BUDGET 2018

Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

Budget Bolsters Technology & Security

and remains below the Tax Levy Cap

The proposed budget includes support for expanding KidOYO programming.

Dear Syosset Community,

On Tuesday, May 15, you will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed budget for the 2018-19 school year. The Board of Education and Administration have collaborated to develop a budget that underscores the commitment of the District to academic excellence while supporting the social and emotional needs of our students in a safe, secure learning environment. The proposed budget also supports the District's commitment to providing a well-rounded education that cultivates inquiry, excitement and innovation, creating lifelong learners who are college- and career-ready.

Syosset is at the forefront of incorporating computer programming into the curriculum, and the proposed budget supports the expansion of coding initiatives recently rolled out in the District with much success. Coding is an essential competency that encourages students to develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills, and prepares them for a technology-focused society. Accordingly, the budget supports the expansion of KidOYO, a coding program which creates an online learning environment that ignites collaboration and innovation. There is also funding included for a new LEGO Robotics program at the middle schools, which will engage students in coding as well as the engineering design process.

The Next Generation Science Standards are also supported by the proposed budget, by transitioning to a new early grades science program that improves science education through three-dimensional learning. All lessons involve core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts to build a coherent foundation for future classes.

We recognize the need for the physical learning environment to keep pace with the technology- and curriculum-based advancements. We recently piloted the redesign of some of the school libraries to create more modern, collaborative environments that also complement our Chromebook initiative. The proposed budget includes funding to continue with the redesign at other schools. There is also funding in this budget for the purchase and piloting of flexible furniture at all schools, as studies show that more flexible work environments contribute to greater focus, productivity and happiness.

As a result of the community's support of Phase I and Phase II of the Facilities Improvement Plan in the last year, the District is under way on a number of significant security upgrades throughout all the buildings. And following a recent security forum where feedback from the community was received, the superintendent has outlined a series of additional planned security measures, some of which have begun and others of which are included in the proposed budget. An additional $1 million in one-time security expenditures, supported mainly through savings identified in other areas of the budget, is planned to implement additional surveillance, security technologies, and other measures in and around our schools.

A second proposition appearing on the May 15 ballot seeks the public's permission to create a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of addressing future security enhancements to our school facilities, which is similar to the Capital Reserve Fund set up years ago. For details on this proposition, see page 2.

The proposed budget preserves all current academic offerings, as well as all extracurricular and co-curricular programs, with no cuts in programs or reductions in staff and instructional support. It also covers mandated costs such as retirement systems and employee health insurance premiums. For the seventh consecutive year, since New York State imposed the tax levy cap, we are proposing a budget within the cap. This year, the proposed budget-to-budget increase is 2.97 percent, which carries a tax levy increase of 2.26 percent. This is well below the state-mandated tax cap of 3.57 percent calculated for Syosset. As with recent years, the Board is committed to utilizing reserves to offset the tax levy.

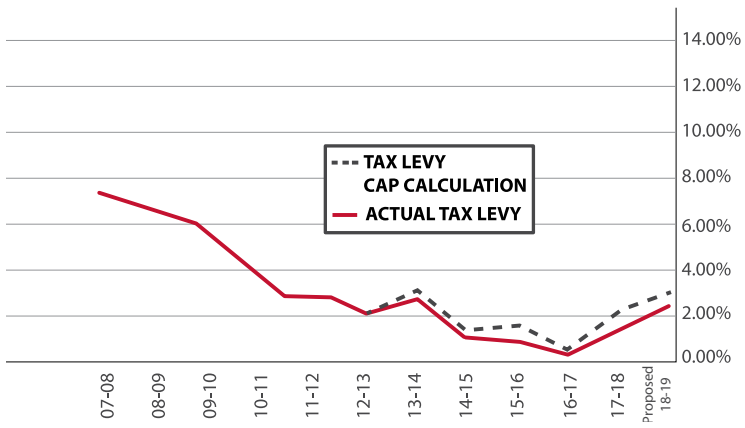
You may notice some changes this year at our polling centers, which have been implemented to ensure the safety of our community. Each site will have additional security guards and there will be no access to the school building beyond the polling site, notably no restroom access. We apologize for the inconvenience, but appreciate your understanding of our need to keep the buildings secure. All voting will take place from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. at H.B. Thompson Middle School, Robbins Lane Elementary School and Syosset High School. For more information, please refer to the back page of this newsletter.

