



South Jefferson 2021-22

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

At a glance:

Proposed Budget:
\$37,241,566

Spending Increase:
\$269,228 / 0.73%

Tax Levy Increase:
\$81,440 / 1.00%

Vote:

Tuesday,

May 18, 2021

12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

AT THE GENERAL BRUCE C. CLARKE BUILDING, ADAMS, NEW YORK

Also on the ballot:

- PROPOSITION I
Purchase of School Buses (See page 3)
- PROPOSITION II
Library Appropriation (See page 3)
- Board of Education Election
(See pages 3 and 4)

“Through all the uncertainties, we redefined what it means to be Spartan Strong. We redefined what it means to be caring, to be connected, to be community.”

SCOTT B. SLATER,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Out of adversity comes opportunity

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

We will continue to face uncertainty and adversity. We will continue to learn and grow. We will get stronger. We will turn adversity into opportunity.

I so very much appreciate everyone’s patience and am so grateful for the community’s support as we navigated a school year like no other. A school year filled with adversity and opportunity. None of this school year would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our teachers, parents, administrators, technology team, support staff, transportation staff, food service staff, and buildings and grounds staff.

South Jefferson’s proposed 2021-22 budget is \$37,241,566 representing a 0.73% increase over last year’s budget. The proposed tax levy is 1.0%, at the allowable tax cap for our district.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the South Jefferson Central School District will be held at General Bruce C. Clarke Building, Adams, New York on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The polls will be opened to vote by paper voting ballot for the school district budget, two Board of Education members, school bus proposition, and a library proposition. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Through all the uncertainties, we redefined what it means to be Spartan Strong. We redefined what it means to be caring, to be connected, to be community. I am privileged to work with our community and staff, privileged to be a witness to such a grand scale of caring, of hard work and of dedication, and privileged to be able to support our students and families.

Respectfully,
Scott Brayley Slater, Superintendent of Schools

Spartan Pride

On a frigid October morning, several members of our National Honor Society, along with their advisor Mr. David Easton, volunteered at the Community Action Planning Council for a food distribution project through CAPC and the Eastman Foundation. The project focused on providing food for elderly people in rural areas. South Jefferson students have found many ways to stay safe and still reach out with a helping hand to community organizations this year.



2021-22 Budget Summary

REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

| CATEGORY | 2020-21 BUDGETED | 2021-22 PROJECTED |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Property Taxes | \$8,144,000 | \$8,225,440 |
| State Aid | \$26,239,272 | \$26,658,398 |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Fund Balance | \$2,241,250 | \$2,111,228 |
| Other Revenue | \$307,816 | \$206,500 |
| TOTAL | \$36,972,338 | \$37,241,566 0.73% INCREASE |

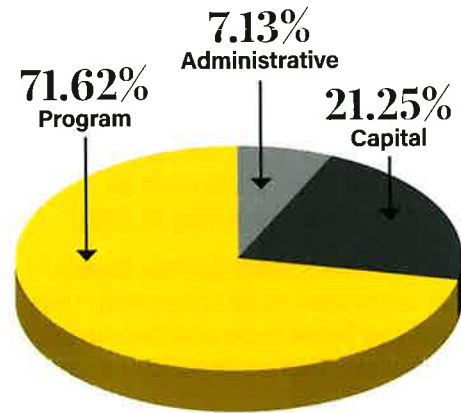
EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

| CATEGORY | 2020-21 BUDGETED | 2021-22 PROJECTED |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General Support | \$4,169,158 | \$3,729,380 |
| Instruction | \$15,705,717 | \$15,810,692 |
| Pupil Transportation | \$2,068,083 | \$2,159,030 |
| Employee Benefits | \$10,117,853 | \$10,608,280 |
| Debt Service | \$1,367,908 | \$1,387,777 |
| Interfund Transfers | \$3,543,619 | \$3,546,407 |
| TOTAL | \$36,972,338 | \$37,241,566 0.73% INCREASE |

THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year’s costs. South Jefferson’s three-part budget is as follows:



| CATEGORY | 2020-21 BUDGETED | 2021-22 PROJECTED |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Program Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases). | \$25,937,895 70.15% OF BUDGET | \$26,671,987 71.62% OF BUDGET |
| Administrative Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees. | \$2,627,306 7.11% OF BUDGET | \$2,654,787 7.13% OF BUDGET |
| Capital Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, equipment, and court-ordered costs. | \$8,407,137 22.74% OF BUDGET | \$7,914,792 21.25% OF BUDGET |
| TOTAL | \$36,972,338 | \$37,241,566 |



Transportation

Our fleet travels roughly a half million miles each year, covering over 200 square miles daily to pick up our students and make sure they get home safely. The Transportation Department is a critical department and our amazing drivers are most often the first district staff that greet our students and say goodbye at the end of the day.

The bus proposition is critical to the safety of our students. It allows us to maintain a 10 year replacement cycle, helps us avoid increased maintenance costs and, most importantly, keeps kids safe. As a reminder, the District pays about 10% for new buses, with State Transportation Aid covering about 90% of this expense. Given the critical importance of being able to safely transport our students to and from school and ensuring our fleet continues to be well-maintained, the bus proposition is an opportunity to keep our kids safe while leveraging our aid and fiscal resources.

