

Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

Budget Invests in Technology, Fixes Roofs

Below Tax Cap; Capital Reserve Proposition Jumpstarts District-wide Facilities Initiative

Dear Syosset Community,

The Board of Education and administration continue to explore new ways to enhance the education program and services for students. Major initiatives addressing how our students learn and the physical environment in which this takes place highlight the **May 16** school district ballot.

The proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year supports several new technology initiatives, many of which have been developed as the result of the district's Technology Workgroup pilot program, currently in its second year. With these new initiatives in mind, and the overall improvement of our network's capability, a major investment in our technology infrastructure is proposed.

Leaky roofs at Baylis and Berry Hill elementary schools will also be replaced by transferring unspent funds from the 2016-17 budget to the 2017-18 budget. This is a financing mechanism recently used to update roofs at Syosset High School and A.P. Willits Elementary School without the need for borrowing.

The proposed budget also 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 sixth 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 1.75 percent which carries a tax levy increase of 2.12 percent that is below the state-mandated tax cap of 2.24 percent calculated for Syosset. As with recent years, the Board is committed to utilizing reserves to offset the tax levy while also funding capital projects.

A second proposition appearing on the **May 16** ballot seeks the public's permission to use funds in the existing Capital Reserve Fund to address some of the facilities shortcomings identified in our Building Condition Survey. If approved, this proposition would have **no impact on the tax levy**. For details on the projects included in this proposition, see page two.

In addition to the budget and Capital Reserve Fund propositions, candidates for the annual Board of Education trustee election will appear on the **May 16** ballot. All voting will take place from



The proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year supports several new technology initiatives, many of which have been developed as the result of the district's Technology Workgroup pilot program.

6 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Robbins Lane Elementary School, H.B. Thompson Middle School and Syosset High School. For more information on voting, please refer to the back of this newsletter.

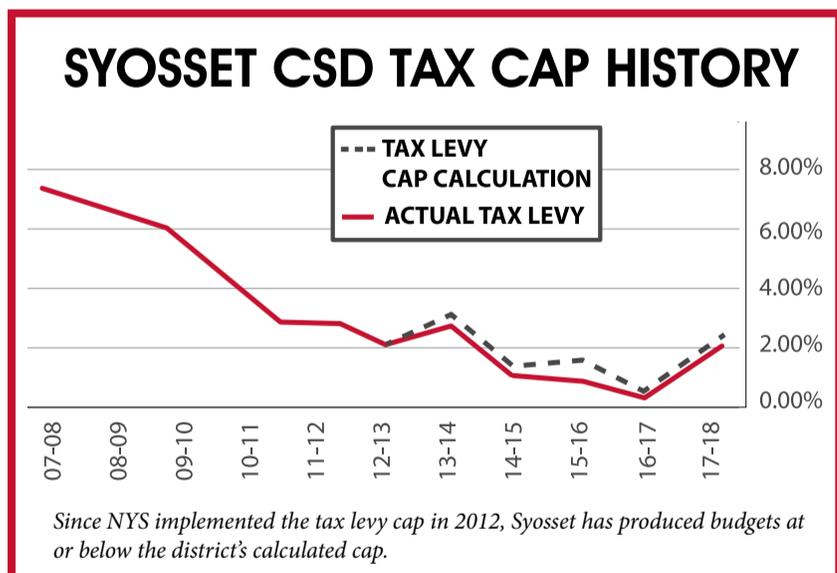
Please read this important edition of "Syosset Pride" to learn more about the proposed budget and the capital reserve fund proposition and please refer to the district website (www.syossetschools.org) and the Syosset CSD Facebook page for additional information. You may also refer to the Board of Education tab of the website to contact us with any questions, or call the district office at 516-364-5600.

We encourage you to attend the public budget hearing on **Monday, May 8 at South Woods Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m.** The Board and administration value your input, please contact us with any thoughts or questions.

Regards,

The Syosset Board of Education

Dr. Michael Cohen	Rob Gershon
April Neuendorf	Josh Lafazan
Chris Di Filippo	Susan Parker
Andrew Feldman	Laura Schlesinger
Tracy Frankel	



Syosset Central School District
Syosset, New York 11791

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Proposition No. 2: Capital Reserve Authorization

The May 16 ballot contains a second proposition, separate from the proposed 2017-18 school district budget. Proposition No. 2 seeks voter approval to authorize the District to use \$7.7 million in existing Capital Reserve Fund monies to complete a series of districtwide projects identified in the building condition survey and security audit. To learn more, see page 2.

Important Information About Proposition No. 2

Approval to Spend Monies in the Capital Reserve Fund for Facility Repairs and Improvements

Phase I Scope of Work Addresses Health and Safety Projects: \$7.7 million

The District is seeking voter approval to expend a portion of the Capital Reserve Fund to support health and safety repairs and renovations highlighted in the district's Five-Year Building Condition Survey. Our buildings are more than 60 years old. In order to meet current building codes and ensure the safest possible environment for our students, the following projects (with estimated costs listed) are proposed:

Upgrade Fire Alarm Systems (All Schools): \$1.7 million

Current fire alarm systems (which are original to our buildings) are outdated and should be replaced with devices and fire panels that will communicate with each other and are compliant with current safety codes.