Please read this important edition of Syosset Pride and refer to the District website (www.syossetschools.org) and the Syosset CSD Facebook page for additional information. We encourage you to attend the public budget hearing on Monday, May 7 at South Woods Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m. You may also refer to the Board of Education tab of the District website or call the District Office at 516-364-5600 to contact us. The Board and Administration value your input. Please reach out to us with any thoughts, questions or concerns.

Regards,

The Syosset Board of Education

SYOSSET CSD TAX CAP HISTORY



Since NYS implemented the tax levy cap in 2012, Syosset has produced budgets at or below the District's calculated cap.

Syosset Central School District
Syosset, New York 11791

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Syosset Central School District

PROPOSED SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

A ONE-TIME $1 MILLION ALLOCATION FOR NEW SECURITY MEASURES

Creation of a Capital Reserve Fund (see p. 2)

POINTS OF PRIDE

SYOSSET SCHOOLS DELIVER

- Syosset CSD and each of its schools highly ranked by various online and media sources – including fifth in New York State and 10th in the nation!
- Eight National Merit Scholarship semifinalists; 44 Commended Students.
- Five U.S. Presidential Scholarship finalists.
- Four Awards of Excellence winners in NYS PTA Reflections contest.
- Three national semifinalists in the National Honor Society Scholarship program.
- Twenty Research Honors in LISEF, NYSSEF, Regeneron and Siemens competitions.

- Named "Best Community for Music Education" for the 17th time.
- Thirty-four All-State musicians.
- Three All-National musicians.
- Four Advanced Placement Exhibit artists.
- Two "Long Island's Best Young Artists" featured at the Heckscher Museum.
- Thirty-two DECA awards at the state level; 38 international qualifiers (school record).
- Sixteen college athletic letters of intent signed.
- County championships in bowling, cross-country and soccer.
- Both middle schools received "No Place for Hate" designation from the Anti-Defamation League.
- Forensic Debate team ranked 49th in U.S.
- Science Olympiad teams competed at the state level.
- Three-hundred fifty-one inducted into National Honor Society.
- Tens of thousands of dollars raised Districtwide through the philanthropic efforts of students.

- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Student of the Year.
- State qualifier at National Geographic Bee competition.

PROPOSITION NO. 2: *Creation of a Capital Reserve for Security*

The District is seeking voter approval to create a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of using existing monies to fund future facility projects directly related to enhancing security in and around the schools.

The establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund allows school districts to set aside money to fund facility repairs and improvements. With voter approval, the District set up a Capital Reserve Fund in 2014 to address aging facilities. In this case, renovations would be dedicated solely to strengthening security.

Proposition No. 2 asks voters to approve the creation of the Capital Reserve Fund. There is no tax increase associated with the creation of this fund. If approved, the Board will establish this fund and may allocate up to $5 million for future security projects, funded by savings from other areas of the budget.

Just like the Capital Reserve Fund that was previously established for general facility projects, this fund will require additional voter approval in order to expend any monies. Any future plans to use this fund will be subject to a Districtwide vote and projects must be clearly defined, communicated and carried out as intended.

Over the last few years, beginning with a security audit completed in 2015 and bolstered by the community's support for both Phase I and Phase II of the Facilities Improvement Plan, the District has allocated resources to make the school buildings as safe as possible, including the enclosure of outdoor student walkways, installation of security- and fire-rated corridor walls, and construction of security vestibules. And after the tragic events that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February, several new measures have been implemented in recent weeks, including new visitor protocols, electronic locking systems and the installation of additional surveillance cameras. The establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund will allow the District to set aside funds to meet any new security requirements issued by the state and to continue to maintain a safe and secure environment without an increase in the tax levy.

