



# Schalmont

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 BUDGET NEWS

Your  
**VOTE**  
Matters

## 2026-2027 Budget: Continuing Student Programs & Pre-K

Schalmont's budget for 2026-2027 once again preserves all programs and supports for our students, requires no cuts to faculty or staff, and continues our Pre-K program that we started at Woestina Elementary this year.

The proposed budget includes a 1.95% tax levy increase, largely needed to help address rising health insurance costs, a challenge facing most districts.

The budget marks 15 straight years that Schalmont has stayed within the NYS Property Tax Cap, which allows for a 4.2% increase next year. Instead, next year's budget continues eight straight years of keeping the tax levy increase at or below 2%.

"We are excited to continue the great opportunities for students that our community expects while even creating some new ones," said Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon. "This budget keeps Schalmont financially strong despite the financial challenges facing school districts."

Dr. Reardon noted Schalmont expects to add new classes next year such as AP Physics 2 and a second Home Improvement & Maintenance elective. New opportunities such as an Acapella Club would join other recently added activities such as Middle School Drama Club and Pickleball.

"Our faculty, staff and administrators are always looking at ways we can add more things that our students are interested in," said Dr. Reardon. "We are proud to support their efforts that result in meaningful new opportunities for our students."

The budget also continues Schalmont's Pre-K program at the reopened Woestina Elementary. Once again, our community has shown great

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 1.95% tax levy increase (below 4.2% increase allowed by NYS Tax Cap)
- ✓ No cuts to student programs, support services or extracurriculars.
- ✓ No cuts to teachers or staff.
- ✓ Continues Schalmont's Pre-K Program
- ✓ Rising health insurance costs are the biggest budget challenge.

interest in the program, which has already started registering families for next year.

The \$61,854,952 budget increases spending by 2.7% over this year (*See page 6 for detailed tables and charts*).

The Budget Vote is **Tuesday, May 19** where our community will also decide on a proposition to purchase five diesel 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 two seats on the Board of Education (*see page 5*).



Schalmont students performed the first Middle School musical in decades this year thanks to the new school Drama Club. The new club is one of many new student opportunities continued in the 2026-2027 budget.



# We are Schalmont

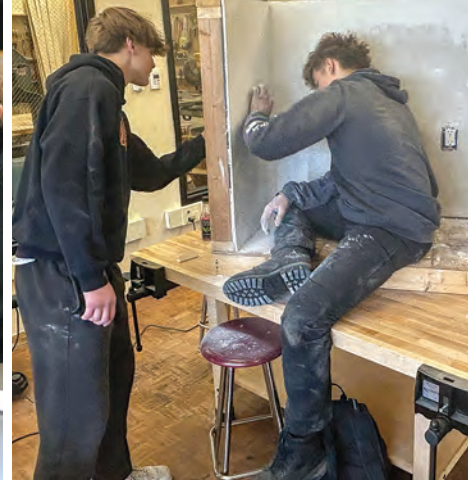
HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE PROGRAMS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SUPPORTS THE 2026-2027 BUDGET PROVIDES OUR STUDENTS.

## PROVIDING A STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

Providing a strong academic foundation for our students is our main focus at Schalmont schools.

The 2026-2027 budget fully funds all instructional programs including music, art, and electives.

Schalmont also continues to add new electives where possible, such as a second Residential Home Construction course and AP Physics 2 next year.



## 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 2026-2027. 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 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 BOWLING



Schalmont continues to create new athletic opportunities for our students including adding a Unified Bowling Team this year!

Unified Sports provides students with and without intellectual disabilities an opportunity to play sports together on the same team. Schalmont now offers Unified Bowling and Basketball and is exploring other sports as well.

By working with neighboring districts, Schalmont also is able to offer opportunities like Hockey and Boys and Girls Lacrosse. 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 2026-2027 budget funds all current clubs and activities as well as new opportunities like Middle School Pickleball and High School Archery.



## SUPPORTING STUDENT INTEREST IN CTE



Schalmont students pursuing Career & Technical Education always make us proud, whether it's winning awards at a SkillsUSA competition or simply the amazing skills they learn each day.

Any student who has an interest in a Capital Region BOCES program always has Schalmont's support as we allow all of our interested students to explore these opportunities.



## SCHOOL BUS & VEHICLE RESERVE FUND



A proposition on the May 19 ballot would create a Capital School Bus & Vehicle 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 \$3,000,000 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 to purchase school buses 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 19 ballot would allow the district to purchase three diesel 66-passenger school buses and two diesel 35-passenger mini school buses.

The total cost would not exceed \$764,722.15. 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.



## Bringing in Routes Helps Drivers and District

Our community may notice that Schalmont's Transportation budget is projected to be less next year. That's not due to any cuts. It's actually the opposite.