Renovate Corridor Wall Glazing (All Schools): \$1.35 million

Safety and security is a top priority. Original interior walls, partially constructed of glass that provide visibility into classrooms and other areas, no longer meet fire and safety codes. These walls would be renovated to eliminate the glass. Other areas that include glass will be updated to code.

Interior Door Replacements (All Schools): \$1.7 million

Some interior doors will be replaced to be compliant with current safety codes.

Create Secured Vestibules (All Schools): \$0.7 million

Visitors are always welcome in our schools. To enhance safety in all of our buildings, secured vestibules will be constructed as a means of better controlling visitor access into our schools.

Address Underground Storage Tanks (Nine Schools): \$2.25 million

These heating fuel storage tanks are reaching the end of their useful life expectancy. They will be replaced with above ground tanks. Robbins Lane Elementary School has a newer underground storage tank that will remain.



Fire alarms will be upgraded to more modern systems at every school building.



Interior doors will be replaced to meet updated safety codes.



Vestibules will be constructed at every school's main entrance to better control visitor access.



Interior walls, partially constructed of glass, will be renovated.

What is a Capital Reserve Fund?

The establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund is a way in which school districts can set aside money to fund facility repairs and improvements. Essentially, it is equivalent to a savings account that homeowners might draw upon to fund renovations to their house.

In 2014, residents approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund. Since that time, as a result of prudent financial planning, the fund has grown to \$14.1 million. In order to spend the funds in this reserve, the district is required to seek voter approval.

Smart Financing and Timeline

- By financing the work through the Capital Reserve Fund, the District will avoid the need to borrow money for projects in Phase I. As a result, there will be no additional surcharge to taxpayers.
- The safety upgrades, which represent the district's most time-sensitive projects, would begin during the summer of the 2017-18 school year.
- By addressing these needs now, the District will have additional time to work collaboratively with parents and community residents to ensure all stakeholders are informed and involved in the discussion of Phase II projects (see below).

Planning for the Future – Phase II

Phase II would include the remainder of the work outlined in the district's Five-Year Building Condition Survey, along with other energy saving, safety, classroom renovation and athletic facility projects. The District plans to solicit input from parents and community residents through a series of meetings and focus groups. The result will be a comprehensive Phase II plan that incorporates the input of all stakeholders. The District will also investigate the most economical way to fund Phase II with the least impact to taxpayers. The goal is to begin Phase II during the summer of 2018.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNCTION

ACTUAL BUDGET AVAILABLE ON DISTRICT WEBSITE: WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG

	2015-16 BUDGET	2016-17 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$47,300	\$47,200	\$47,200
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	\$42,980	\$45,801	\$45,801
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	\$46,763	\$47,163	\$59,621
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	\$401,728	\$403,980	\$406,900
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$514,819	\$534,005	\$560,619
1320 AUDITING	\$109,400	\$103,400	\$120,000
1345 PURCHASING	\$407,926	\$426,048	\$429,127
1420 LEGAL FEES	\$399,048	\$399,050	\$374,900
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	\$558,048	\$551,850	\$570,705
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	\$78,598	\$90,500	\$90,500
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS	\$9,515,340	\$9,661,557	\$10,108,243
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS *	\$3,450,798	\$3,562,283	\$3,446,371
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS	\$1,527,276	\$1,528,496	\$1,659,519
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING	\$424,007	\$402,725	\$380,505
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING	\$1,546,344	\$1,716,166	\$2,402,017
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$1,675,528	\$1,596,631	\$1,704,661
1981 ADMIN CHARGE – BOCES	\$906,316	\$889,391	\$892,725
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	\$1,892,407	\$1,897,011	\$2,425,569
2020 SUPERVISION REGULAR	\$6,283,011	\$6,327,554	\$6,290,991
2070 IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS	\$345,000	\$345,000	\$456,200
2110 REGULAR DAY SCHOOL	\$74,217,177	\$75,232,000	\$76,129,775
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$28,061,270	\$28,198,305	\$28,581,984
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$384,943
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$124,603	\$135,403	\$135,428
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	\$293,354	\$318,200	\$342,200
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	\$2,398,038	\$2,344,337	\$2,357,857
2630 COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$1,535,257	\$1,662,914	\$3,095,325
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	\$308,380	\$250,444	\$255,444
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	\$2,800,184	\$2,775,299	\$2,829,409
2815 HEALTH SERVICES	\$1,307,147	\$1,333,930	\$1,334,102
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$2,193,635	\$2,279,353	\$2,315,900
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	\$45,000	\$76,402	\$79,027
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$1,355,523	\$1,404,787	\$1,429,937
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	\$2,182,503	\$2,241,605	\$2,303,653
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	\$237,306	\$240,503	\$253,656
5540 CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$9,501,477	\$9,455,675	\$9,434,675
5581 BOCES TRANSPORTATION MGMT. SERVICE	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	\$288,502	\$273,502	\$273,502
8070 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	\$28,985	\$18,750	\$18,750
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – ERS	\$3,365,321	\$2,865,775	\$2,946,888
9020 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – TRS	\$13,867,420	\$12,336,204	\$10,325,380
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$9,187,112	\$9,155,735	\$9,163,961
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$23,159,353	\$24,269,762	\$27,084,122
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	\$1,013,124	\$1,013,124	\$990,000
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	\$1,615,690	\$1,554,230	\$1,536,730
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES INTEREST (TANs)	\$479,167	\$675,000	\$562,500
9950 CAPITAL FUND TRANSFER **	\$969,325	\$4,365,000	\$3,335,898
9901 INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$4,275,962	\$4,206,138	\$3,456,954

