

Scotia-Glenville's 2005-06 budget...

Spending focuses on needs, keeps program

Budget includes initiatives to help children, pay mandated higher costs

Despite facing mandatory rising costs in the areas of teacher pensions, fuel and utilities, the Board of Education crafted a budget for the 2005-06 school year that maintains Scotia-Glenville's strong educational program.

The 2005-06 budget also offers more help for students who are struggling in reading and speech, skills development classes for S-G students and works to keep class sizes in check.

The \$40,059,876 budget calls for an estimated 5.95 percent tax increase. That is equal to \$13.63 per month or \$163.56 per year

SEE "SPENDING PLAN INCLUDES INITIATIVES," PAGE 2



The "Amazing **Larry Rundle**," right, shows **Joseph Almond**, a grade 2 student in **Rosemary Stedman**'s class, how to balance "devil sticks" during the week-long National Circus Project program at the school. Rundle and other performers worked with students during their physical education classes. The PTA sponsored the circus, which culminated in a community performance by grade 5 students at the school.

What will I be considering on May 17?

✓ **2005-06 budget proposal:** \$40,059,876 spending up 7.26% from this year's budget

✓ **Candidates for three seats on the Board of Education**

Kurt Ahnert, Pamela Carbone, Benjamin Conlon and Jerry Moore (see page 7)

Tax impact

5.95% estimated tax increase

\$163.56 increase per year or \$13.63 per month on a Scotia-Glenville home with an average \$100,000 assessment.

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

These stories are **inside**...

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Spending plan includes initiatives, from page 1

for a home with an average \$100,000 assessment before savings from the STAR program (see page 8 for STAR information).

Spending would rise by 7.26% or \$2.7 million over this year's budget. Many of the costs, such as for state pension payments, fuel and other fixed costs, are largely out of the district's control.

Voting will be held 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, at the Senior High School. The community will consider the proposed budget and four candidates for the Board of Education. Absentee ballot information is available at 382-1222.

A program/education budget

"This is a program and education-based budget that we are very proud of and includes what students need to continue learning well," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle. "It also provides funding for rising fixed costs and tougher academic standards."

Approximately one third of the spending increase – about \$931,000 – will be for higher, mandatory payments to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System. Part of that cost is also for an adjustment in the way money is budgeted to pay for the TRS payments. Neither change affects the employees' benefits; they will stay the same as in the past.

Marcelle pointed out that, without the mandatory pension increases and accounting changes, the tax increase would be close to the level of inflation.

No separate proposition

On March 7, Marcelle presented a preliminary 2005-06 budget totaling \$39,999,651 to the Board of Education. He also proposed a \$295,000 proposition to purchase equipment for the fine arts and physical education/athletics departments and computer technology.

The Board of Education in April decided against a separate proposition but included \$100,000 for computer hardware and \$40,000 for needed maintenance items in the main budget.

Since the preliminary budget – which carried a 9-10 percent tax increase – was presented, the state budget has been finalized and tax base information from the Glenville assessor have been estimated. The increase in state aid (about \$300,000 over Gov. Pataki's proposal) as well as tax base growth helped bring the tax increase down to the current proposed 5.95 percent.

Rising standards equals rising costs

In addition to the increased mandatory pension payments, there are other pressures on the budget. In particular, items such as fuel costs have increased dramatically.

As well, school districts are being required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act to test students more

frequently. Beginning next year, all students in grades 3-8 will take standardized tests in English Language Arts and mathematics. *For the average district, it costs \$20 to \$25 per child per test to administer and grade standardized tests.* Those costs are paid by local taxpayers, not the federal government.

"This is a program and education-based budget that we are very proud of...it includes what students need to continue learning well in the face of rising fixed costs and tougher academic standards."

Superintendent
Michael J. Marcelle

In the past, students took New York state standardized tests in ELA and math in grades 4 and 8. Students in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 took Terra Nova exams, which gave teachers a glimpse of how students performed on the tests. These tests were given by Scotia-Glenville to determine

whether a child needed remedial help and to measure achievement.

