

A fact sheet about Scotia-Glenville's 2004-05 budget

The public hearing on the budget will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5.
Voting will be held from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18
at the Senior High School. Voters will consider the:

- ▶ 2004-05 budget: \$37,348,832, spending up \$1.93 million or 5.4% from this year's budget
- ▶ Bus/vehicle purchase proposal: \$298,499 – no tax impact next year (*see back page*)
- ▶ Candidates for two Board of Education seats: Joseph Crisafulli • Jerry Moore • Margaret Smith

Tax impact of the budget

- ▶ 5.14% tax increase based on estimated state aid/property assessments

For the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000, school taxes would rise by
\$11.19 per month or \$134.30 per year

BEFORE savings from the state's Basic STAR tax reduction program (see back page).

- ▶ Average annual tax increase since 1998: 3.7%

May 18 budget vote: \$37,348,832

Budget impact

Three areas of the budget – teacher and employee retirement rates set by the state, health insurance and utilities – account for more than \$1.1 million of the \$1.93 million spending increase.

While most of the educational program remains intact, the Board of Education cut \$718,460 from the preliminary budget presented on March 1 by Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle.



What is new in the approved budget?

These items were included in the superintendent's preliminary budget proposed in March and kept in the budget by the Board of Education:

- ▶ The district shopped for better rates for workmen's compensation insurance (*\$45,000 savings from preliminary estimates*) and by hiring a private company to provide occupational and physical therapy (*\$84,000 savings from preliminary estimates*).
- ▶ Three special education classes – elementary, middle school and high school – that will save \$280,000 by either bringing students back from BOCES or private programs or allowing students to stay in the district for an equivalent program;
- ▶ Young Scholars Program for gifted and talented students in grade 4 next year;
- ▶ Three-week elementary summer school program for students in need of extra help;
- ▶ One hour per day monitor to supervise students at the middle school after school;
- ▶ Full-time assistant principal for the middle school to strengthen discipline. This position would replace the two current part-time deans;
- ▶ Academic Head of English stipend was restored.

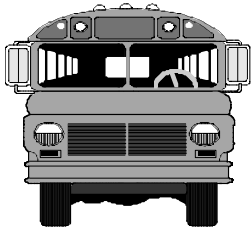
What was cut from the preliminary budget?

These items were included in the superintendent's preliminary budget proposed in March and later cut by the Board of Education:

- ▶ 5.4 full-time teaching positions:
 - 1.0 full-time proposed teacher to be used across the district as needed;
 - 2.0 full-time current elementary teaching positions;
 - 0.8 of a full-time current teaching position in grade 8 core classes;
 - 0.6 of a full-time current technology position at the middle school;
 - 1.0 full-time current high school position.
- ▶ Increase middle school summer school to offer a grade 8 program for transitioning into grade 9;
- ▶ Savings by replacing two retiring elementary librarians;
- ▶ 2.0 full-time cleaners to begin replacing some of the 8.5 full-time positions cut last year;
- ▶ Occupational/physical therapy services would be purchased privately (*see column at left*);
- ▶ Maintenance projects, central services equipment, supplies, equipment, professional development and summer curriculum were partially restored from cuts made this year.

What is in the bus and vehicle purchase proposal?

Last year, Scotia-Glenville buses traveled more than 500,000 miles carrying 2,174 students to and from school. That is nearly 2,200 miles per day. That puts a lot of wear and tear on buses..



The Board of Education has agreed to put a bus and vehicle purchase plan totaling \$298,499 on the May 18 ballot. The plan will not affect next year's proposed tax rate because the money will be borrowed and reimbursed in large part by the state in the

following years. The plan calls for buying:

- ▶ Three 28-passenger diesel buses. These would replace buses 125, 126 and 134, which have been in use since 1995. All have excessive underbody corrosion.
- ▶ Two seven-passenger Suburbans for transporting smaller numbers of students and for the driver education program. These would replace vehicles 128 and 129 – Chevrolet Luminas that date from 1995 and also have corrosion.

Those five vehicles would cost a maximum of \$188,835.

- ▶ Replace the district's courier van (used to deliver food to the schools and for regular courier business) at a maximum cost of \$17,892 and two large lawn mowers at a maximum cost of \$91,682. One of the mowers being replaced is more than 30 years old and is expensive to maintain. One would also have a snowthrower attached for winter use. ❄️

In response to inquiries about the STAR program

The state's STAR school tax reduction program, begun in 1998 and fully implemented in September 2001, continues to provide savings to taxpayers every year:

- ▶ Under the Basic STAR program, your tax bill will be an estimated \$755 less than it would be without the program.
- ▶ Under the Enhanced STAR program (*for homeowners over age 65 with incomes below \$60,000*), your tax bill will be an estimated \$1,259 less than it would be without the program.

What if the budget is defeated May 18?

The Board of Education has two choices:

▶ **Present another budget to the community.** If that budget is defeated, the board **MUST** adopt a contingency budget (*see below*).

▶ **Adopt a contingency budget.** By state law, a contingency budget may increase spending by 2.76%. That does not even cover the expected increases in health care and property insurance as well as retirement costs from the state.

In Scotia-Glenville's case, an additional \$1.1 million would need to be cut from the budget. Several other areas were studied by the Board of Education and would likely be considered for future reductions. Those include:

- ▶ Transitional kindergarten;
- ▶ Additional teaching positions;
- ▶ 2.0 full-time elementary library media specialists;
- ▶ Elementary clubs;
- ▶ GED program. The program is for students to be eligible for an equivalency diploma;
- ▶ GOAL program. The program is for students in grades 9 and 10 at risk of dropping out of school;
- ▶ Fitness Center supervisor;
- ▶ Administrative reductions;
- ▶ Off-campus sports like bowling, golf, skiing, etc.;
- ▶ Clerical support;
- ▶ 0.6 of a full-time business education teaching position;
- ▶ 0.4 of a full-time foreign language teaching position at the middle school;
- ▶ Modified sports for students in grades 7-9;
- ▶ All club advisors;
- ▶ Late bus runs;
- ▶ Other areas to be determined at that time.

Dates to Remember

- ▶ Last day to request an absentee ballot to be mailed: **May 11**
- ▶ You can request an absentee ballot in person until: **May 17**
- ▶ Deadline for receipt of absentee ballots: **May 18, 5 p.m.**