

# Syosset Pride

*A Publication of the Syosset Central School District*

[www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org)

## Budget Proposal Preserves Excellence, Supports Students, Invests in the Future *While Remaining Below the "Tax Cap"*

Dear Syosset Community,

On May 17, the community will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed budget adopted by the Syosset Board of Education for the 2022-23 school year. Despite the fiscal challenges caused by the pandemic, the budget has been carefully designed to maintain all of the programs and opportunities that make a Syosset education so special. In addition, particular attention has been made to support students' mental well-being and address any learning gaps created by the challenges of the past two years. Lastly, it provides for continued attention to our aging facilities to invest in Syosset's future.

The "Tax Cap" calculated for Syosset under New York State law is 2.61%. However, the proposed budget provides for a tax levy increase of 2.36%, which is approximately \$525K under the cap. This represents a budget increase of 4.32% over the current year, in part due to one-time facilities projects. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row of school budgets with tax increases below the State-allowed limit. This illustrates the Board's ongoing focus on maintaining academic excellence while seeking efficiencies and grants to offset the tax levy and fund capital projects.

The fiscal stability of the District positioned us well to aggressively implement health and safety protocols necessary to keep our students, our staff, and ultimately our community safe, without compromising our academic program or overlooking the evolving needs of our students and community during the shifting conditions of the pandemic.

The proposed budget supports the continuation of the strong social-emotional programs that build a positive and supportive community in each school. It is the first layer of our "Culture of Care," Syosset's multi-tiered system of support that interweaves positive behavior supports, restorative practices, mental health and wellness services, and academic assistance calibrated to students' needs.

Our students' mental wellness remains a longstanding priority. Since 2017, we have hired four social workers, including persons bilingual in Mandarin and Spanish. For next year, the staffing plan includes an additional 1.5 full time social workers to further address student needs.

We are again excited to offer the community a Universal Pre-K (UPK) program completely funded by a State grant. The pilot program has been a great success, and next

year it will be expanded to run for the full school year with additional seats.

Additionally, the proposed budget allows us to continue to address the needs of the facilities throughout the district. The proposed budget includes funding to install outdoor lighting on the multi-purpose turf athletic field, which will extend the amount of time the field can be used by our athletic teams and provide low-level illumination of the track in the evening for walkers. When the field was constructed in 2019, we planned ahead by laying underground electrical conduit so the proposed lighting project can be installed without any disruption to the new field.

Also included in the proposed budget is a much-needed renovation of the South Woods Middle School library, with plans for a digital media/podcasting studio, collaborative student learning hubs, quiet reading nooks, and research presentation pods. Necessary District-wide paving, roofing, and building work is also planned.

Planning this year's budget was not without challenges – we saw significant increases in retirement system contributions (which are sensitive to stock market conditions), and especially health insurance costs as we exit the pandemic. However, the proposed budget is balanced despite these pressures and without compromising our educational program.

On May 17, in addition to the school budget vote, the community will have the opportunity to vote for three candidates for the Board of Education. Additional voting information can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

We encourage you to attend the public budget hearing on May 9 at South Woods Middle School beginning at 8:00 p.m. For more information, you may visit [www.syossetschools.org/budget](http://www.syossetschools.org/budget) or call the District Office at (516) 364-5600. The Board and administration value your input and welcome your thoughts and questions.

Regards,  
The Syosset Board of Education

**SCHOOL  
BUDGET  
VOTE AND  
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY,  
MAY 17**

**POLLS OPEN  
6 A.M. TO 9 P.M.**

**See Page 4 for a list  
of voting locations**

Syosset Central School District  
Syosset, New York 11791

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No.36  
Syosset, NY 11791

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

Resident of  
Syosset Central School District

*Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act requires school districts in Nassau County to provide election information in English and Spanish. In accordance with this Act, materials produced by Syosset Central School District pertaining to the District Election and School Budget Vote will be distributed in both languages.*

# POINTS OF PRIDE

## SYOSSET SCHOOLS DELIVER

- Syosset Central School District ranked 5th Best School District in NY; 9th Best School District in America by Niche.com: up from 9th and 82nd places, respectively, in 2016.
- Syosset Central School District ranked 3rd for Districts with the Best Teachers in NY by Niche.com
- 13 Syosset High School seniors named National Merit Semifinalists; 46 named National Merit Commended Students
- Seven Syosset High School students recognized as College Board National Recognition Program scholars
- Four Syosset High School students named Regeneration Science Talent Search Scholars; Two students became Regeneration Science Talent Search Finalists
- Five students named as 2022 US Presidential Scholar Candidates
- One National Honor Society Scholarship Finalist
- One student selected for the Stanford China Scholars Program
- District teacher named NYS Master Teacher
- District teacher named Harvard Club of LI Distinguished Teacher
- 18 students qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME)
- First place in Annual KidOYO Hackathon
- Two First-Place winners in the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF)
- 102 Regional Awards plus 6 National Awards in the 2022 Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards

### Fine and Performing Arts

- Designated a Best Community for Music Education for 21st time
- 27 students selected as New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Musicians
- Two students selected for National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles
- Two students named Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar Artists
- One student finalist in the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York Vocal Competition
- Middle School teacher guest conducted for the Texas Music Educators Association's Region 10 Middle School Band Conference in Texas
- Two Syosset High School students selected for the Drexel University High School Photography Contest
- Two Chamber ensembles invited to perform in the Young Musicians Regional Concert sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
- Award of Excellence in the Go APE Exhibit at the Art League of Long Island



### Character and Community

- 2020-2021 School year - Both Middle Schools designated as No Place for Hate schools. One with Gold Star Distinction.
- Partnerships with ERASE Racism, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, Syosset Interfaith Clergy, and Harmony Social Emotional program.
- Tens of thousands of dollars and goods raised District-wide for local and national charitable organizations such as: Ronald McDonald House, American Legion, Veteran of Foreign War Posts, Tunnels to Towers Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, Soles4Soles, Habitat for Humanity, Island Harvest, Cohen's Children's Hospital, Deasy Outreach Program, Glen Cove Soup Kitchen, St. Baldrick's Foundation, St. Edwards' Food Pantry, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Brooke Jackman Foundation.



### Athletics

- SHS Tennis Team named LI High School Tennis Team of the Year by the US Tennis Association
- Girls Cross Country - Nassau County Champions
- Gymnastics - Nassau County Champions and All-American team
- Kickline - National Champions, Small Varsity Hip Hop
- Boys Swimming and Diving - Nassau County Champions, earned their 64th consecutive dual meet win, and County Champions in 200 and 400 Freestyle Relays and 100 Freestyle
- Girls Tennis - Long Island Champions
- Boys Winter Track - Nassau County Champions
- Girls Winter Track - Runners up at County Championship
- Wrestling - Conference 1A Champions
- Boys Basketball - AA-1 Champions
- Girls Basketball - Conference AA-1 Champions
- Boys Fencing - Division 1 League Champions
- Competitive Cheer - 3rd place, UCA Regional Competition



# SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNCTION

BUDGET DATA INCLUDING ANNUAL EXPENDITURES AVAILABLE ON DISTRICT WEBSITE: [WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG)