Proposition No. 2 HIGHLIGHTS:

- ***Creates a Capital Reserve Fund to allocate resources to future projects to enhance security, funded by savings.***
- ***Does not increase taxes.***
- ***Avoids the need to borrow money, raise taxes or cut from other areas of the budget to support future security needs.***
- ***Allows the community to vote on any proposed project utilizing monies from the fund.***

Summary of the District Budget by Function

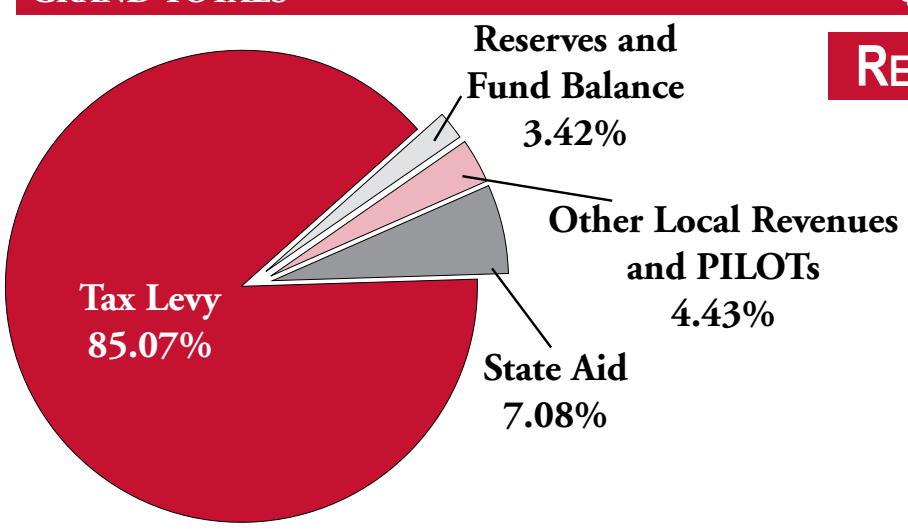
Actual Budget Available on District Website: www.syossetschools.org

	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2018-19 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	$47,200	$47,200	$46,700
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	$45,801	$45,801	$45,018
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	$47,163	$59,621	$31,500
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	$403,980	$406,900	$410,862
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	$534,005	$560,619	$557,837
1320 AUDITING	$103,400	$120,000	$123,270
1345 PURCHASING	$426,048	$429,127	$494,892
1420 LEGAL FEES	$399,050	$374,900	$378,000
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	$551,850	$570,705	$593,872
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	$90,500	$90,500	$139,500
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS	$9,661,557	$10,108,243	$9,849,071
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS *	$3,562,283	$3,446,371	$4,085,302
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS **	$1,528,496	$1,659,519	$2,573,631
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING	$402,725	$380,505	$447,019
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING	$1,716,166	$2,402,017	$2,673,346
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	$1,596,631	$1,704,661	$1,770,000
1981 ADMIN CHARGE – BOCES	$889,391	$892,725	$895,981
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	$1,897,011	$2,425,569	$2,467,980
2020 SUPERVISION REGULAR	$6,327,554	$6,290,991	$6,382,827
2070 IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS	$345,000	$456,200	$426,200
2110 REGULAR DAY SCHOOL	$75,232,000	$76,129,775	$76,747,150
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS	$28,198,305	$28,581,984	$29,049,073
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	$330,000	$384,943	$385,000
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	$135,403	$135,428	$133,525
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	$318,200	$342,200	$355,570
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	$2,344,337	$2,357,857	$2,474,980
2630 COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	$1,662,914	$3,095,325	$2,820,000
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	$250,444	$255,444	$232,082
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	$2,775,299	$2,829,409	$2,950,276
2815 HEALTH SERVICES	$1,333,930	$1,334,102	$1,421,545
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	$2,279,353	$2,315,900	$2,563,261
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	$76,402	$79,027	$77,938
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	$1,404,787	$1,429,937	$1,529,150
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	$2,241,605	$2,303,653	$2,446,379
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	$240,503	$253,656	$192,428
5540 CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	$9,455,675	$9,434,675	$9,928,252
5581 BOCES TRANSPORTATION MGMT. SERVICE	$32,000	$32,000	$47,210
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	$273,502	$273,502	$243,352
8070 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	$18,750	$18,750	$18,750
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – ERS	$2,865,775	$2,946,888	$3,000,000
9020 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – TRS	$12,336,204	$10,325,380	$11,490,000
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	$9,155,735	$9,163,961	$9,274,958
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	$190,000	$190,000	$200,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	$24,269,762	$27,084,122	$30,525,138
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	$1,013,124	$990,000	$900,000
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	$1,554,230	$1,536,730	$1,536,732
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES INTEREST (TANs)	$675,000	$562,500	562,500
9950 CAPITAL FUND TRANSFER ***	$4,365,000	$3,335,898	$1,400,000
9901 INTERFUND TRANSFERS	$4,206,138	$3,456,954	$3,397,963
GRAND TOTALS	**$219,860,188**	**$223,702,174**	**$230,346,020**

