

South Colonie Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2004-05 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2005-06 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2005-06 School Year*
Total Budget amount	\$ 70,367,408	\$ 74,512,870	\$ 73,034,173
Increase/decrease for the 2004-05 school year		\$ 4,145,462	\$ 2,666,765
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		5.89%	3.79%
Change in the consumer price index		2.70%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2004-05 school year		\$ 55,399,980	\$ 53,921,283
Administrative component	\$ 6,773,696	\$ 7,031,636	\$ 6,894,036
Program component	\$ 54,434,764	\$ 57,574,674	\$ 56,325,577
Capital component	\$ 9,158,948	\$ 9,906,560	\$ 9,841,560

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2005-06 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.
Elimination of all equipment and computer purchases, maintenance repair reductions and staff reductions.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact — Estimated Basic STAR² Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

	Budget Adopted for the 2004-05 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2005-06 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 505	\$ 540
School tax increase/decrease	\$ 21	\$ 116
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 484	\$ 424

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2005-06 by the qualified voters of the South Colonie Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at Forest Park, Roesseville, Saddlewood, Shaker Road, and Veeder Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the above listed schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Michael Marcelle
Superintendent of Schools

Peter Haessig
Assistant Superintendent/
Management Services

Al Aldi, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Beverly Miller
School Business Administrator

Board of Education
John Monteiro, President
R. Thomas Faughnan, Vice President
J. Dennis Cafaro
Robert Domenici
Vernon Fonda
Paul Gordon
Shelle Jaquish
Joan Ricciardi
James (Tim) Ryan

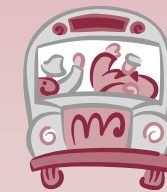
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The 2005-06 budget

South Colonie residents to vote May 17th on proposed \$74.5 million school spending plan

South Colonie Central School District residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 17, to vote on a proposed \$74.5 million budget for the 2005-06 school year. The budget continues to provide a strong educational program for all students in a very difficult economic climate.

The polls will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the district's five elementary schools (see voting locations on page 2).

Next year's proposed budget totals \$74,512,870 and represents a 5.89 percent spending increase over the current school year (see complete figure on page 3). Though equalization rates will not be set until July, the district expects about a 6.5 percent property tax increase next year based on the budget submitted to voters. This means that the average homeowner whose property is assessed at \$100,000 would pay an additional

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NEW BUDGET AT A GLANCE

- Total 2005-06 budget: \$74,512,870
- Budget-to-budget increase: 5.89%
- Projected property tax increase of 6.5%
- Maintains facilities and existing educational programs
- Continues wide range of academic intervention services

Robotics mania

Colonie Central High School team takes their creation on the road

The homework assignment is to build a robot. No, this isn't the latest video game craze but an actual challenge that faces Colonie Central High School students every year.

For years, South Colonie students, teachers and mentors from engineering and higher education have been involved in the US FIRST Robotics competition. The multinational event teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way.

"It's engineers working directly with students to get them to understand what math and science are all about and how it really applies to the real world," said Colonie Central Technology teacher Tom Casey."

Continued on page 4 ... Robotics team



Who can vote on Tuesday, May 17?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Residents may vote at any location listed below.

Voting Sites

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY

100 Forest Drive (869-3006)

ROESSLEVILLE ELEMENTARY

100 California Ave. (459-2157)

SADDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

100 Loralee Drive (456-2608)

SHAKER ROAD ELEMENTARY

512 Shaker Road (458-1440)

VEEDER ELEMENTARY

25 Veeder Drive (869-4661)

PLEASE NOTE: All of the voting will take place in the elementary school gymnasiums. Also, there is NO voting at the high school or either middle school.

... Budget

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\$118.82 in school property taxes next year or about \$10 more per month to finance education.

"Costs continue to rise each year but this administration and Board of Education have worked hard to provide the funding necessary to continue this district's tradition of educational excellence," said retiring Superintendent Dr. Thomas Brown. "And, as always, we do so realizing the financial impact our budget has on our local taxpayers."

Increased costs

Several factors are driving up the cost of education here and in most school districts across the state. Employee health insurance continues to escalate at double-digit rates from one year to the next and legally-required district contributions to New York State retirement systems are increasing as well. Pension and health insurance costs alone account for a \$1,665,076 or 2.37 percent increase in the 2005-06 budget.

Making up the rest of the projected increase are instruction (+\$987,297), special education costs (+\$310,011), student transportation (+\$176,906) and bond interest (+\$607,740) for the beginning of borrowing for the capital project approved by voters last year.

New savings

Several factors will help the district make up for these increases:

- Six teaching positions were phased out of the budget (four elementary and two middle school) due to reduced student enrollment.

Major budget increases

Instruction + \$987,297 +3.7%

Retirement + \$851,159 +1.21%

Health Insurance + \$813,917 +1.16%

Bond Interest + \$607,740 ... +63.0%

Special Ed + \$310,011 +3.8%

Transportation .. + \$176,906 +5.5%

Library/Media

Instruction + \$94,167 +5.2%

Major budget savings

Property/Auto Insurance - \$174,942 -24%

Judgments & Claims - \$150,000 -75%

Energy contract . - \$100,800 - 100%

- The district cut \$400,000 from the first draft of the budget without affecting educational offerings.

- The New York State Legislature approved an additional \$361,404 in aid for South Colonie Schools over Gov. George Pataki's proposed budget.

- The district secured a new insurance carrier and lowered its property, casualty and automobile insurance by \$174,942 or 24 percent.

- With no major tax certiorari cases on the horizon, the district will temporarily lower its "judgments and claims" reserve by \$150,000 for next school year.

- With the completion of the present school year, the district will have satisfied its four-year contractual obligation with Energy Education, Inc. The district hired the consultant to help it start an aggressive energy management and conservation program district-wide in 2001-02. Procedures and strategies put into place over the past 36 months have enabled the district to avoid \$750,000 in energy usage and that savings is expected to grow to \$4.5 million by 2011.

Newsman visits Colonie Central High

WNYT Channel 13 reporter and anchorman Phil Bayly spoke with students in Colonie Central High School's journalism and television production classes this spring. Bayly's visit was part of April's National Library Week.



Friends of Music group seeks new members



South Colonie Friends of Music is a not-for-profit organization of parents, teachers and other interested persons whose goals are to support and enhance all areas of the district music program and to promote an awareness and appreciation of the musical arts throughout the community.

SCFOM NEEDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS NOW!

Come see what we're all about! We invite you to our meetings on Monday, **May 9** and Monday, **June 13** at 6:30 p.m. in the Teachers' Lounge at Colonie Central High School.

CCHS's first graduating class to hold reunion

It's been 50 years since members of Colonie Central High School first graduating class marched across the stage to get their diplomas. On June 3, the Class of 1955 will relive those memories with its 50-year high school reunion at the Polish American Citizens Club, 10 Commerce Ave., Albany. The event will begin with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Ed Rhynders at 869-5602.

In the news...

Awards in bloom at flower show

Colonie Central High School student Melissa Alger, studying in the Floral Design and Botanical Services program at the Capital District Career & Technical School, captured an award this spring at the Capital District Flower & Garden Show. Alger won an Honorable Mention Award in the "Fairy Dust" category at the competition held at Hudson Valley Community College. For more information visit www.bocescareertech.org.

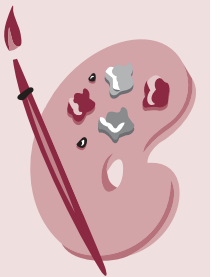


HVCC poster contest winners

Six South Colonie students captured awards in the 61st annual AAA National School Traffic Safety Poster Contest for the Hudson Valley region.

Winners were chosen from 489 entries and judged on originality, artwork, visual impact and relationship to traffic safety.

This year's winners were Shaker Road Elementary School second graders Nesha Meshal and Courtney Yule and fourth grader Moira Dollard. Also, Saddlewood third graders Liam Rowland and Tori Wilcox and fourth grader Carolyn Smith.



Albany County Head Start

The Albany County Head Start Home-Based Program is a federally funded Pre-K program offering free comprehensive services to eligible families. Head Start is now recruiting families with 3-and 4-year-olds for the 2005-06 school year. The Head Start program operates on the belief that when learning experiences are challenging, fun and meaningful and occur within a supportive home environment, learning becomes a lifelong process for children and parents alike. For more information about Head Start, please contact Victoria at 274-9150 or 274-7254.

In the news...

State Ed honors Forest Park ESL

Forest Park Elementary School has been honored by the New York State Education Department and the Office of Bilingual Education in acknowledgment of the high performance of LEP (Limited English Proficiency) students. A significant percentage of ESL (English as a Second Language) students at Forest Park met the state's progressive standard as measured by the 2004 NYSESLAT achievement exam. Congratulations to ESL teacher Mary Rossetti for her dedication and hard work with her students.

EPA applauds energy savings

The U.S. Department of Environmental Protection has recognized the South Colonie Central School District as an "Energy Star Leader" for its aggressive energy conservation initiative. The Energy Star Challenge encourages commercial and public institutions to improve the efficiency of their buildings by 10 percent or more — thus capitalizing on the environmental benefits and cost savings that result from such action. South Colonie Schools began an energy savings program three years ago and has avoided \$750,000 in energy spending in 36 months by undertaking simple conservation measures.



School board honors war veteran



The South Colonie Board of Education has presented its prestigious President's Spotlight Award and a high school diploma to Korean War veteran Edward Pierce. The diploma was awarded under New York State Operation Recognition program. Under the program, veterans of World War II or the Korean Conflict, who failed to complete their high school education for any reason, can earn a diploma based on their service to America. Diplomas are also awarded to next of kin. To learn more, contact the District Office at 869-3576.



Zombies under glass

Student actors who performed in *Zombie Prom* — Colonie Central High School's spring musical — appeared on radio station B95.5 Morning Show with Chuck and Kelly to promote the play. Appearing from left to right were Keith Golden, John Twardowski, Anthony Souza and Michael Ranalli. Joining them in the booth were Tyler Wosniak and Chad Allen who videotaped the appearance for CCHS's morning announcements. *Zombie Prom* was staged March 31 to April 2.



Getting a 'kick' out of learning

First graders at Shaker Road Elementary School put their best foot forward during a traditional barn dance. Square dance workshops were held for all grade levels this spring by travelling artists — Homespun Occasions — which arrived with a caller, banjo and fiddle. They also came back to perform at the school's Family Fun Night.

PTAs help kids succeed

The term PTA usually conjures up images of car washes and bake sales. But today's Parent Teacher Associations produce big dollars and are the financial means to support the "educational extras" students would have to do without in today's difficult economic times. Here are a few examples of PTA-funded initiatives **NOT** funded by the district budget:

Saddlewood Elementary

Classroom carpets, gym sound system, two-way radios, new furniture, landscaping, student agenda planners, classroom pencil sharpeners, playground equipment and funding for visiting artists, authors, other programs and activities.

Shaker Road Elementary

New sound system and wireless microphone for cafetorium, new set of choral risers, new outdoor basketball hoop, classroom supplies and funding for visiting artists, authors, other programs and activities.

Roessville Elementary

Playground equipment, book fair, field day, kids night out, 4th grade send off, ice cream social, movie night, landscaping, award night, yearbook, educational assemblies, picnic tables, student agenda books, and funding for visiting artists, authors, other programs and activities.

Forest Park Elementary

Playground equipment, classroom fans, two-way radios, building calendar sign, TVs, classroom supplies, field trips, landscaping, scholarships, character ed shirts, library books, games and funding for visiting artists, authors, other programs and activities.

Estimated revenues

	2004-05	2005-06	Dollar Change
Fund Balance	\$ 810,000	\$ 650,000	-160,000
Continuing Education	90,535	91,500	+965
Interest on Investments	325,000	450,000	+ 125,000
Miscellaneous	1,568,920	841,850	- 727,070
Rental-BOCES	50,000	26,000	-24,000
State Aid*	15,536,141	16,513,540	+ 977,399
Local Taxes	51,481,812	55,399,980	+ 3,918,168
Youth Detention Center	335,000	340,000	+5,000
Medicaid Reimbursement	170,000	200,000	+ 30,000
TOTAL	\$70,367,408	\$74,512,870	+ 4,145,462

* As required by Education Laws 1608 and 1716, the district estimates its 2005 - 2006 State Aid to be \$16,513,540 or 22 percent of total expenditures.

Proposed expenditures

	2004-05	2005-06	Dollar Change
Board of Education	\$ 97,545	\$ 101,501	+ 3,956
Central Administration	191,400	196,709	+ 5,309
Finance	607,327	633,256	+ 25,929
Legal/Personnel/Public Information	390,330	404,914	+ 14,584
Operation & Maintenance	4,511,035	4,673,267	+ 162,232
Information Technology	366,307	382,083	+ 15,776
Special Items	1,330,457	1,080,048	- 250,409
Instruction/Admin./Improvement	2,309,004	2,388,838	+ 79,834
Regular Instruction	26,789,634	27,776,931	+ 987,297
Special Education	8,178,165	8,488,176	+ 310,011
Summer School	240,088	262,139	+22,051
Library/Technology Instruction	1,807,319	1,901,486	+ 94,167
Pupil Services	2,169,817	2,171,778	+ 1,961
Community Services	356,483	369,764	+13,281
Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular	661,117	731,374	+ 70,257
Transportation	3,228,870	3,405,776	+ 176,906
Employee Benefits	13,240,543	14,989,792	+ 1,749,249
Debt Service/Interfund transfer	3,891,967	4,555,038	+663,071
TOTAL	\$70,367,408	\$74,512,870	+ 4,145,462

The budget by Administration, Program and Capital Expenses

ADMINISTRATION:
9.44 percent (\$7,031,636)

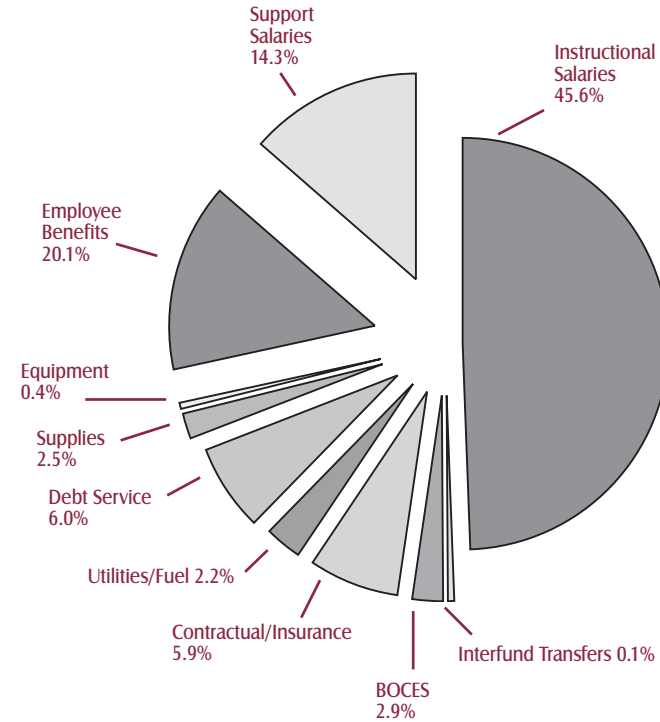
Administration includes: Board of Education, central administration, finance, legal services, personnel, records management, public information, central services, special items, curriculum development and supplies, regular school supplies, instruction supervision and employee benefits.

PROGRAM:
77.27 percent (\$57,574,674)

Program includes: instruction, transportation and garage, contract transportation, community service, employee benefits and transfers.

CAPITAL:
13.29 percent (\$9,906,560)

Capital includes: Operation of buildings, maintenance of buildings, judgments and claims, employee benefits and debt service.



2005-2006 Proposed Budget by Percentages

Brian Casey runs unopposed for seat on the Board of Education
Seeks five-year term to be vacated by J. Dennis Cafaro

South Colonie voters will be asked to elect one new member of the Board of Education on May 17th. Brian Casey is running unopposed for the seat now held by incumbent J. Dennis Cafaro. Cafaro is not seeking re-election to the nine-member school board after 10 years of dedicated service to the district.



Brian Casey

Candidate Brian Casey

Retired Colonie Police Officer Brian Casey, 13 Locust Park, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. Casey graduated from Colonie Central High School in 1967 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1994.

After graduating from Hudson Valley Community College, he served in the U.S. Navy for two years, completed Basic Officer Training and attended the FBI Academy's Special Tactical Training Firearms School.

He joined the Colonie Police Department in 1971 and was assigned to the Community Services Unit for many years. In 1992, he helped establish the highly successful national Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in South Colonie which helps youngsters resist peer pressure and say "No" to drugs and alcohol. He taught DARE education at Lisha Kill Middle School for more than 10 years.

In 2001, Casey became Colonie Central High School's first Student Resource Officer and served as an additional support resource to students, parents, teachers, administrators and the community at large.

He also served on the district's Safe Schools Committee and is a member of the Colonie Elks Club, the Colonie Youth Center Board of Directors, chairman of the Colonie Village Youth Council and a scoutmaster for Boy Scouts Troop 278.

Upon his retirement in 2003, the South Colonie Board of Education presented Casey with the distinguished President's Spotlight Award for his years of service to the youth of Colonie. He also received a Distinguished Service Award and Command Recognition Award from the Colonie Police Department. Today, Casey continues to work with children and teens as the coordinator of Youth and Family Services for the Village of Colonie.

... Robotics team

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The emphasis behind the competition, which involves 20,000 students internationally, is to encourage high school graduates to pursue careers in engineering. The teams have six weeks to design and create a mechanical device (or robot) they can maneuver in a variety of ways.



It's like running a miniature business. First, there's a brainstorming session to prototype the robot. Then, teams are formed to oversee the mechanics, engineering, computer programming, computer assisted design and electrical phases. There are even teams to design a web site for the project and marketing materials like team posters, banners and T-shirts.

This year's regional competition was held at the Rochester Institute of Technology featuring 33 teams. While the robot is the centerpiece, the on-field competition was as exciting as any energy-charged sporting event, Casey said, complete with



CCHS students Katie Saulsbery, Michelle Matrazzo and Brittnet Jensen display the robotics team trophy for the Engineering Inspiration Award.

screaming crowds and costumed mascots.

While the CCHS Team — Team 250 — did not win the overall competition, it did capture the Engineering Inspiration Award — the second highest honor bestowed by FIRST. FIRST attributed the team's success to the creative means through which they promote technology and engineering to youth and adults in the community.



Sand Creek Middle School students job shadow at the New York State Department of Transportation this spring.

Sand Creek kids learn about DOT

Eighth graders from Sand Creek Middle School got a firsthand look at today's workplace with a job shadowing visit to the New York State Department of Transportation this spring. While there, students learned from the transportation engineers about the Mohawk and Hudson River canal systems, the development and testing of materials used on roads and bridges, hybrid car designs and operation, landscape technology and many other services DOT provides. They even had an opportunity to help design a highway that would run through a mock city they created. The hands-on experience included learning about what education and skills are needed to perform each job.