	2020-21 BUDGET	2021-22 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2022-23 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	46,700	46,700	46,700
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	97,186	98,271	98,271
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	30,500	30,500	37,500
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	385,079	386,204	386,204
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	576,814	581,804	581,804
1320 AUDITING	128,370	125,870	119,470
1345 PURCHASING	553,578	566,762	583,783
1380 FISCAL AGENT	-	-	7,000
1420 LEGAL FEES	429,600	429,600	422,600
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	656,821	710,090	725,174
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	169,670	179,670	179,670
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS <sup>1</sup>	9,991,539	10,773,075	11,231,031
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS <sup>2</sup>	7,024,678	5,738,350	6,583,176
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS <sup>3</sup>	3,853,595	3,344,650	4,106,102
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING <sup>4</sup>	554,393	545,541	570,312
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING <sup>5</sup>	2,806,764	2,816,285	2,826,700
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	1,175,372	1,175,372	1,266,645
1981 ADMIN CHARGE - BOCES	807,288	824,806	811,845
1983 BOCES CAPITAL EXPENSES	130,020	130,451	215,809
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	50,000	50,000	50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	2,833,187	2,895,524	3,130,249
2020 SUPERVISION	6,282,938	6,394,401	6,636,132
2070 INSERVICE PROGRAMS	503,000	503,000	503,000
2110 GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS <sup>6</sup>	77,152,388	79,390,850	82,740,555
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS <sup>7</sup>	29,956,047	30,212,630	30,636,922
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	410,000	420,000	435,000
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	118,611	118,752	118,752
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	397,258	397,258	556,332
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	2,559,499	2,708,327	2,796,407
2630 COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION <sup>8</sup>	3,274,731	3,636,105	3,932,243
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	247,149	256,229	325,404
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	3,060,288	3,271,577	3,305,232
2815 HEALTH SERVICES <sup>9</sup>	1,440,578	1,762,219	1,981,295
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	2,698,100	2,670,577	2,613,342
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	214,655	331,317	338,312
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	1,656,045	1,673,694	1,710,634
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS <sup>10</sup>	2,348,329	2,408,589	2,781,557
2989 POTENTIAL COVID RELATED EXPENSES	2,000,000	-	-
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	244,788	247,722	256,179
5540 CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	10,318,136	11,507,600	11,507,600
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	291,221	297,127	297,127
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	18,750	18,750	18,750
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM - ERS	3,000,000	3,445,000	2,270,400
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM - TRS	10,590,935	11,120,515	11,970,784
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	9,549,176	9,840,000	10,134,830
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	218,000	230,000	230,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	30,651,664	30,700,233	33,835,429
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	905,000	905,000	930,000
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	1,465,200	1,409,200	1,428,075
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES	720,000	720,000	720,000
9901 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	5,278,331	7,200,281	5,750,932
9950 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND**	1,767,274	1,913,547	3,090,000
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$241,639,245</b>	<b>\$247,160,025</b>	<b>\$257,831,270</b>

\*\* The \$3,090,000 Transfer to Capital Fund includes allocations for turf field lighting, library renovation at South Woods Middle School, reconstruction of HS tennis courts, HS paving project, district-wide repaving, roofing and masonry projects, and ventilation upgrade at maintenance facility.

## EQUIPMENT ALLOCATIONS:

<sup>1</sup> \$72,000 for custodial equipment including floor polishers, electronic mops and floor scrubbers.

<sup>2</sup> \$1,220,878 for maintenance replacement equipment including maintenance and grounds vehicles, dust collection systems, library and classroom furniture, LED light towers, PA systems, and hammer throw cage.

<sup>3</sup> \$52,000 for security equipment.

<sup>4</sup> \$8,000 for mailing, office replacement equipment.

<sup>5</sup> \$87,000 for technology equipment.

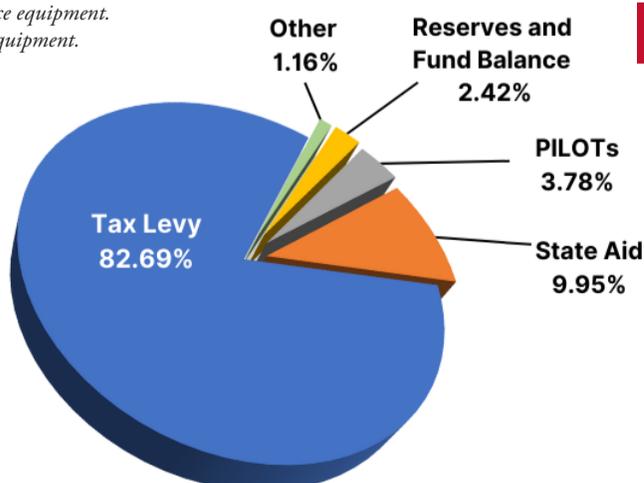
<sup>6</sup> \$342,250 for instructional program equipment including science, art and music equipment.