** Includes $268,000 equipment allocation for a driver education vehicle, maintenance and grounds replacement vehicles, and snow removal equipment.*

*** Includes a $1,000,000 allocation for District security upgrades and equipment.*

**** The $1,400,000 Capital Fund Transfer includes flooring work and boiler piping at H.B. Thompson Middle School and ventilation and locker upgrades at Syosset High School. These projects have no additional tax levy impact, as they are being completely funded by an allocation of fund balance.*



Revenues

	Budget 2017-18	Proposed 2018-19
Net State Aid	$ 14,410,223	$16,302,931
Restricted Reserves	$ 3,826,888	$3,880,000
Appropriated Fund Balance:		
-General Purpose	$ 406,679	$1,600,000
-Capital Work	$ 3,335,898	$1,400,000
-Security Upgrades	$0	$1,000,000
Other Local Revenues	$1,549,342	$1,616,436
PILOTs	$ 8,550,742	$8,591,699
Tax Levy	$191,622,402	$195,954,954
TOTAL REVENUE	$223,702,174	$230,346,020

VOTER GUIDE

PROPOSITION No. 1
SCHOOL BUDGET 2018-2019

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2018-2019 be adopted and the necessary amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the Syosset Central School District.

PROPOSITION No. 3
SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 2018-2019

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2018-2019 be adopted and the necessary amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the Syosset Central School District.

PROPOSITION No. 2
ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund known as the "Security Capital Improvement Program 2018" for the purpose of performing the following capital improvements related to security in the District's facilities: Districtwide security infrastructure improvements/upgrades, (including, but not limited to, security enclosures and/or vestibules, notification systems, centralized security controls and/or alarm system upgrades), instructional and non-instructional space improvements/renovations/upgrades, (including, but not limited to, classroom improvements/renovations/upgrades and/or additions to existing facilities related to security), exterior renovations/reconstruction, computer/technology upgrades, security system upgrades, window replacement/upgrades, interior and exterior door/entry ways replacement/upgrades, lighting upgrades, public address/clock system replacement/upgrades, sound system upgrades, telephone system upgrades, furnishings and equipment, all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental cost related thereto.

The maximum amount of the aforesaid Capital Reserve Fund shall be $5,000,000.00, plus investment income. The probable term is to be five (5) years; the funds are to be transferred from surplus monies, if any, remaining in the general fund including a sum not to exceed $2,000,000.00 from the 2017-2018 budget and/or other reserves and thereafter in an annual amount of not more than $2,000,000.00 for each remaining year of the probable term. Upon the establishment and funding of said reserve, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall be directed to deposit monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account to be known as the "Security Capital Improvement Program 2018."