Schalmont has been working to bring more of our outside district bus runs in house, so our drivers transport our

students to programs outside the district instead of hiring private transportation.

"It's much more cost effective to bring those routes in and not hire outside transportation," explained Superintendent Dr. Thomas Reardon.

"It's also good for our drivers because it provides them not just additional hours but the opportunity to have a career at Schalmont."

## RECENT BUDGETS BY THE NUMBERS

The proposed 1.95% tax levy increase is the **8th straight budget with an increase at or below 2%.**

Schalmont has **never gone over the Property Tax Cap** (that's 15 straight years).

In 13 of the past 15 years, the tax levy increase has been **2% or lower.**

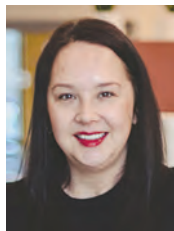
## CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THIS YEAR, THERE ARE THREE INDIVIDUALS RUNNING FOR TWO SEATS ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. BOTH SEATS ARE THREE-YEAR TERMS. CANDIDATES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER, AS THEY WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.



**Kevin Thompson** is running for his eighth term on the Schalmont Board of Education. He is the Chief Financial Officer of Eckert Mechanical. He also is licensed in New York State as a Certified Public

Accountant. He has previously served as Vice President and President of the Board. Since his first term, he has served as a member of the Audit Committee. Prior to serving on the school board, he served on the Schalmont Budget Advisory Committee for seven years. His active professional memberships include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the NYS Society of CPAs. Mr. Thompson received his bachelor's degree from the University at Albany. He and his wife Carol live in Rotterdam and have two children who are Schalmont school alumni.



**Makayla Tebano** is a mom of five daughters in Schalmont, from a soon-to-be graduate to a future preschooler, giving her a deep and long-term commitment to Schalmont's success. She brings 25+ years

of experience in marketing, communications, innovation, and leadership, currently serving as Vice President of Marketing at Fenimore Asset Management and previously holding senior leadership roles at MVP Health Care. A Leadership Capital Region graduate and alum of The College of Saint Rose, Makayla's strengths include strategic planning, communication, stakeholder engagement, consensus-building, and data-driven decision-making. She is dedicated to empowering students, supporting teachers, and keeping the Schalmont community connected.



**William Mau** is a Schalmont graduate (Class of 2003) who has lived in the district his entire life. He and his wife, a third grade teacher, have two children in Schalmont schools. Will holds a degree

in Social Studies 7-12 from the College of Saint Rose and taught for three years before spending 15+ years in operations and data. He serves as Chief Operations Officer at TalentSmartEQ and volunteers as Committee Chair for the Scout Troop at Jefferson Elementary. Will joined the board two years ago after attending meetings as a parent concerned about class sizes, and remains focused on keeping Schalmont strong for every student.



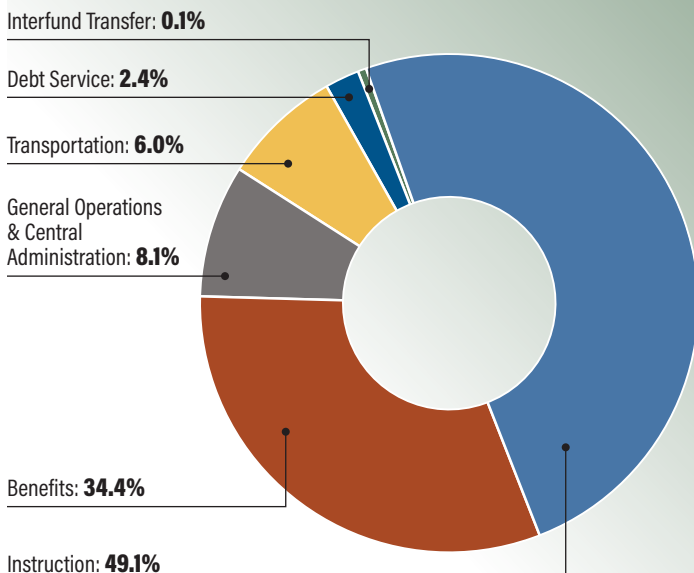
## EXPENDITURES – *Where does the money go?*

Category	2025-2026 Budget	Proposed 2026-2027 Budget	Change from 2025-2026	% of Budget
Instruction	\$30,120,294	\$30,344,128	\$223,834	49.1%
Includes: Teachers, TAs and Aide salaries, textbooks, supplies, computers				
Benefits	\$19,499,000	\$21,283,000	\$1,784,000	34.4%
Costs to insure all full-time and retired Schalmont employees				
General Operations & Central Administration	\$4,876,550	\$5,039,929	\$163,379	8.1%
Includes: Administrative, Facilities, Maintenance and Support Staff salaries, supplies to maintain campuses				
Transportation	\$4,220,890	\$3,692,145	-\$528,745	6.0%
Includes: Bus Drivers, Bus Attendants and Mechanic salaries, cost of buses, parts, repairs, fuel				
Debt Service	\$1,453,500	\$1,455,750	\$2,250	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>\$60,210,234</b>	<b>\$61,854,952</b>	<b>\$1,644,718</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

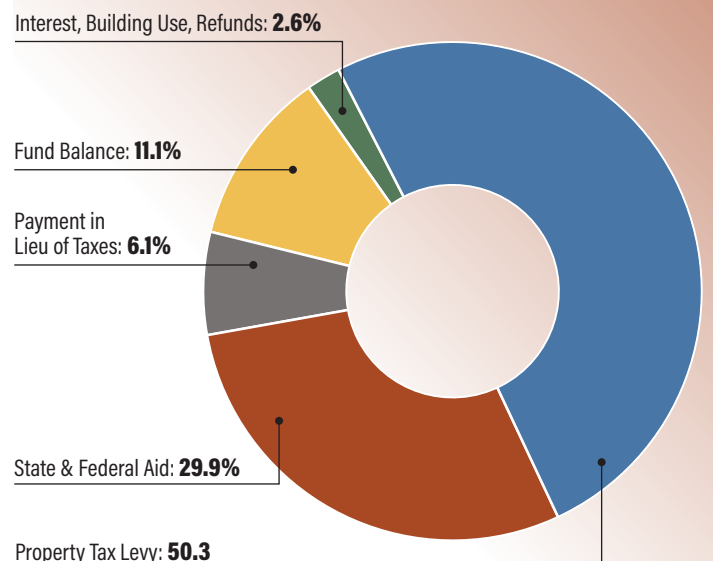
## REVENUES – *Where does the money come from?*

Category	2025-2026 Budget	Estimated 2026-2027 Budget	Change from 2025-2026	% of Revenues
Property Tax Levy for Budget	\$30,498,109	\$31,092,822	\$594,713	50.3%
State and Federal Aid	\$17,666,732	\$18,479,477	\$812,745	29.9%
Fund Balance Appropriations	\$6,886,877	\$6,886,877	\$0	11.1%
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$3,858,516	\$3,755,776	-\$102,740	6.1%
Interest Earnings, Building Use, Refunds	\$1,300,000	\$1,640,000	\$340,000	2.6%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$60,210,234</b>	<b>\$61,854,952</b>	<b>\$1,644,718</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### EXPENDITURE SUMMARY



### REVENUE SUMMARY





# 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 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$60,210,234	\$61,854,952	\$61,642,452
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 1,644,718	\$ 1,432,218
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.73%	2.38%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$30,498,109	\$31,092,822	
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)	\$30,498,109	\$31,092,822	\$30,498,109
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,453,500	\$1,455,750	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$31,951,609	\$32,548,572	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$29,044,609	\$29,637,072	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$2,907,000	\$2,911,500	
Administrative Component	\$3,004,050	\$3,178,757	\$3,089,257
Program Component	\$52,547,384	\$53,992,828	\$53,992,828
Capital Component	\$4,658,800	\$4,683,367	\$4,560,367

\* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

All instructional programming will remain the same, 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	\$764,722.15

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$550
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Schalmont Central School District, Schenectady County, New York, will be held at Schalmont High School(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 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.



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Angelo Santabarbara  
*President*

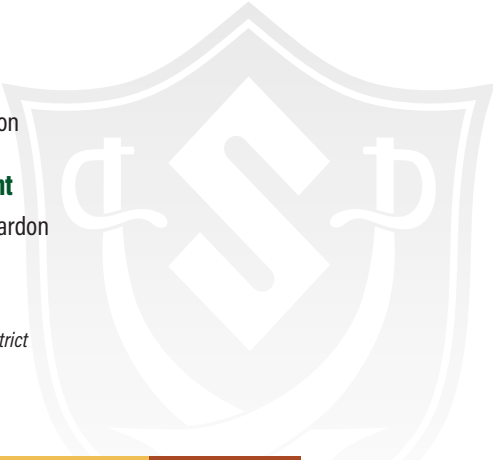
David Lawrence  
*Vice President*

Patricia Dowse  
Jean Hanson  
Kyrish Iyer  
William Mau  
Kevin Thompson

**Superintendent**

Dr. Thomas Reardon

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Central School District



**8 2026-2027 BUDGET NEWS**

**Exciting First Year of Pre-K at Woestina**



**HOW TO VOTE**

**WHEN AND WHERE IS THE VOTE?**

👍 Tuesday, May 19 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.