Contingency budget

State law allows two votes on a school budget before the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget. If the budget were defeated twice, \$1.7 million in reductions would be required. The district would still be required to pay for the higher pension payments, fuel costs and testing costs in a contingency budget. *See the story on page 6 for an overview of how a \$1.7 million reduction could impact S-G.*

"A contingency budget would wipe out the substantial progress Scotia-Glenville has made in the past decade," said Marcelle. "It would truly be devastating because we would have to cut the 'heart' of our program while the mandated costs would remain." 📌

2005-06 budget includes needed programs for students

The budget includes several new initiatives to provide:

- ▶ **skills development classes** for children in kindergarten and grade 1 (called K1DS) and in grade 7 (called MSP). Starting these programs would *reduce* spending by \$495,000 because the children would stay at SG instead of going to a BOCES and private special education programs.
- ▶ **\$100,000 for computer hardware** in order to begin a multi-year improvement at all schools. This money would be used to replace student computers that are eight or nine years old.
- ▶ **\$40,000 in additional maintenance funding** to the buildings and grounds department. The Facilities Advisory Committee suggested the district increase maintenance funding.
- ▶ **\$15,000 to restore funding for non-league games and scrimmages** in the athletics program. This money was cut from the budget two years ago. Since then, the Sports Booster Club has raised money to pay for the program.
- ▶ **expanded reading services** for students at the Middle School and Sacandaga because of increasing need and early intervention;
- ▶ **additional speech services** for students at Glendaal and Lincoln because of a rising need;
- ▶ **additional high school teaching staff** (1.0 full time) to reduce gr. 9-12 class sizes (many classes in the core subjects now have as many as 28 to 30 students) and **an additional elementary position** (1.0 full time) at Glendaal's kindergarten to keep that class size the same as at the other schools (around 20 students per class);
- ▶ **expanded alternative education programs** for students in grades 6-12 who are struggling;
- ▶ **extend the Young Scholars academic enrichment program** from BOCES to grade 5. It is currently available for grade 4 students only.
- ▶ creation of a stipend for an **instructional technology coordinator** to oversee the use of classroom technology and increased funding for the **k-12 academic head for mathematics** position. That funding was cut two years ago. 🍷

Budget Questions and Answers

What is S-G doing to control rising costs?

There are several reasons for the increase in the budget:

▶ About \$931,000 is for higher payments to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) for two reasons:

- TRS rates charged by the retirement system are rising because of poor stock market performance. By law, teachers with fewer than 10 years' service pay toward the pensions.
- At the same time, Scotia-Glenville and many other school districts must adjust the way pension payments are budgeted each year.

All districts pay the same TRS contribution rate and have no control over the costs. Neither of the changes mentioned above changes the employees' benefits.

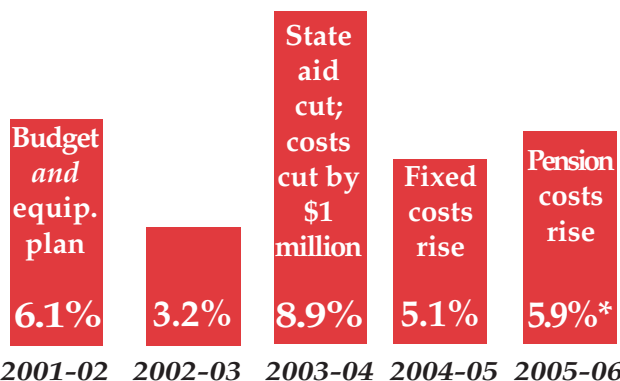
▶ S-G is part of a health consortium with other school districts and BOCES to help keep costs in check. As well, S-G employees pay a share of the premium costs. Recent negotiations have stabilized health care costs by increasing employee co-payments.

▶ Heating fuel costs – natural gas, electricity and heating oil – will total \$1.14 million. S-G has controlled these costs by participating in a joint competitive bid with other school districts. The cost of bus fuel and gasoline have also increased.

SEE "Q AND A," PAGE 6

5.8% average annual tax increase since 2001

The S-G school tax rate has increased by an average of 5.8% per year since 2001 – BEFORE savings from the state's STAR tax reduction program. S-G's proposed tax increase for 2005-06 is among the lowest in Schenectady County.



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

A three-way look at Scotia-Glenville's 2005-06 budget

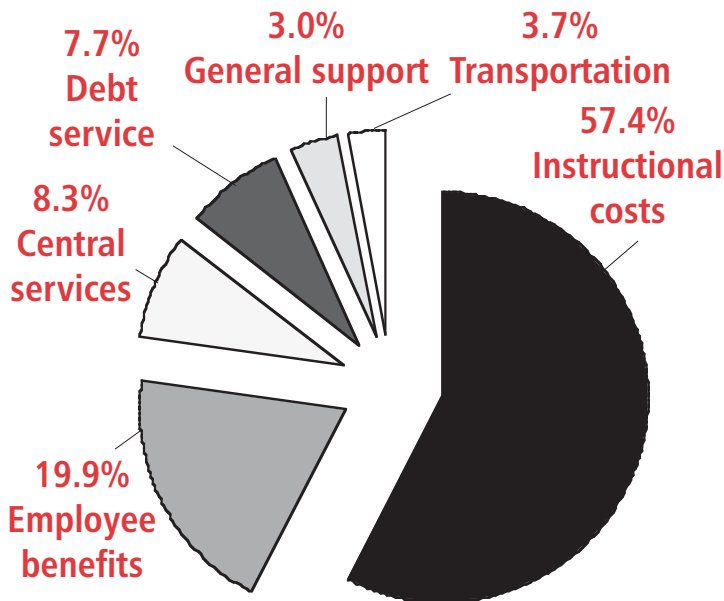
The state requires school districts to show their proposed budgets in three categories: program, capital and administrative.

Here is that information for the proposed 2005-2006 budget:

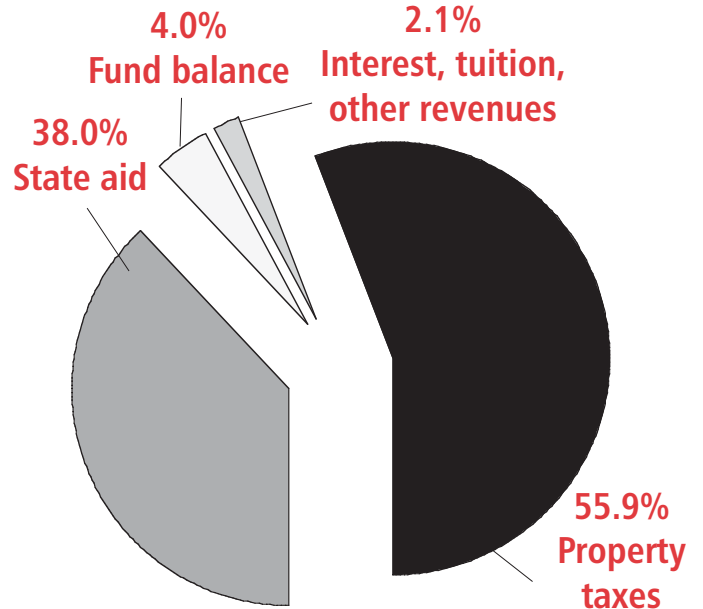
Program	Capital	Administrative
<p>73.3% of the proposed budget</p> <p>This part of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers, teacher aides and supervisors who spend a majority of their time teaching; instructional costs such as supplies, equipment and textbooks; and transportation operating costs.</p> <p>2003-04 costs \$25,086,845 (70.8%) 2004-05 costs \$26,706,584 (71.3%) 2005-06 costs \$29,364,942 (73.3%)</p>	<p>17.1% 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>2003-04 costs \$6,539,418 (18.5%) 2004-05 costs \$6,752,851 (18.1%) 2005-06 costs \$6,840,696 (17.1%)</p>	<p>9.6% 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>2003-04 costs \$3,796,435 (10.7%) 2004-05 costs \$3,889,397 (10.6%) 2005-06 costs \$3,854,238 (9.6%)</p>

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	2003-04 <i>Budget</i>	2004-05 <i>Budget</i>	2005-06 <i>Budget</i>	% of 2005-06 <i>Budget</i>	Change from 04-05 to 05-06
<i>Instructional costs</i>	\$20,968,987	\$21,582,866	\$23,001,357	57.4%	+\$1,418,491
<i>Employee benefits</i>	\$5,925,153	\$6,910,692	7,961,238	19.9%	+\$1,050,546
<i>Central services</i>	\$2,797,173	\$3,068,706	3,309,183	8.3%	+\$240,477
<i>Debt service</i>	\$3,325,429	\$3,239,491	3,073,123	7.7%	-\$166,368
<i>Pupil transportation</i> ..	\$1,211,498	\$1,384,805	1,496,258	3.7%	+\$111,453
<i>General support</i>	\$1,194,458	\$1,162,272	1,218,717	3.0%	+\$56,449
<i>Board of Education</i>	34,820	37,620	40,600		<div style="border-left: 1px solid red; border-right: 1px solid red; padding: 0 10px;"> <p><i>General support areas of Scotia-Glenville's budget</i></p> </div>
<i>Central administration</i> ..	200,373	209,945	217,420		
<i>Finance department</i>	315,394	314,425	339,020		
<i>Staffing costs</i>	188,961	187,764	205,013		
<i>Special items</i>	393,710	411,318	415,464		
<i>Community services</i>	1,200	1,200	1,200		
Total expenditures	\$35,422,698	\$37,348,832	\$40,059,876	100.0%	+\$2,711,044

HOW WOULD THE 2005-06 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.

PROJECTED REVENUES	2003-04 Budget	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Budget	% of 2005-06 Budget	\$ change 04-05 to 05-06
<i>Total state aid</i>	\$13,706,056	\$14,228,798	\$15,223,182	38.0%	+\$994,384
Basic, Lottery	7,458,078	7,482,498	7,845,698		
Building*	2,037,033	2,360,000	2,339,642		
Transportation*	918,055	935,000	1,020,000		
Students/disabilit.	2,159,157	2,390,300	2,925,071		
BOCES	840,193	770,000	800,000		
Textbook	184,044	181,000	179,751		
Computer Hardware*	39,000	40,000	43,032		
Computer Software*	50,000	50,000	49,988		
Library/other aid*	20,496	20,000	20,000		
<i>Interest, federal aid</i>	\$228,400	\$236,400	289,400	0.7%	+\$53,000
<i>Tuition, admissions, etc.</i>	\$276,800	\$277,000	249,500	0.6%	-\$27,500
<i>Payments in lieu of taxes</i>	\$160,000	\$201,000	220,000	0.6%	+\$19,000
<i>BOCES refund, sales</i>	\$46,200	\$69,000	69,000	0.2%	+\$0
<i>Fund balance</i>	\$1,484,083	\$1,533,000	1,600,000	4.0%	+\$67,000
<i>Property taxes</i>	\$19,521,159	\$20,803,634	22,408,794	55.9%	+\$1,605,160
Total revenues	\$35,422,698	\$37,348,832	\$40,059,876	100.0%	+\$2,711,044

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

► The budget also includes \$1.4 million in instructional spending to, among other things, help struggling students in need of extra help in reading and speech, special education, added staff to bring down class sizes, restore basic athletic funding, expand the Young Scholars enrichment program and provide new computers to replace aging machines. *See story on page 3 for more specifics.*

Did the board already make deep cuts to the budget?

No. The Board of Education reviewed the budget from early March to mid-April. Board members decided NOT to offer a separate proposition to the community, opting instead to include a smaller amount of funding for computers and maintenance in the main budget. The board also had a clearer view of the district's revenue this year because:

- Residential growth has led to an increasing Glenville tax base.
- State aid was known earlier because the state Legislature adopted a budget by April 1. Legislators also increased S-G's state aid by \$300,000.

In each of the past three years, hundreds of thousands of dollars were cut from the budget in order to present a reasonable tax rate to the community. This year – with a better idea of the district's income earlier in the process and recognition of the major impact that reductions had in the past three years – drastic cuts were avoided.

What if the budget were defeated?

By law, the Board of Education may:

- **Present another budget to the**

How much is \$1.7 million?

If the proposed budget is defeated twice – and the Board of Education is forced to adopt a contingency budget – \$1.7 million would have to be cut by state law

State law dictates that, if a school budget is twice defeated, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget.

Using a formula tied to the Consumer Price Index (*which does not include rising school costs like health insurance and pensions*), state law caps spending increases at 3.24 percent or \$952,204 if Scotia-Glenville had to adopt a contingency budget. That would mean the proposed budget *would have to be cut by \$1.7 million*. Those cuts would be from the academic part of the program and would *not impact* the mandated costs.

While the Board of Education has *not* determined where cuts would be made if forced into a contingency budget, it may help to put in focus that amount of money and how much it would mean.

\$1.7 million would be the same as:

- **31 full-time teaching positions, including benefits.** There are 28 full-time classroom teachers at Glendaal and Glen-Worden *combined*
- **The entire transportation budget.** The 2005-06 budget calls for spending \$1.5 million to bus thousands of students to school and back home each day.
- The budgets for the **Board of Education** (*the elected members are unpaid*), **central administration, business office and other central staff** totals just under \$870,000 – just over half of the \$1.7 million.
- The budgets for the **interscholastic athletics, art, music and libraries combined** totals just under \$1.7 million.
- The **entire kindergarten program** budget is less than \$650,000.
- The budget for **supplies – academic and non-academic – and equipment** totals less than \$950,000 - a little over half of the \$1.7 million. 📌

community. The budget may be the same or reductions could be made. If *that* budget is defeated, 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 3.24%, not including debt service.

In Scotia-Glenville's case, that means an increase of \$952,204 – and a cut of \$1.7 million in spending.

While the Board of Education has not discussed what areas would be cut, that level of reduction would impact the academic program and reverse progress made over the past 10 years. *See story above for an idea of what \$1.7 million in cuts could mean.* 📌

Four candidates vie for three seats on the Board of Education May 17

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



Kurt W. Ahnert

Kurt W. Ahnert, of 3 Heritage Parkway, is seeking a fourth three-year term on the board.

He was vice president of the Board of Education from 1999 to 2001 and president of the Board of Education from 2002-2004.

He is a reactor engineering manager at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna.

Ahnert holds a bachelor's degree in engineering physics from Cornell University and a master's in nuclear engineering from Cornell.

A 29-year district resident, he and his wife, Donna, have two children: Heath, 23, and Laurel, 19. Both are in college. 🍷



Pamela S. Carbone

Pamela S. Carbone, of 20 Vista Drive, is seeking a fourth three-year term.

She is a science teacher at Oneida Middle School in Schenectady.

She holds a bachelor's in math and physics from Transylvania University and a master's in physics from Wright State University.

A 20-year S-G resident, she is treasurer of the PTA Council and has been active for 17 years in several PTAs. She is a member of the Northeast Region PTA board.

She's president of the Capital District School Boards Association.

Her son, Drew, graduated from the high school in 2002. 🍷



Benjamin A. Conlon

Benjamin A. Conlon, of 235 Bolt Road, is seeking a second three-year term on the board.

He works as an associate attorney with the state Department of Environmental Conservation and an adjunct professor at Schenectady County Community College.

He holds a bachelor's in accounting from Siena College; a master's in business administration from the College of St. Rose and a law degree from Albany Law School.

A 23-year district resident, he and his wife, Laurie Sweeney-Conlon, have three children: Christopher, grade 7; Nicholas, grade 5; and Brittany, grade 2. Their children attend the middle school and Glendaal. 🍷



Jerry Moore

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

He 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.

He 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 13 years. 🍷

State-Required 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 budgeted amount	\$37,348,832	\$40,059,876	\$38,301,036
Increase/decrease for the 2005-06 school year		\$2,711,044	\$952,204
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		7.26%	2.5%
Change in the consumer price index		2.7%	
Resulting est. property tax levy, 2005-06 school year		\$22,408,794	\$20,649,954
Administrative component	\$3,889,397	\$3,854,238	\$3,800,738
Program component	\$26,706,584	\$29,364,942	\$27,821,602
Capital component	\$6,752,851	\$6,840,696	\$6,678,696

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2005-06 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. Reduction in or elimination of: elementary and secondary instructional staff, transportation, athletic programs, equipment, supplies, after-school programs, summer school, enrichment programs, administration, clerical positions and elective offerings at the high school.

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 2004-05 school year	Budget proposed for the 2005-06 school year
Basic STAR tax savings on a full-value assessment of \$100,000	\$693	\$734
School tax increase/decrease on a full-value assessment of \$100,000	-\$86	\$137
Net basic STAR savings - \$30,000 full-value assessment reduction	\$779	\$597
Net enhanced STAR savings - \$50,000 full-value assessment reduction	\$1,240	\$1,086

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2005-06 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 17, 2005, 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

Margaret Smith, President
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John A. Carpenter
Benjamin A. Conlon
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Scotia-Glenville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent's Office: (518) 382-1215

ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org

District Administrators

Michael J. Marcelle
Superintendent (until April 2005)

J. Briggs McAndrews
Interim Superintendent

Joseph F. Kavanaugh
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Dorothy B. Nolie
School Business Administrator



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