<sup>7</sup> \$20,000 for instructional program equipment.

<sup>8</sup> \$40,000 for technology equipment.

<sup>9</sup> \$3,500 for health service equipment.

<sup>10</sup> \$25,000 for athletic equipment.



## REVENUES

	Budget 2021-22	Proposed 2022-23
STATE AID	\$19,731,030	\$25,658,758
RESTRICTED RESERVES	\$4,854,579	\$4,550,400
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$2,813,547	\$1,700,000
REVENUE FROM DEBT SERVICE FUND	-	\$940,000
OTHER LOCAL REVENUE	\$1,882,649	\$2,036,559
PILOTs	\$9,588,924	\$9,745,061
GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY	\$208,289,296	\$213,200,492
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$247,160,025</b>	<b>\$257,831,270</b>

# VOTER GUIDE

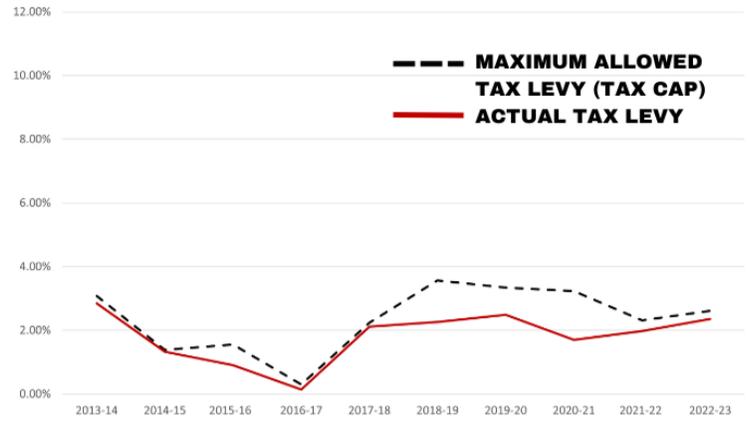
## PROPOSITION No. 1 SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2022-2023 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 SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2022-2023 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.

## SYOSSET CSD TAX CAP HISTORY



Since New York State implemented the tax levy cap in 2012, Syosset has produced budgets at or below the district's calculated cap.

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Three members for a term of three years

VOTE FOR THREE

Thomas Anthony Rotolo
Court Cousins
Lynn Abramson
Jason Guo
Steven Ricco
Jack Ostrick
Write-in Candidate

### MEMBERS OF THE SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Five Year Term

VOTE FOR ONE

Robert A. Glick
Write-in Candidate

## Voting Information

The annual budget vote and election of Board of Education trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 17 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](http://www.syossetschools.org) and click on the District tab located in the channel bar on the top 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 9, 2022 from 4-8 p.m.**

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

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 2022 registration dates.

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot applications are available on the District's website at [www.syossetschools.org](http://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.

## 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 2.36%. This is below the state-mandated tax cap set at 2.61%. The total proposed budget of \$257,831,270 carries a budget-to-budget increase of 4.32% for the 2022-23 school year.

**Q: What does the 2022-23 budget support?**

**A:** The proposed budget preserves all current academic offerings, as well as all extracurricular and co-curricular programs. It also provides resources to support the social and emotional well-being of students, much needed upgrades to aging facilities, including the installation of outdoor lighting on the turf field, as well as ongoing maintenance of the physical plant, equipment and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

**Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?**

**A:** If the budget is defeated on May 17, 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 0% tax levy increase for the 2022-23 year. That would require the District to make \$4,911,196 in reductions to the proposed budget and delay capital projects included in the budget.

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

**A:** Complete copies of the 2022-23 proposed budget can be downloaded from the District's website, [www.syossetschools.org/budget](http://www.syossetschools.org/budget).

BUDGET 2022

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tracy Frankel, President      Thomas A. Rotolo, Vice President  
 Carol C. Cheng      Lisa A. Coscia      Susan Falkove  
 Rob Gershon      Brian J. Grieco      Anna Levitan      Shany Park  
 Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools