

Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

LEADING IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

PRESERVING EXCELLENCE WHILE RESPONDING TO RAPIDLY CHANGING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Dear Syosset Community,

The Syosset Board of Education would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the first responders, health care employees and all essential workers who have risked their own safety to safeguard that of the community and provide important services as we navigate the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though the school buildings currently lack the emblematic bustle of student activity and celebrations this time of year, the school district's role and students' relationships with teachers have never been more important as we face this challenge together. And the Syosset Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff's commitment to the education of our students and supporting their social-emotional well-being has never been stronger.

The Syosset Board of Education, working closely with the central administrative team, has adopted a budget for the 2020-2021 academic year that preserves current programs

and puts the District in a position to respond to rapidly changing economic conditions. The proposed budget acknowledges the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy and proposes a tax levy increase significantly below the allowable tax cap. The budget preserves the programs and services that make a Syosset education so exceptional, but has some flexibility to deal with potential midyear reductions in state financial support. The budget also supports maintaining a safe and secure learning environment, both physically and virtually, for our students and staff.

While the calculated tax levy cap is 3.23% for Syosset this year, the proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of 1.7%, which is approximately \$3 million under the cap and represents a budget increase of 1.97% over the current year. Of this increase, almost half is for anticipated expenses to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important to note that school budgets rely on revenue from the state, and much of the state revenue comes from income and sales taxes, both of which have been negatively impacted by the "NY State on PAUSE" executive order. Due to the current economic conditions, the adopted state budget allows for the reduction of funding to school districts even after local voters have approved the school budget. Therefore, the amount of state aid the District will receive during the 2020-2021 school year is uncertain.

This has required a proactive plan that anticipates both potential cuts in revenue and increases in expenses needed to address the safety issues created by the global pandemic.

The proposed budget reflects over \$4 million in reductions in staff and facilities spending in order to preserve programming for students, but reduces the tax burden on residents. Many retirees' positions will remain unfilled and a hiring freeze has been imposed on all but essential new staff. And the purchasing of additional flexible classroom and library furniture, as well as some maintenance and construction projects, will be deferred. The District is moving ahead with all capital projects previously approved by voters.

While we acknowledge the challenges ahead in the upcoming year, here in Syosset we cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills and we know that together, we will meet these challenges. Though physically distanced, we are united in our common purpose – to support our students and provide them with a robust education that prepares them for success in the future we imagine and the one which may evolve in ways yet to be envisioned.

The shift to an online platform has not altered that mission. Syosset has been a leader in maximizing the potential and transformation of online learning and addressing the mental wellness of our students. The District has designed, implemented, and iterated an online learning program that is providing innovative learning experiences for students and essential connections to teachers and support staff. Shifting to an online learning program has required agility, creativity, ingenuity and bravery, not only from educators but from students

as well. We are proud of the accomplishments of faculty and students during this challenging time, and we continue to make enhancements and improvements.

The District recognizes it plays an important role in the community and is facilitating meals for students in need and child care for essential workers, so they have one less thing to worry about as they continue to provide services for us all. The Syosset School District made a donation to local hospitals of personal protective equipment from our inventory and science labs, and teachers have been aiding students in their efforts to express their gratitude to first responders, donate PPE and give back to the community.

There have been many shifts to normal routines required as a result of the pandemic, and the school budget and Board of Education vote is no exception. There will be a different process this year to protect everyone's health and mitigate the spread of the virus. Voting will take place by mail-in ballots only, with ballots due to the District no later than Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5 p.m. All registered voters will be sent absentee ballots, along with postage-paid return envelopes. See page 4 of this newsletter for additional voting information.

You may refer to the Board of Education tab of the District website for more information or go directly to www.syossetschools.org/budget. The Board and administration value your input. Please reach out to us with any thoughts, questions or concerns.

Regards,
The Syosset Board of Education



POINTS OF PRIDE

SYOSSET SCHOOLS DELIVER



- **2020 Best High Schools by U.S. News & World Report**
Syosset High School recognized among the best in the country.

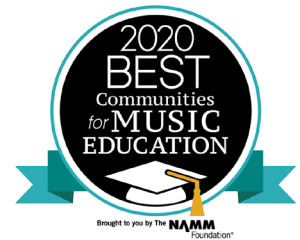
- **National Merit Scholarship Competition**
14 Finalists, 14 Semifinalists,
30 Commended Students

- **Harvard Club of Long Island Distinguished Teacher** Four
Syosset High School teachers have been recognized as outstanding
Long Island teachers.



- **Niche.com**
Syosset Central School District was ranked
as third in New York State and 12th in
the country.

