



2020-21 budget proposal preserves all programs and staff despite state aid cuts

Community to vote by absentee ballot on the \$58.1 million spending plan on June 9; typical tax bill would rise by \$8.25 per month

Before the coronavirus (COVID-19) threw the school year into quarantine, Superintendent Susan Swartz met a challenge that she has often had to face – how to preserve programs for students while closing a school budget shortfall.

That annual challenge now pales compared to reality.

Since then, as families have struggled and businesses have closed during this crisis, Scotia-Glenville has provided thousands of breakfasts and lunches to families, provided Chromebook laptop computers to more than 400 families and arranged for child care for first responders who are on the front lines of fighting the virus.

The slight increase in state aid promised in January has disappeared and may be followed by cuts in the coming

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Favorite Character Day at Glendaal

ABOVE: Mason Lundy, a student in **Beth Donovan's** kindergarten class at Glendaal, dresses as "Thomas the Tank Engine" during "Dress as Your Favorite Book Character Day" at the school.

BELOW: Teaching Assistant Sue Gutmaker, dressed as Dorothy from the "Wizard of Oz," pauses for a moment with **Ivy Minick**, the perfect Mouse from "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." Ivy is a student in **Natasha Sweet's** kindergarten class at Glendaal.



What will I see on the June 9 ballot?

All Scotia-Glenville registered voters have been mailed an absentee ballot for voting this year. The ballots should be returned by 5 p.m. on June 9 to be counted. **If you are a qualified voter and did not receive an absentee ballot, please call (518) 347-3600 ext. 73102 or email bdelong@sgcsd.net.** The ballot includes the following proposals:

- ▶ **\$58,160,883 budget for 2020-21** – a \$1,205,143 or 2.1% spending increase with a 2.66% tax levy increase. The tax bill on a \$160,000 home would increase by an estimated \$99 per year or \$8.25 per month.
- ▶ **\$465,000 to purchase six buses** – two 35-passenger buses, one 30-passenger vehicle, one 24-passenger wheel chair bus, one 72-passenger bus and one 7-passenger suburban (see page 6). There is no tax impact for this purchase in the 2020-21 budget.
- ▶ **Select THREE candidates for the Board of Education** (see page 6).



months as the state tries to right its budgetary ship.

Because of conservative guidance over the school district's finances over several years, and a healthy fund balance, Scotia-Glenville administrators believe they will be able to keep the same services and programs that now exist in place for the next school year. While many other area school districts are cutting programs and staff, S-G should not need to do that.

"These are definitely uncertain times," said Swartz. "We are hoping to preserve our programs as best we can through this situation. This is not the time to decimate programs and eliminate offerings for our students. We went through this kind of situation during the 2008 recession, with state aid cuts and an economy in turmoil, and it took years to restore our lost programs."

The vote on the 2020-21 school budget will take place by absentee ballot. No in-person voting will be held. A ballot has been mailed to all registered voters. Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on June 9 in order to be counted.

If you are a qualified voter and have not received a ballot, please call (518) 347-3600 ext. 73102 or email bdelong@sgcsd.net. A qualified voter is a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, who has lived in S-G for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

The \$58.1 million budget proposal calls for a property tax levy increase of 2.66%, which is below the district's state-calculated maximum increase of 2.67%. That equals a \$99 annual increase or \$8.25 per month increase for the typical homeowner with a \$160,000 assessment.

"We are hoping to preserve our programs as best we can through this situation. This is not the time to decimate programs and eliminate offerings for our students."

SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN SWARTZ

Closing the gap in 2020-21

Swartz's proposals this spring to close the \$514,000 gap in the 2020-21 budget essentially involved moving administrators to new positions caused by retirements and combining grade 1 positions at Glendaal (where kindergarten enrollment is currently very low) in order to add a grade 5 position at Sacandaga (where enrollment is expected to increase).

These administrators will be shifted at no additional cost:

- The Committee on Special Education chairperson is retiring and will be replaced by a current administrator.
- The Administrator for Annual Performance Reviews will be reassigned to another position.
- The Lead Teacher for Instructional Technology will be reassigned to a retirement vacancy.

As for combining grade 1 sections at Glendaal, the two current small kindergarten sections – 12 and 13 students each – will be combined into a single grade 1 section next year that will have 25 students and a full-time Teaching Assistant. **Sf**

2020-21 budget at a glance

- **\$58.1 million** in spending.
- **2.1% spending increase:** \$1,205,143 increase over the current year's budget.
- **2.66% tax levy increase:** NYS maximum allowable tax levy increase for S-G is 2.67%.
- **Based on a typical \$160,000 assessment,** tax bills will increase by \$99 per year or \$8.25 per month. That works out to a tax rate increase of 62 cents per \$1,000 assessed value.
- **All programs maintained:** Despite expected cuts to state aid, Scotia-Glenville administrators are confident that they can provide the same level of service and programming as the current budget.
- **Absentee voting:** Absentee ballots have been mailed to all registered voters. Those must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9 in order to be counted. If you are a qualified voter and did not receive an absentee ballot, call (518) 347-3600 ext. 73102 or email bdelong@sgcsd.net.
- **Three Board of Education seats are up for election and four candidates have filed petitions:** Kimberly Boucher Furnish, David Bucciferro, Pamela Carbone and Richard Frederick are seeking election to the board (see page 6).
- **Bus purchase proposal:** The community will also decide on purchasing six buses at a cost not to exceed \$465,000. This purchase does not affect the 2020-21 budget (see page 6). **Sf**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE 2020-21 BUDGET PROPOSAL

▸ Who can vote on June 9?

Community members who are U.S. citizens may vote in the Tuesday, June 9 school elections if they:

- have been a resident of the district for at least 30 days and
- are at least 18 years old.

The district uses registration records from the Schenectady County Board of Elections. **All registered voters have been mailed an absentee ballot to participate in the June 9 election.** There will be NO in-person voting this year because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

If you are a qualified voter and did not receive a ballot, you should call (518) 347-3600 ext. 73102 or email bdelong@sgcsd.net.

Ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9 in order to be counted. **ff**

▸ What new initiatives are in the 2020-21 budget proposal?

All current programs will be continued in the proposed 2020-21 budget. There were \$514,000 in reductions while the budget was being developed. That savings was achieved mostly through retirements and reassigning of administrators.

Potential state aid reductions, which could continue through December, have created an amount of uncertainty. Scotia-Glenville administrators are confident that they can provide the services and programs outlined in the 2020-21 budget proposal. **ff**

▸ Does the 2020-21 budget plan stay within Scotia-Glenville's property tax levy cap?

Yes. The state-mandated maximum tax levy cap for Scotia-Glenville in 2020-21 is 2.67%, according to the state's eight-step formula. The proposed S-G budget carries a 2.66% tax levy increase. **ff**

▸ Will Scotia-Glenville property taxpayers be eligible for the state's property tax rebate?

No. The property tax rebate program was not renewed by the state Legislature this year.

The program began in 2016 and provided rebates of part of the tax payments residents paid to school districts, towns, counties and villages during the previous year as long as those entities kept tax increases below the state's tax levy cap. **ff**

▸ What if the budget were defeated on June 9?

In the case of a budget defeat, school districts typically can put up the same budget or a revised budget for a second vote.

However, given the delay in this year's initial vote to June 9, the date in law for a revote of June 16 would not be possible. That would mean that school districts would have to adopt a contingent budget after the first defeat. The district is seeking further guidance on what options may be available in that event.

A contingent budget would require a \$804,468 reduction in the tax levy and school expenditures. The school district would not be able to exceed the 2019-20 tax levy. **ff**

▸ What is the difference between the tax RATE and the tax LEVY?

The tax levy is the total amount of money the district raises in taxes each year from all property owners.

Tax rates are calculated by dividing the total amount of the levy by the total taxable assessed value in a community. The tax rate is used to calculate each individual tax bill.

Under the proposed 2020-21 budget, the Glenville/Scotia tax rate would increase by 2.66% to an estimated \$23.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A home with an assessment of \$160,000 would see an estimated tax bill increase of \$99 per year, or \$8.25 per month.

The tax levy and tax rate increases are the same at this point since final assessment figures are not known. The Board of Education adopts final tax rates in August. **ff**

▸ How does the state's STAR program affect my tax bill?

The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) is paid by the state to the school district and is not administered by Scotia-Glenville.

The STAR program in 2020-21 will reduce school tax bills in Glenville by the same amounts as in 2019:

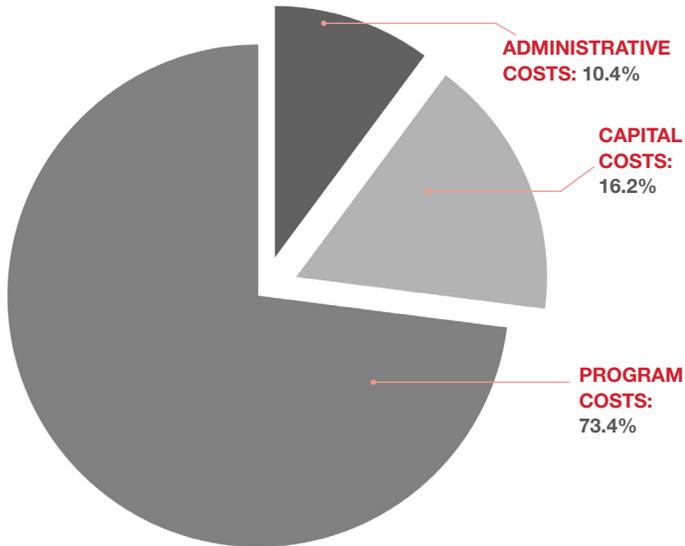
- **Estimated \$620 for Basic STAR** recipients. Property owners with incomes below \$500,000 are eligible.
- **Estimated \$1,199 for Enhanced STAR** recipients. Enhanced STAR is for property owners over age 65 with incomes of less than \$86,300. **ff**

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Scotia-Glenville's three-part budget: 2020-21

New York state requires school districts to show their proposed 2020-21 budgets divided into three categories: Program, Capital and Administrative.



Program

73.4% of the proposed 2020-21 budget

This part of the budget includes the salaries and benefits of teachers, teaching assistants, teacher aides and supervisors who spend a majority of their time teaching; instructional costs such as supplies, equipment and textbooks; and transportation operating costs.

2019-20 costs	2020-21 proposed costs
\$41,696,149 (73.2%)	\$42,698,743 (73.4%)

Capital

16.2% of the proposed 2020-21 budget

This part of the budget includes all purchases of buses; legal judgments and settled claims; salary and benefits for custodial and maintenance staff; all facilities costs, including service contracts, supplies, utilities, maintenance, repairs, construction, renovation and debt; leasing costs; and capital transfers.

2019-20 costs	2020-21 proposed costs
\$9,418,150 (16.5%)	\$9,418,559 (16.2%)

Administrative

10.4% of the proposed 2020-21 budget

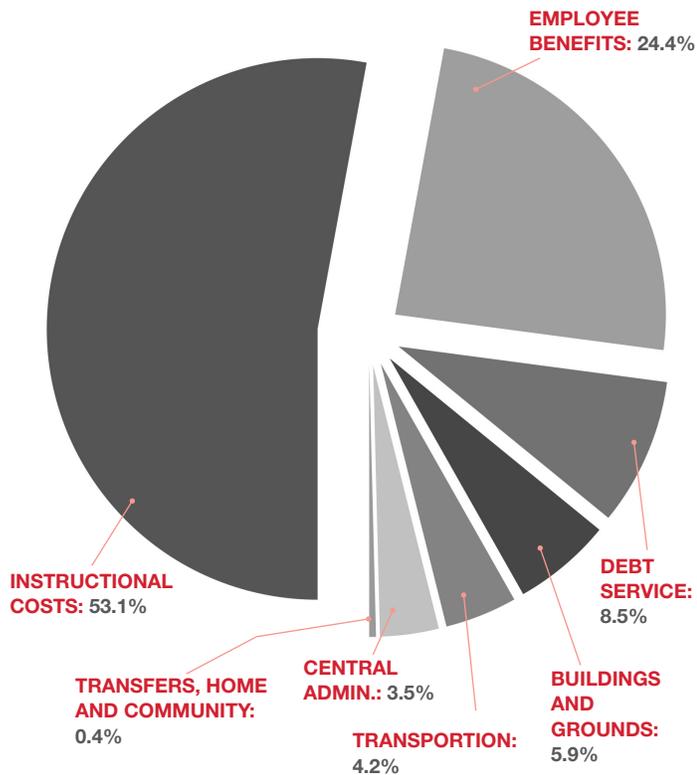
This part of the budget includes office and central administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified and non-certified administrators who spend 50 percent or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; supplies; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

2019-20 costs	2020-21 proposed costs
\$5,841,441 (10.3%)	\$6,043,581 (10.4%)

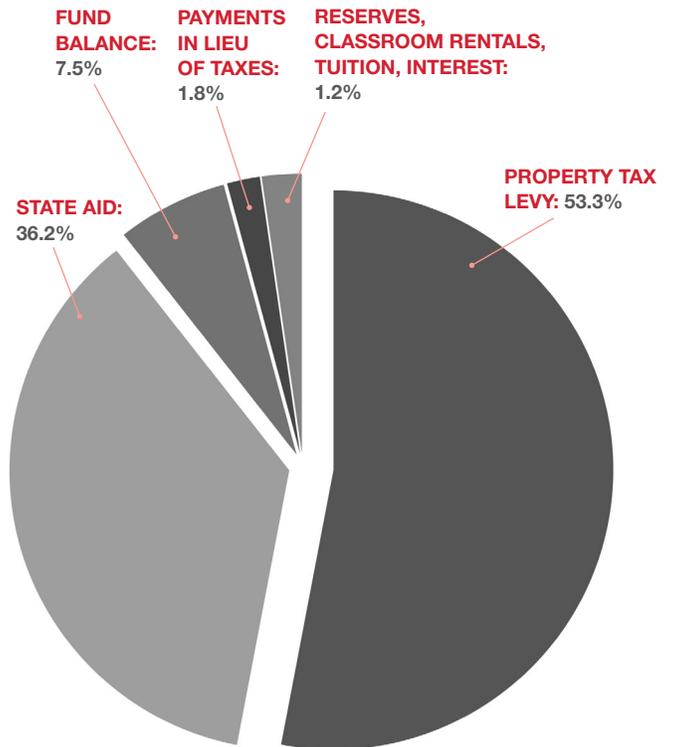
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES: 2020-21

<i>Projected Expenditures</i>	<i>2019-20 Adopted</i>	<i>2019-20 Proposed</i>	<i>% of 2020-21 Budget</i>	<i>\$/% Change from 19-20 to 20-21</i>
Instructional costs	\$30,118,574	\$30,910,946	53.1%	\$792,372 (2.6%)
Employee benefits	\$13,781,398	\$14,194,929	24.4%	\$413,531 (3.0%)
Buildings and grounds	\$3,382,913	\$3,408,694	5.9%	\$25,781 (0.8%)
Debt service	\$5,033,806	\$4,942,979	8.5%	-\$90,827 (-1.8%)
Pupil transportation	\$2,420,285	\$2,440,710	4.2%	\$20,425 (.8%)
Central administrative functions	\$2,006,905	\$2,042,766	3.5%	\$35,861 (1.8%)
Transfer to funds	\$100,000	\$108,000	0.19%	\$8,000 (8%)
Transfer to special aid	\$99,000	\$99,000	0.18%	\$0 (0%)
Home and community	\$12,859	\$12,859	0.03%	\$0 (0%)
Total expenditures	\$56,955,740	\$58,160,883	100.0%	\$1,205,143 (2.1%)

Expenditures: 2020-21 ↓



Revenues: 2020-21 ↓



PROJECTED REVENUES: 2020-21 ↓

<i>Projected revenues</i>	<i>2019-20 Adopted</i>	<i>2020-21 Proposed</i>	<i>% of 2020-21 Budget</i>	<i>\$/% Change from 19-20 to 20-21</i>
Foundation aid	\$13,544,154	\$13,544,155	23.3%	\$1 (0%)
Building aid	\$3,074,153	\$2,903,370	5.0%	-\$170,783 (-5.6%)
Transportation aid*	\$1,808,585	\$1,829,278	3.1%	\$20,693 (1.1%)
BOCES aid*	\$1,281,698	\$1,519,187	2.6%	\$237,489 (18.5%)
High cost special ed. aid*	\$788,032	\$1,018,109	1.8%	\$230,077 (29.2%)
Software, hardware, textbook, library aid*	\$251,715	\$247,224	0.4%	-\$4,491 (-1.8%)
Total New York State aid	\$20,748,337	\$21,061,323	36.2%	\$312,986 (1.5%)
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)	\$1,085,390	\$1,020,000	1.8%	-\$65,390 (-6.0%)
BOCES rental, refunds, misc..	\$150,000	\$150,000	0.3%	\$0 (0%)
Interest, Medicaid, Medicare aid	\$305,000	\$305,000	0.5%	\$0 (0%)
Tuition, admissions, etc.	\$247,676	\$247,676	0.4%	\$0 (0%)
Fund balance	\$4,216,425	\$4,369,504	7.5%	\$153,079 (3.6%)
Property tax levy	\$30,202,912	\$31,007,380	53.3%	\$804,468 (2.66%)
Total revenues	\$56,955,740	\$58,160,883	100.0%	\$1,205,143 (2.1%)

* These are for reimbursement of services that S-G has already paid for.



Four seeking three seats on the BOE

Four candidates are seeking three Board of Education seats at the June 9 vote. The seats each carry three-year terms and are unpaid. Candidates will be in this order on the ballot. All registered voters will be mailed absentee ballots to vote on June 9.

Kimberly A. Boucher Furnish, of 407 Vley Road, is seeking a first term on the board.



Kimberly Boucher Furnish

Boucher Furnish works as an assistant counsel for the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. She holds a bachelor's degree in French from Longwood College in Virginia and a law degree from Albany Law School.

Boucher Furnish, a 12-year SG resident, served as co-president and president of the Sacandaga PTA from 2016-19. She was also the PTA Council's Reflections chairperson from 2015-19.

She and her husband, Mark, have one son, Isaac, in grade 6. **56**

David J. Bucciferro, of 323 Glen Avenue, is seeking a fourth term.

He was first elected in July 2011. He has served as board president since July 2014.



David Bucciferro

He is a senior advisor for Foothold Technology. He previously worked for the NYS Office of Mental Health.

Bucciferro is a former president of the All Sports

Booster Club.

A 33-year district resident, he holds a bachelor's degree from Siena College and a certificate in psychiatric rehabilitation from Boston University Center.

He is married to Linda. Their family includes Erica, Bruce and Alex. **56**

Pamela S. Carbone, of 20 Vista Drive, is seeking a ninth term.

She was elected in 1996 and was board president from 2009 to 2014.



Pamela Carbone

Carbone is a retired science teacher from Schenectady Schools.

A 35-year district resident, Carbone holds a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from

Transylvania University in Kentucky and a master's degree in physics from Wright State University in Ohio.

She was an active PTA member for years.

Her son graduated from S-G; her grandchildren attend Lincoln and the high school. **56**

Richard J. Frederick, of 15 Horstman Drive, is seeking a first term on the board.



Richard Frederick

He is a managing data scientist with Assurant Inc. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University at Albany.

A 40-year district resident, he is president of the Tartan Youth Lacrosse League and is active in the Tartan Youth Basketball recreational league. He is member of the Freemason Lodge 915 in Scotia and of the Glen-Worden PTA.

He and his wife, Sandy, have three children: Evan, grade 6 at the middle school and Charles, grade 4; and Ava, grade 2 at Glen-Worden. **56**

Bus purchase proposal on the June 9 ballot

Six buses to be purchased

The Scotia-Glenville community will be asked to consider the purchase of six unleaded fuel school buses on June 9.

The \$465,000 proposition calls for buying:

- two 35-passenger buses;
- one 30-passenger 4WD vehicle;
- one 24-passenger wheel chair bus;
- one 72-passenger bus; and
- one 7-passenger suburban 4WD vehicle.

The school district has historically replaced buses with deteriorating body condition. However, the school district is now taking into consideration bus repairs and high maintenance costs as well as down time.

The net impact to Scotia-Glenville's fleet is an increase of two vehicles: one large bus (creates spare) and a suburban.

The buses being replaced are all seven years old. They are:

- Buses #204 and #205 (34-passenger) are currently out of service and have 99,535 and 76,041 miles, respectively.
- Bus #203 (34-passenger) has 84,843 miles.
- Bus #206 (31-passenger wheel chair bus) has 103,014 miles.

The district expects a \$13,500 trade-in credit for these vehicles.

There would be no tax impact for these purchases in the 2020-21 budget. **56**



NYS REQUIRED BUDGET NOTICE - 2020-21

	Budget adopted for the 2019-20 school year	Budget proposed for the 2020-21 school year	Contingent budget for the 2020-21 school year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$56,955,740	\$58,160,883	\$57,356,415
Increase/decrease for the 2020-21 school year		\$1,205,143	\$400,675
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		2.12%	0.7%
Change in the consumer price index		1.81%	
A. Proposed levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$30,202,912	\$31,007,380	
B. Levy to support library debt, if applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for non-excludable propositions, if applicable**	\$0	\$0	
D. Total tax cap reserve amount used to reduce current year levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total proposed school year tax levy (A+B+C-D)	\$30,202,912	\$31,007,380	\$30,202,912
F. Total permissible exclusions	\$1,219,726	\$1,444,452	
G. School tax levy limit, <u>excluding</u> levy for permissible exclusions	\$29,170,240	\$29,563,832	
H. Total proposed school year tax levy, <u>excluding</u> levy to support library debt and/or permissible exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$28,983,186	\$29,562,928	
I. Difference: (G-H); negative value requires 60% voter approval – See note below regarding separate propositions**	\$187,054	\$904	
Administrative component	\$5,841,441	\$6,043,581	\$5,891,563
Program component	\$41,696,149	\$42,698,743	\$42,046,293
Capital component	\$9,418,150	\$9,418,559	\$9,418,559

*Under state law, boards of education typically may submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. That may not be the case this year because of the late voting date. The Board of Education may adopt a contingent budget and set the tax levy at the 2019-20 levy amount. That would require reductions in staffing, materials, supplies, equipment, public use of the buildings and other expenditures.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Purchase six buses – two 35-passenger buses, one 30-passenger vehicle, one 24-passenger wheel chair bus, one 72-passenger bus and one 7-passenger suburban	\$465,000

Basic and Enhanced STAR Exemption Impact

The state’s STAR program reduces a home’s assessment before computing individual school tax bills. The Basic STAR program is available to primary homeowners earning less than \$500,000; the Enhanced STAR program provides a larger savings for those over age 65 with qualifying incomes. Applications are available from the town assessor’s office in each town. The application deadline is March 1. Call your town assessor. The Glenville town assessor can be reached at (518) 688-1200, ext. 403.

	Budget proposed 2020-21
Maximum Basic STAR tax savings (2020-21 full-value reduction of \$26,700):	\$620
Maximum Enhanced STAR tax savings (2020-21 full-value reduction of \$61,140):	\$1,199

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Scotia-Glenville Central School District, Schenectady, Montgomery and Saratoga counties, New York, **will be held exclusively by absentee ballot** in said district on **Tuesday, June 9, 2020. There will be no in-person voting. All voting will be done by absentee ballots**, which have been mailed to all qualified voters in the school district. **The ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on June 9.** Voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age and a resident of Scotia-Glenville for 30 days.

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Scotia-Glenville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

News

BUDGET 2020 - 21

A six-year history of school budgets, spending and taxes at Scotia-Glenville

School Year	Budget total*	Budget spending increase/decrease*	Total net NY state aid	Glenville tax rate per \$1,000 assessed (change)*	Tax bill for \$160,000 home assessment*
2020-21 (<i>Proposed</i>)	\$58.1 million	\$1,205,143	\$21.0 million	\$23.98	\$3,837
2019-20	\$56.9 million	\$966,044	\$20.7 million	\$23.36	\$3,738
2018-19	\$55.9 million	\$2,582,710	\$21.2 million	\$22.74	\$3,638
2017-18	\$53.4 million	\$1,358,419	\$20.1 million	\$22.16	\$3,546
2016-17	\$52.0 million	\$696,545	\$19.7 million	\$21.49	\$3,438
2015-16	\$51.4 million	\$569,782	\$19.0 million	\$21.66	\$3,465

If the proposed 2020-21 budget is approved by the community on June 9:

- ▶ Spending will have increased by \$6.7 million or 13% since July 2015 (2.16% per year on average).
- ▶ Typical tax bills will have increased by 10.7% or \$372 since September 2015 (1.78% per year on average).

* Final tax rates are set by the Board of Education in August. Percentages and dollar amounts are rounded.

Typical tax bills are BEFORE savings from the state's STAR school tax reduction exemption, veterans' and income exemptions.

What will I see on the June 9 ballot?

The Scotia-Glenville community will vote until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9. All voting will be done through absentee balloting. The community will consider these proposals:

- ▶ **\$58,160,833 budget for 2020-21** – carrying an estimated 2.66% tax levy increase (see pages 1-2).
- ▶ **\$465,000 maximum cost for six buses** – two 35-passenger buses, one 30-passenger vehicle, one 24-passenger wheel chair bus, one 72-passenger bus and one 7-passenger suburban (see page 6).
- ▶ **Selection of three Board of Education candidates** (see page 6).

Didn't get an absentee ballot? See page 3 for information about how to obtain one.