



# Schalmont

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

BUDGET EDITION 2025

## 2025-2026 BUDGET:

# Preserving Programs & Investing in Pre-K

Schalmont's budget for 2025-2026 once again preserves all programs and opportunities for students, requires no cuts to faculty or staff, and invests in a new Pre-K program at the reopened Woestina Elementary.

After four straight years with no tax levy increase, the proposed 2025-2026 budget includes a 1.75% increase.

"We would love to continue our streak of no tax levy increases but we want to ensure Schalmont's finances are strong as we build our Pre-K program," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. "This budget allows us to invest in our educational program while keeping our first tax levy increase in five years to less than 2%."

This spring, Schalmont announced we are reopening Woestina Elementary in September to start a Pre-K program with three classrooms in the Rotterdam Junction school. Schalmont hopes to grow the program in future years but started with a program for 54 students to minimize the start-up cost while we gauge community interest.

Dr. Reardon stressed that adding the Pre-K program will not impact any opportunities or programs for Schalmont's other students.

"Our Pre-K Committee has said all along that adding Pre-K can't be done at the expense of our K-12 students. This budget also funds all

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 1.75% tax levy increase (following 4 years of 0% increase)
- ✓ No cuts to student programs, support services or extracurriculars.
- ✓ No cuts to teachers or staff.
- ✓ Funds Schalmont's 1st Pre-K Program
- ✓ Reopens Woestina Elementary (for Pre-K)

the opportunities our community has come to expect for their children at Schalmont schools," said Dr. Reardon.

The \$60,210,234 budget increases spending by 3.9% over this year (See page 6 for detailed tables and charts).

The Budget Vote is **Tuesday, May 20** where our community will also decide on a proposition to purchase five school buses as part of our long-term bus replacement plan (see page 4), a proposition to create a Capital Reserve for Bus Purchases (see page 4), and three seats on the Board of Education (see page 5).

Schalmont is so proud of our 7th Grade Band & Chorus who were invited to perform at the Empire State Plaza in Albany this spring! Schalmont's music program is once again fully funded in next year's budget.





We are  
**Schalmont**

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE PROGRAMS, OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT THE 2025-2026 BUDGET PROVIDES OUR STUDENTS.

## PROVIDING A STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION



Providing a strong academic foundation for our students is at the core of Schalmont schools.

The 2025-2026 budget fully funds all academic programs including art, music and secondary electives.

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 students.

## SCHALMONT PRIDE IN OUR 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 2025-2026. The programs continue to draw great student interest in classes like Studio Art, Digital Photography, Wind Ensemble, Piano & Performance, and many more.



## 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.



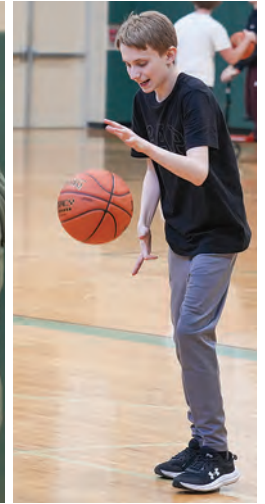
## SCHALMONT ADDS UNIFIED SPORTS

Schalmont's first Unified Sports team kicked off their inaugural season this spring as the Unified Basketball team hit the court!

Unified Sports provides students with and without intellectual disabilities an opportunity to play sports together on the same team. Schalmont recently completed the process to offer the

program for our grades 9-12 students.

Schalmont also expanded its sports offerings this spring by adding Boys and Girls Lacrosse, working with Schenectady and Mohonasen school districts to create joint teams. Schalmont students enjoy more than 20 sports opportunities over the varsity, JV and modified levels.



## 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 2025-2026 budget funds all current clubs and activities as well as new opportunities like Jefferson Elementary's intramural volleyball program.

## INVESTING IN EARLY LITERACY

Schalmont's teachers have spent much of their professional development time over the past year immersed in early literacy as the district moves to a new, comprehensive K-5 literacy program in the fall.

With reading and writing such a critical part of a child's education, Schalmont is investing in the ELA curriculum that uses evidence-based strategies to enhance our students' reading comprehension, vocabulary and overall academic success.





## SCHOOL BUS RESERVE FUND



A proposition on the May 20 ballot would create a Capital School Bus Reserve Fund, which would help Schalmont reduce the amount of borrowing needed to purchase school buses, vans or maintenance vehicles.

