



DISTRICT PROMOTES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Ever since Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt was hired in July of 2019, he has placed a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. "Staff who are well trained in equity are more effective in their roles, and support a school culture that provides a more engaging and supportive learning environment," explained Reinhardt.

Early on in his new position, Superintendent Reinhardt helped bring in a highly regarded diversity program that works with school districts throughout the country. District administrators and principals were invited to attend several Diversity Training workshops led by Natalie Zwerger from the Center for Strategic Solutions, an organization that helps school districts implement strategies aimed at closing equity gaps and improving outcomes for all students.

More recently, Reinhardt has been helping to advance the work of the District's Diversity Committee, which was created in 2019, by engaging organizers to establish goals, initiatives, and practices.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education are fully committed to ensuring that all students have an equal chance of succeeding, both inside and outside of school, and that no member of the District is the victim of disrespectful treatment or intolerance. "We are in the education business, and it is not enough to say we teach all of our students equally," said Superintendent Reinhardt. "Educational equity has to take into consideration all the characteristics, circumstances, and life experiences that can affect a student's success."

Currently, members of the Diversity Committee, along with District teachers and members of the Saugerties community, are reading the book *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. The book, which is facilitating difficult conversations about race and racial oppression, is deepening the readers' understanding of these important topics while encouraging them to be active in their antiracism.

Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2021

Budget Increase Held to Less Than One Percent; Learning Loss and Social/Emotional Health Supported

The Saugerties Central School District Board of Education adopted a proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year that increases spending by **less than one percent** and meets the requirements of the New York State (NYS) Tax Cap for a simple-majority voter approval. Voters will cast their ballots on the \$66,536,965 budget and elect three members to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 18. Absentee ballots are available for voters who cannot come to the polls (see page 4).

According to Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt, the administration worked to develop a budget that would preserve existing academic and extra-curricular offerings, address learning loss and mental health challenges caused by the pandemic, and ensure a healthy building environment, while also remaining economically responsible to the community.

"Planning for this year's budget was a bit of a rollercoaster. We were first told to expect deep cuts to State Aid, but then at the last minute, we received confirmation of a State Aid increase and the additional Federal Aid package, which gave us the opportunity to improve our financial sustainability and maintain our programs for students," Reinhardt explains.

Budget Highlights

- The budget-to-budget increase from this year to next was held to 0.98 percent.
- There are no teacher cuts in this year's budget.
- All existing academic and extracurricular activities are preserved.
- Funding to provide academic support to struggling students is included.
- A social worker for the Junior/Senior High School is added and a part-time Guidance Counselor is increased to a full-time position to address growing student need for social/emotional support.
- The tax levy increase of 2.19 percent meets the NYS Tax Cap requirement for a simple-majority voter approval.

Factors Driving the Budget

The District was able to limit the budget-to-budget increase while preserving programs because of three significant factors. First, the cost of health insurance, which is purchased through a regional consortium, remained relatively flat. The District's

technology budget was able to be reduced for next year because Federal stimulus money is available to supplement some expenses, along with the fact that the shift to remote learning in March 2020 required an acceleration of technology-related purchases. Finally, as a result of students aging out or changing programs, there was also a decrease in instructional needs related to out-of-district and BOCES placements for Special Education services.

Debt service related to the Energy Performance Contract is driving the largest area of increase in the budget, an investment that will reduce expenses in the long-run. Rising costs of custodial supplies, fuel/propane, and building supplies; contractual increases for our bus companies; and formalizing advisors for clubs and activities at the Elementary School are also contributing to the increase.

Reinhardt believes the District will still face many challenges during this upcoming school year; however, he believes this budget positions the District to continue to provide Saugerties students with a positive educational experience.

"Students will always be at the heart of our decisions," he says.

State and Federal Aid

The District's Foundation Aid from New York State increased by 3.65%, an unexpected and welcome surprise. The District is also slated to receive up to \$6.5 million in Federal stimulus funds; however, this funding has very specific deadlines and criteria for what it can be spent on, including supporting reopening schools for in-person instruction, closing academic achievement gaps, addressing mental health needs, and keeping technology up-to-date. These funds will also be used for personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

"It is important to understand that the Federal funding is also only a one-time boost and should not be used for recurring expenses," explains Saugerties Business Manager Jane St. Amour. "There are also very specific requirements for its use, and applying it as revenue to reduce the tax levy is not permitted."

Fund Balance and Reserves

This District has strategically applied \$70,477 of its fund balance to reduce the tax levy, and any savings will be transferred to fund authorized reserves, which will help increase the District's bond rating. The higher the bond rating, the better the interest rates the District will receive when borrowing for the 2020 voter-approved Capital Project.

What if voters reject the proposed budget?

If the budget is rejected, the Board could adopt a contingency budget or a second public vote could be held in June on either the same budget or a revised one. If the budget fails again, the Board must adopt a contingency or austerity budget, which would require a \$547,335 reduction.

