



MOUNTIE MINDS

ADVISORY COUNCIL

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



#OneSuffern



Mountie Minds Meeting - Evening At-A-Glance

6:00 - 6:20: Year at a Glance

6:20 - 6:40: Budget Overview & Questions

6:40 - 7:00: Looking Forward (Strategic Planning)

7:00 - 8:00: Multicultural Fair

District Goals & Priorities



Wellbeing

Operations

Curriculum & Instruction

Facilities Planning

Restructuring Implementation





I. Improving Mental Health

Promote a greater sense of “Belonging” to improve mental health, reduce absenteeism and raise academic performance. (Strategic Plan I, II, III)

- Develop plans to address the goals of each school’s respective Panorama survey results, with a district-wide approach to improving student “belonging” in our district.
- Address chronic absenteeism at SHS.
- Identify the specific roles of mental health professionals
- Develop and implement a comprehensive elementary school counseling curriculum.
- Consider plans for wellness centers at both SMS and SHS
- Establish an after school program for grades 3-5 that promote a variety of afterschool activities for students.
- Expand intramural activities for middle school students.

II. Improving Operations



Improve operations, specifically in the area of communication, facilities, technology and transportation. (Strategic Plan I, IV)

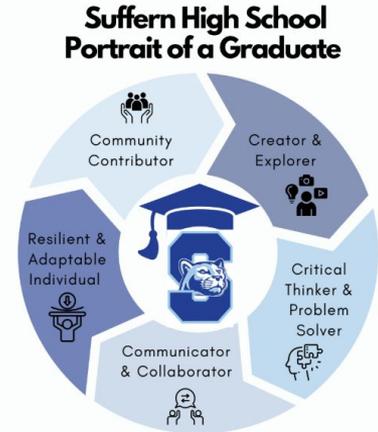
- Communications
- Facilities
- Technology
 - i. Implement a student information system to replace e-school.
 - ii. Establish a practice to hold student damages to technology accountable for the damage
 - iii. Investigate options for future SHS, student issued devices
- Registration / Residency
 - i. Develop and implement a plan to become more efficient with student registration
 - ii. Explore the need to invest in residency confirmation

III. Curricular & Instructional Needs



Improve and implement programs to specifically address curricular and instructional needs throughout the district. (Strategic Plan IV)

- Expand our approach to bilingual education in a manner that will benefit all students.
- Develop an instructional vision that will result in a more consistent concept of “good instruction” and outcomes for Suffern students.
- Implement Science of Reading throughout the district.
- Finalize *Suffern A.I. Guidelines and Practices* for the use of artificial intelligence.
- Update curriculum to reflect the newest standards for computer science and digital fluency.
- Develop a plan to return appropriate out-of-district special education students to district programs.



IV. Capital Improvement

Conduct a plan to determine potential need for school capital improvements to address projected needs for students & curriculum initiatives to enhance educational outcomes for all students (Strategic Plan I, V)



- Suffern Middle School Priorities
 - i. Welcoming entrance, wellness center and student services area
 - ii. Classroom upgrades (furniture / projection / security), upgrade bathrooms.
 - iii. Modernize Auditorium
 - iv. Modernize locker rooms / team rooms
- Suffern High School Priorities
 - i. Art, music updates to classrooms
 - ii. Engineering / Industrial Arts / Architecture curriculum and facilities
 - iii. Wellness center and student services area
 - iv. Modernize Library
 - v. Classroom upgrades (furniture / projection / security), upgrade bathrooms.
 - vi. Boiler Upgrades
 - vii. Automobile and bus traffic flow
- Athletics
 - i. Multi - Use Facility
 - ii. Improve Fields at SHS to support spectator sports

IV. Capital Improvement

Financial Impact of a Bond:

- \$100M Bond
 - i. 20 years
 - ii. Average increase in local taxes: 0.761 % increase year-over-year
 - iii. Assuming State Building Aid Ratio for SCSD of 51%
 - iv. Assuming 90% of the project qualifies for State aid.

- \$150M Bond
 - i. 20 years
 - ii. Average increase in local taxes: 1.180 % increase year-over-year
 - iii. Assuming State Building Aid Ratio for SCSD of 51%
 - iv. Assuming 90% of the project qualifies for State aid.

