



South Jefferson

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022-23

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

At a glance:

Proposed Budget:
\$39,083,979

Spending Increase:
\$1,842,413 / 4.95%

Tax Levy Increase:
\$164,560 / 2.00%

Vote:

Tuesday,
May 17, 2022
12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

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

Also on the ballot:

- PROPOSITION I:
Transportation (See page 3)
- PROPOSITION II:
Establish Capital Reserve Fund
(See page 2)
- Board of Education Election
(See page 4)



Spartan Science!

Students in Mrs. Dively's kindergarten class brought science to life with a fun hands-on STEM activity involving plastic Easter eggs filled with items like paper clips, marbles, rocks and jellybeans. After passing around and comparing the eggs, students made predictions about whether the eggs would sink or float when placed in water. The students recorded their predictions on a worksheet and celebrated when the results matched their predictions!

In order to realize the worth of the anchor we need to feel the stress of the storm.

—CORRIE TEN BOOM

What a year it has been — we continue to celebrate a return to what is more typical for teaching and learning in our schools. The storm continued, our anchor was tested and it held fast. For all the challenges, our Spartan Strength and Spartan Pride continued to shine through and continued to be our worthy anchor.

South Jefferson's proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year is \$39,083,979. This represents an increase of 4.95% over the current year's budget. The proposed tax levy is 2.0%, below the District's allowable tax cap of 2.02%, based on the state's tax cap formula.

The budget proposal continues to support all current academic programs and extracurricular opportunities for students. A 12% increase or nearly \$2.2 million more in Foundation Aid will allow us to return to a more traditional middle school team teaching model by restoring staff positions that had gone unfilled in recent years to reduce costs. Under this plan, we will add a math teacher at the high school to better support multiple math pathways for students to meet graduation requirements.

The annual budget vote for fiscal year 2022-23 in the South Jefferson Central School District will be held at General Bruce C. Clarke Building in Adams on Tuesday, May 17 between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. I encourage all qualified voters to head to the polls to cast their ballots for the school budget, a school bus proposition, a capital reserve proposition and elect two Board of Education members. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 to be counted.

I am privileged to collaborate with our caring, connected staff and community; privileged to be a part of the hard work and dedication; privileged to be able to support our students, our families — our future.

Respectfully,
Scott Brayley Slater, Superintendent of Schools

Spartan Pride!

To express gratitude for those who served, South Jefferson High School's SADD organization coordinated with the local American Legion and VFW last Veterans' Day to assist with the care and proper removal of American flags at gravesites at three local cemeteries. This team of students, pictured right, assisted at the Rt. 11 cemetery in Adams Center.



2022-23 Budget Summary

REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2021-22 BUDGETED	2022-23 PROJECTED
Property Taxes	\$8,225,440	\$8,390,000
State Aid	\$26,658,398	\$28,547,479
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$40,000	\$40,000
Fund Balance	\$2,111,228	\$1,900,000
Other Revenue	\$206,500	\$206,500
TOTAL	\$37,241,566	\$39,083,979 4.95% INCREASE

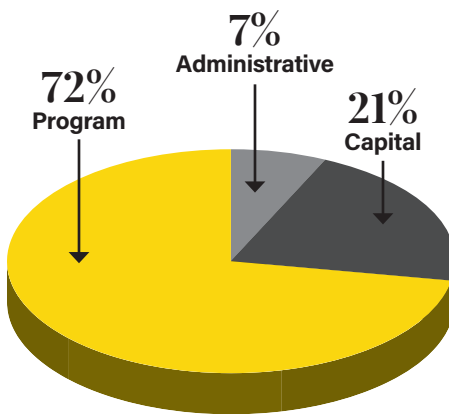
EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2021-22 BUDGETED	2022-23 PROJECTED
General Support	\$3,729,380	\$3,946,767
Instruction	\$15,810,692	\$16,734,456
Pupil Transportation	\$2,159,030	\$2,330,210
Employee Benefits	\$10,608,280	\$11,010,175
Debt Service	\$1,387,777	\$774,640
Interfund Transfers	\$3,546,407	\$4,287,731
TOTAL	\$37,241,566	\$39,083,979 4.95% 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	2021-22 BUDGETED	2022-23 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).	\$26,671,987 72% OF BUDGET	\$28,104,156 72% 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.	\$2,654,787 7% OF BUDGET	\$2,758,181 7% 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.	\$7,914,792 21% OF BUDGET	\$8,221,642 21% OF BUDGET
TOTAL	\$37,241,566	\$39,083,979



Establish a Capital Reserve Fund

District residents will be asked to authorize the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund that will help offset the cost of future renovations and construction projects that will preserve the community's investment in its schools. Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund helps the District offset some of the tax burden associated with larger scale projects. This fund allows the District to continue planning for much needed updates to our buildings and grounds while helping offset some of that expense to our community.

A Capital Reserve Fund, which is Proposition II on the May 17 ballot, will allow the District to set aside savings in an account targeted specifically for future health and safety improvements, construction and renovation projects as needed.

If approved, the District would establish a Capital Reserve Fund for a maximum of \$5 million and a probable term of ten years. The District would build savings in the fund using monies not expended during the budget year, as well as interest accrued over the fund's term.

It is important to note that the District is NOT asking voters to immediately place \$5 million into this reserve – the District is asking for permission to create a capital reserve fund.

2022-23 Required School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$37,241,566	\$39,083,979	\$38,843,679
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$1,842,413	\$1,602,113
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.95%	4.30%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,225,440	\$8,390,000	
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)	\$8,225,440	\$8,390,000	\$8,225,440
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$136,684	\$131,354	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,088,756	\$8,260,560	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,088,756	\$8,258,646	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$1,914	
Administrative Component	\$2,654,787	\$2,758,181	\$2,758,181
Program Component	\$26,671,987	\$28,104,156	\$28,070,756
Capital Component	\$7,914,792	\$8,221,642	\$8,014,742

* Contingency Budget: If a contingency budget were adopted, equipment totaling \$140,300 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.	\$659,000
Proposition II: Establish Capital Reserve Fund to defray the cost of construction, reconstruction, and equipping of School District buildings.	\$5,000,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$330
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 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 17, 2022 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 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 capital reserve fund. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

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

On the ballot

PROPOSITION I: Transportation

Shall the Board of Education of the South Jefferson Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance six (6) replacement student transportation vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$659,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$659,000 shall be issued?

PROPOSITION II: Establish 2022 Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the following resolution be approved by the Board of Education?

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the South Jefferson Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Education Law Section 3651 to be named, "2022 Capital Reserve Fund" created to defray the cost of the construction, reconstruction, and equipping of School District buildings and facilities, including original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings, land acquisitions, and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such Reserve Fund to be Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years and, to appropriate from the available fund balance, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such Reserve Fund.

Bus replacement and safety

Our fleet of buses travels roughly a half-million miles each year, covering over 200 square miles daily to transport our students safely between school and home each day. The bus proposition is essential to student safety. It allows us to maintain a 10-year bus replacement cycle that helps ensure our fleet is well-maintained, prevents costly maintenance and repairs, and most importantly, allows our team of drivers to safely and efficiently transport children to and from school. State Transportation Aid covers about 90% toward the cost of new buses, leaving the District to pay about 10% for this expense. The bus proposition is an opportunity to keep our kids safe while leveraging our aid and fiscal resources.



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*
Mr. Randy Jerome
Mr. James Juczak
Mr. Troy Matteson
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.
Judy Frost, Editor



Vote:

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



Meet the Board of Education candidates



Justin R. VanCoughnett

Justin VanCoughnett is a graduate of South Jefferson Central School, SUNY Jefferson, and Iowa State University and is a NYS Licensed Professional Engineer. He is an active member of the community and is involved in several local organizations including South Jefferson Little League and South Jefferson Pop Warner. After traveling throughout the country for many years managing large construction projects, Justin returned to the family farm in Adams with his wife Shannon in 2012 to raise their three children

near family and in the South Jefferson community. He now works with a Chicago-based renewable energy company in addition to operating a number of businesses, including the JVA Companies, JVA Engineering, and JSV Properties. Justin's current five-year term of office expires June 30, 2022.

Randy Jerome

Randy Jerome has decided not to seek re-election to the Board of Education. We thank him for his five years of service to the board and his strong support of our students, staff and community.

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 17.

Because no other candidates submitted petitions to run for the Board of Education by the April 18 deadline, Mr. Jerome's seat will be filled by a write-in candidate. A write-in candidate is an individual whose name does not appear on the ballot but is written in by voters. The individual receiving the most write-in votes, will be elected to serve a five-year term on the Board of Education, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2027.

NOTE: The winner of the write-in vote must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the school district to be eligible to serve on the board. If the write-in winner declines, the seat can remain vacant until the 2023 election or the board can appoint someone to fill the seat.