2021-22 Required School District Budget Notice

| OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL | Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year* |
|--|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$36,972,338 | \$37,241,566 | \$36,996,266 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year | | \$269,228 | \$23,928 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 0.73% | 0.06% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 1.23% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$8,144,000 | \$8,225,440 | |
| B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | \$0 | \$0 | |
| C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable** | \$0 | \$0 | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy | \$0 | \$0 | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D) | \$8,144,000 | \$8,225,440 | \$8,144,000 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$224,052 | \$136,684 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$7,922,169 | \$8,088,756 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$7,919,948 | \$8,088,756 | |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)** | \$2,221 | \$0 | |
| Administrative Component | \$2,627,306 | \$2,654,787 | \$2,654,787 |
| Program Component | \$25,937,895 | \$26,671,987 | \$26,633,587 |
| Capital Component | \$8,407,137 | \$7,914,792 | \$7,707,892 |

* Contingency Budget: If a contingency budget were adopted, equipment totaling \$145,300 would not be purchased. The District would not complete a \$100,000 capital outlay project to address needed facility improvements.

** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

| Description | Amount |
|---|-----------|
| Proposition I: School bus proposition for the purchase of 6 student transportation vehicles | \$776,000 |
| Proposition II: Additional funding of the Rodman Public Library | \$5,000 |

| Under the Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year | |
|---|-------|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹ | \$330 |

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the South Jefferson Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at General Bruce C. Clarke Building, Adams, New York in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The polls will be opened to vote by paper voting ballot for the school district budget, two Board of Education members, school bus proposition, and library proposition. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

On the ballot

Proposition I: Purchase of School Buses

Shall the Board of Education purchase and finance six (6) student transport vehicles at an estimated cost not to exceed \$776,000, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$776,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax for the foregoing in the amount of \$776,000, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$776,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

Proposition II: Library Appropriation

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit: Resolved, that pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the South Jefferson Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, for the additional amount of \$5,000 (above the current amount of \$15,000 for a new total amount of \$20,000) which shall be paid to the Rodman Public Library, for the support of maintenance of the libraries, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the South Jefferson School District.

Board of Education Election

Voters will elect two members to the BOE, one for a five year term, commencing on July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2026, to succeed Kelly Davis, and one two-year, one-month, eleven-day term, commencing on May 19, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to succeed current member James Juczak, who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Todd Dack.

Voter Information

Who may vote?

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. You do not need to be registered to vote in the general election to vote on the school budget.

Absentee ballots

Absentee ballot applications are available from the district clerk and will be issued upon request to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote at the polls due to illness or disability. All information about voting by absentee ballot can be found at www.spartanpride.org. Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on May 18.

South Jefferson CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Adams, NY 13605

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ADAMS, NY

Board of Education

Mrs. Pamela Thomas, *President*
Mr. Kenneth Bibbins, *Vice President*
Mrs. Kelly Davis
Mr. Randy Jerome
Mr. James Juczak
Mr. Justin VanCoughnett
Mrs. Stephanie Widrick

Mr. Scott B. Slater, *Superintendent of Schools*

ECRWSS

SOUTH JEFFERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENT

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES
Communications Service.
Ben Amey, Editor

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Meet the Board of Education candidates



Joseph A. Hodges

Joseph A. Hodges, originally from Norwich, NY, graduated from Lowville Academy. He attended SUNY Fredonia receiving a BS in Communication and Geological Sciences. For 21 years, he worked in the Pharmaceutical Industry retiring in 2020. Currently he owns and operates Tug Edge Outdoor & More on Route 11 in Adams. Joe has resided in the area since 2002 with his wife Danielle and eventually they had four children together. Daughter Savannah, and triplets, Aaron, Noah, and Leyna are all students in the South Jefferson Central School District. Much of his time is dedicated to his family as they are his main priority. He enjoys music, outdoor activities, as well as collecting classic cars. At one point or another, he has been involved in the district and community serving as a coach for T-Ball, Odyssey of the Mind, member of Mannsville PTO and assisted with coaching for South Jefferson Pop Warner Football. He also served a 4-year term as Councilman for the Town of Lorraine and currently serves on the Six Town Chamber of Commerce Board.



Troy Matteson

Troy Matteson resides in the village of Rodman with his wife Sarah and their three children, Mikayla, Joshua, and Nathanael. Troy is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia and has his Master's Degree from SUNY Potsdam. For eighteen years, Troy has taught mathematics at Indian River High School. Despite graduating from Indian River, and now teaching there, he has slowly but surely changed from a Warrior to a Spartan ever since his three children started school at South Jefferson. Troy has also served as a coach and a board member for the South Jeff Little League, a soccer official for the Frontier League, and an active member, working with youth, at his church, New Life, in Watertown.



James S. Juczak

Jim was previously a member of the South Jefferson School Board of Education from July 2012 through June 2020. Prior to that, he was a teacher with the South Jefferson School District for 23 years. Jim achieved his Bachelor's in Industrial Arts and Driver's Ed and his Master's in Technology Education from SUNY Oswego in the early 80's. In addition to teaching in the public-school system his career has been very diverse. He has also had experience in factory work, vocational teaching and as a civilian contractor in Afghanistan, to name a few. Presently, Jim is an adjunct professor at SUNY Oswego, teaching Energy and Power Technology to future teachers and industrial managers. He lives with his wife in a home they built in Adams Center and they use their property to continue to educate people on issues like sustainability, off-grid energy production and simple agriculture. Jim is an EMT-B with the South Jefferson Rescue Squad and a board member for the SciTech Museum in Watertown.