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Three-Year Terms (Vote for Three)

- 1A ☐ Bill Weiner
- 2A ☐ Andy Feldman
- 3A ☐ Wendy Levitt
- 4A ☐ Chris Ulrich
- 5A ☐ Dr. Uzma Syed
- 6A ☐ Christopher Di Filippo
- ☐ *Write-in Candidate*
- ☐ *Write-in Candidate*
- ☐ *Write-in Candidate*

MEMBERS OF THE SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Five-Year Term (Vote for One)

- 7A ☐ Chandra Ganeshkumar
- ☐ *Write-in Candidate*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is the estimated tax levy increase of the proposed budget?

A: The proposed budget would increase the school tax levy by 2.26 percent. This is below the state-mandated tax cap set at 3.57 percent. The total proposed budget of $230,346,020 carries a budget-to-budget increase of 2.97 percent for the 2018-19 school year.

Q: What does the 2018-19 budget support?

A: The proposed budget preserves all current academic offerings, as well as all extracurricular and co-curricular programs. It also funds ongoing new technology initiatives, including the expansion of KidOYO programming, a new LEGO Robotics program, the continuance of school library redesigns, the piloting of flexible classroom furniture and initiatives to enhance school security.

Q: Will establishing a Capital Reserve Fund (Proposition No. 2) increase taxes?

A: No. Approval of this proposition authorizes the District to establish a Capital Reserve Fund from existing savings. It works like a savings account. Once established, any use of monies from this fund will require additional voter approval via a proposition. For more information on Proposition No. 2, see page 2.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: If the budget is defeated on May 15, the District will be faced with three options. The Board could choose to submit the same budget for a revote, submit a revised version of the defeated budget, or adopt a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, and state law would mandate that the District revert to a zero percent tax levy increase for the 2018-19 year. That would require the District to make $4,332,552 in reductions to the proposed budget and possibly delay capital projects included in the budget.

Q: What happens if the Capital Reserve Fund proposition is defeated?

A: The budget and Capital Reserve Fund proposition are separate and independent from one another, so passage or failure of one has no impact on the other. Should the Capital Reserve Fund proposition fail, the District would have to utilize alternate methods of funding future security projects such as future school district budgets.

Q: Will security projects in the proposed 2018-19 budget be affected by the outcome of the Capital Reserve Fund vote?

A: No. If the proposed 2018-19 budget is approved, all security initiatives in the budget will commence as planned. The Capital Reserve Fund would allow the District to use its savings allocated to the fund for additional security enhancements as needed, lessening the need to fund them in future budgets, which could result in new taxes.

Q: Where can I find more information about the District's proposed budget?

A: Complete copies of the 2018-19 proposed budget are available in the District Office and at each school building and can be downloaded from the District's website, www.syossetschools.org.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 15 AT YOUR DESIGNATED VOTING LOCATION!

Voting Information

The annual budget vote and election of Board of Education trustees will be held on **Tuesday, May 15 from 6 a.m.-9 p.m.** at Robbins Lane Elementary School, H.B. Thompson Middle School and Syosset High School.

The table below shows where residents must vote based on their elementary school attendance zone:

Elementary school attendance zone:	Voting site:
Robbins Lane and South Grove	Robbins Lane Elementary School
A.P. Willits and Baylis	H.B. Thompson Middle School
Walt Whitman, Berry Hill and Village	Syosset High School

If you are a resident who does not have children enrolled in the District, you may refer to the District website to find your designated polling location. Go to www.syossetschools.org and click on the Community tab located at the top right navigation of the homepage. You will find your polling location under the "Voter Information" menu option.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration will take place at South Woods Middle School on **Monday, May 7 from 4-8 p.m.**

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

In order to vote in the annual school district election, voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older and a District resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Eligible voters include those who have voted in school district elections within the past four years, those who are registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections, and those who registered on one of the 2018 registration dates.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot applications are available on the District's website at www.syossetschools.org. Absentee ballot applications must be mailed back to the District no later than the seventh day before the election or delivered in person back to the District no later than the day before the election.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Michael Cohen, President
Tracy Frankel, Vice President
Carol C. Cheng
Christopher Di Filippo
Andrew Feldman
Rob Gershon
Anna Levitan
Susan Parker

Dr. Thomas Rogers, *Superintendent of Schools*