

Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

Budget Proposal Preserves All Programs, Manages Record-High Inflation While Remaining Below the “Tax Cap”

Dear Syosset Community,

Our annual school district budget vote and Trustee election will be held on Tuesday, May 16th. The budget adopted by the Syosset Board of Education for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year has been developed by the Board and administration to meet the goal of maintaining all student programs and opportunities that our District has worked so hard to develop, while also addressing the significant challenges posed by inflation.

The “Tax Cap” calculated for Syosset under New York State law is 3.07%. However, the proposed budget provides for a tax levy increase of 2.99%, which is approximately \$180,289 under the cap. This is the 11th year in a row of school budgets with tax levy increases below the State-allowed limit. Our effort to seek efficiencies is not a product of a tough budget year—it is an ongoing commitment by the Board to offset the tax levy and continue to meet the high standards we have set as a District.

Planning this year’s budget during a season of high interest rates and inflation presented some challenges given rising costs for health insurance, electricity, fuel to

power our buildings and buses, and retirement system contributions. However, the proposed budget is balanced, despite these pressures, and does not compromise our educational programs.

We are so pleased to report that New York State has again increased funding for our Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program. Since beginning the program two years ago, we now have sufficient funding to offer cost-free UPK to every family in our community that applied.

Our students’ mental wellness remains a longstanding priority and the proposed budget builds on recent investments made over the past several years by including two additional social workers, allowing us to have full-time social work capacity in every one of our 10 school buildings.

Additionally, the proposed budget includes funding to address school building needs identified by our District architects. These include: repairing roofs and patching cracks in masonry across the District, repaving the South Woods Middle School parking lot, and adding a dust filtration system to the High School technology classrooms.

Funds are also allocated for the final project in our multi-year effort to renovate every school library – HBT Middle School’s library.

We continue to reap the benefits of investments from years past. The community took full advantage of the High School turf field lights, enjoying evening games and family walks around the track. Beginning in September, students at South Woods Middle School will be able to enjoy a fully renovated library with a podcasting studio, reading nooks, and presentation pods.

Our athletics program has also enjoyed growing successes since the Board approved the renovation of the High School fitness center several years ago. But, it’s not just our athletes who use this fantastic facility—there are 18 class sections of strength and conditioning this year, with 10 more to be added in the coming school year. These classes teach every student how to make personal wellness a priority for life.

We also launched three new sports teams: girls flag football, varsity unified basketball, and middle school challenger basketball. The addition of these teams allows us to continue to provide inclusive opportunities for all students.

On May 16th, 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 four of this newsletter.

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

Regards,
The Syosset Board of Education

**SCHOOL
BUDGET
VOTE AND
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 16**

**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 America (up from 82nd in 2016); 3rd Best School District in NY; 3rd for Best Teachers in NY by Niche.com
- \$70+ million in construction work completed without increasing net debt service costs
- 16 Syosset High School seniors named National Merit Semifinalists; 39 named National Merit Commended Students
- Two students named as 2022 US Presidential Scholar Candidates
- Science Olympiad won first place in New York State competition
- 18 students qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME); three qualified for US Math Olympiad
- Three Virtual Enterprise teams competed in National Business Plan competition
- 372 students inducted into the National Honor Society
- Six Syosset High School students named Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars
- Five teams qualified for national competitions: Robotics, Science Olympiads, Forensics, Virtual Enterprise, Health Occupations of Students of America



Fine and Performing Arts

- 2022 Best Community for Music Education for over 20 years
- 31 students selected as New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State and All National Musicians
- Six students selected for National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-Eastern Ensembles
- Two students given Award of Merit in Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar Artist Competition
- Senior selected as YoungArts Finalist in national competition
- Seven recognitions from the Theatre Association of NYS for Fall show *Puffs*
- Spring Musical *Legally Blonde* saw 1,600 attendees, 75 students in cast and crew



Character and Community

- All three secondary schools designated as "No Place for Hate" schools
- Observed "P.S. I Love You Day" to stand up against bullying, "Random Acts of Kindness Day" to spread positivity, and Multicultural Week to celebrate diversity in our District
- Partnership with the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center
- Tens of thousands of dollars and goods raised Districtwide for local and national charitable organizations such as: Rock Can Roll, Island Harvest, St. Baldrick's Foundation, Macy's Make a Wish, Birthday Wishes, North Shore Sheltering Program, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, We Care Blankets, Oyster Bay Animal Shelter, Book Fairies, Toys for Tots, St. Edward's Food Pantry, Operation Gratitude, Global Canine & Feline Rescue Association, and The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation



Athletics

- Nassau County Champions: Girls and Boys Cross Country, Boys Fencing, Gymnastics, Girls Swimming & Diving
- Long Island Champions: Boys Fencing
- Conference Champions: Girls Cross Country, Boys Fencing, Girls Winter Track & Field, Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving, Wrestling
- Nassau County Finalists: Girls Soccer, Boys Volleyball, Girls Volleyball, Girls Tennis
- All American Team: Gymnastics
- Nassau County Coach of the Year: Boys Fencing Coach PJ Moon, Girls Winter Track & Field Coach Mike Spiteri
- Nassau County Athletic Director of the Year: Scott Stueber
- All Fall and Winter teams earned NYS Scholar Athlete Distinction



SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNCTION

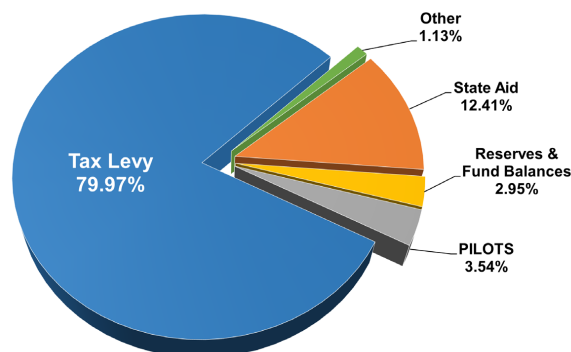
BUDGET DATA INCLUDING ANNUAL EXPENDITURES AVAILABLE ON DISTRICT WEBSITE: WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG

	2021-22 BUDGET	2022-23 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2023-24 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	46,700	46,700	46,700
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	98,271	98,271	101,146
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	30,500	37,500	37,500
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	386,204	386,204	370,950
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	581,804	581,805	595,439
1320 AUDITING	125,870	119,470	119,470
1345 PURCHASING	566,762	583,783	590,518
1380 FISCAL AGENT	-	7,000	7,000
1420 LEGAL FEES	429,600	422,600	422,600
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	710,090	725,174	756,998
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	179,670	179,670	198,500
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS ¹	10,773,075	11,231,031	11,623,982
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS ²	5,738,350	6,583,176	6,191,347
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS ³	3,344,650	4,106,102	3,825,677
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING ⁴	545,541	570,312	570,136
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING ⁵	2,816,285	2,826,700	2,416,671
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	1,175,372	1,266,645	1,463,556
1981 ADMIN CHARGE - BOCES	824,806	811,845	881,000
1983 BOCES CAPITAL EXPENSES	130,451	215,809	231,827
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	50,000	50,000	50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	2,895,524	3,130,249	3,111,059
2020 SUPERVISION	6,394,401	6,636,132	6,907,685
2070 INSERVICE PROGRAMS	503,000	503,000	283,000
2110 GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ⁶	79,390,850	82,740,555	85,399,588
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ⁷	30,212,630	30,636,921	31,986,210
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	420,000	435,000	590,000
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	118,752	118,752	118,752
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	397,258	556,332	527,370
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	2,708,327	2,796,407	2,899,633
2630 COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION ⁸	3,636,105	3,932,243	4,736,647
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	256,229	325,404	283,054
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	3,271,577	3,305,232	3,480,562
2815 HEALTH SERVICES ⁹	1,762,219	1,981,295	2,159,027
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	2,670,577	2,613,342	2,700,786
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	331,317	338,312	567,488
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	1,673,694	1,710,634	2,124,289
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS ¹⁰	2,408,589	2,781,557	3,124,748
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	247,722	256,179	322,320
5540 CONTRACT TRANSPORTATION	11,507,600	11,507,600	13,248,600
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	297,127	297,127	297,127
8070 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	18,750	18,750	21,131
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM - ERS	3,445,000	2,270,400	3,215,023
9020 RETIREMENT SYSTEM - TRS	11,120,515	11,970,784	12,421,680
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	9,840,000	10,134,830	11,230,134
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	230,000	230,000	230,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	30,700,233	33,835,429	39,305,569
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	905,000	930,000	930,000
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	1,409,200	1,428,075	1,634,300
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES	720,000	720,000	1,133,417
9901 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	7,200,281	5,750,932	4,747,444
9950 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND**	1,913,547	3,090,000	4,325,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	247,160,025	257,831,270	274,562,660

**The \$4,325,000 Transfer to Capital Fund includes allocations for partial roof replacement at South Grove, dust collection systems at Syosset High School and HBT, library renovation at HBT, district-wide paving, roofing, and masonry projects, including parking lot paving at South Woods, turf field end-zone renovation (if necessary), and renovation of high school spaces including testing and media centers.

EQUIPMENT ALLOCATIONS:

1. \$64,000 for custodial equipment including floor polishers, electronic mops, and floor scrubbers
2. \$936,000 for maintenance equipment including playground equipment, vehicle replacement, HVAC equipment, library and classroom furniture and casework, and gym curtains
3. \$35,000 for security equipment
4. \$8,000 for mailing, office replacement equipment
5. \$75,000 for technology equipment
6. \$214,000 for instructional program equipment including science, art, and music
7. \$20,000 for instructional program equipment
8. \$40,000 for instructional technology equipment
9. \$3,500 for health service equipment
10. \$66,300 for athletic equipment including soccer and lacrosse goals



REVENUES

	Budget 2022-23	Proposed 2023-24
STATE AID	\$25,658,758	\$34,057,838
RESTRICTED RESERVES	\$4,550,400	\$5,885,023
APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE	\$1,700,000	\$2,225,000
REVENUE FROM DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$940,000	-
OTHER LOCAL REVENUE	\$2,036,559	\$3,110,903
PILOTS	\$9,745,061	\$9,711,431
GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY	\$213,200,492	\$219,572,465
TOTAL REVENUE	\$257,831,270	\$274,562,660

VOTER GUIDE

PROPOSITION No. 1

SCHOOL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

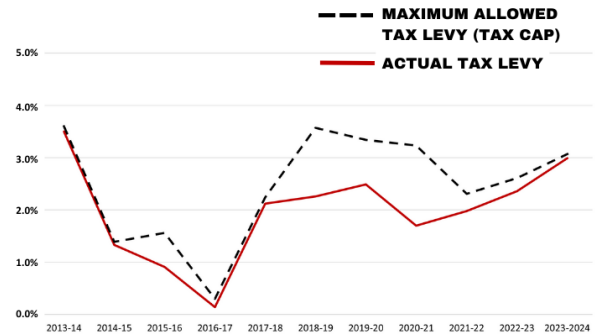
RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2023-2024 be adopted and the necessary amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the Syosset Central School District.

PROPOSITION No. 2

SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2023-2024 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

Anna Levitan
Carol C. Cheng
Susan Falkove
Jeevan George
Write-in Candidate
Write-in Candidate
Write-in Candidate

MEMBERS OF THE SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Five Year Term

VOTE FOR ONE

Bill Akunevich Jr
Write-in Candidate

Voting Information

The annual budget vote and election of Board of Education trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 16 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 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 8, 2023 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 2023 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.

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 2.99%. This is below the state-mandated tax cap set at 3.07% by approximately \$180,289. The total proposed budget of \$274,562,660 carries a budget-to-budget increase of 6.49% for the 2023-24 school year.

Q: What does the 2023-24 budget support?

A: The proposed budget preserves all current academic offerings, as well as all extracurricular and co-curricular programs. It also funds increased resources to support the social and emotional well-being of students and necessary repairs to our aging facilities.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: If the budget is defeated on May 16, 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 2023-24 year. That would require the District to make approximately \$6.4 million in reductions to the proposed budget and delay capital projects and repairs included in the budget.

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

A: Complete copies of the 2023-24 proposed budget can be downloaded from the District's website, www.syossetschools.org.

BUDGET 2023

Syosset Pride

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thomas A. Rotolo, President Lisa Coscia, Vice President
Lynn Abramson Carol C. Cheng Susan Falkove
Brian J. Grieco Anna Levitan Jack Ostrick Shany Park
Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools