

Scotia-Glenville's 2006-07 budget...

## Reading, languages and honors get a budget boost

**Taxes on typical bill would increase less than 3 percent or \$7.25 per month**

The proposed 2006-07 school budget boosts elementary reading and technology, expands honors programs and foreign languages at the middle school, extends special education offerings and reinforces alternative education at the high school.

The \$42.01 million proposal also restores spending for field trips, supplies, staff development and summer curriculum – all areas that were cut in recent years.

Spending would rise by 4.87 percent or \$1.95 million over the current school budget, among the lowest spending increases in recent years. School tax bills would increase by less than 3 percent, again among the smallest amount in years.

“This is a very comprehensive budget that improves education at all levels and will benefit most students in some way,” said Superintendent Susan Swartz. “It is also a fiscally-responsible proposal which enables us to maintain and expand our offerings to students.”

**CONTINUED** – SEE “SPENDING PLAN INCLUDES INITIATIVES” ON PAGE 3

These stories are **inside...**

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**PAGE 6** ▶ What's the bus replacement plan?

**PAGE 7** ▶ Three seeking two Board of Ed. seats

**PAGE 8** ▶ State budget notice



*Daniel Burns, left, and Riley O' Connor, both age 2, get to know each other at the Scotia-Glenville Family Room at the Lincoln School. The program, run by the Cornell Cooperative Extension at no cost to the district, allows preschool parents to ask questions and share concerns about parenting while their children get acquainted. In April, 183 parents and children attended the program, which is open to all S-G pre-school children.*

### What will I be considering on May 16?

- ✓ **2006-07 budget proposal:** \$42,010,399 spending up 4.87% from this year
- ✓ **\$274,847 bus replacement plan.** Five buses would be replaced. (see page 6)
- ✓ **Three candidates for two seats on the Board of Education:**  
John Yagielski, Gary Normington and Jerry Moore (see page 7)

### Tax impact:

**Less than 3% estimated tax increase**  
\$87 increase per year or \$7.25 per month on a typical Scotia-Glenville tax bill with a revised assessment of \$160,000

These figures are **BEFORE** savings from the STAR tax reduction program.

## An overview of the 2006-07 budget

The 2006-07 proposed budget for Scotia-Glenville includes several initiatives that will impact students in the classroom.

Here are the major proposals included in the budget:

▶ A **full-time reading teacher** (paid by a federal grant) would be shared between Glendaal and Glen-Worden elementary schools. That would mean 1.5 full-time reading positions at each school. Lincoln and Sacandaga schools have two full-time reading teachers because of targeted federal funding.

▶ A **6-hour per day teaching assistant would be shared between the elementary computer labs** at the four schools.

▶ **One full-time elementary teaching position would be eliminated** because of a projected decrease of 32 students at the elementary level.

▶ **Honors programs.** The budget includes these initiatives:

- A total of five additional slots will be made available in the BOCES Young Scholars program for children in grades 4 and 5.
- A grade 6 enrichment program in humanities would be offered for a half day. The current Scotia Scholars program, which offers enrichment for grade 6 students in math and science, would continue.
- An honors English Language Arts class would be offered for students in grades 7 and 8.
- Grade 8 students would be able to enroll in Studio Art (now offered in grade 9) and begin their art sequence a year early.

▶ **Foreign languages would be offered every day for children in grade 7.**

Currently, students in grades 7 and 8 take languages every other day. State education standards require students to have taken two years of a language and pass a proficiency exam by the end of grade 9. This change would permit students to take that exam earlier, allowing students to take more electives in the high school.

▶ **Programs for students with special needs.** The budget includes these initiatives:

- An additional section of the K1Ds program would be offered for children in kindergarten. The current K1Ds program involves students in kindergarten and grade 1.
- A Middle School Program (MSP) 8 program for students with special needs in grade 8 would be added. There is already an MSP 6 and MSP 7 program for students at those grade levels.
- The high school Life Skills program would be expanded from 9 to 12 students.

Each of these programs for children with special needs, which are partially funded by grants, allows students to remain at Scotia-Glenville instead of attending classes

elsewhere. The Scotia-Glenville option avoids costs associated with sending a child to an outside program.

▶ **Health classes would be taught in grade 6 instead of grade 7.** For next year *only*, health would be offered in grades 6, 7 and 8 to allow for the change. Health instruction at the high school would not be affected.

▶ **Technology.** The budget calls for:

- Spending to rise by \$70,000 for technology replacement. The district attempts to replace computers, printers and other technology on a five-year cycle.
- A full-time technology director, who would oversee the implementation of the technology curriculum at every level in the next few years, would be named. The position would be paid for by consolidating present staffing.

▶ **Alternative education.** The budget would include:

- The SAIL alternative education program would shift its staffing from grade 6 to grade 7.
- A provision for a part-time English teacher in the high school's GOAL alternative education program. 📍

### PTSA After Prom being planned May 12

The After Prom, sponsored by the High School PTSA, will be held from 11 p.m. on Friday, May 12, to 3 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Richmor Aviation Hangar on Route 50.

The evening is a safe, substance-free party for prom goers and junior and senior class members.

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact PTSA President Karen Sroczyński at 393-1038. 📍

**Spending plan includes initiatives, from page 1**

**\$7.25 per month typical tax increase**

Glenville's reassessment will lower the tax rate next year. The current Scotia-Glenville tax rate is \$29.11 per \$1,000 assessed value. Assuming the typical assessment rises by 60 percent to \$160,000 (see first question at left), the typical tax bill would rise an estimated \$87 per year or \$7.25 per month before reductions from the state STAR program.

Scotia-Glenville has been impacted by rising health insurance, utility and fuel costs as have other school districts. The district participates in consortiums to purchase those items en masse with other districts, resulting in lower costs.

"We have been fortunate in our fiscal planning and experience over the past few years," added Swartz. "We have good management over areas that we really cannot control to a large degree."

Those lower costs, as well as funding certain items through grants, have allowed the Board of Education and administration to boost expenditures in areas that strengthen the school program (see list, page 2).

**Budget Questions and Answers**

**How does reassessment affect school taxes?**

As most homeowners realize, the town of Glenville has reassessed property in Glenville and Scotia. Reassessment does not increase the amount of tax dollars going to the school district; it simply reconfigures each homeowner's share.

The Glenville Board of Assessment Review will begin hearing formal grievances to assessments on May 23. The final assessment roll must be in place by July 1. School tax bills due in September will be the first affected by the new assessments.

Initial reassessment figures show that the value of all property in the town and village has risen by about 60 percent since the last reassessment in 1996.

The current tax rate - \$29.11 per \$1,000 assessed value - will decline for all homeowners. The impact on each homeowner's tax bill will be individual based on how much a home's value and assessment has increased.

In general, if an assessment climbed by about 60 percent or more, the estimated tax bill would increase; if the assessment rose by less than 60 percent, the estimated tax bill would decline.

The percentage increase of an assessment doesn't have any connection with the percentage increase of a tax bill. Here is an example - using approximate tax estimates - of what happens when assessments change on one home:



**Current assessment of \$100,000**

September 2005 school tax bill of \$2,911 before reductions from the state's STAR program

**Assessment raised to \$150,000**

(increase of 50% over current assessment)

The school tax bill would decline to around \$2,729 (decrease of 6.25%) before the 3 percent or less tax increase in the 2006-07 budget and before reductions from the state's STAR program.

**Assessment raised to \$180,000**

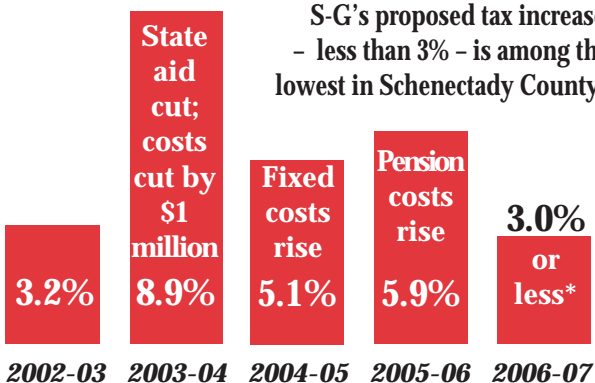
(increase of 80% over current assessment)

The school tax bill would rise to around \$3,275 (increase of 12.5%) before the 3 percent or less tax increase in the 2006-07 budget and before reductions from the state's STAR program.

**5.2% average annual tax increase since 2002**

The S-G school tax rate has increased by an average of 5.2% per year since 2002 - BEFORE savings from the state's STAR tax reduction program.

S-G's proposed tax increase - less than 3% - is among the lowest in Schenectady County.



\* This is an estimated figure; tax rates are set in August by the Board of Education

**What is S-G doing to control rising costs?**

The Board of Education worked for several weeks to trim

## A three-way look at Scotia-Glenville's 2006-07 budget

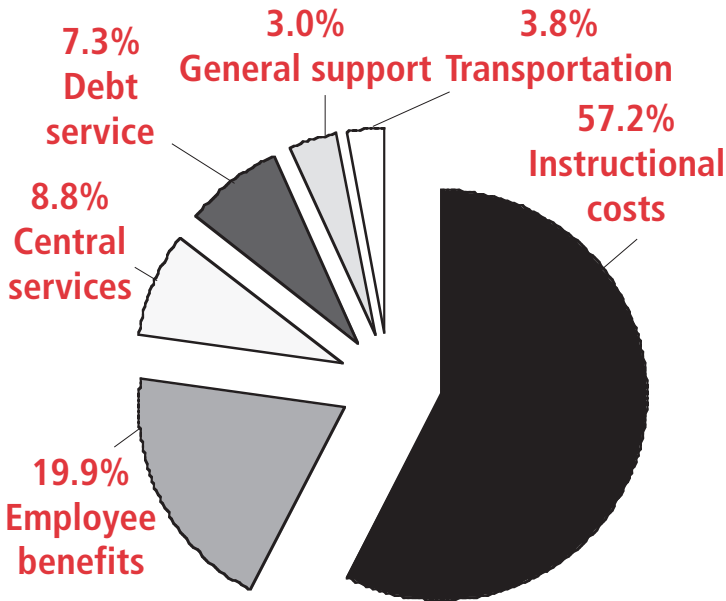
**The state requires school districts to show their proposed budgets in three categories: program, capital and administrative.**

**Here is that information for the proposed 2006-2007 budget:**

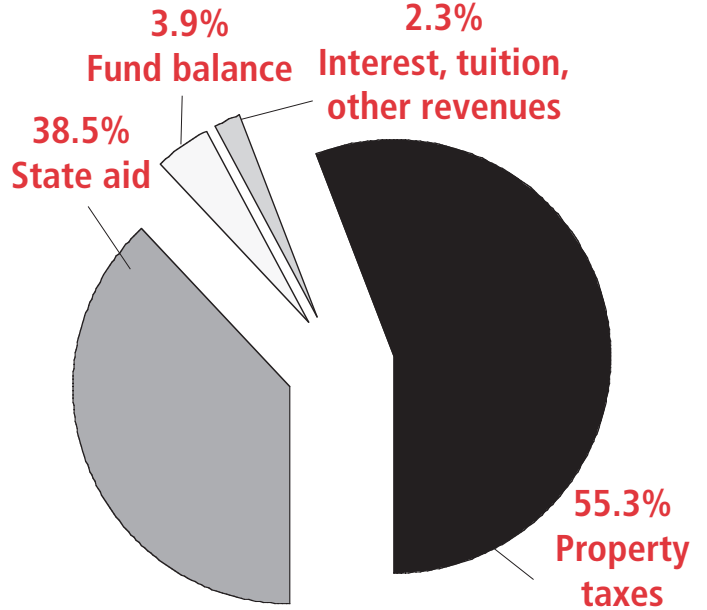
<b>Program</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Administrative</b>
% of the proposed budget	% of the proposed budget	% of the proposed budget
This part of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers, teacher aides and supervisors who spend a majority of their time teaching; instructional costs such as supplies, equipment and textbooks; and transportation operating costs. 2004-05 costs \$26,706,584 (71.3%) 2005-06 costs \$29,364,942 (73.3%) <b>2006-07 costs \$30,724,574 (73.1%)</b>	This part of the budget includes all transportation capital, debt service and lease expenditures; legal judgements and settled claims; custodial costs; and all facilities costs, including service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, repairs, construction, renovation, debt and leasing costs. 2004-05 costs \$6,752,851 (18.1%) 2005-06 costs \$6,840,696 (17.1%) <b>2006-07 costs \$7,313,168 (17.4%)</b>	This part of the budget includes office and central administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50% or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; supplies; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses. 2004-05 costs \$3,889,397 (10.6%) 2005-06 costs \$3,854,238 (9.6%) <b>2006-07 costs \$3,972,657 (9.5%)</b>

<b>PROJECTED EXPENDITURES</b>	2004-05 <i>Budget</i>	2005-06 <i>Budget</i>	2006-07 <i>Budget</i>	% of 2006-07 <i>Budget</i>	Change from <i>05-06 to 06-07</i>
<i>Instructional costs . . . .</i>	\$21,582,866	\$23,001,357	\$24,024,006	57.2%	+\$1,022,649
<i>Employee benefits . . . . .</i>	\$6,910,692	\$7,961,238	\$8,362,619	19.9%	+\$401,381
<i>Central services . . . . .</i>	\$3,068,706	\$3,309,183	\$3,689,393	8.8%	+\$380,210
<i>Debt service . . . . .</i>	\$3,239,491	\$3,073,123	\$3,068,671	7.3%	-\$4,452
<i>Pupil transportation . . . .</i>	\$1,384,805	\$1,496,258	\$1,586,968	3.8%	+\$90,710
<i>General support . . . . .</i>	\$1,162,272	\$1,218,717	\$1,278,742	3.0%	+\$60,025
<i>Board of Education . . . . .</i>	37,620	40,600	42,800		<div style="border-left: 1px solid red; border-right: 1px solid red; padding: 0 10px;"> <i>General support areas of Scotia-Glenville's budget</i> </div>
<i>Central administration . .</i>	209,945	217,420	221,760		
<i>Finance department . . . .</i>	314,425	339,020	358,723		
<i>Staffing costs . . . . .</i>	187,764	205,013	224,803		
<i>Special items. . . . .</i>	411,318	415,464	429,456		
<i>Community services . . . . .</i>	1,200	1,200	1,200		
<b><i>Total expenditures. . . . .</i></b>	<b>\$37,348,832</b>	<b>\$40,059,876</b>	<b>\$42,010,399</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+\$1,950,523</b>

### HOW WOULD THE 2006-07 BUDGET BE SPENT?



### WHERE WOULD THE MONEY COME FROM?



The chart at the left shows how Scotia-Glenville spends its budget each year. More than 57% of the budget is spent for direct instructional costs. The chart at the right shows the district's four main sources of funding.

<b>PROJECTED REVENUES</b>	2004-05 <i>Budget</i>	2005-06 <i>Budget</i>	2006-07 <i>Budget</i>	% of 2006-07 <i>Budget</i>	\$ change <i>05-06 to 06-07</i>
<i>Total state aid</i> . . . . .	\$14,228,798	\$15,223,182	<b>\$16,166,662</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>+\$943,480</b>
Basic, Lottery . . . . .	7,482,498	7,845,698	\$8,202,419		
Building* . . . . .	2,360,000	2,339,642	\$2,359,298		
Transportation* . . . . .	935,000	1,020,000	1,030,000		
Students/disabilit. . . . .	2,390,300	2,925,071	3,426,045		
BOCES . . . . .	770,000	800,000	860,000		
Textbook . . . . .	181,000	179,751	176,500		
Computer Hardware* . . . . .	40,000	43,032	43,000		
Computer Software* . . . . .	50,000	49,988	49,600		
Library/other aid* . . . . .	20,000	20,000	19,800		
<i>Interest, federal aid</i> . . . . .	\$236,400	\$289,400	<b>\$419,400</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>+\$130,000</b>
<i>Tuition, admissions, etc.</i>	\$277,000	\$249,500	<b>\$255,000</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>+\$5,500</b>
<i>Payments in lieu of taxes</i>	\$201,000	\$220,000	<b>\$230,000</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>+\$10,000</b>
<i>BOCES refund, sales</i> . . . . .	\$69,000	\$69,000	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>+\$20,000</b>
<i>Fund balance</i> . . . . .	\$1,533,000	\$1,620,000	<b>\$1,620,000</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>+\$0</b>
<i>Property taxes</i> . . . . .	\$20,803,634	\$22,388,794	<b>\$23,230,337</b>	<b>55.3%</b>	<b>+\$841,543</b>
<b><i>Total revenues</i></b> . . . . .	<b>\$37,348,832</b>	<b>\$40,059,876</b>	<b>\$42,010,399</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+\$1,950,523</b>

*These are the types of state aid received by S-G. Aid marked with an \* is reimbursement for costs already paid by the district.*

### Q and A, from page 3

nearly \$100,000 from the budget plan presented Feb. 27.