* Includes \$217,044 allocation for two driver education vehicles and snow removal and mowing equipment.

** The \$3,335,898 Capital Fund Transfer includes the replacement of the Baylis and Berry Hill elementary school roofs as well as flooring replacements and masonry work. These projects have no additional tax levy impact as they are being completely funded by an allocation of fund balance.

GRAND TOTALS	\$215,585,452	\$219,860,188	\$223,702,174
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	REVENUES	
	Budget 2016-17	Proposed 2017-18
<p style="font-size: small;">Reserves and Fund Balance 3.4%</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Other Local Revenues and PILOTs 4.5%</p> <p style="font-size: small;">State Aid 6.4%</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Tax Levy 85.7%</p>	<p>Net State Aid \$13,647,155 \$ 14,410,223</p> <p>Restricted Reserves \$3,763,775 \$ 3,826,888</p> <p>Appropriated Fund Balance:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">-General Purpose \$650,000 \$ 406,679</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">-Capital Work \$4,365,000 \$ 3,335,898</p> <p>Other Local Revenue \$1,533,255 \$1,549,342</p> <p>PILOTs \$8,250,816 \$ 8,550,742</p> <p>Tax Levy \$187,650,187 \$191,622,402</p> <p>Total Revenue \$219,860,188 \$223,702,174</p>	

VOTER GUIDE

PROPOSITION No. 1 SCHOOL BUDGET 2017-2018

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 2017-2018

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 EXPENDITURE FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education be authorized to expend the sum of \$7,727,990.00 from the previously established "2014 Construction Capital Reserve Fund" for the purpose of performing the following capital improvements: District-wide fire alarm systems; District-wide removal and replacement of storage tanks; District-wide removal/replacement of corridor wall glazing; District-wide replacement of interior doors; District-wide installation of security vestibules, together with all related electrical, plumbing, and construction work, all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and related incidental costs.

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

1A Melissa Breitstein

2A Carol C. Cheng

3A Anna Levitan

4A Mark A. Fierstein, M.D.

5A Michael Cohen, M.D.

6A Dr. Uzma Syed

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 Robert Adam Glick

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 2.12 percent. This is below the state-mandated tax cap set at 2.24 percent. The total proposed budget of \$223,702,174 carries a budget-to-budget increase of 1.75 percent for the 2017-18 school year.

Q. What does the 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, many of which expand upon the adjacency technology pilots identified by the district Technology Workgroup this year. Additionally, the district's technology infrastructure will be upgraded to increase speed, expand Wi-Fi access and enhance the district's network overall. The budget also supports the roof replacements of Baylis and Berry Hill elementary schools.

Q. Will the Capital Reserve proposition (Proposition No. 2) increase taxes?

A: No. Approval of this proposition authorizes the District to use \$7.7 million of existing monies in its Capital Reserve Fund (which works like a savings account) for projects identified from the recent Building Condition Survey categorized as Phase I projects. For more information on Proposition No. 2, including the projects in Phase I, see page 2.

Q. Why are the projects in Phase I being voted on now?

A: If the proposal to fund Phase I projects is

approved on **May 16**, the District can move forward with the submission of plans to the State Education Department. Based on recent customary SED approval timelines, this would allow the District to begin the improvement work during the 2017-18 school year.

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 zero percent tax levy increase for the 2017-18 year. That would require the District to make \$3,972,215 in reductions to the proposed budget and delay the Baylis and Berry Hill roof projects by at least one year.

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

A: The budget and Capital Reserve 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 Phase I projects would be delayed until a funding source is approved.

Q. Where can I acquire more information about the district's proposed budget?

A: Complete copies of the 2017-18 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.

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 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 8 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 2017 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.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 16
AT YOUR DESIGNATED VOTING LOCATION!**

BUDGET 2017

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Michael Cohen, President
Christopher Di Filippo
Rob Gershon

April M. Neuendorf, Vice President
Andrew Feldman Tracy Frankel
Joshua A. Lafazan Susan Parker
Laura Schlesinger

Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools