



Budget Newsletter

SPRING 2026

IMPORTANT DATES:

2026-27 Budget Public Hearing

May 12, 2026, 6 p.m.
BOE Conference Room

Meet the Candidates

May 12, 2026, 6:20 p.m.
BOE Conference Room

School Budget Vote

May 19, 2026, Noon - 8 p.m.
North Entrance Lobby

Concert on the Green

May 19, 2026, 5 p.m.

SCHOOL CLOSED

May 22, 2026

Memorial Day Holiday -

SCHOOL CLOSED

May 25, 2026

Juneteenth Holiday -

SCHOOL CLOSED

June 19, 2026

Class of 2026 Graduation

June 27, 2026

Keep up with Romulus
Central School District on:



@Romulus CSD



@romulus_csd



5705 STATE ROUTE 96, ROMULUS, NY, 14541

School Phone: 1-866-810-0345 (toll free), 607-869-5391 (local) | School Fax: 1-607-869-5961



2026–2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE ROMULUS COMMUNITY

DEAR ROMULUS COMMUNITY,

We are pleased to present the 2026–2027 spending plan for the Romulus Central School District. Our mission is to provide an exceptional education for our children while remaining deeply committed to the fiscal responsibility you expect and deserve as members of our community.

To achieve this, we utilized a zero-based budgeting approach, scrutinizing every line item to ensure efficiency and eliminate waste. This plan is designed to protect the long-term health of our district by investing in smart, strategic projects that trigger future state aid, effectively reducing the future burden on our local community.

Standing Strong Despite State Funding Challenges

The formula New York State uses to determine school aid often overlooks the reality of our local economy. By weighing property values equally alongside income, the state classifies Romulus as a "low need" district. This means Albany expects our local community to shoulder a much higher percentage of school funding than our neighbors.

While I am writing this, we are seeing only a modest 1% increase in state aid this year due to these state-level formulas; however our commitment to you remains unshaken. Despite these external constraints, we have worked diligently to keep the proposed tax levy increase to 3.04% (a total of \$192,132). As a reminder, the tax levy is the specific portion of the budget funded directly through local school taxes. While final rates are set in August, we anticipate that the average homeowner will see a minimal impact on their final bill. We are managing your resources with the utmost care, ensuring that Romulus remains a strong, affordable place to live and raise a family.

Strategic Investments & Fiscal Discipline

The proposed budget reflects a 3.5% (\$510,246) increase in total spending. We have focused these funds on essential drivers while maintaining our operation:

- **Honoring Our Commitments (\$210,539):** This covers mandated contractual obligations, including salaries, health insurance, and state-mandated retirement contributions for our hardworking staff.
- **Essential Student Services (\$283,197):** This provides critical Special Education and Career and Technical Education (CTE) through BOCES. Due to the state aid formula mentioned above, our aid for these services will be decreased by 11% for the 26-27 school year, leaving us with approximately 39% reimbursement. We are absorbing these costs through internal efficiencies to ensure our students continue to receive the specialized support they require.
- **Capital Outlay Project (\$100,000):** This is a high-return fiscal strategy. By using \$77,000 in aid generated from 25-26's gym floor project to fund 26-27's infrastructure repairs (plumbing, electrical, and outdoor lighting), we are completing \$100,000 of necessary work for a local cost of \$23,000.

Right-Sizing for Our Community

In response to shifting state aid and rising costs, we are taking proactive, common-sense steps to protect our budget:

- **Staffing to Enrollment:** We are "right-sizing" our district through natural attrition and removing unfilled positions. We are also staffing to ensure that the number of grade-level sections and subject areas offered match the actual enrollment numbers of our students, maintaining efficiency without compromising the quality of our core programming.
- **Maximizing Grants:** We are aggressively pursuing grant funding, such as the SmartSchools grant, to fund building security upgrades. This ensures vital safety improvements are made without asking for more from the local tax levy.

Expanding Opportunity & Protecting Our Values

We remain committed to graduation pathways that lead directly to careers. For the 2026–2027 year, we are collaborating with BOCES to offer an Agriculture Pathway open to the entire region. We are currently working with the State Education Department to have this recognized as an official CTE program, which will enhance its value for our students. Opening up enrollment through our BOCES provides the opportunity to create revenue for the district dependent on enrollment from our region, while honoring the rich heritage of our Romulus community. Furthermore, we continue to invest in foundational ELA instruction at the elementary level to ensure every child is reading at grade level before middle school.

Common-Sense Transportation:

To protect our community from the massive costs associated with the state-mandated transition to Electric Vehicles (EV), we are requesting approval to purchase one diesel bus and one gas van. This allows us to maintain a reliable, cost-effective fleet while generating Transportation Aid. We have also submitted a formal waiver to the State Education Department to delay the EV implementation and expect a response after July 1, 2026.

Join Us for the Budget Vote

Our students continue to excel in the classroom, on stage, and on the field. This budget sustains that momentum through disciplined management and a focus on core educational values. We invite you to learn more:

Public Hearing: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. (Romulus Board Room)

District Vote: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 607-869-5391 or email jhayden@romuluscsd.org.

With Royal Pride,

Jenn Hayden
Superintendent of Schools, Romulus CSD



Board of Education Candidates

Erik Karlsen

895 Yale Farm Road, Romulus,
NY 14541

Personal Background:

Daughter in 2nd Grade, 2011
Romulus Grad

Employment Data:

Technical Operations Manager
at G.W. Lisk

Educational Background:

Bachelor's Degree from Rochester Institute of
Technology in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Community Service, Military and Organizational Affiliations:

Board of Directors for Our Children's Place

Statement of Attributes, contributions and goals you will have as a Romulus Board of Education Member:

"I bring my engineering background to provide a well-rounded viewpoint to the board. I'm looking forward to keeping both the taxpayers and school in mind to make Romulus the best it can be."



Thomas D Wilson

5406 State Route 96A, Romulus,
New York, 14541

Personal Background:

Graduate of Romulus Central School, class of 1974, eleven siblings and cousins graduated from Romulus. Currently we have five grandchildren enrolled in Romulus. I went to college in Ohio where upon graduation, I went to work for Sodexo, Inc, for over 40 years. During which time I had the great opportunity to visit all fifty states and five countries abroad. But at the end of the day, Romulus was always home and moved back here 16 years ago.

Employment Data:

Retired after 40 years as a Senior Director for Sodexo, currently co-founder and Co-owner of Wilson Family Farms, LLC, d/b/a/ Dave and Rita's Farm Market and Bakery for the last 15 years.

Educational Background:

B.A. in Political Science with a minors in International Relations and Computers from Wright State University, Dayton Ohio 1980

Statement of your attributes, contributions and goals you will have as a Romulus Board of Education member:

"As Chairman of the Budget and Audit committee on the Board, the potential fiscal impact to our community members is primary, while being able to support the administration in providing great opportunities for our great students. Over the last 3 years we have supported the installation of a superintendent, an Elementary and Secondary principle, who vision has been laser focused on supporting our outstanding faculty and Staff, while creating for unique opportunities for our students. Continuing to build on the ever changing and significant role our community involves in supporting our students and district.

I would ask for your support to be able to continue to support the vision for the 'Small School with Big Ideas.'"



The order in which these candidates will be posted on the ballot is as follows: Erik Karlsen, Thomas D Wilson.



ROMULUS STUDENTS EXCEL AT NYSTEA CONFERENCE

Twelve students representing the Romulus Central School Encore Society attended the annual New York State Theatre Education Association conference in Callicoon, NY, where they engaged in workshops and performances that strengthened their confidence and skillset on stage. Romulus senior Brian Whitelaw auditioned successfully to participate in a student-written performance at the conference. In addition, Romulus juniors Jackson Wasney and Scott Smith won the conference's annual art conference. Their design will be used in the advertising for next year's conference.