The board also got a better idea of next year's estimated costs and income from state aid. The district has worked hard to keep costs under control in these ways:

- ▶ S-G is part of a **health consortium** with other school districts and BOCES to help keep health insurance costs in check. S-G employees also pay a share of the premium costs.

- ▶ **Heating/fuel costs** – natural gas, electricity and heating oil – will total \$1.3 million. S-G has controlled these costs by participating in a joint competitive bid with other school districts and municipalities. The district also buys bus fuel through state contracts, ensuring a lower cost.

- ▶ **State aid** – which accounts for 38.5 percent of district income – was known earlier because the state Legislature adopted a budget by April 1. Legislators increased S-G's state aid by an additional \$500,000 over previous estimates. That was used to offset the tax increase.

- ▶ **Residential growth** has led to an increasing Glenville tax base. The pending reassessment, while it will reconfigure what each homeowner pays, will show continued residential and commercial growth.

### What if the budget were defeated?

By law, the Board of Education may:

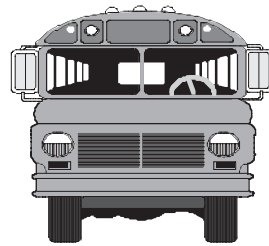
## What is included in the bus proposal?

**Replacement plan would buy three buses that are wheelchair-capable and two 28-passenger buses; replaces buses used since 1995, 1997 and 1998**

**The \$274,847 proposed bus replacement plan would replace five buses in declining condition that have been in use since the mid-1990s.**

**The community will consider the bus replacement plan during May 16 voting. There was not a bus replacement purchase plan in 2005.**

The district's 43 student buses/vehicles traveled 467,525 miles during the 2004-05 school year. That works out to 2,493 miles per day.



*The community on May 16 will consider replacing five aging buses.*

The following proposed bus purchases will be on the May 16 ballot:

- ▶ **Three wheel-chair lift, 18-passenger buses at an estimated cost of \$184,387.** The diesel buses will replace buses #127, #132 and #133, which have been in service since 1995. As of January, those buses – all with gasoline engines – had traveled 86,226, 109,567 and 80,804 miles, respectively, with heavy underbody corrosion.

- ▶ **Two 28-passenger diesel buses at an estimated cost of \$90,460.** These would replace diesel buses, #145 and #146. Those have traveled 111,539 and 158,628 miles and been in service since 1997 and 1998, respectively.

The district expects to receive 73 percent of the total cost back in state aid and to recoup some of the cost through trade-ins for the five buses.

The cost of the buses would be part of the 2007-08 school budget but would also be accompanied by state aid reimbursement. ☺

- ▶ **Present another budget to the community.** The budget may be the same or reductions could be made. If a budget is defeated twice, the board *must* adopt a contingency budget (*see next item*).

- ▶ **Adopt a contingency budget.** By state law, a contingency budget may NOT increase spending by more than 4%, not including debt service. In Scotia-Glenville's case, that means an increase of \$1.48 million – and a cut of \$469,293 in spending.

### Who can vote in the May 16 school election?

Any resident of the Scotia-Glenville Central School District for at least 30 days before the May 16 election who is at least 18 years old.

The district uses registration books from the Board of Elections during voting. Call the Board of Elections at 377-2469 to register or get the registration form from the Board of Elections, which is linked on the left side of the mainpage at [ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org](http://ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org). ☺

## Three candidates vie for two seats on the Board of Education May 16

Three candidates are running for election to two seats on the Board of Education. Each one is for a three-year, unpaid term. Board members Karen Bradley and John Carpenter decided against seeking re-election to fifth terms. As their names will appear on the ballot, the candidates are:



John R. Yagielski

✓ **John R. Yagielski**, of 309 Lark Street, is seeking a first three-year term on the board.

He is an electrical engineer for General Electric and is currently a technical leader in the Generator Engineering Dept.

Yagielski holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Clarkson University and a master's degree in electric power engineering from RPI.

He and his wife, Pam, have two children: Alexis, a grade 6 student at the Middle School; and Kyle, a grade 3 student at Sacandaga Elementary.

He is a Sacandaga and Middle School PTA member, chaired the S-G Academic Enrichment Task Force, has been active in Pop Warner Football, Highland Soccer and the YMCA Adventure Guides program.

He has been a district resident for 12 years. 🍷



Gary T. Normington

✓ **Gary T. Normington**, of 12 Sanders Avenue, is seeking a first three-year term on the board.

He is a software trainer for Community Computes of Auburn, a medical software company.

Normington holds an associate's degree in computer programming and marketing from Spencer Business Institute.

He and his wife, Karen, have three sons: Morgan, a grade 4 student at Sacandaga Elementary; Nicholas, a kindergarten student at Sacandaga; and Colin, who is in preschool.

He is a member of the Sacandaga PTA, Scotia-Glenville DARE Board, Concerned for the Hungry Thanksgiving Food Drive and attends St. Joseph's Church.

He has been a district resident for 14 years. 🍷



Jerry Moore

✓ **Jerry Moore**, of 122 Jay Street, is seeking a first three-year term on the board.

Moore and his wife, Ann, have a daughter, Kezia, a 2004 S-G graduate.

He is an attorney and has worked as an assistant prosecuting attorney and served in the US Navy as an electronics technician.

He is a former Schenectady County human rights commissioner and co-chair of the county's Jail Oversight Committee.

Moore received a bachelor's degree in economics and a law degree from Ohio State University. He received a master's degree in criminal justice from the University at Albany.

He has been a district resident for 14 years. 🍷

# State-Required School District Budget Notice

## Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget adopted for the 2005-06 school year	Budget proposed for the 2006-07 school year	Contingency budget for the 2006-07 school year*
<b>Total budgeted amount</b>	<b>\$40,059,876</b>	<b>\$42,010,399</b>	<b>\$41,541,106</b>
<b>Increase/decrease for the 2006-07 school year</b>		<b>\$1,950,523</b>	<b>\$1,481,230</b>
<b>Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget</b>		<b>4.87%</b>	<b>3.69%</b>
<b>Change in the consumer price index</b>		<b>3.4%</b>	
<b>Resulting est. property tax levy, 2006-07 school year</b>		<b>\$23,230,337</b>	<b>\$22,761,044</b>
<b>Administrative component</b>	<b>\$3,854,238</b>	<b>\$3,972,657</b>	<b>\$3,949,057</b>
<b>Program component</b>	<b>\$29,364,942</b>	<b>\$30,724,574</b>	<b>\$30,385,631</b>
<b>Capital component</b>	<b>\$6,840,696</b>	<b>\$7,313,168</b>	<b>\$7,206,418</b>

\*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2006-07 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. **Reduction in or elimination of elementary and secondary instructional programs, transportation, equipment, supplies, after-school programs, summer school, enrichment programs and administrative costs.**

## Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR exemption savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). This shows a home at full value, not at taxable assessment.

	Budget adopted for the 2005-06 school year	Budget proposed for the 2006-07 school year
<b>Basic STAR tax savings on a full-value assessment of \$100,000</b>	<b>\$646.29</b>	<b>\$664.53</b>
<b>School tax increase/decrease on a full-value assessment of \$100,000</b>	<b>-\$154.60</b>	<b>\$60.80</b>
<b>Net basic STAR savings - \$30,000 full-value assessment reduction</b>	<b>\$800.89</b>	<b>\$603.73</b>
<b>Net enhanced STAR savings - \$56,800 full-value assessment reduction (as of 2006)</b>	<b>\$1,231.75</b>	<b>\$1,197.38</b>

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2006-07 by the qualified voters of the Scotia-Glenville Central School District, Schenectady, Montgomery and Saratoga counties, New York, will be held at the Senior High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the Senior High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine. Voters must be 18 and a resident of Scotia-Glenville for 30 days.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Call 382-1222 for information.**

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The Tartan Report is produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.

Labeling by High School Learning Center class of Sarah Hoffmann  
Editor/Photographer: Robert Hanlon

## Scotia-Glenville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's Office: (518) 382-1215

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