

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 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 21, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time in the Schalmont High School, at which times the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



**Board of Education**

Angelo Santabarbara  
*President*

David Lawrence  
*Vice President*

Patricia Dowse  
Miranda Eldridge  
Jean Hanson  
Kevin Thompson

**Superintendent**

Dr. Thomas Reardon

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Central School District



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**Capital Project Wraps Up**

As the weather warms up in May and June, every Schalmont classroom will be able to offer some relief thanks to the Capital Project that wrapped up this spring.

The project, which voters approved in 2022, installed air conditioning in each school classroom and upgraded HVAC systems to enhance air quality and fix a few heating issues at Jefferson Elementary.



Traffic flow and safety was also improved at both school campuses as new traffic designs have helped make student drop-off and pick-up faster and safer.

The project had no impact on local taxes. Schalmont used a Capital Reserve Fund to pay much of the \$6.1 million cost along with a one-time federal grant.

**HOW TO VOTE**

**WHEN AND WHERE IS THE VOTE?**

👉 **Tuesday, May 21 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** in the Schalmont High School gymnasium lobby. Polls are well marked on campus.

**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?**

👉 Community members are encouraged to call the District Office at 518-355-9200 with any questions about the budget. We are happy to answer your questions.