The estimated tax bills are based on the current 2025-26 assessments and estimated equalization rates for Romulus, Varick and Fayette (Romulus = 0.39 , Varick = 0.45 , and Fayette = 0.56)

The actual figures will not be finalized until the first week of July. The Board of Education sets the actual tax levy and rates in August, once the finalized figures are known.

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION 2026-27

FAYETTE Assessment	Tax Levy	Basic Star	2026-27 Tax Bill	2025-26 Tax Bill	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
\$100,000	\$ 1,675	\$ 322	\$ 1,353	\$ 1,325	\$ 28
\$150,000	\$ 2,513	\$ 322	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,167	\$ 24
\$200,000	\$ 3,351	\$ 322	\$ 3,029	\$ 3,010	\$ 19
\$300,000	\$ 5,026	\$ 322	\$ 4,704	\$ 4,695	\$ 9

ROMULUS Assessment	Tax Levy	Basic Star	2026-27 Tax Bill	2025-26 Tax Bill	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
\$100,000	\$ 2,406	\$ 308	\$ 2,098	\$ 1,958	\$ 140
\$150,000	\$ 3,609	\$ 308	\$ 3,301	\$ 3,101	\$ 200
\$200,000	\$ 4,811	\$ 308	\$ 4,503	\$ 4,245	\$ 258
\$300,000	\$ 7,217	\$ 308	\$ 6,909	\$ 6,532	\$ 377

VARICK Assessment	Tax Levy	Basic Star	2026-27 Tax Bill	2025-26 Tax Bill	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
\$100,000	\$ 2,085	\$ 284	\$ 1,801	\$ 1,775	\$ 26
\$150,000	\$ 3,127	\$ 284	\$ 2,843	\$ 2,823	\$ 20
\$200,000	\$ 4,170	\$ 284	\$ 3,886	\$ 3,871	\$ 15
\$300,000	\$ 6,255	\$ 284	\$ 5,971	\$ 5,967	\$ 4

ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION 2026-27

FAYETTE Assessment	Tax Levy	Enhanced Star	2026-27 Tax Bill	2025-26 Tax Bill	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
\$100,000	\$ 1,675	\$ 865	\$ 810	\$ 707	\$ 103
\$150,000	\$ 2,513	\$ 865	\$ 1,648	\$ 1,550	\$ 98
\$200,000	\$ 3,351	\$ 865	\$ 2,486	\$ 2,392	\$ 94
\$300,000	\$ 5,026	\$ 865	\$ 4,161	\$ 4,078	\$ 83

ROMULUS Assessment	Tax Levy	Enhanced Star	2026-27 Tax Bill	2025-26 Tax Bill	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
\$100,000	\$ 2,406	\$ 894	\$ 1,512	\$ 1,342	\$ 170
\$150,000	\$ 3,609	\$ 894	\$ 2,715	\$ 2,485	\$ 230
\$200,000	\$ 4,811	\$ 894	\$ 3,917	\$ 3,629	\$ 288
\$300,000	\$ 7,217	\$ 894	\$ 6,323	\$ 5,916	\$ 407

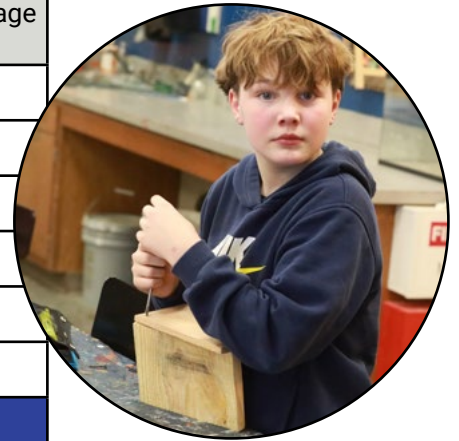
VARICK Assessment	Tax Levy	Enhanced Star	2026-27 Tax Bill	2025-26 Tax Bill	\$ Increase/ (Decrease)
\$100,000	\$ 2,085	\$ 830	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,197	\$ 58
\$150,000	\$ 3,127	\$ 830	\$ 2,297	\$ 2,265	\$ 32
\$200,000	\$ 4,170	\$ 830	\$ 3,340	\$ 3,332	\$ 8
\$300,000	\$ 6,255	\$ 830	\$ 5,425	\$ 5,466	\$ (41)