- **2020 National Honor Society Scholarship**
Two recipients



- **Best Community for Music Education**
Syosset named for 20th time

- **2020 Regeneron Science Talent Search**
Two SHS Scholars

- **New York State Master Teacher**
SHS math teacher honored

- **All-County Art Exhibition** 60 students
- **All-County Music Festival** 323 students
- **All-State Music Conference** 40 students
- **NafME All-National Honors Ensemble** two students
- **2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Medalists** 1 Gold Medal, 4 Silver Medals.
- **2019-2020 LI Scholar Artist** Four SHS students named
- **PTA Reflections** 162 projects submitted by Syosset students, 85 selected to move on to the Nassau County level, 17 selected to move on to the state level. At state level, 10 Awards of Merit, 2 Awards of Excellence
- **DECA State Career Conference** 163 medals with 67 members finishing in the top 10, 51 international qualifier positions (the most of any school in New York State)

- **Nassau East Regional Science Olympiad** First Place
- **Virtual Enterprise International National Business Plan Competition** No. 1 VE Business Plan team in New York State and No. 3 in the US
- **Long Island Science and Engineering Fair Awards** 2 First Place, 2 Second Place, 1 Third Place
- **Nassau Mathematics Tournament** 3 team medals, Curt Boddie Memorial Award
- **Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair** 37 medals, 11 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze medals, plus Alice Griswold Award for the best Gold Medal paper in Nassau County
- **Annual Long Island Hackathon Competition** Syosset middle schools placed first and second

- **Girls Cross-Country** 2019 Nassau County champions
- **Boys Cross-Country** 2019 Nassau County champions
- **2020 All American Athletic Award**
- **Conference AA1 Coach of the Year**
- **NYS PHAA Coach of the Year Award**
- **Varsity Gymnastics** 1 All-American, 3 All-State, 3 All-County
- **Varsity Girls Basketball** Nassau County Class AA finals
- **Boys Swim** 10 All-County
- **Girls Winter Track** 3 County champions, 2 All-State, 9 All-County
- **Boys Winter Track** 4 State champions, 4 All-American, 6 All-Long Island, 7 All-County

PROPOSITION NO. 2: *Capital Reserve Fund*

If approved, establishing this fund would serve as a savings account that acts as an alternative to paying for projects with additional monies. Rather than paying principal and interest on borrowed funds, a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is essentially a savings account established to finance future building renovations and potential infrastructure needs. In addition, the district can earn interest on funds in a CRF until fully expended, and can use that income to pay for additional projects. This CRF will enable the district to set aside potential future savings to fund much-needed long-term capital projects.

The CRF would not exceed \$20 million over a 10-year period. This fund will not increase taxes. If approved, the CRF would be funded by available monies from the general fund or transfers from other reserves the District maintains for fiscal strength. Additionally, funding the CRF would not exceed \$5 million in one year. In the future, voter approval would need to be obtained by the District to use funds from this reserve for capital work.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNCTION

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

	2018-19 BUDGET	2019-20 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$46,700	\$46,700	\$46,700
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	\$45,018	\$48,787	\$97,186
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	\$31,500	\$30,500	\$30,500
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	\$410,862	\$422,699	\$385,079
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$557,837	\$569,494	\$576,814
1320 AUDITING	\$123,270	\$128,370	\$128,370
1345 PURCHASING	\$494,892	\$529,833	\$553,578
1420 LEGAL FEES	\$378,000	\$429,600	\$429,600
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	\$593,872	\$645,520	\$656,821
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	\$139,500	\$170,537	\$169,670
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS ¹	\$9,849,071	\$9,870,762	\$9,991,539
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS ²	\$4,085,302	\$6,178,261	\$7,024,678
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS ³	\$2,573,631	\$3,131,061	\$3,853,595
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING	\$447,020	\$554,359	\$554,393
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING ⁴	\$2,673,346	\$2,716,217	\$2,806,764
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$1,770,000	\$1,140,923	\$1,175,372
1981 ADMIN CHARGE – BOCES	\$736,906	\$759,013	\$807,288
1983 BOCES CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$159,075	\$163,847	\$130,020
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	\$2,467,980	\$2,434,478	\$2,833,187
2020 SUPERVISION REGULAR	\$6,382,827	\$6,578,512	\$6,282,938
2070 IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS	\$426,200	\$516,200	\$503,000
2110 REGULAR DAY SCHOOL ⁵	\$76,747,149	\$77,853,176	\$77,152,388
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ⁶	\$29,049,073	\$29,770,065	\$29,956,047
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$385,000	\$400,000	\$410,000
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$133,525	\$118,623	\$118,611
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	\$355,570	\$377,095	\$397,258
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	\$2,474,980	\$2,712,937	\$2,559,499
2630 COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION ⁴	\$2,820,000	\$3,303,500	\$3,274,731
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	\$232,082	\$246,510	\$247,149
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	\$2,950,276	\$3,048,481	\$3,060,288
2815 HEALTH SERVICES	\$1,421,545	\$1,525,824	\$1,440,578
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$2,563,260	\$2,698,806	\$2,698,100
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	\$77,938	\$105,418	\$214,655
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$1,529,150	\$1,573,965	\$1,656,045
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	\$2,446,379	\$2,702,919	\$2,348,329
2989 POTENTIAL COVID-RELATED EXPENSES⁷	-	-	\$ 2,000,000
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	\$192,428	\$195,696	\$ 244,788
5540 CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$9,928,252	\$10,126,700	\$ 10,318,136
5581 BOCES TRANSPORTATION MGMT. SERVICE	\$47,210	\$47,210	-
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	\$243,352	\$261,221	\$291,221
8070 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$18,750
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – ERS	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
9020 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – TRS	\$11,490,000	\$9,909,500	\$10,590,935
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$9,274,958	\$9,648,064	\$9,549,176
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	\$200,000	\$205,000	\$218,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$30,525,141	\$30,360,112	\$30,651,664
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$905,000
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	\$1,536,730	\$1,521,862	\$1,465,200
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES INTEREST (TANs)	\$562,500	\$720,000	\$720,000
9901 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	\$3,397,963	\$4,309,913	\$5,278,331
9950 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND**	\$1,400,000	\$2,200,000	\$1,767,274

¹ Includes \$67K in custodial equipment including scrubbers, extractors and snow groomers.

² Includes \$2.15 million allocation for district-wide equipment, which includes HVAC equipment, a replacement mower and maintenance vehicle, flexible classroom furniture, replacement auditorium curtains, PA systems, pool bleachers, dust collection systems, athletic equipment and other operational equipment.

³ Includes \$320K allocation for security equipment.

⁴ Includes computer/technology equipment allocations of \$87K and \$40K.

⁵ Includes allocation of \$297K for instructional and classroom equipment, which includes technology and musical instruments.

⁶ Includes \$20K allocation for equipment for special education.

⁷ Includes an allocation of \$1 million for potential COVID-related equipment.

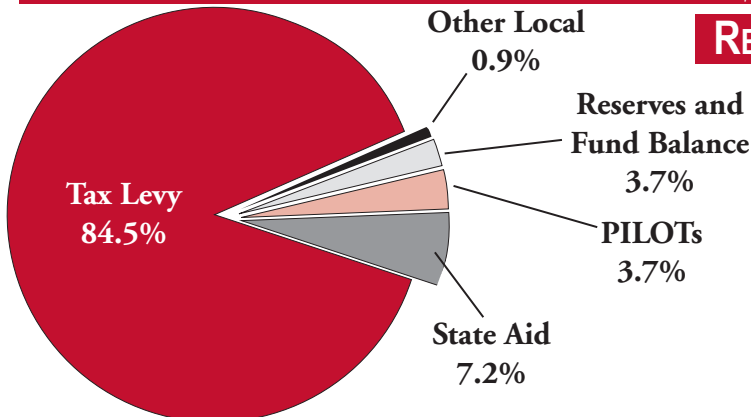
**The \$1,767,274 Transfer to Capital Fund includes allocations for paving projects and repairs, ventilation and roofing upgrades and generator replacement.

GRAND TOTALS

\$ 230,346,020

\$ 236,977,020

\$ 241,639,245



REVENUES

	Budget 2019-20	Proposed 2020-21
Net State Aid	\$ 17,918,722	\$ 17,519,065
Restricted Reserves	\$ 3,880,000	\$ 3,880,000
Appropriated Fund Balance:		
-General Purpose	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
-Capital Work	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,767,274
-Potential COVID Expenses	--	\$ 2,000,000
Revenue from Debt Service Fund Due to Debt Timing --		\$ 421,615
Other Local Revenues	\$ 1,867,424	\$ 1,739,500
PILOTs	\$ 9,080,555	\$ 8,875,626
Tax Levy	\$ 200,830,319	\$ 204,236,165
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 236,977,020	\$ 241,639,245

VOTER GUIDE

PROPOSITION No. 1 • SCHOOL BUDGET 2020-2021

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2020-2021 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 • CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law Section 3651, the Board of Education of the School District is hereby authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund ("2020 Construction Capital Reserve Fund") for the purpose of performing the following capital improvements: instructional and non-instructional space improvements/renovations/upgrades, (including but not limited to classroom improvements/renovations/upgrades and/or additions to existing facilities) and repairs, renovations, reconstruction, installation, replacement and/or upgrades to auditoriums, athletic fields including but not limited to track, tennis courts, bleachers, press box, field house, athletic domes, gymnasiums, locker rooms, cafeterias and kitchens, ceilings, computers, technology, networks, curbing, fencing, doors, drainage, electrical systems, energy efficiency systems, including the installation of solar power, and energy management systems, emergency generators and backup lighting, exterior lighting, fencing, flooring, fuel tanks and related systems, ADA compliance features, furnishings, equipment, environmental considerations and remediation, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, interior lighting, irrigation systems, landscaping, masonry, mechanical systems, paving, playgrounds, plumbing systems, public address and clock systems, sound systems, refrigeration, roofs, sanitary systems, storage space, security systems, sidewalks, siding, technology system upgrades, toilet rooms, walls, windows, all the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental cost related thereto. The maximum amount of the aforesaid Capital Reserve Fund shall be twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), plus investment income. The probable term is to be ten (10) years; to be funded from surplus monies, if any, remaining in the general fund including a sum not to exceed \$5,000,000 from the 2019-2020 budget and thereafter surplus monies remaining in the general fund, budgetary appropriation, transfer from other reserves, in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) each year of probable term. Be it further, RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee is hereby directed to deposit monies into this reserve fund to be known as the "2020 Construction Capital Reserve Fund."

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Three members for a term of three years. Vote for three.

Carol C. Cheng

Susan Falkove

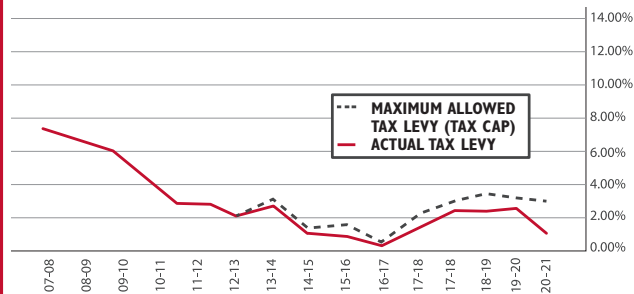
Brian Grieco

Anna Levitan

CANDIDATE FOR THE SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Five-Year Term (Vote for One)

Janet Klang Evans

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.

PROPOSITION No. 3 SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 2020-2021

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2020-2021 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.

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 1.7%. This is below the state-mandated tax cap set at 3.23%. The total proposed budget of \$241,639,245 carries a budget-to-budget increase of 1.97% for the 2020-21 school year.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: The typical budget process includes an option for a public revote in the event that the first budget proposition fails. However, the State has given no guidance on a possible revote process for the 2020-21 budget vote. Accordingly, should the budget fail on the first vote, a contingency budget would likely have to be adopted with a 0% tax levy increase. Since the proposed budget already includes over \$4 million in cuts to staffing and operations, the District would have to take additional savings actions totaling \$3.4 million from non-mandated activities and programs such as clubs and extracurricular activities, athletics, and facilities improvements.

Q: What happens if the capital reserve fund proposition is defeated?

A: The budget and capital reserve fund proposition are separate and independent from one another, so passage or failure of one has no impact on the other. Should the establishment of the Capital Reserve Fund proposition fail, the District may have to borrow funds and pay interest on those funds to address any future capital improvement projects.

Q: How has any changes in state aid as a result of the pandemic affected the District's proposed budget?

A: Due to the current economic conditions, the governor indicated that cuts could come midyear for the 2020-21 budget, after residents have voted on the budget, requiring the District to proactively plan for potential reductions in revenue. The proposed budget already includes over \$4 million in cuts to staffing and operations.

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

A: Complete copies of the 2020-21 proposed budget can be downloaded from the District's website, www.syossetschools.org.

Voting Information

The governor has rescheduled the school budget vote and board election for June 9.

The school budget vote and school board elections will be BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY. There is NO in-person voting. The District will mail each qualified voter in the Syosset Central School District an absentee ballot with a postage-paid envelope to return the ballot. All ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

Residents are qualified to vote if they are:

- A citizen of the United States.
- 18 years of age or older.
- A resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

ELECTION VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Residents are registered and eligible to vote if they:

- Have previously voted in a School District/Public Library election within the last four calendar years, or
- Have previously voted in any local, state or national election within the last four calendar years.

To register to vote, please visit the DMV Voter Registration page: <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>

Please visit our website at www.syossetschools.org for more information on the proposed 2020-2021 school budget.

**ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY 5 P.M. ON JUNE 9**