



S-G Community Vote: Tuesday, May 21, 2019

What will I see on the May 21 ballot?

The Scotia-Glenville community will vote from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, in the high school B-wing gymnasium (Sacandaga Road/Route 147) on the following proposals:

- ▶ **\$56,955,740 budget for 2019-20 – a \$966,044 or 1.7% spending increase with a 2.54% tax levy increase.** The tax bill on a \$160,000 home would increase by an estimated maximum of 3.22% or \$117.08 per year (\$9.76 per month).

- ▶ **\$425,000 to purchase four, gasoline-powered 72-passenger school buses.**

With this proposed purchase, the district would replace large buses #162, #193, #194 and #202. Each bus being replaced either has high mileage or have had many problems. There is no tax impact for this purchase in the 2019-20 budget.

- ▶ **Select TWO candidates for the Board of Education.**

The candidates, in the order they will be on the ballot, are:
Colleen Benedetto, Kim Talbot and Dan Feinberg.



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What INITIATIVES are included in the 2019-20 budget proposal?

The budget proposal for 2019-20 includes two major initiatives:

- ▶ **an elementary mental health program for all four elementary schools.** This program would complement the current programs at the middle school and high school, which are staffed through the **Saratoga Center for the Family**. The center provides a full-time certified staff member placed at the high school and middle school during the week to deal with mental health issues being felt by Scotia-Glenville students.
- ▶ **an elementary guidance counselor**, as required by state mandate. The state requirement says that “each school district shall have a comprehensive developmental school counseling/ guidance program for all students in grades kindergarten (K) through grade 12.” S-G already has guidance counselors in grades 6-12; this would add a counselor to cover grades K-5 at the four elementary schools.

All current academic programs will continue in the 2019-20 school year. For the first time in several years, the Board of Education did not face budget cuts before adopting a budget. Part of that was because the budget included six teacher retirements, which saved the district \$250,000 in salaries, as well as reductions in Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Employee Retirement System (ERS) pension rates, saving another \$250,000.

A word about the May 21 bus purchase proposal:

The \$425,000 proposition calls for buying four 72-passenger buses. These buses are larger to accommodate more students on some of the routes. These buses will be gasoline-powered. Each bus being replaced – #162, #193, #194 and #202 – either has high mileage or have had many problems.



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