

# 2016-2017 Budget at a Glance

## REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*At the April 12, 2016 Board of Education meeting REMSEN Central School adopted the budget for the upcoming year. The public will vote on the proposed budget, bus purchase proposal, establishment of a capital reserve fund, and one Board of Education candidate on May 17, 2016, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Voting will be done, not by paper ballot, as in the past, but electronically. The Budget Hearing is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.*

### School Budget Summary...

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The proposed budget is based on a 0.11% tax decrease (\$5,692. decrease) in the local tax levy and an overall increase in spending of 3.58%. The increase in spending is paid for through a restoration of NYS aid. The total proposed budget is \$11,550,000.

This budget continues the REMSEN Central School recovery from the more than \$3.6 million which was owed to REMSEN by NYS over the period from 2010 to 2016, but which NYS chose not to pay. In addition, it builds on the previous two budgets in which increases in the local tax levy stayed below the “NYS Tax Cap” by 1.9% in 2014-2015, and below by 2.0% in 2015-2016.

The budget maintains our current programs and current extra-curricular activities, and improves on those programs. The improvements include:

- Elementary Response to Intervention (RtI) support for students;
- Technology and instructional support;
- JSHS Humanities offerings;
- Career & Technical Education;
- Athletics, Clubs & Activities;
- and Professional Clerical staff for improved administrative efficiencies.

Also included, within the current budget, are several steps to restore, repair, replace, and improve our current facilities and grounds. The Board’s approach has been to budget for the funds needed within the existing budget rather than to ask for a tax increase to fund the improvements.

A Capital Outlay Project (restricted by NYS to \$100,000 or less) will be used for maintenance and repair at the Junior-Senior High School. After NYS aid, this project will cost REMSEN \$16,500.

Residents will vote on a separate proposition to create a second Capital Reserve Fund (building on the Capital Reserve Fund established last year) to save money for larger maintenance and repairs. The biggest items planned for these funds are repair of the school

roofs and infrastructure. The actual use of the saved funds will require a vote on a Capital Project – by the public – expected in late 2016.

If approved by the voters, the planned capital Project will be aided at 83.5%. Details will be provided prior to the vote later in the year.

Residents will also vote on a separate proposition that would allow Remsen to purchase two 66-passenger buses. The total cost to the district (after aid) of \$55,670. Will be spread out over five years (about \$5,567. Per year for each bus).

## How will my tax bill be affected?

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The proposed decrease in the levy is within the NYS “tax cap”. As a result, the additional STAR and Enhanced STAR eligible properties will again receive a rebate check for the total amount of tax increase since the 2014-2015 school year budget. This is our third year of no increase in cost to those taxpayers.

Changes to property assessments, escrow payments, and town equalization rates can result in additional change in the actual taxes due. These potential changes are not controlled by the school tax levy. Actual tax rates are set in August and are based on final assessment figures as provided by towns and equalization rates for each town as provided by the State Office of Real Property Tax Service.

## Contingency Budget

Under NYS law, school boards may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If a budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget requires a 0% tax levy increase from our 2015-2016 tax levy.

Therefore, the district would have to *increase local taxes* in order to meet contingency requirements - if the budget is voted down - *by \$5,692..* If a contingency budget is adopted, the spending plan for REMSEN CSD would change. If such a scenario occurs, the Board anticipates saving the additional funds in a reserve account to address future expenses.

## Running for the Board of Education

There is one five-year term expiring on June 30, 2016. Petitions to run for the school board must be submitted by April 18.