V. The Restructuring & Beyond...

Successes:

- Grade Level Focused Events
- Consistent Programming
- Wider social networks

Ongoing Challenges & Plans:

- Transportation Delays
- Afterschool Programming
- Building Expectations
- Financial Efficiencies



Budget & BOE Candidate Vote

When:

- Tuesday, May 20 6am - 9pm

Budget Candidates (Vote for Two)

- Jason Andert
- Roxanne Bryan



Budget Overview & Vote

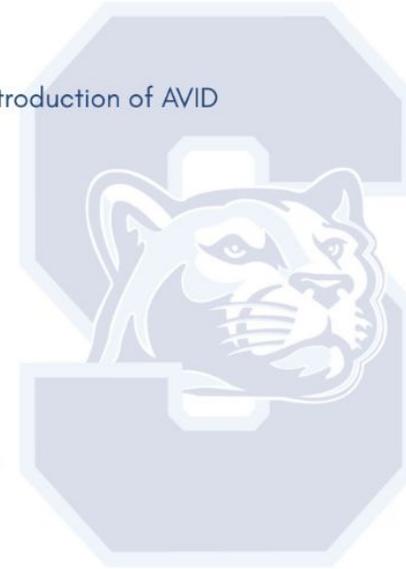
The proposed Suffern Central School District budget allows us to maintain the structures and programs that ensure academic readiness and support innovative instructional practices.

➔ **Budget Priorities:**

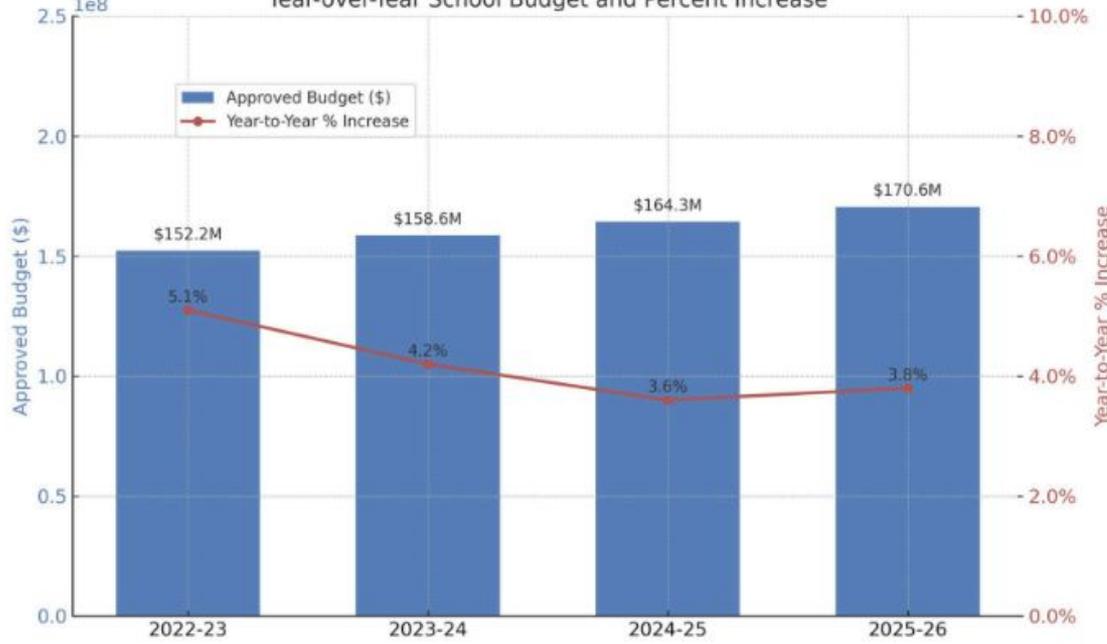
- Furthering the Science of Reading implementation
- Enhancing teaching and learning experience through the introduction of AVID
- Expanding our bilingual opportunities for all students
- Maintaining all academic programming
- Standardizing consistent and efficient class sizes
- Support ongoing security and maintenance needs

➔ **Budget / Economic Challenges:**

- Considerable increase in transportation costs
- Increased costs for employee benefits and health insurance
- Rising operational expenses, including insurance
- Expiration of COVID-related funding



Year-over-Year School Budget and Percent Increase



2025-26 Numbers

Budget Total: \$170,565,199

Overall budget increase: 3.8%

Local Tax Levy: 2.9%

For more details on the budget and to find your polling location, visit www.sufferncentral.org or scan this link





Where do we go from here...

blueprint

print

Blueprint for Excellence®

**A Practical, Focused and Meaningful
Approach to Strategic Planning**



Where do you want your district to go?

•
What are your shared goals?

•
**Have you committed to a
specific, measurable and clear
plan to accomplish your mission?**



#OneSuffern Celebration

#OneSuffern Celebration & Color Run Sunday, May 18, 2025 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Suffern Middle School Fields

Sign up to run in the Color Run! Students will receive a free T-shirt, while supplies last.

[Register Today!](#)

The entire campus will be filled with activities and events for the whole family, including sports demonstrations, music performances, family field day games, activities, food and so much more!



Reserve your Space in the Color Run!

This year's color run will happen at the end of the day (around 12:15 pm). To obtain entrance into the race and grab a free #OneSuffern T-shirt, children must first need to visit the activities stations on the field.

In order for us to have an accurate count of t-shirts, we are asking families to pre-register their children.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)