SAVE THE DATE

May 18 Supt's Conf. Day/Budget Vote

May 28 and 31 Holiday - School Closed

June 24 Last Day of School for Students

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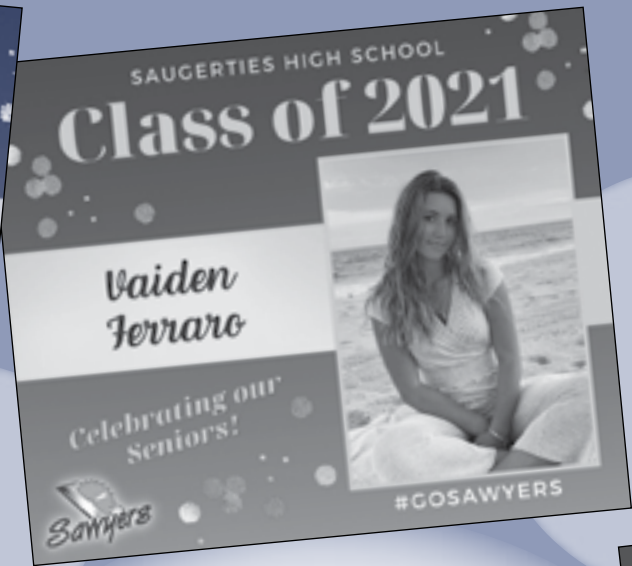
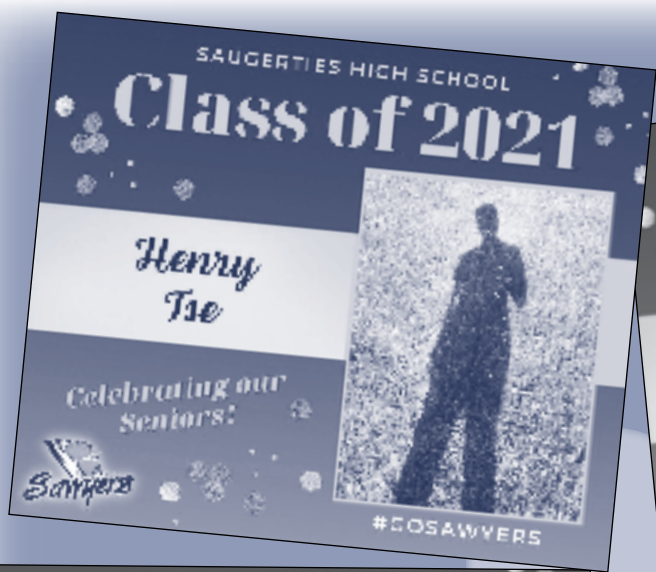
Superintendent of Schools

Kirk Reinhardt

Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum & Instruction, Assessments & Student Data

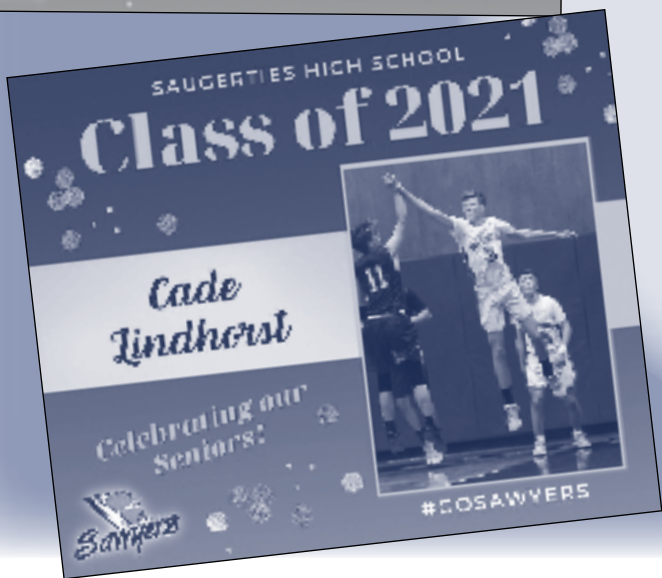
Dr. Darlene Westinghouse

Newsletter produced/created by Ulster BOCES



2021 Senior Spotlight

The District is excited to shine a spotlight on the Class of 2021 graduation candidates. Each day, seniors who opted to participate are being recognized on the District's Facebook page. Here you will learn about our students' future plans, inspirations, and favorite teachers. They also share advice for their peers and reflect on what they've learned during the pandemic. You can check out their photos and bios at www.facebook.com/saugertiescsd. Make sure to like, comment, and share.



Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors!

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! The Saugerties Central School District is proud of you for having reached this milestone. You have accomplished so much while navigating a new world. We wish all of you the best as you celebrate this great achievement! As of print time, these are the candidates on track to graduate.

Garrett	Adsit
McKenna	Alberts
Robert	Allen
Marie	Arrandale
Matthew	Arteta
Amar	Asad
Joseph	Avena
Asmir	Ayaz
Jordan	Baker
Simon	Baker
Donovan	Barros
Kimberlee	Bartells
Juliana	Bassett
Ashley	Beaver
Matthew	Belfance
Nicholas	Bergen
Collin	Biegel
Torii	Bilheimer
Emily	Bitting
Zachary	Bivins
Brooke	Bode
Mia	Bourguignon
Sean	Brett
Sonnie	Brink
Devlin	Brooks
Ryan	Brooks
Liam	Browne
Madeline	Bucci
Laurel	Burch
Dylan	Burns

Destany	Cancellaro
Marcella	Candlin
Cole	Carey
Jakob	Carlew
Sierra	Carlew
Dilyn	Carlson
Jessica	Carter
Aliandra	Casiano
Dominic	Clark
Eva	Cohan
Christie	Collins
Gabriel	Concepcion
Ryan	Conrad
Rayna	Cooper
Isabel	Cordero
Carmen	Costello
Chelsea	Cruzado
Molly	Daggett
Anthony	DaSilva
Ava	DeAngelis
Salvatore	Delair
Alana	DePasquale
Devon	Dickson
Isabelle	Doyle
Cameron	Drake
Robert	Drost
John	Dumont
Isaiah	Duncan
Abigail	Ebeling
Kobe	Edwards

Marianne	Fauble
Vaiden	Ferraro
Theresa	Fiscaletti
Devin	Fitzpatrick
Dylan	Gallina
Aidyn	Gartmann
Lyndsey	Gaulin
Jordan	Gibbs
Josen	Gil
Ryan	Gray
Dana	Gruccio
Emma	Hallion
Aaron	Hartrum
Joseph	Hartrum Jr
Gillian	Henderson
Johanna	Heppner
Jacobus	Hockx
Ashley	Hommel
Jaden	Incalcaterra
Natalia	Jones
Sophia	Kamrass
Anastasia	LaPeruta
Colin	Leahy
Kaitlyn	Lennon
Justine	Lenz
Dove	Lepson
MacKenzie	Lewoc
Cade	Lindhorst
Kayla	Lober
Zander	Luz
Dylan	Lynch
Jaden	Macek
Daniel	MacIsaac
Michael	Macri Jr
Paige	Madison
Angelina	Mallia
Hannah	Mangione
Branden	Martin
Seth	Martin
Tristan	Mawyin
John	McConnell
Luke	McFadden
Oliver	Menon

Brianna	Mergendahl
Abigail	Merritt
Grace	Milano
Fawn	Miller
Caine	Miller-Carter
Samuel	Millham
Alex	Mooers
Luke	Moorhus
Jillian	Murphy
Brendan	Myers
Corynn	Myers
Logan	Naile
Aiden	North
Dylan	Norton
Neve	O'Neal
Mikayla	Papa
Ayden	Patterson-Sprance
Marvin	Perez Martinez
Deacon	Peters
Jenna	Peters
Michael	Peters
Alexis	Phelan
Aedin	Piper
Lexi	Placencia
Leah	Podmayersky
Caden	Powers
Kaylie	Quinn
Elia	Agustin Quintanar
Nejla	Reggero
Ariel	Reuss-Panaro
Meylie	Reyes
Isaac	Rice
Jennifer	Rivera
Brendan	Rizzo
Immanuel	Roach
Sabrina	Roberts
Cierra	Robles Kuriplach
Lara	Roe
Rebecca	Rosario**
Ryan	Rosner*
Zachary	Russell
Mason	Ryan
Sana	Saleem

Ava	Salem
Gabriel	Salinas
Michael	Salmi
Charlie	Sasso
Saydre	Sasso
Joseph	Schaffer
Ryan	Scott Jr
Courtney	Sedlak
Dylan	Senor
Kayla	Sheeley
Joseph	Simmons
Alexander	Sirico
Molly	Slater
Laila	Smith
Olivia	Staby
Flynn	Steyer
Clinton	Stutzman
Evan	Sullivan
Kylee	Sullivan
Morgan	Sussin
GB	Sweeney
Jonathan	Toth
Kacie	Towe-Ploss
Henry	Tse
Gina	Tyan
Walter	Umana
Emanuel	Urias
Alina	Vazquez
Sarah	Villafane
Devin	Watt
Devyn	Weiss
Sebastien	West
Derek	White
Aidan	Whitmarsh
Jaden	Whittaker
Autumn	Williams
Jayden	Williams
Sofia	Williams
Ava	Winnie
Nicholas	Wolf**
Nicholas	Yonnetti

* Graduated August 2020

** Graduated January 2021

Saugerties

Central School District

2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

THREE-PART BUDGET

Budget Components

	2021-22 Proposed Budget	2020-21 Adopted Budget
Program	\$53,604,920	\$54,080,587
Capital	\$ 6,726,819	\$ 6,358,700
Administration	\$ 6,205,226	\$ 6,032,287
TOTAL	\$66,536,965	\$66,471,574

1

The Program Component
- provides funding for instruction and educational support services for students. Funds for transportation are also included in this component.

2

The Capital Component
- pay for maintaining building and grounds, including electricity, heat, repairs, phone services, and the principal and interest payments on serial bonds.

3

The Administrative Component
- provides for overall general support and management activities including business office operations, personnel, legal representation, public information, and insurance. Cost of administration and supervision of each of the schools is also included here.

REVENUE SUMMARY

Revenue By Category

	2021-22 Proposed Revenues	
Property Tax & STAR	\$41,522,330	62.4%
State Aid	\$23,537,616	35.4%
Other Revenue	\$1,406,542	2.1%
Reserves/Fund Balance	\$70,477	0.1%
TOTAL	\$66,536,965	100.0%

Property Tax The Saugerties Central School District serves the Town and Village of Saugerties and parts of the Towns of Woodstock and Ulster. The school district receives a portion of its funding through taxes levied on real property within these municipalities. The district calculates the tax levy and the corresponding tax rate based on assessments provided by each municipality. New York State law states that all property within a municipality be assessed at a uniform percentage of the market value.

State Education Aid The New York State Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 increased state aid to the Saugerties Central School District by approximately 4%, including an increase in Foundation Aid of \$563,983.

Other Revenue Sources The district will use a portion of the available fund balance to support the 2021-2022 budget, this will include \$70,477 toward the replacement of equipment in various departments. Other revenue includes interest income, rental of space by non-profit organizations, payments for tuition and health services from other school districts, money from

PILOT agreements, medicaid reimbursements, and refunds of prior year expenses.

Where the Money Comes From

Category	Percentage
Property Tax and STAR	62.4%
State Aid	35.4%
Reserves/Fund Balance	0.1%
Other Revenues	2.1%

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Expenditures By Category

	2021-22 Proposed Expenditures	
Salaries & Benefits	\$48,694,000	73.2%
BOCES	\$5,012,015	7.5%
Contractual	\$8,413,075	12.6%
Equipment & Supplies	\$1,375,783	2.1%
Debt Service	\$2,692,092	4.1%
Interfund Transfers	\$350,000	0.5%
TOTAL	\$66,536,965	100.0%

This newsletter lists the proposed budget breakdown by component—administrative, program, and capital—as required by New York State Education Law. Here is how the proposed budget breaks down by category:

Salaries/Benefits In the 2021-2022 school year, the district will have approximately 518 employees, including teachers, librarians, nurses, teacher assistants, teaching aides, administrators, secretaries, school psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors, maintenance, custodial staff, and other support staff. Benefits include district costs for the following: health insurance, social security, unemployment, workers compensation, and mandated contributions to the state retirement systems for the approximately 518 employees.

BOCES Services BOCES services refer to contracted services with Ulster BOCES. These cooperative services range from administrative services such as the student management program, to student services such as vocational and special education programs. Purchasing services through BOCES allows the district to receive a portion of the cost the following year through BOCES State aid. The BOCES was set up in 1948 to allow districts to share services.

Contractual Contractual costs refer to those services the district cannot perform in-house and must contract out. This includes various required health and safety inspections and other specialty services as well as outside program placements for students with disabilities.

Supplies/Equipment This includes all materials and supplies needed for schools and offices, including textbooks. It also includes funding for the replacement of transportation equipment, grounds equipment, AED machines, athletic equipment, and computer upgrades. The district has a technology plan to guide the research,

budgeting, and purchase of technology equipment — plus, a large portion of computer purchases will receive either direct 1:1 State Aid or BOCES Aid.

Debt Service This is the amount set aside annually to pay interest and the portion of the principal due on debt. The increase in this category is for financing the Energy Performance Contract.

Interfund Transfers This is for the school lunch fund, a capital outlay project, and the local share of the state-aided summer school program for special education students that is accounted for in the Special Aid Fund.

Where the Money Will Be Spent

Category	Percentage
Salaries & Benefits	73.2%
Contractual	12.6%
BOCES	7.5%
Debt Service	4.1%
Equipment & Supplies	2.1%
Interfund Transfers	0.5%

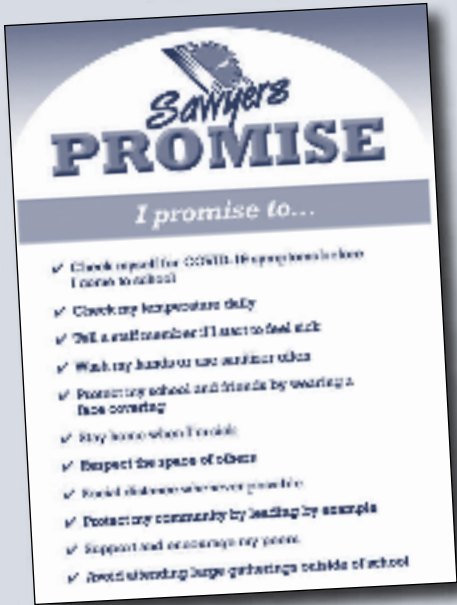
★ VOTE ★

MAY 18 • 6 AM - 9 PM

AT ANY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING

Saugerties 2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District



SAUGERTIES PROMISE

We just passed the year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic's arrival at the Saugerties Central School District. We are thankful to our students, teachers, and our community for understanding that their individual behavior plays a large role in our success in managing COVID in our area. We also know and understand that many people are starting to experience pandemic fatigue and frustration. We know it is hard to keep going at this point in the pandemic, but we must continue to put others first, make hard decisions, hold ourselves accountable, and model our uncompromising commitment to public health and to each other. We are asking everyone in the school community to commit to the Sawyer Promise and follow the guidelines to help keep you and those you love safe and healthy and our schools open.



Former School Loans 70 Desks to Saugerties

Since traditional lunch tables are more challenging to be used in the cafeteria this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, students have been sitting at single desks, spaced six feet apart, during their lunch periods. Although health officials recently updated their health guidelines to allow students to be within three feet of each other within the classroom to increase student in-person learning, Saugerties was struggling to take advantage of the new guidance due to a shortage of single desks for our Jr/Sr high cafeterias. That's when the former St. Mary's of the Snow school stepped in, loaning Saugerties 70 single desks. The loan is allowing more students to eat in cafeterias at the same time. "The support that St. Mary's of the Snow has provided us is very generous, and much appreciated," said Saugerties Superintendent of Schools Kirk Reinhardt. "We're very fortunate to be located in such a giving community."

Estimated Tax Impact

The projected real property tax levy required to support the proposed expenditure plan is \$41,522,330 which is a 2.19% increase over the current year levy. This figure also includes reimbursement from the state for the STAR program, an estimated \$3,250,000. Because the tax cap calculation is 2.19%, the budget requires a simple majority to pass.

2021-2022 Estimated Tax Bill Increase

These figures are specific to the Town of Saugerties.

Homeowner's Property Assessment	Estimated Annual Increase	Estimated Monthly Increase
100K	\$20.56	\$1.71
200K	\$41.12	\$3.43
300K	\$61.68	\$5.14

Estimated Equalization Rates

Each municipality has its own way of assessing property. Actual tax increases or decreases are based on assessments and equalization rates set by New York State. These rates are supposed to "equalize" assessments from town to town. In other words, the equalization rate is supposed to ensure that a house in Saugerties is taxed the same as a house in Woodstock. Rates are finalized by the State in July or August, months after the budget vote. By law, the district must have a budget in place by the end of June, so actual tax implications are impossible to determine accurately in a budget that is voted on in May. That is why we use the term "average tax increase." When a municipality undergoes a revaluation, there may be an effect on taxes. The district has no part in determining assessments or revaluations.

Town	Equalization Rate
Saugerties	100%
Ulster	63.5%
Woodstock	80.5%

STAR Program Information

Why switch to the STAR credit from the STAR exemption?

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead.

The value of the STAR credit savings may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase. The STAR exemption savings can never be higher than the STAR credit savings.

STAR benefits can change each year

Whether you're receiving the STAR credit or exemption, the benefit can change each year due to a variety of factors, including school tax rates, changes in property values in your community, and local assessment practices.

As a result, the STAR credit benefit may not always increase, and when it does increase, it may do so by 2% or less.

However, the STAR exemption benefit can never increase, even when the STAR credit benefit does increase. The STAR exemption benefit will never be higher than the STAR credit benefit.

How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

The Budget document is available on the District website. Please contact Business Official, Jane St. Amour at 845-247-6520 if you have specific questions.

Voting Information

Any resident of the Town of Saugerties may vote in the School Budget/Trustee elections whether or not they are registered with the Ulster County Board of Elections, provided they meet the following criteria:

- are a citizen of the United States
- aged 18 years, or over
- have been a resident of this School District for a period of 30 days or more

Absentee ballots are available for eligible voters who are unable to vote at the polls on May 18. New York State has also recently amended the allowable reasons for casting an absentee ballot in school district elections to include concerns over contracting COVID-19. This reason may be selected by checking the "temporary illness" option on the application for an absentee ballot. If the voter wishes the ballot to be mailed to them, the completed application must be received by May 12. A voter who would like to pick up an absentee ballot in person must return the completed Ballot by 5:00 p.m. on May 18. If you have any questions regarding voting, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 845-247-6550 ext. 9005.

Questions and Answers About the Tax Levy

Here are answers to some common questions people ask about school taxes. The community is encouraged to vote on the budget on May 18, 2021. Board of Education members will also be elected.

What is the "tax cap"?

New York State has implemented a law that changes the way budgets are approved. The changes went into effect beginning with the 2012 vote. Under the law, a school district must now plan its budget around a complex State formula that calculates a baseline tax levy increase. Budgets that carry a tax levy increase at or below this calculation will need the approval of a simple majority (50 percent plus one) of voters. Any proposal higher than this calculation will require a supermajority approval (60 percent).

The Board of Education has adopted a budget that is at the allowable levy limit under the State's formula and therefore will need a simple majority voter approval of 50 percent plus one.

How is the tax levy increase calculated?

Although this law has been commonly referred to as the two percent tax cap, it is important to understand that it is not a cap, nor does it limit the levy increase to just two percent. That number may be above or below two percent, and it will vary each year. While the formula is influenced by the lesser of CPI (consumer price index) or two percent, it then allows for specific exemptions and the application of other factors in the formula. After applying the allowable exemptions, the Saugerties Central School District is permitted to increase the tax levy a maximum of 2.19 percent and still meet the criteria of the tax cap formula for a simple majority vote.

Saugerties

Central School District

2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2020-2021 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 66,471,574	\$ 66,536,965	\$ 65,924,239
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$ 65,391	-\$547,335
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		.10%	-0.82%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 40,631,060	\$ 41,522,330	
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)	\$ 40,631,060	\$ 41,522,330	\$ 40,631,060
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 836,820	\$ 983,758	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 39,794,240	\$ 40,538,572	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 39,794,240	\$ 40,538,572	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-0-	-0-	
Administrative component	\$ 6,032,287	\$ 6,205,226	\$ 5,950,000
Program component	\$ 54,080,587	\$ 53,604,920	\$ 53,394,920
Capital component	\$ 6,358,700	\$ 6,726,819	\$ 6,579,319

In the event that the budget is defeated, the Board of Education would be required to adopt a contingent budget, pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law, in which the tax levy may not exceed the prior year tax levy and is subject to an administrative cap. Certain items required by law to be excluded from the contingent budget include expenses related to equipment purchases, certain student supplies, capital appropriations, non-represented personnel salary increases, and costs associated with community use of school facilities. These items are equal to \$547,335.

** 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
No Separate Propositions	



Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings ¹ —————→ \$592

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at Cahill, Morse, Mount Marion, and Riccardi Elementary schools in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Elementary schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Sample Ballot

The wording on the proposition will appear as shown in this example and you will have a choice of either YES or NO:

PROPOSITION 1: Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2021-2022 school year in the total amount of \$66,536,965 (the budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

Election of Board of Education Members

Three (3) 3-year term vacancies are available at this time. Voters may select no more than THREE candidates. The following three candidates filed petitions to run for the Board of Education:

Robert Thomann

Raymond M. Maclary

James Mooney



Saugerties Leaders Partner to Vaccinate Community Members

Saugerties Central School District stepped up to assist with COVID-19 vaccination efforts by offering the Junior High School gymnasium as a public vaccine distribution site for residents aged 65 and older on March 3.

Village Apothecary owner Neal Smoller had recently received a shipment of Moderna vaccinations and was looking for a site large enough to help distribute them. Smoller, who has worked collaboratively with Village of Saugerties Mayor Bill Murphy and Town of Saugerties Supervisor Fred Costello, was seeking suggestions for a large-scale distribution site. “We needed a location with plenty of indoor space and parking, and the school made perfect sense,” said Supervisor Costello.

The plan came together fairly quickly, with the initial meeting between the three men and Saugerties Central School District Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt taking place on February 27. Two days later, they met at the school to go over logistics and on March 3, nearly 1,700 people walked through the doors to receive their vaccinations. “It was important for the District to provide space for the community, and we were happy to know that we were a viable option,” said Superintendent Reinhardt. “The school allowed for a large group of residents to receive the vaccine efficiently and safely,” added Mayor Murphy.

Inside the gymnasium, Village Apothecary set up several stations. Volunteers sitting at tables greeted people coming into the school, and when the paperwork was processed, those getting vaccinated moved to seating in front of the inoculation station. They then returned to a seating area to wait 15 minutes to make sure they did not suffer from any immediate reactions.

Superintendent Reinhardt said such a large-scale event had to be carefully coordinated. “Volunteers from American Legion Post 72 and Key Club had to be mobilized, security needed to be arranged, and staffing needed to be planned,” he explained. “I thought the clinic was very successful, and I’m proud to be part of a community that works together for the betterment of the people.”



Saugerties Begins Classes Four Days a Week

Teachers and staff members beamed as they greeted students at Cahill Elementary School on April 5. They were excited because they were going to be stepping into nearly full classrooms for the first time in a school year that had been characterized by online learning, as well as by student “cohorts” who attended school on different days. This was all made possible because Ulster County Health officials revised their COVID-19 safety guidelines for schools, indicating that students could now be at a physical distance of three feet instead of six feet, with the recommendation of installing physical barriers like sneeze guards.





Snow Daze

Mt. Marion Elementary School students had SNOW much fun sledding and playing in the snow during a special “Snow Day at School” in February. Students were encouraged to bring in snow clothes and snow gear such as sleds or snowshoes. It was great to see Principal Carole Kelder, staff, and students outside enjoying the snow-covered campus. The sense of togetherness during this time was so appreciated and the happiness was contagious! And even once inside, the fun continued when everyone was treated to snow cones flavored with summertime favorites like: cherry, cotton candy, and watermelon syrup.

WRITING FUN-DAMENTALS!

Students in Brooke Ryan’s Grade 3 class at Grant D. Morse Elementary School recently wrote informative essays about the different places to eat in Saugerties. Afterwards, Ryan’s class started a lesson on informational reading and discussed Poison Dart Frogs. This kind of reading helps to build knowledge of the natural and social world, boosts vocabulary, and addresses students’ questions and interests.



Adolescent Health and Wellness

Adolescence is a time of many changes. Changes that can affect a teen’s physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Making students aware of these changes now can help them make positive lifestyle choices in the future. In Deborah Ciccone’s Grade 6 Health Studies class at Cahill Elementary School, students have been learning how to manage important health topics, such as substance abuse prevention, nutrition, body image, the influence of the media, and personal hygiene. Here’s to growing strong, independent, and healthy teens!





Olivia Staby



Sophia Kamrass

Saugerties Announces the Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Saugerties Central School District is proud to announce that Olivia Staby has been named valedictorian of the Class of 2021, and Sophia Kamrass is this year’s salutatorian.

Staby, the daughter of Stephanie Serra and John Staby, both of Saugerties, earned top honors with a GPA of 100.42. During her high school career she maintained a rigorous academic schedule, including five Advanced Placement (AP) courses and five college courses. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Government, and Student Council. Staby was also elected as treasurer of the French Club every year since her sophomore year.

Staby was also the first student at Saugerties High School to fulfill all of the requirements to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating a high level of proficiency in English and Spanish during her junior year.

Throughout high school, Staby has volunteered for the Saugerties Chamber of Commerce and the Teen Tech Tutoring program at the Saugerties Library. She also participates in Youth Leadership at the YWCA and works as a part-time receptionist at Sawyer Motors.

This fall, Staby is planning to attend SUNY New Paltz where she will major in international business and education.

Staby looks back fondly at her Saugerties education. “I learned that I must love the earth below my feet and foster a sense of gratitude toward the community that has shaped my dreams and

fueled me to venture outward before I follow paths that lead me elsewhere,” she says. “And no matter where I go, I will always nurture a love for Saugerties within me.”

Salutatorian Sophia Kamrass, whose GPA is 100.22, has taken seven AP courses and four college courses over the course of her high school career. She is the daughter of Eileen and Philip Kamrass of Saugerties.

Kamrass is a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the Art Club in previous years. When she is not studying, she enjoys reading, writing, and drawing. In addition, she plays the trumpet in the High School Band and also takes private lessons to further hone her talent.

The 17-year-old says, “The most important thing I’ve learned over this time is to be forgiving and patient to myself and to others because nobody remains untouched by the effects of life, let alone the monstrous, all-encompassing effects of COVID.”

Kamrass will be attending either Ursinus College, Goucher College, or Barnard College in the fall, where she will major in English with an emphasis in writing and foreign language.

Looking back at her high school career, Kamrass said, “Every teacher I’ve ever had has left a lasting impression on me, even if it was a simple life lesson or personal saying, or even if I didn’t agree with them. Considering many perspectives are important, and that’s a lesson you can learn in any class.”

Saugerties School Resource Officer Provides Support for Students At-Risk of Not Graduating

Saugerties School Resource Officer Travis Winchell is saving lives one study hall at a time. Three years ago, Officer Winchell started inviting students who were at risk of not graduating to a study hall-like program where students do their work under his watchful eye. “I’ve always thought that getting an education was important,” said Officer Winchell. “Sometimes students just need someone in their cheering section to root them on.”

Saugerties senior Salvatore Delair readily admits that in previous years, he had followed the wrong path in terms of his commitment to his academics. “I used to get in trouble a lot,” Delair said while reminiscing about his sophomore and junior years. “I used to get sent to the office all the time for being disrespectful, being late to class, and not handing in homework.”

During his senior year, the potential consequences of his previous decisions started to hit home. “Honestly I never thought that I would graduate, but deep down inside I wanted to,” Delair admitted. It was that deeply hidden glimmer of hope, as well as developing a mentoring relationship with Officer Winchell, that helped turn things around.

While Delair may have entered the program begrudgingly at first, the results have spoken for themselves. His grades have improved significantly, by more than 20 percentage points. “I think that’s pretty good, considering how much I struggled with learning under COVID-19 restrictions,” Delair explained. “It was hard to work remotely.”

When thinking about the future Delair said, “I think after graduation, I want to go to college to become a Physical Education teacher.”



Coaching with Heart

Coaches may be rivals on the field, but off the field many coaches are pretty good friends, says Minisink Valley Lacrosse Coach Chad Lakeman. Coaches from different teams often help one another out, offer insight, and act as a mentor, he explains.

Lakeman says he admired Bob Slate, the late Saugerties Lacrosse coach. “He was a great resource and was always willing to help out another coach,” he recalls. Lakeman goes on to explain that Slate was responsible for bringing lacrosse to Section 9 some 25 to 30 years ago. “Bob Slate is like the Godfather of Lacrosse,” he declares. “Our program would not exist without the incredible effort and dedication of Coach Slate. The void that Coach Slate leaves behind will never be filled!”

It was a hard day when he heard the news that Bob had lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in late 2019. Lakeman said he knew he wanted to do something in his memory. In March of 2020, Lakeman took a collection during his parent/athlete meeting and helped raise \$700 to donate towards the Bob Slate Scholarship Fund. Several days later COVID hit, and he wasn’t able to deliver the check. Fast forward to April 2021, when Lakeman proudly presented the check to Saugerties Athletic Director Dominic Zarrella and Saugerties Varsity Lacrosse Coach Nick Bernard.

Congratulations to Collin Biegel,

a Saugerties High School senior and Ulster BOCES Cisco & Cybersecurity student, who took first place in the Information Technology Services category for the SkillsUSA regional competition on March 22. The competition was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. He had to answer several multiple choice questions and troubleshoot a computer issue. Biegel says he was very proud of taking first place and was thankful for the education he has received at both Saugerties and Ulster BOCES. Biegel plans to attend Alfred State College this fall in the Cyber Security program. After winning the regional competition he went on to compete on the State level and is waiting to hear his results.

Great job Collin!



In March, Saugerties High School senior Jayden Williams launched a sock drive for the homeless, and credits his family with inspiring the initiative. "Throughout my life, my family has instilled a sense of civic duty and giving back to those less fortunate," Williams said.

When the pandemic first hit, Williams felt overwhelmed, largely because of difficulties associated with remote learning and social distancing requirements. But since then he has adapted, in part by recognizing that he is relatively fortunate and well positioned to help others.

While researching different organizations, Williams learned that the pandemic has struck some families harder than others, in some cases causing loss of work, loss of homes, and increased tension among family members. He found that many families have had to turn to shelters for assistance. He ultimately decided that he wanted to hold a collection for the Darmstadt Shelter in Kingston.

His research also showed that while personal hygiene products and coats are among the most popular items donated to homeless shelters, there was a real need for something as simple as socks. "Did you know that socks are one of the most sought-after items by people who are homeless?" Williams asked.

In the end, he collected 2,000 pairs of socks. Way to go, Jayden!

PTA Hosts Harry Potter-Themed Reading Program

The research shows that adult illiteracy directly affects an individual's employment options, the likelihood to live in poverty, access to adequate health care, and life expectancy. The District along with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) recognizes this and is constantly evaluating how to increase its literacy rates beyond the classroom.

In February, the PTA challenged each student to read more through their annual reading program called Pick a Reading Partner (PARP). This year's Harry Potter theme encouraged students to log the time they spent reading or having someone read to them.

The month-long challenge ended with a visit from the Hogwarts Express train.

Top readers at each Elementary School were treated to special awards. Students received reading certificates, book marks, slime and books for completing certain reading requirements.

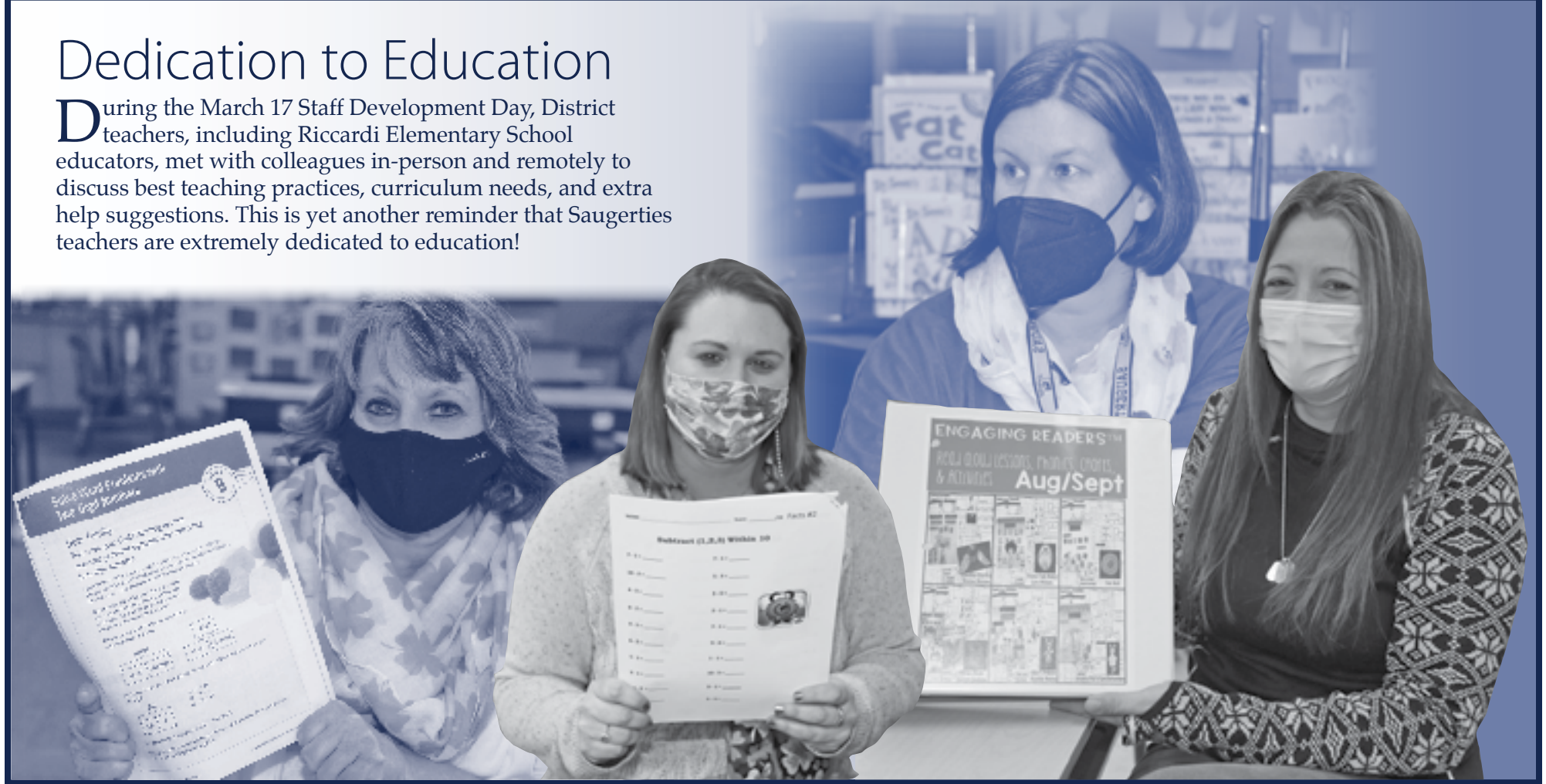
The PTA's efforts were particularly important this year, as schools around the country found themselves in the midst of the pandemic, which led to extended remote learning and libraries being closed.

And believe it or not, the PTA is already planning for next year's PARP theme.



Dedication to Education

During the March 17 Staff Development Day, District teachers, including Riccardi Elementary School educators, met with colleagues in-person and remotely to discuss best teaching practices, curriculum needs, and extra help suggestions. This is yet another reminder that Saugerties teachers are extremely dedicated to education!



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