BUDGET BREAKDOWN	2026-27	2025-26	Change	Notes
Administrative	\$ 1,815,537	\$ 1,696,638	\$ 118,899	Includes Administrative Costs that were paid for with Federal Grants that expired
Capital	\$ 2,986,775	\$ 2,959,777	\$ 26,998	Includes \$100,000 Outlay Project as well as \$1,894,805 in Capital Project Bond Payments
Program	\$ 10,277,097	\$ 9,912,748	\$ 364,349	
Total Budget	\$ 15,079,409	\$ 14,569,163	\$ 510,246	

GENERAL FUND	2026-27 Proposed Budget	2025-26 Budget	Dollar Change	Percentage Change
General Support	\$ 1,931,577	\$ 1,793,843	\$ 137,734	7.7%
Instructional	\$ 6,697,757	\$ 6,349,906	\$ 347,851	5.5%
Transportation	\$ 888,506	\$ 878,652	\$ 9,854	1.1%
Benefits	\$ 3,541,764	\$ 3,502,962	\$ 38,802	1.1%
Debt Service	\$ 1,894,805	\$ 1,918,800	\$ (23,995)	-1.3%
Interfund Transfer	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ -	0.0%
Total Appropriation	\$ 15,079,409	\$ 14,569,163	\$ 510,246	3.5%



REVENUE BUDGET	Proposed 2026-27	2025-26 Budget	Dollar Change	% Change
State Aid	\$ 7,465,912	\$ 7,329,486	\$ 136,426	1.9%
Local Revenue	\$ 203,000	\$ 208,000	\$ (5,000)	-2.4%
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 900,000	\$ 713,500	\$ 186,500	26.1%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Property Taxes	\$ 6,510,497	\$ 6,318,177	\$ 192,320	3.0%
Total Revenue	\$ 15,079,409	\$ 14,569,163	\$ 510,246	3.5%



NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL AID				
Aid Category	2026-27	2025-26	Change	% Change
Foundation Aid	\$ 4,278,288	\$ 4,235,929	\$ 42,359	1.0%
Reimbursement Aid	\$ 1,168,505	\$ 1,149,438	\$ 19,067	1.7%
Building Aid	\$ 2,019,119	\$ 1,944,119	\$ 75,000	3.9%
Total Aid	\$ 7,465,912	\$ 7,329,486	\$ 136,426	1.86%





BUDGET RESERVES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Change
Total Appropriated Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NYS ERS Reserve	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 75,000
Workers Comp Reserve	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 5,000
Teachers' Retirement Reserve	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 115,000
Employee Benefits Reserve	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 30,000	\$ (95,000)
Debt Service	\$ 250,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 100,000
Liability Reserve	\$0	\$ 13,500	\$0	\$ (13,500)
Total Appropriated Reserves	\$ 500,000	\$ 713,500	\$ 900,000	\$ 186,500
Grand Total Reserves Budgeted	\$ 500,000	\$ 713,500	\$ 900,000	\$ 186,500

District Highlights



INTERFUND TRANSFER	
Transfer to Capital	\$100,000
Summer School-Special Education	\$25,000
Total	\$125,000

ROMULUS SENIORS PRESENT AT FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Five Romulus students participating in the Mosaic Collective at Finger Lakes Community College had the opportunity to present the projects they have been working on for the businesses they have supported. Throughout the year, they have grown into their roles and developed a foundation of skills that will serve them well in life after high school.



MATTHEW SEYMOUR RECEIVES WAYNE-FINGER LAKES SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD

Romulus CSD senior Matthew Seymour was one of only 26 students from throughout the Wayne-Finger Lakes region who received the Superintendents Award at the Superintendent Award Reception and Celebration Dinner in March. Matthew was recognized for demonstrating a number of positive qualities, including leadership, character, honesty, industriousness, and resiliency.

AUTHOR DARYL COBB VISITS ROMULUS ELEMENTARY

Romulus Elementary School had a very special guest back in March – master storyteller Mr. Daryl Cobb. Mr. Cobb, who has written 19 books for children, spent the day entertaining our students and encouraging them to read every day. “Every time you pick up a book, you become a better writer yourself,” said Mr. Cobb.





ROMULUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year*
Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 14,569,163	\$ 15,079,409	\$ 14,987,409
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 510,246	\$ 418,246
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.50%	2.87%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.00%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 6,318,177	\$ 6,510,497	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$ 6,318,177	\$ 6,510,497	\$ 6,418,497
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ -	\$ -	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 6,369,940	\$ 6,510,497	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and / or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$ 6,318,177	\$ 6,510,497	
I. Difference: G-H (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval- See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$ 51,763	\$ -	
Administrative Component	\$ 1,696,638	\$ 1,815,537	\$ 1,815,537
Program Component	\$ 9,912,748	\$ 10,277,097	\$ 10,262,097
Capital Component	\$ 2,959,777	\$ 2,986,775	\$ 2,913,775

The 2026-27 Proposed Budget is available at the following locations:

District Office

District website: www.romuluscsd.org

School Report Card Information is available at the following locations:

District Office

District website: www.romuluscsd.org.

Assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Educational Law.

*All Equipment would be removed from the budget - \$84,000

*Outside groups would have to pay for building use and the operations extra duty would be reduced - \$3,000

*Teachers would not be allowed to purchase supplies for students, accounts would be reduced - \$5,000



ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION

SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @ 6:20 P.M.

ANNUAL BUDGET/ELECTION VOTE

May 19, 2026, Noon – 8:00 P.M.

North Entrance Lobby of the School Building

Board of Education Vacancies

Two (2) seats available - Write-In Candidates accepted

Voter Qualifications

18 years of age, U.S. citizen, a resident within the RCS District for a minimum of 30 days prior to May 19, 2026

Absentee Ballots/Applications/Early Voting Requests

Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at the Office of the District Clerk from April 24, 2026 through May 19, 2026.

(Last day to receive ballot packet by mail is May 13, 2026.)

You may contact District Clerk, Suzanne Nicholson, at 866-810-0345, Ext. 399, 607-869-5391, or snicholson@romuluscsd.org.

Absentee/Early Voting ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2026.

Budget Copies: Available to the public beginning May 4, 2026, Monday – Friday, 8 A.M. – 3:30 P.M., District Clerk's office, Administrative wing of the school building, 5705 Route 96, Romulus, NY 14541 – Please call for appointment 1-866-810-0345 ext. *399.

2026-27 School Budget Propositions

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - 2026-2027 BUDGET

RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District, Seneca County, is hereby authorized to expend a total of \$15,079,409 for the operation of the school of said District for the school year 2026-2027 and that said sum be raised by tax upon taxable property of said School District after first deducting the estimated money available from State Aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - SCHOOL BUS PURCHASE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT shall the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District be authorized to purchase one (1) 72-passenger school bus and one (1) 7-passenger van for student transportation, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$270,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for such vehicles by using up to \$270,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund-Purchase of Buses.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 - EDITH B. FORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUNDING

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$1,218.00, in addition to the current appropriation of \$30,470 for a total of \$31,688 annually, which should be paid over for the support and maintenance of the Edith B. Ford Memorial Library.

ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

5705 STATE ROUTE 96
ROMULUS, NY, 14541

Phone: 607-869-5391
Toll Free: 1-866-810-0345
Fax: 607-869-5961 or
Fax: 607-869-2121

Main Office: ext 415
Nurse: ext 325
District Office: ext 399
Guidance: ext 338
Transportation: ext 310
Healthy Kids: 585-356-9147

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CR-RT-PRST BOXHOLDER