### Q WHY CREATE A RESERVE FUND?

A A Reserve Fund allows Schalmont to set aside savings at the end of a school year to help pay for future vehicle purchases. It is something that our auditing firm recently recommended we create.

### Q HOW MUCH MONEY CAN BE SET ASIDE?

A The district can put up to \$805,000 in the Reserve Fund over the next five years.

### Q WHERE DOES MONEY FOR THE 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 Reserve Fund.

### Q HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY KNOW HOW FUNDING IS USED?

A Schalmont needs voter approval to use money from the Reserve Fund so our community will vote on a proposition as part of the school budget vote.

## Bus Purchases Part of Long-Term Plan



As part of Schalmont's long-term bus replacement plan, a proposition on the May 20 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 \$800,000. 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.



# Woestina to Reopen for Pre-K

Schalmont is excited to be able to reopen the former Woestina Elementary School as part of the 2025-2026 budget.

The school was closed as an elementary school in 2011, although Capital Region BOCES leased the building for years for a special education program.

While Woestina has been vacant since 2020, Schalmont has maintained the building and it is in excellent shape. Our Facilities Team has already started preparing the building so it is ready for students in the fall.

“Woestina is a perfect place for our Pre-K program as the classrooms were designed for young children,” said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. “It’s great to maximize this space that would otherwise be vacant and it allows Schalmont to invest in the long-term health of the school and its beautiful campus in the [Rotterdam] Junction.”

## RECENT BUDGETS BY THE NUMBERS

The proposed 1.75% tax levy increase is the **first increase in five years.**

Schalmont has **never gone over the Property Tax Cap** (that’s 14 straight years).

In 12 of the past 14 years, the tax levy increase has been **2% or lower.**

## CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THIS YEAR, THERE ARE THREE INDIVIDUALS RUNNING FOR THREE SEATS ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

ALL THREE SEATS ARE THREE-YEAR TERMS. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER, AS THEY WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.



**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 Regeneron, 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.



**Jean Hanson** is serving her third term on the Schalmont Board of Education. She is retired from the State of New York, where she last served as the Director of the Bureau of Business Intelligence for the Office of the Medical Inspector General. She is a current member of the District’s Policy and Facilities Committees. She has previously served on the District Safety and Audit Committees. Mrs. Hanson graduated from Schalmont High School. She attended Schenectady County Community College, where she majored in Culinary Arts and, later, Accounting. She and her husband, Steven, have two children who are Schalmont High School alumni.



**Pat Dowse** has served for two terms and hopes to be elected for a third on the Schalmont Board of Education. As a Solution Specialist, Pat consults with local and state government agencies, colleges, grassroots’ advocacy/ trade groups, and manufacturing businesses to develop career opportunities for people with diverse abilities. Recognized as a subject matter expert, Pat has a MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Albany, NY complimented by over 30 years of expertise working in New York and nationally offering strategies in workforce development, rehabilitation counseling, systems’ advocacy, and workforce policy analysis. She has children in the Schalmont School District and resides in Rotterdam, NY.



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

Category	2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget	Change from 2024-2025	% of Budget
Instruction	\$28,719,866	\$30,120,294	\$1,400,428	50.0%
Includes: Teacher, TAs and Aide salaries, textbooks, supplies, computers				
Benefits	\$18,099,979	\$19,499,000	\$1,399,021	32.4%
Cost to insure all full-time and retired district employees				
General Operations & Central Administration	\$5,072,380	\$4,876,550	-\$195,830	8.1%
Includes: Administrative, Facilities, Maintenance and Support Staff salaries, supplies to maintain campuses				
Transportation	\$4,536,500	\$4,220,890	-\$315,610	7.0%
Includes: Bus Drivers, Bus Attendants and Mechanic salaries, cost of buses, parts, repairs, fuel				
Debt Service	\$1,412,052	\$1,453,500	\$41,448	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>\$57,880,777</b>	<b>\$60,210,234</b>	<b>\$2,329,457</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

Category	2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget	Change from 2024-2025	% of Revenues
Property Tax Levy for Budget	\$29,973,572	\$30,498,109	\$524,537	50.7%
State and Federal Aid	\$17,298,000	\$17,666,732	\$368,732	29.3%
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$3,858,516	\$3,858,516	\$0	6.4%
Fund Balance Appropriations	\$4,800,689	\$6,886,877	\$2,086,188	11.4%
Reserve Appropriations	\$650,000	\$0	-\$650,000	0.0%
Interest Earnings, Building Use, Refunds	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$0	2.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$57,880,777</b>	<b>\$60,210,234</b>	<b>\$2,329,457</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Interfund Transfer: **0.1%**

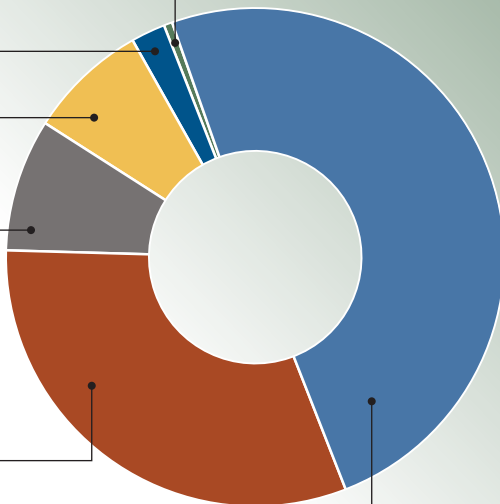
Debt Service: **2.4%**

Transportation: **7.0%**

General Operations  
& Central  
Administration: **8.1%**

Benefits: **32.4%**

Instruction: **50.0%**



### REVENUE SUMMARY

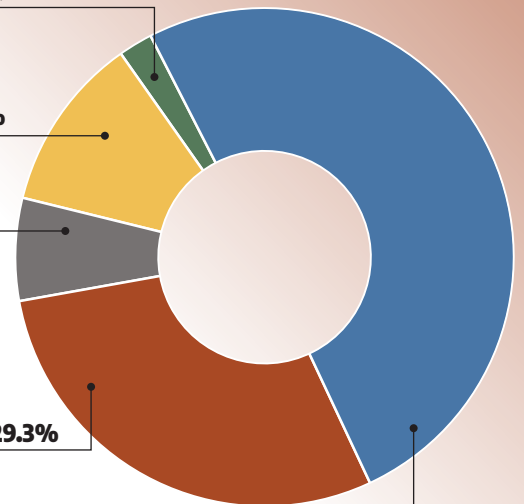
Interest, Building Use, Refunds: **2.2%**

Fund Balance: **11.4%**

Payment in  
Lieu of Taxes: **6.4%**

State & Federal Aid: **29.3%**

Property Tax Levy: **50.7%**





# 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 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$57,880,777	\$60,210,234	\$60,062,634
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$2,329,457	\$2,181,857
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.025%	3.77%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$29,973,572	\$30,498,109	
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	\$30,498,109	\$29,973,572
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$918,532	\$1,453,500	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$30,892,104	\$31,951,609	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$29,055,040	\$29,044,609	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$1,837,064	\$2,907,000	
Administrative Component	\$3,047,900	\$3,004,050	\$2,920,050
Program Component	\$49,440,845	\$52,547,384	\$52,499,784
Capital Component	\$5,392,032	\$4,658,800	\$4,642,800

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 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	\$707,000

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$442
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 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 20, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. prevailing time in the Schalmont High School, at which time 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  
Jean Hanson  
William Mau  
Kevin Thompson

**Superintendent**

Dr. Thomas Reardon

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Central School District



# Schalmont Fiscal Strength & Stability

Including next year’s budget, Schalmont has not cut a program or support for our students in 5 years.

While we continually examine ways we can be more efficient, it is always with the goal of better helping our students.

That approach has meant no tax levy increase for the past 4 years. In 2025-2026, we propose a 1.75% increase, as we reopen a school and provide Pre-K for our families.

Schalmont also has agreed to 4-year contracts with all three of our employee groups, providing stability for faculty and staff while helping Schalmont attract the best candidates for vacancies.

“Our teachers, bus drivers and all our staff are amazing,” said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. “We’re glad we can reward them for all they do for our students while still offering our community one of the lowest tax increases in the region.”



## HOW TO VOTE

### WHEN AND WHERE IS THE VOTE?

- 👍 Tuesday, May 20 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.

