

SyossetPride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSED BUDGET BELOW TAX CAP AGAIN

Dear Syosset Community,

After evaluating existing programs, reviewing expenditures and identifying future needs, the Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget for the 2016-17 school year that preserves all existing academic and extracurricular programs, continues to promote innovation through the use of leading-edge technology and is below the New York State tax levy cap.

For the fifth consecutive year, our proposed budget will remain at or under the cap, which is 0.30 percent for 2016-17. **The district's proposed tax levy increase of 0.14 percent represents the lowest percentage tax levy increase in 26 years.**

Throughout the budget development process, we have listened and taken note of the invaluable input provided by so many members of the Syosset community and once again relied heavily on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance and our own administrative team. We believe this budget is a true representation of what our students and residents value in

their schools, providing unique and meaningful experiences that enrich the classroom and prepare students for the challenges of the future.

Ongoing investment in the college-readiness Virtual Enterprise program will provide our students with a competitive edge in areas of entrepreneurship, global business, problem-solving, communication and personal finance. Thanks to our Technology Workgroup of teachers and administrators titled "Project IDEA," numerous technology initiatives and tools were identified and piloted at different schools this year and will further enhance collaboration, communication and creativity at all grade levels in years to come.

As we continue to build on our successful educational program, we are also paying close attention to the physical state of our schools. This year, we began to address the high school roof and added new playgrounds at two of our elementary schools last summer. Next year, we will install new elementary playground equipment that we hope will be supplemented by



In the last several years the district has allocated financial reserves to navigate the challenges of an up and down economy. This has enabled us to preserve all programs and services for students while staying under the tax cap.

grant funding. We will also continue with the final phase of the high school roof, as well as address the A.P. Willits Elementary School roof and other upgrades, again using appropriated fund balance so there is no additional increase to the tax levy.

Our facilities department and administration continue to monitor and update us on the core facility needs at all of our schools. While our schools have been well maintained through the years, they were all built in the 1950s, with the last significant capital improvement endeavor undertaken 15 years ago. Currently, we are weighing various mechanisms to address future facility needs in the most cost-effective and responsible manner including use of funds from our Capital Reserve, funds from the sale of the Woodbury property and a possible Energy Performance Contract.

Additional state aid and the return of funds from the Gap Elimination

Adjustment, combined with responsible use of appropriated fund balance, reserves and recent savings realized in pension costs have enabled us to contain the cost impact of our high-quality programs and services. The Board will continue to evaluate potential efficiencies to maximize your investment in your schools.

Please read this edition of The Pride carefully to learn more about the proposed budget, voting locations and some points of pride in our schools, and exercise your right to vote on May 17.

Regards,

The Syosset Board of Education

Dr. Michael Cohen	Rob Gershon
April Neuendorf	Josh Lafazan
Chris Di Filippo	Susan Parker
Andrew Feldman	Laura Schlesinger
Tracy Frankel	

Advocacy Restores State Aid, Eliminates GEA Cuts

In 2010, the New York State Legislature enacted Gap Elimination Adjustment cuts in school aid as a means of closing the State budget gap. These cuts eliminated as much as \$2.3 million per year in revenue from district finances.

Last year, the Board of Education began writing to Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Charles Lavine seeking restoration of funds lost under the GEA. **This April, the district learned that there will be a full restoration of GEA funds and Syosset CSD will receive an overall increase in State education aid of \$1.7 million.**

This latest good news is the culmination of the Board and community's collective advocacy efforts and enables the district to continue providing a quality education without large tax increases. The Syosset CSD thanks Legislators Marcellino and Lavine for their support.

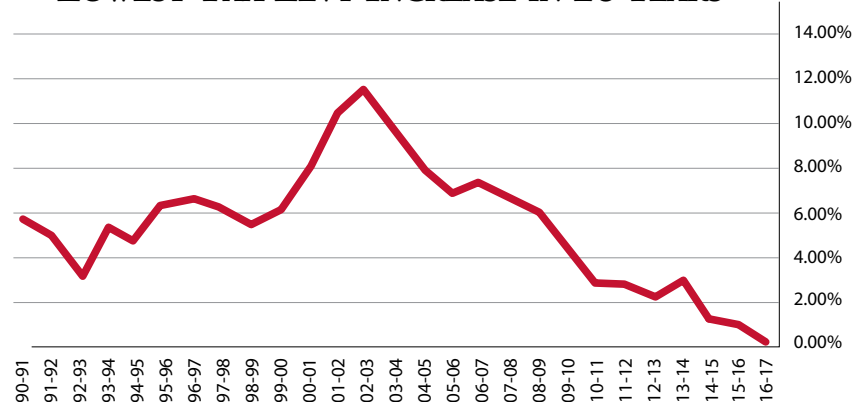
Syosset Central School District
Syosset, New York 11791

Nonprofit
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****ECRWSS****

Resident of
Syosset Central School District

LOWEST TAX LEVY INCREASE IN 26 YEARS





Points of Pride

DISTRICTWIDE

- Syosset CSD ranked 82nd in the Niche.com 2015-16 rankings of U.S. school districts based on quality of program, achievement and parent/student testimonials.
- For the 15th time, Syosset was designated as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation.
- 60 students districtwide were selected as All-County artists by the Nassau Art Supervisors Association.
- 264 students districtwide participated in the NMEA All-County ensembles.

HIGH SCHOOL

- 26 student-musicians were named to this year's NYSSMA All-State ensembles, the most by any school in the state.
- Two student-musicians were selected to perform in the 2015 NAFME All-National Honors Ensemble showcase.
- An ensemble was selected by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to perform in the 33rd Annual Young Musicians Concert.
- A sophomore won the NMEA logo design contest. Her winning design was printed on T-shirts, sweatshirts and other articles.
- A sophomore won first place in the individual website competition at the National History Day L.I. Regional, advancing to the state level.
- The principal tied for "Best Principal of L.I."
- A teacher was selected as a 2016 Distinguished Teacher by the Harvard Club of L.I.
- A teacher received the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator of the Year award.
- The National Merit Scholarship Program designated 13 students as finalists; 33 students were named Commended Students.
- Five students were named national semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search.



- Two finalists and seven semifinalists were named in the prestigious Siemens Science Competition.
- Literary magazine KEN was awarded first-place overall by the American Scholastic Press Association.
- Six seniors were nominated for the 2016 Presidential Scholar Award.
- 21 students received awards at LISEF and NYSSEF, with two advancing to Intel ISEF.
- The Forensics Society was ranked in the top 1 percent in the country by the National Speech and Debate Association; 11 students will compete in the national competition this spring.
- The school's chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 330 seniors this year.
- A record 80 students competed in the NYS DECA Competition, with 47 receiving awards and 28 qualifying for the national competition.
- Boys and girls cross-country and boys winter track were crowned County Champions.
- Eight students won individual County Championships in boys winter track, swimming, and wrestling.
- Two State Champions were crowned in boys winter track and wrestling.
- Several varsity athletic teams qualified for postseason play in fall and winter sports with girls soccer and boys volleyball securing Conference Championships.
- A member of the boys varsity basketball team led the County in scoring.
- Girls varsity volleyball won the Team Sportsmanship Award.
- Varsity wrestling was honored as a NYS All-Academic Team.
- A varsity softball player was designated a News 12 Scholar Athlete.
- A varsity boys basketball player was the conference's top scholar-athlete.
- Approximately 2,100 students and close to 300 faculty and staff members walked the SHS campus to raise awareness and \$2,600 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- Interact Club coordinated efforts that raised more than \$2,000 for the Gift of Life.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- An H.B.T. student won the L.I. Regional Spelling Bee and advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee this May.
- Three teams from South Woods competed in the Science Olympiad Western L.I. Regionals, with one team advancing to the NYS level, where they won 10 medals.
- Six H.B.T. students won first place in the National History Day L.I. Regionals, advancing to the NYS level.
- Two H.B.T. ensembles were selected by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to perform in the 33rd Annual Young Musicians Concert.
- Students at South Woods collected more than 850 pounds of food for Mercy First.
- South Woods sent a team of sixth-graders to the Nassau County Trivia Championships, where they finished as runner-up.
- An H.B.T. seventh-grader advanced to the NYS level of the National Geographic Bee.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Every elementary school in the district launched a character education initiative under the PRIDE program.
- Students held dozens of food and toy drives during the holiday season to help a variety of local organizations that service those in need.
- Students in all of the elementary schools participated in the National Day of Code, learning computer programming codes in a fun and interactive way.
- Several schools held multicultural activities to share information about other countries' customs and cultures.
- A South Grove fifth-grader advanced to the NYS level of the National Geographic Bee.

CLASS OF 2015 STATISTICS

Syosset High School's Class of 2015 produced remarkable graduation rates, Regents diploma numbers, scholarship figures and postsecondary plans.

- The high school graduated 538 students.
- Regents diplomas were awarded to 99 percent of graduating students, with 251 receiving Regents diplomas with advanced designation with honors, 211 receiving Regents diplomas with advanced designation and 5 receiving Regents honors diplomas.
- Continuing Syosset's tradition and support of higher education, 98 percent of graduating students are attending academic institutions.
- 50 students received acceptance to the country's Ivy League schools.
- Over the past five years, Syosset students have received an aggregate average of \$30.8 million per graduating class in scholarship money.
- The Class of 2015 received non-need based scholarships totaling \$27,000,200.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNCTION

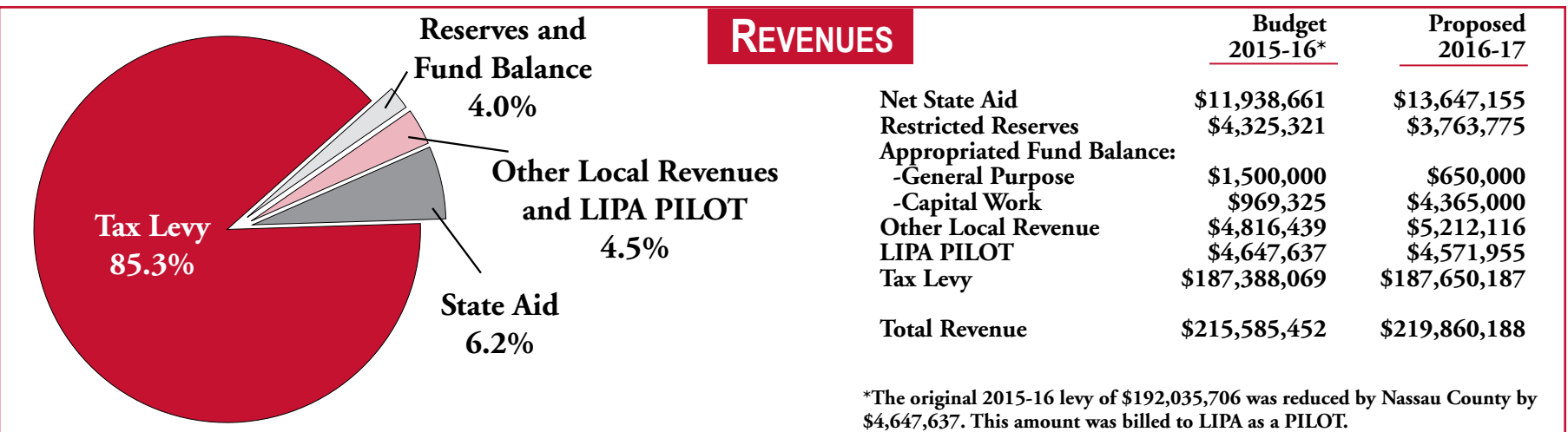
ACTUAL BUDGET AVAILABLE ON DISTRICT WEBSITE: WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG

	2014-15 BUDGET	2015-16 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2016-17 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$45,400	\$47,300	\$47,200
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	\$41,680	\$42,980	\$45,801
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	\$25,000	\$46,763	\$47,163
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	\$397,976	\$401,728	\$403,980
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$596,250	\$514,819	\$534,005
1320 AUDITING	\$106,800	\$109,400	\$103,400
1345 PURCHASING	\$390,172	\$407,926	\$426,048
1420 LEGAL FEES	\$452,760	\$399,048	\$399,050
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	\$569,026	\$558,048	\$551,850
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	\$76,367	\$78,598	\$90,500
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS	\$9,610,985	\$9,515,340	\$9,661,557
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS*	\$3,434,270	\$3,450,798	\$3,562,283
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS	\$818,782	\$1,527,276	\$1,528,496
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING	\$469,888	\$424,007	\$402,725
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING	\$1,433,983	\$1,546,344	\$1,716,166
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$1,445,814	\$1,675,528	\$1,596,631
1981 ADMIN CHARGE – BOCES	\$936,490	\$906,316	\$889,391
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	\$2,058,611	\$1,892,407	\$1,897,011
2020 SUPERVISION REGULAR	\$5,980,879	\$6,283,011	\$6,327,554
2070 IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS	\$95,000	\$345,000	\$345,000
2110 REGULAR DAY SCHOOL	\$71,963,990	\$74,217,177	\$75,232,000
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$27,446,914	\$28,061,270	\$28,198,305
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$330,000
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$124,603	\$124,603	\$135,403
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	\$279,096	\$293,354	\$318,200
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	\$2,325,626	\$2,398,038	\$2,344,337
2630 COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$1,189,946	\$1,535,257	\$1,662,914
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	\$290,249	\$308,380	\$250,444
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	\$2,715,201	\$2,800,184	\$2,775,299
2815 HEALTH SERVICES	\$1,283,437	\$1,307,147	\$1,333,930
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$2,155,622	\$2,193,635	\$2,279,353
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	\$0	\$45,000	\$76,402
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$1,302,172	\$1,355,523	\$1,404,787
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	\$2,095,827	\$2,182,503	\$2,241,605
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	\$237,306	\$237,306	\$240,503
5540 CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$9,416,475	\$9,501,477	\$9,455,675
5581 BOCES TRANSPORTATION MGMT. SERVICE	\$0	\$32,000	\$32,000
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	\$241,402	\$288,502	\$273,502
8070 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	\$28,985	\$28,985	\$18,750
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – ERS	\$3,665,102	\$3,365,321	\$2,865,775
9020 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – TRS	\$17,615,276	\$13,867,420	\$12,336,204
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$9,052,581	\$9,187,112	\$9,155,735
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$22,600,898	\$23,159,353	\$24,269,762
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	\$1,013,124	\$1,013,124	\$1,013,124
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	\$1,658,730	\$1,615,690	\$1,554,230
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES INTEREST (TANs)	\$367,000	\$479,167	\$675,000
9950 CAPITAL FUND TRANSFER**	\$0	\$969,325	\$4,365,000
9901 INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$4,105,000	\$4,275,962	\$4,206,138

* Includes allocation of \$127,266 for the replacement of playground equipment and \$122,500 for the replacement of vehicles used for snow removal and mowing.

** The \$4,365,000 Capital Fund Transfer includes the completion of the high school roof, the replacement of the A.P. Willits Elementary School roof and electrical service upgrades and floor and door replacement at A.P. Willits. These projects have no additional tax levy impact as they are being completely funded by an allocation of fund balance.

GRAND TOTALS	\$212,730,695	\$215,585,452	\$219,860,188
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VOTER GUIDE

PROPOSITION No. 1 SCHOOL BUDGET 2016-2017

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2016-2017 be adopted and the necessary amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon property of the Syosset Central School District.

PROPOSITION No. 2 SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 2016-2017

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2016-2017 be adopted and the necessary amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the Syosset Central School District.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Three-Year Terms (Vote for Three)

☐ 1A	Rob Gershon
☐ 2A	Tracy Frankel
☐ 3A	Susan Parker
☐	Write-in Candidate
☐	Write-in Candidate
☐	Write-in Candidate

MEMBERS OF THE SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Five-Year Terms (Vote for One)

☐ 4A	Reid Goldsmith
☐	Write-in Candidate

Moody's Rating Strong

Moody's Investors Service recently affirmed our strong Aa1 bond rating – citing our “robust financial position.” Moody's stated, “Syosset's credit position is excellent, and its Aa1 rating is stronger than the median rating of Aa3 for school districts nationwide,” and added that the district has an “exceptionally light debt burden with a moderate pension liability.”

Once again, the district has structured a proposed budget designed to preserve our long-term fiscal health and provide exceptional opportunities for students.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What is the estimated tax levy increase?

A. The proposed budget would increase the school tax levy by 0.14 percent, the lowest tax levy increase in 26 years. This proposal is below the state-mandated tax cap of 0.30 percent. This is the lowest cap for Syosset since the law was enacted. The total proposed budget of \$219,860,188 carries a 1.98 percent budget-to-budget increase for the 2016-17 school year.

Q. What does the budget support?

A. The proposed budget preserves all current academic offerings, as well as all extracurricular and co-curricular programs. It funds several new technology initiatives. The budget also adds new elementary playground equipment, completes the roof replacement project at the high school and supports the full roof replacement at A.P. Willits Elementary School, in addition to flooring and door replacement and electrical upgrades. Security upgrades at all schools will continue. There will be no cuts in programs or reductions in staff and instructional support.



Q. What happens if voters do not approve the budget?

A: If the budget is defeated on May 17, the district will be faced with three options. The Board could choose to submit the same budget for a revote, submit a revised version of the defeated budget, or adopt a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice, a contingency budget must be adopted, and state law would mandate that the district revert to a zero percent tax levy increase for the 2016-17 year. That would require the district to make \$262,118 in reductions to the proposed budget and delay the A.P. Willits and high school roof projects by at least a year.

Q: Where can I acquire more information about the district's proposed budget?

A: Complete copies of the 2016-17 proposed budget are available in the district office and at each school building and can be downloaded from the district's website, www.syossetschools.org.



Voting Information

The annual budget vote and election of Board of Education trustees will be held on May 17 from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. at Robbins Lane Elementary School, H.B. Thompson Middle School and Syosset High School.

The table below shows where residents must vote based on their elementary school attendance zone:

Elementary school attendance zone:	Voting site:
Robbins Lane and South Grove	Robbins Lane Elementary School
A.P. Willits and Baylis	H.B. Thompson Middle School
Walt Whitman, Berry Hill and Village	Syosset High School

If you are a resident who does not have children enrolled in the district, you may refer to the district website to find your designated polling location. Go to www.syossetschools.org and click on the Community tab located at the top right navigation of the home page. You will find your polling location under the “Voter Information” menu option.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration will take place at South Woods Middle School on Monday, May 9 from 4-8 p.m.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

In order to vote in the annual school district election, voters must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older and a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Eligible voters include those who have voted in school district elections within the past four years, those who are registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections, and those who register on one of the 2016 registration dates.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot applications are available on the district's website at www.syossetschools.org. Absentee ballot applications must be mailed back to the district no later than the seventh day before the election or delivered in person back to the district no later than the day before the election.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 17
AT YOUR DESIGNATED VOTING LOCATION!**

BUDGET 2016

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Michael Cohen, President April M. Neuendorf, Vice President
Christopher Di Filippo Andrew Feldman Tracy Frankel
Rob Gershon Joshua A. Lafazan Susan Parker
Laura Schlesinger

Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools