

Investing in Scotia-Glenville: the 2003-04 budget

Tough economic times lead to staff and spending cutbacks

Budget vote will be June 3, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Senior High gym

Homeowners and private companies are tightening their belts during these economic times. So is your school district. Scotia-Glenville has cut proposed spending by \$1 million, including a 4.2% cut in staff, in order to keep taxes under control.

And yet, even during tough times, investments must

SEE "DISTRICT CUTS STAFF AND CURBS COSTS," PAGE 2

What will I be deciding on June 3?

- ✓ 2003-04 budget: \$35,422,698, spending up 5.4% from this year's budget
- ✓ Bus/vehicle purchase proposal: \$316,678 no tax impact next year (see story, page 10)
- ✓ Two Board of Education members
Karen Bradley • John Carpenter • Jerry Moore
(see story, page 6)

Tax impact

- ✓ 8.88% estimated tax increase based on the New York State Legislature's budget*

For the owner of a home assessed at \$100,000, school taxes would rise by:

\$17.75 per month or \$213 per year

BEFORE savings from the state's Basic STAR tax reduction program.

- ✓ Average annual tax increase since 1998: 2.7%

*That budget still cuts \$405,000 in basic aid to S-G.



Glendaal student **Aubrey Vickerson**, a student in **Geoff Olson's** grade 4 class, shows off her gymnastics skills during the annual talent show at the school. Dozens of children exhibited a variety of skills, such as dancing, singing, playing keyboard, drawing and comedy sketches.

These stories are inside...

- PAGE 3** Three scenarios for the 2003-04 budget
- PAGES 4-5** Expenditure and revenue charts
- PAGE 6** Three candidates vying for Board of Ed.
- PAGE 7** Saving \$360,000 next year in special ed.
- PAGE 9** Staff offers suggestions for reductions
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- PAGE 10** School bus proposal is on the ballot
- PAGE 12** Required state budget notice

District cuts staff and curbs costs, continued from page 1

be still made to ensure one's future. Education is an investment and is at a crossroads. The June 3 "compromise" budget continues the investment the community has

The Business Review recently ranked Scotia-Glenville as the second highest school district in Schenectady County... the ranking considered test scores and cost effectiveness.

made in Scotia-Glenville over the past decade.

The proposed 2003-04 budget of \$35.42 million includes a 5.4% or \$1.8 million increase in spending and an 8.88% increase in taxes. Most of the increases are in areas that typically increase faster than inflation (see list, third column →).

Besides rising costs, income is dropping: compared with Gov. Pataki's proposed budget, the state Legislature restored more than \$400,000 in state aid to S-G. However, that is still about \$405,000 less in basic operating aid than this year. That loss equals 2.2% of the tax increase.

The June 3 "compromise" budget, which largely keeps the educational program in tact, includes \$1 million in reductions from the carryover

budget presented in February. That includes a reduction of 21 full-time staff positions. See page 8 for details.

"We are as concerned as everyone else with the state of the economy and the impact of taxes," said Board of Education President Kurt Ahnert. "Paying taxes is not easy for any of us; we have tried to keep the school tax increase at a reasonable level that still maintains a program we have worked very hard to build."

Schools improve property values

Economists have long known that strong schools bring families to a community. The reverse is also true: bad or declining schools force people to move away. That leads to a decline in home values, thereby making it harder to sell homes.

Right now, homes are selling well in Scotia-Glenville, in part because of the quality of the schools, noted

Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle. "We are fortunate to have a very comfortable and safe community in which to live along with

quality schools," he said.

The Business Review recently ranked Scotia-Glenville as the second highest school district in Schenectady County with a score of 88 out of a maximum 100. The ranking considered test scores and cost effectiveness.

...schools plays a vital role in the economic health of a community. A study by Forbes.com concluded that the quality of schools in a community adds 30 to 40 percent to the value of homes.

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All schools are facing large hikes

All school districts are facing large increases in specific areas. At S-G:

- ▶ Net increases in salary costs for 500 employees add \$145,246 to the budget. Contract settlements in the past few years have carried pay raises of 1% to 4%.

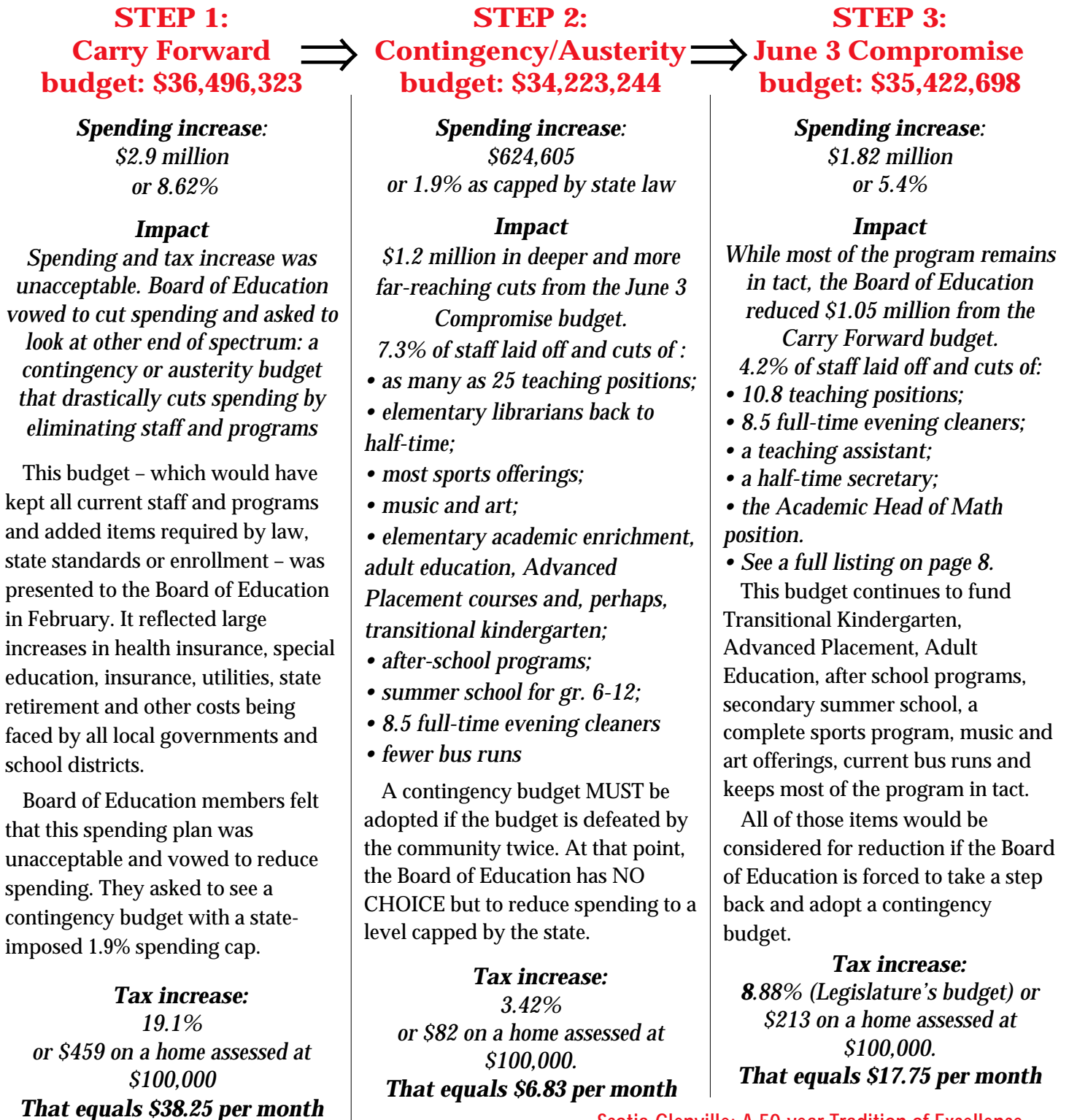
- ▶ Special education costs were to increase by nearly \$1 million, mostly because of additional students to be sent to BOCES. Two special education classes at Glendaal and the high school will save \$360,000 and keep up to 24 students at S-G (see page 7). Special education costs will still rise by \$763,579 next year.

- ▶ Health insurance costs will increase by \$446,671. The district, contract negotiations, has increased costs paid by employees. Teachers pay a larger health insurance premium each year of their contract and the HMO doctor per-visit cost for secretaries will rise from \$15 to \$20.

- ▶ Insurance and utility increases total \$140,000. ♣

Using three scenarios to develop the 2003-04 budget

The process of developing a more than \$30 million budget takes several months of tradeoffs, evaluations and new considerations not to mention educated guesses about revenue. Here is an overview of the scenarios reviewed by the Board of Education before it reached a unanimous compromised on the June 3 budget:



A three-way look at Scotia-Glenville's 2003-04 budget

School districts are now required by the state to show their proposed budgets in three categories: administrative, program and capital.

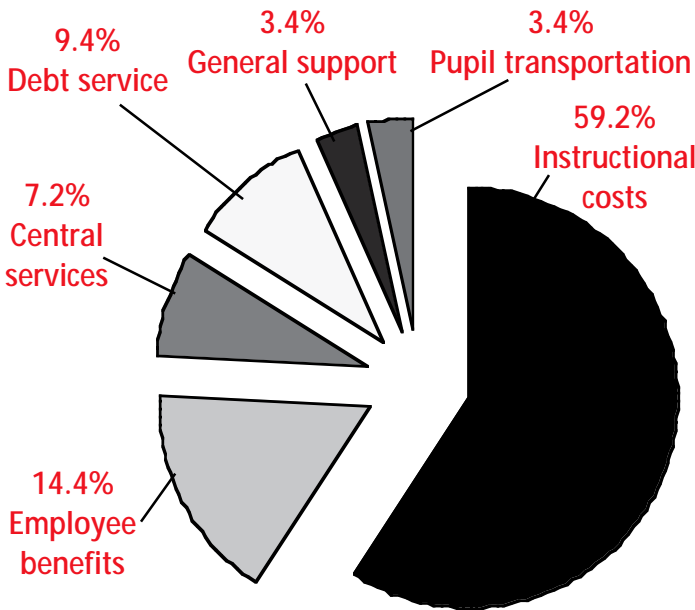
Here is that information for the proposed 2003-2004 budget:

Program	Capital	Administrative
<p>70.9% of the proposed budget</p> <p>This part of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers and supervisors who spend a majority of their time teaching; instructional costs such as supplies, equipment and textbooks; and transportation operating costs.</p> <p>2001-02 costs \$22,383,681 (67.0%)</p> <p>2002-03 costs \$23,491,371 (69.9%)</p> <p>2003-04 costs \$25,113,435 (70.9%)</p>	<p>18.5% of the proposed budget</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2001-02 costs \$7,328,430 (22.0%)</p> <p>2002-03 costs \$6,424,884 (19.1%)</p> <p>2003-04 costs \$6,539,418 (18.5%)</p>	<p>10.6% of the proposed budget</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2001-02 costs \$3,686,189 (11.0%)</p> <p>2002-03 costs \$3,682,384 (11.0%)</p> <p>2003-04 costs \$3,769,845 (10.6%)</p>

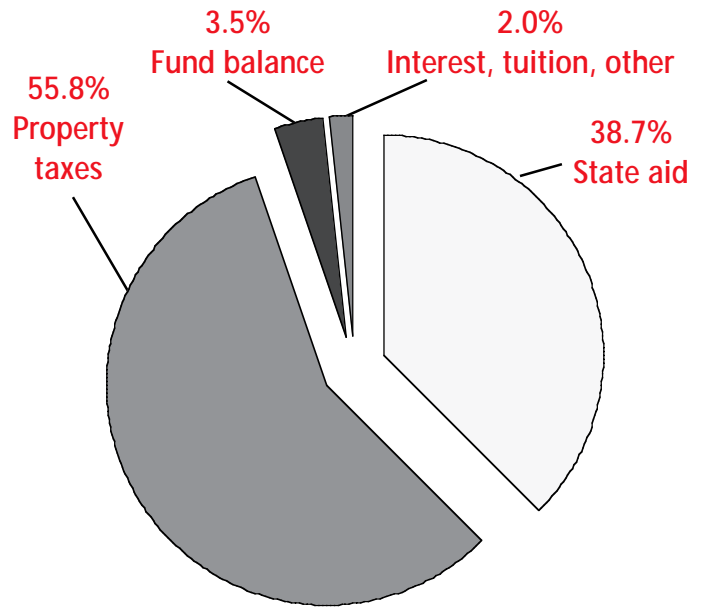
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	2000-01 <i>Actual</i>	2001-02 (w/ equip. prop.) <i>Actual</i>	2002-03 <i>Budgeted</i>	2003-04 <i>Estimated Budget</i>	% of 2003-04 <i>Budget</i>	Change from <i>02-03 to 03-04</i>
<i>Instructional costs</i> . . .	\$17,786,389	\$19,223,631	\$20,172,939 . . .	\$20,968,987 . . .	59.2% . . .	+\$796,048
<i>Employee benefits</i>	4,243,073 . . .	4,389,972 . . .	5,058,409 . . .	\$5,925,153 . . .	16.7% . . .	+\$866,744
<i>Central services</i>	2,191,773 . . .	2,727,056 . . .	2,799,663 . . .	\$2,797,173 . . .	7.9% . . .	-\$2,490
<i>Debt service</i>	3,518,235 . . .	3,918,104 . . .	3,325,017 . . .	\$3,325,429 . . .	9.4% . . .	+\$412
<i>Pupil transportation</i>	997,740 . . .	1,086,853 . . .	1,110,500 . . .	\$1,211,498 . . .	3.4% . . .	+100,998
<i>General support</i>	1,109,419 . . .	1,075,987 . . .	1,132,111 . . .	1,194,458 . . .	3.4% . . .	+62,347
Board of Education . . .	40,684	18,052	40,750	34,820		
Central administ.	181,486	187,759	194,744	200,373		
Finance department . . .	321,888	318,629	339,900	315,394		
Staffing costs	156,100	153,008	181,896	188,961		
Special items	338,032	348,314	313,621	393,710		
Community services	0	0	1,200	1,200		
Interfund transfers . . .	71,229	50,245	60,000	60,000		
Total expenditures	\$29,846,628	\$32,421,622	\$33,598,639	\$35,422,698 . . .	100.0%	+\$1,824,059

General support areas of Scotia-Glenville's budget

How is the school budget spent?



Where does the money come from?



The chart at the left shows how Scotia-Glenville spends its budget each year. More than 59% of the budget is spent for direct instructional costs. The chart at the right shows the district's four main sources of funding.

PROJECTED REVENUES	2000-2001 <i>Actual</i>	2001-02 <i>Actual</i>	2002-03 <i>Budgeted</i>	2003-04 <i>Estimated Budget</i>	% of 2003-04 <i>Budget</i>	Change from <i>02-03 to 03-04</i>
Total state aid	\$13,016,802	\$14,729,678	\$13,777,420	\$13,706,056	38.7%	-\$71,364
Basic, Lottery	7,935,805	7,859,921	7,862,725	7,458,078		
Building*	1,618,196	3,489,203	2,178,352	2,037,033		
Transportation*	776,832	673,598	890,000	918,055		
Students with disabil.*	1,852,056	1,878,787	1,908,000	2,159,157		
BOCES*	556,406	549,362	644,317	840,193		
Textbook*	169,159	169,159	185,710	184,044		
Computer Hardware*	36,798	37,556	37,556	39,000		
Computer Software*	51,052	51,594	50,000	50,000		
Library*	20,448	20,448	20,760	20,496		
Interest, federal aid	1,574,686	540,479	197,400	228,400		
Tuition, admissions, etc.	239,313	205,599	176,800	276,800		
Payments in lieu of taxes	139,642	156,580	126,000	160,000		
BOCES refund, gifts	356,690	560,426	46,200	46,200		
Fund balance	1,132,887	627,254	1,400,000	1,240,000	3.5%	-160,000
Property taxes	15,684,795	16,793,693	17,874,819	19,765,242	55.8%	+1,890,423
Total revenues	\$32,144,815	\$33,613,709	\$33,598,639	\$35,422,698	100.0%	+\$1,824,059

These are the types of state aid received by S-G

Aid marked with an * is reimbursement for costs already paid by the district.

These four categories account for 2.0% of district revenue

Three candidates vie for two seats on the Board of Education June 3

Three candidates are running for election to the Board of Education. There are two open seats on the board and each one is for a three-year term. Board members are not paid. The candidates are:



Karen Bradley

Karen Bradley, of 204 Wren Street, is seeking a fourth three-year term on the board.

She was president of the board from 1996-99.

She is a reference librarian at the Schenectady County Public Library.

She and her husband, David, have three daughters: Rachel is a sophomore at the Senior High; Emily is a sophomore at Syracuse University; and Sarah is graduating this year from Cornell University.

She received a bachelor's degree in English from the College of St. Rose and a master's degree in library science from the University at Albany.

She has been a district resident for 21 years. ♡



John Carpenter

John Carpenter, of 210 First Street, is seeking a fourth three-year term.

He served three years as president of the Board of Education from 1999 to 2002 and was vice president for two years from 1996 to 1998.

Carpenter is a captain in the Scotia Fire Department.

He and his wife, Carol, have two children: Mike, is a graduate of Hudson Valley Community College; and Melissa, attends the Ellis Hospital School of Nursing.

He graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake and attended Idaho State University and Schenectady County Community College, where he studied fire science.

He has been a resident for 31 years and is a member of the United Methodist Church. ♡



Jerry Moore

Jerry Moore, of 122 Jay Street, is seeking a first term.

He and his wife, Ann, have a daughter: Kezia, a grade 11 student at the Senior High.

He works at home and cares for his disabled father.

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

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

He received a bachelor's in economics and law degree from Ohio State University.

He also received a master's degree in criminal justice from the University at Albany and taught criminal law at SUNY Albany for four years.

He is a 12-year district resident. ♡

Using different strategies to provide cost-effective special education services...

Two new classes will keep up to 24 students home at S-G while cutting special education costs by \$360,000 next year

Faced with rising bills for special education students, the Board of Education agreed to create two classes to bring costs down and keep Scotia-Glenville children here.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Tony Albanese proposed establishing these two new special education classes as a way of helping S-G children by keeping them at their home schools as well as a way to save money:

► **The Elementary Skills Program (ESP)** would be at Glendaal for up to 12 students from all four schools in grades 3-5 who may be sent to a BOCES program because of lower-than-average academic skills. Several of the students are being considered for BOCES placement; they be candidates for this new class. For 12 students, the cost of the BOCES program would be \$252,000 per year. The cost of the S-G program would be \$91,680 per year and require hiring a special education teacher, teaching assistant and a teacher aide. *Net savings: at least \$160,320.*

► **The Successful Transition to Employment and Personal Achievement (STEP)** program would help special education students at the high school to make a better transition to the work world. They

would learn a variety of skills like parenting, health and nutrition, finance management, comparative shopping, etc. They would follow a basic GED program and graduate with a GED diploma, allowing them to go the college and/or work. This program is similar to the LEAP program at BOCES, in which several students were enrolled next year. The annual cost of the LEAP program for 12 students would be \$276,000 year. The S-G program would cost \$75,760 per year and require hiring a special education teacher and teaching assistant.

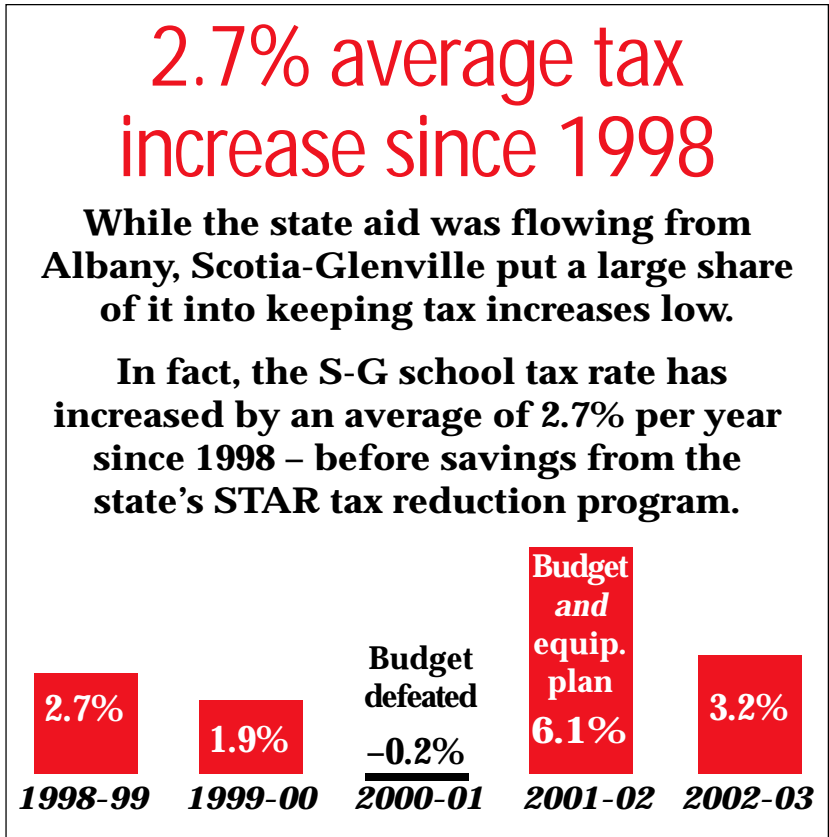
A second phase of the program, to be implemented as early as the 2004-05 school year, would add a vocational component. *Net savings: at least \$200,240.*

Renting classrooms to BOCES brings \$265,000

The budget includes renting three more classrooms, for a total of nine in the district, to BOCES. The new classes would be at Lincoln (2) and Sacandaga (1).

Some of the students would be from S-G. Next year, BOCES would pay \$265,000 for the rental of the nine classrooms as well as a variety of services, like nursing care, provided by S-G.

The idea of renting more classrooms to BOCES was part of the 1999 building project. ↗



While the state aid was flowing from Albany, Scotia-Glenville put a large share of it into keeping tax increases low.

In fact, the S-G school tax rate has increased by an average of 2.7% per year since 1998 – before savings from the state’s STAR tax reduction program.

Where the Board of Education trimmed \$1 million from the proposed budget

These reductions, totaling \$1.05 million, were made to the \$36.5 million carryover budget presented in February (see page 3 for more information) and are part of the 2003-04 budget being considered on June 3:

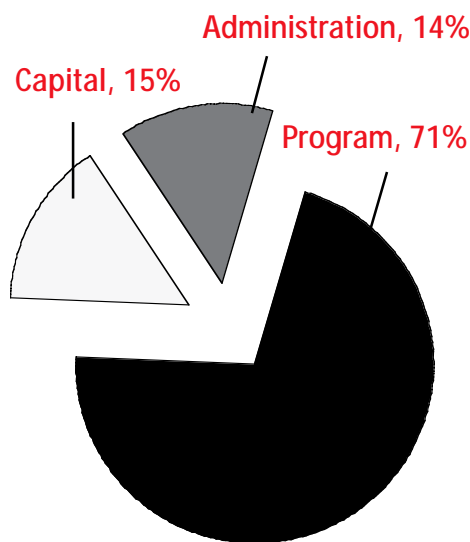
Classroom Instruction – K-5

- ▶ Elimination of 5.0 classroom teaching positions (– \$270,733)
- ▶ Reduction of AEP - .6 FTE (included in figure above)
- ▶ Elimination of summer program (– \$6,125)
- ▶ Reduction in supplies (– \$9,713)
- ▶ Elimination of field trips (– \$2,800)
- ▶ Reduction in textbooks, summer curriculum, and staff development (– \$64,051)

Classroom Instruction – 6-12

- ▶ Elimination of 1.0 FTE Grade 6 teaching position (– \$41,401)
- ▶ Elimination of .4 FTE in 6-12 Health (– \$22,594)
- ▶ Elimination of .3 FTE in 6-8 Foreign Language (– \$11,534)
- ▶ Elimination of .4 FTE in 6-8 Technology (– \$17,757)
- ▶ Elimination of .5 FTE in 6-8 Family and Consumer Sciences (– \$40,455)
- ▶ Elimination of .4 FTE position in 9-12 Physical Education (– \$24,112)
- ▶ Elimination of .4 FTE position in 9-12 Social Studies (– \$20,118)
- ▶ Elimination of .4 FTE position in 9-12 English (– \$16,299)
- ▶ Elimination of 1.4 FTE position in 9-12 Business Education (– \$65,703)
- ▶ Elimination of 1.0 FTE Teacher Assistant (– \$18,000)
- ▶ Elimination of field trips (– \$2,800)

Where were the cuts made?



- ▶ Reduction in supplies (– \$9,713)
- ▶ Reduction in textbooks, summer curriculum, and staff development (– \$64,051)
- ▶ Reduction of MS clerical staff (– \$6,784)
- ▶ Elimination of Academic Head for Mathematics (– \$73,000)

Non-Instructional

- ▶ Elimination of 8.5 FTE cleaners (– \$170,860)
- ▶ Reduction of BOCES Safety Specialist Services (– \$30,000)
- ▶ Reduction of AV/Technology Support (– \$20,000)
- ▶ Reduction in equipment (– \$7,500)
- ▶ Reduction in overtime (–\$20,000)

A few things are new to the budget

While the budget reduces proposed spending by \$1 million, it also adds programs required by law, rising needs or by state standards:

This budget includes:

- ▶ 1.0 teaching assistant for elementary Academic Intervention Services. AIS services are for children who fail to meet the standards on state tests.
- ▶ Increase 1.0 speech teacher at the elementary, middle school and high school. This is to accommodate an increase in need.
- ▶ 1.0 special education teacher at the middle school, as dictated by numbers of students requiring services next year.
- ▶ Increase .3 psychologist at the middle school, again because of rising needs among students.
- ▶ Two proposed special education classes that will save \$360,000 a year (see story, page 7).
- ▶ School Resource Officer at the high school to ensure security. The district agreed to a town request to pay \$10,000 toward this position.

Board of Education/District office

- ▶ Reduction in conference attendance (– \$3,650)
- ▶ Reduction in supplies (– \$400)

Athletics

- ▶ Reduction in police coverage, competitions... (– \$18,902)
- ▶ Reduction in transportation (invitationals, scrimmages, non-league, tournaments) (– \$12,770)

Staff offers many ways to save money

Superintendent received dozens of ideas for easing the budget crunch now and in the future

Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle asked employees and union leaders to offer suggestions of how the district could save money.

“It made sense to ask the people on the front lines for ways to save money,” he said. “We have seriously reviewed and will continue to review these ideas.”

He noted that many of the ideas would not help the district this year, but may in the future. Several of these suggestions are already being done and will continue while other suggestions may not save money.

Marcelle pointed to the two new special education classes (*see story, page 7*), which will save \$360,000 in special education costs next year. Here are some suggestions from teachers, teaching assistants, custodians and others:

- ▶ cut BOCES “New Visions,” distance learning and all sports.
- ▶ bus academic enrichment students to one location once per week instead of meeting separately at the four schools.
- ▶ use distance learning to offer academic enrichment program services to other schools.
- ▶ collect school taxes quarterly, as in Schenectady, to ease the impact.
- ▶ allow teachers to buy supplies for the lowest price locally instead of from a company catalogue.
- ▶ seek more grants for programs and establish a grant writing position.
- ▶ monitor and evaluate maintenance and service contracts.
- ▶ fix faucets, turn down the heat, shut off lights and weatherstrip .
- ▶ eliminate in-school suspension and lunch detention at the high school to save on teaching assistant costs.
- ▶ eliminate the Graduation Equivalency Diploma (GED) program.
- ▶ increase student parking fees.
- ▶ find children who attend S-G but do not live here or pay tuition.
- ▶ send school mailings by family instead of by individual child to save on copying.
- ▶ photocopy instead of buying new workbooks every year.
- ▶ revisit pouring rights. That means S-G would give exclusive rights to a beverage company to market its products on campus. In return, the company pays the district.
- ▶ install milk machines at the high school and middle school.
- ▶ charge fees for students to participate in sports and for supplies.
- ▶ offer a retirement incentive.
- ▶ share principals between elementary schools.
- ▶ have academic heads teach more classes.
- ▶ reduce the use and cost of voice mail. ♣

“We have seriously reviewed and will continue to review these ideas.”

Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle

What do we spend on other things?

The typical taxpayer with a \$100,000 home pays \$2,400 per year in school taxes at S-G.

Even with a projected school tax increase of \$17.75 per month, the cost is still lower than at other schools. Typical homeowners in neighboring districts pay \$3,300 per year or more to their schools.

And those districts don’t offer transitional kindergarten, computers in every elementary classroom, new libraries or distance learning.

What we spend

Compared with our \$2,400 school tax bills, we spend more money on a host of other things each year:

- ▶ Typical 5-day-a-week day care costs add up to \$5,000 per year.
- ▶ Private college tuition may be \$20,000 per year or more.
- ▶ Electric, cable and telephone service may top \$4,000 per year.
- ▶ A \$250 car or personal loan each month adds up to \$3,000 per year.

Don’t forget those cumulative costs of eating out, going to a movie, renting videos each weekend, paying for gasoline and so forth.

Tax increases, pay raises not equal

It is often claimed that pay raises don’t keep pace with school tax increases, but it is a numbers game.

A 1% pay raise on \$35,000 salary is \$350 per year – enough for the school tax increase and more. ♣

Bus purchase proposal would replace six buses and two maintenance vehicles; no tax impact next year

S-G last bought buses in 2000

While it has no impact on the tax increase for next year, the community is also being asked to allow the district to buy six buses and two maintenance

"The state does not allow us to patch rust spots, as we would do on our own cars."

Transportation Director
David Van Schaick

vehicles with plows for a maximum cost of \$316,768.

About 65% of the bus cost would be reimbursed to the district through state aid. The district's share (35%) would be paid in the following two or three years beginning in September 2004.

Traveling 500,000 miles per year with nearly 2,000 students per day

Scotia-Glenville buses traveled an average of 2,255 miles per day with nearly 2,000 children safely to school and home last year.

"We put a lot of wear and tear on our vehicles and do our best to keep them running well," said David Van Schaick, director of transportation. "We are subject to very high standards and inspections."

Five buses rusting badly, will fail state inspections

Van Schaick noted that the state Department of Transportation can flag a bus as unsafe, meaning it can not be used to transport children.

Five of the buses being replaced are rusting from underbody frame corro-

sion. One of the buses has already been pulled off the road and the other four will likely not pass their next inspection.

"The state does not allow us to patch rust spots, as we would do on our own cars," he said.

The district last purchased 12 vehicles in 2000 and noted at the time that another purchase proposal would be not be needed until 2003. Those bus purchases from 2000 will be paid off next year before the district buys the new buses. ♣



Q&A about the 2003-04 budget

After \$1 million in cuts, what is left in the budget?

The educational program, by and large, remains in tact despite the reductions. Programs such as Transitional Kindergarten, Distance Learning, Advance Placement courses at the high school, athletics and elementary enrichment are still in the June 3 budget.

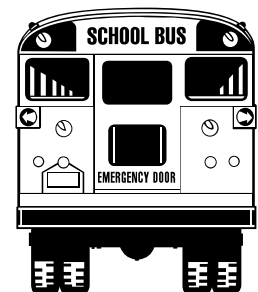
What about class sizes?

Class sizes at the elementary level will range up to 26 per class in grade 5 at Lincoln and up to 24-25 in grades 4 at Glen-Worden, Lincoln and Sacandaga. There will be an average of 28 students in grade 6. Above that, class sizes in grades 7-12 may range as high as the low 30s depending on the course. With a contingency budget, class sizes would rise further.

What's in the bus and maintenance vehicle purchase plan on the ballot June 3?

The proposed bus purchase plan would allow the district to borrow up to \$316,678 to purchase:

- ▶ Five 28-passenger diesel buses to replace the five rusting buses for \$210,678. The buses being replaced are seven and eight years old with extensive rust.
- ▶ One 23-passenger diesel bus with a lift to allow it to carry children in wheelchairs for \$50,782.
- ▶ Two maintenance vehicles that would be outfitted with plows for a maximum cost of \$55,218. These would replace decades-old vehicles that are costly to repair. ♣



What if the budget is defeated?

After a budget is defeated, state law allows only two options:

- ▶ **Schedule a second vote** on the same budget or a reduced budget. If that is defeated, the board **MUST** adopt a contingency budget with the state-mandated spending cap of 1.9%.
- ▶ **Adopt a contingency budget.** That would mean more cuts of \$1.2 million and still lead to a tax increase of 2.2%. The Board of Education would consider cutting another 9-14 teachers; reducing librarians; eliminating sports, Transitional Kindergarten and Advance Placement courses; and other measures to arrive at the state-mandated spending increase of 1.9%.



What is the history of taxes at S-G?

Over the past five years, Scotia-Glenville's tax rate has gone up by an average of 2.7% per year *before savings under the state's STAR program.*



Why does the district have a fund balance? What does it mean?

When a school district has money left over at the end of its fiscal year in June – be it from underspending the budget or receiving additional revenues – the money goes into a “fund balance.”

Part of the fund balance may be applied as revenues to a district's following year's budget. In other words, it is returned directly to the taxpayers. This becomes known as the “appropriated” fund balance. In the proposed budget, the “appropriated” balance accounts for 3.4% of district revenue. That \$1.2 million does not have to be generated by raising taxes.

Another part of the fund balance may be set aside to pay for emergencies such as a failed heating system, roof repairs or other unforeseen problems. Districts may keep 2% of their budgets in an “unappropriated” fund balance. At Scotia-Glenville, that is about \$670,000. ❁



Above, some of the staff and students at Sacandaga pose in front of the 113 “belonging boxes” that were filled as part of the school's year-long program with BJ's Wholesale Club in Rotterdam. Shoe boxes were decorated and delivered to area children in foster care. They also included a “Who Am I” letter from the children who filled the box. Sacandaga received a \$1,000 service award for the program.

Companies, groups donate to S-G

Scotia-Glenville is fortunate that many companies and organizations generously donate to its programs and activities. Here is a partial list from the past few months (*apologies to anyone left out*):

- ▶ New York State United Teachers donated two off-set printing presses to the high school technology program.
- ▶ Terry Phillips of the Glenville Beautification Project purchased and donated 1,600 daffodil bulbs to the middle school. He also donated daffodils to Lincoln and Glen-Worden elementary schools.
- ▶ Walmart donated a DVD player to Lincoln school as well as other donations to the PTA.
- ▶ Tony Dorazio from Wayside Hardware donated hand tools and other equipment to the middle school technology program.
- ▶ Price Chopper, GE Elfun Club and Scotia Rotary provided donations around the holidays to the middle school.
- ▶ BJ's Wholesale Club donated \$1,000 to Sacandaga in exchange for care boxes put together by students for foster children.
- ▶ General Electric Co. donated binders and photocopy paper. ❁

Scotia-Glenville: A 50-year Tradition of Excellence

State-Required School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget adopted for the 2002-03 school year	Budget proposed for the 2003-04 school year	Contingency budget for the 2003-04 school year*
Total budgeted amount	\$33,598,639	\$35,422,698	\$34,223,244
Increase/decrease for the 2003-04 school year		\$1,824,059	\$624,605
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		5.4%	1.86
Change in the consumer price index		1.6%	
Resulting est. property tax levy, 2003-04 school year		\$19,765,242	\$18,346,788
Administrative component	\$3,682,384	\$3,769,845	\$3,762,345
Program component	\$23,491,371	\$25,113,435	\$23,972,981
Capital component	\$6,424,884	\$6,539,418	\$6,487,918

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2003-04 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. Additional reductions of teaching staff and librarians; adult education; most sports offerings; equipment; supplies; after-school programs; summer school; enrichment program

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 2002-03 school year	Budget proposed for the 2003-04 school year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$678.57	\$738.75
School tax increase/decrease	\$70.20	\$200.80
Net basic STAR savings - \$30,000 reduction on full assessment	\$608.37	\$538.01
Net enhanced STAR savings - \$50,000 reduction on full assessment	\$1,060.75	\$1,030.55

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2003-04 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, June 3, 2003, 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.

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Scotia-Glenville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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