

# Syosset Pride

*A Publication of the Syosset Central School District*

[www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org)

## Building on Success

### SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING DISTRICTWIDE INITIATIVES WHILE REMAINING BELOW THE TAX CAP

Dear Syosset Community,

On May 21, the community will vote on the proposed budget adopted by the Board of Education for the 2019-20 school year. The budget not only allows the District to maintain all the current academic offerings as well as extra-curricular and co-curricular programs that make a Syosset education truly exceptional, but also build on the many new initiatives begun in recent years to advance our curriculum and facilities, empowering us to provide an unmatched education that prepares our students for a rapidly advancing society.

The proposed budget underscores the priorities of the District, including deepening K-12 curriculum alignment in science, math and ELA, building learning pathways in coding, supporting the curriculum with instructional technology, enhancing the facilities, and providing a safe and supportive environment for our school community while remaining below the New York State tax levy cap. While the calculated tax levy cap is 3.34% for Syosset this year, the proposed budget carries a tax levy increase of 2.49%. The Board remains sensitive to the tax burden on our community and continues to seek efficiencies and utilize reserves to offset the tax levy and fund capital projects.

The District is in the midst of a multiyear process of modernizing learning spaces, and upgrading school libraries has been a focus of this process. Several of the school libraries have been redesigned, with the remaining elementary libraries slated for the upcoming school year. Not only are the redesigned libraries more visually appealing, but they better support the way students learn today. The redesigned spaces allow for increased collaboration and enhanced interaction

with technology. Flexible furniture adapts to a variety of learning modalities and teaching methods, and empowers students to make choices regarding their environment to best position themselves to be focused and productive. This promotes essential higher-order thinking skills and engagement in the learning process and has the added benefit of making the school day more interesting and fun.

The budget also supports the continued use of leading-edge technology to enhance the curriculum. This year, several new technology products were piloted throughout the District. Equipment was put to the test by students and teachers, and only those products that met our high level of expectations have been considered for purchase. Based on the success we have seen with interactive boards, the budget supports the expansion of this technology.

Coding has become a core competency, and Syosset students have been actively engaged in the coding program KidOYO, which was recently rolled out Districtwide. Syosset has become a model district for the program, with our students earning thousands of coding badges while engaging in increasingly complex languages and collaborative, multi-class projects. The proposed budget maintains this program, and we look forward to continuing to provide the opportunity for students to build their digital portfolios.

The mental health and well-being of our students has long been a priority for the District. Students today face many pressures and we understand the need to provide appropriate support. The proposed budget includes the addition of two mental health positions, including a board-certified behavior



analyst for elementary schools and a psychologist/social worker at the high school to enhance the social-emotional learning of students as well as to provide additional support for post-secondary planning.

We have been engaged in active conversation with the community on security initiatives, and while we are proud of the numerous security enhancements implemented this year, maintaining a safe environment is an ongoing responsibility. The proposed budget supports an even higher level of security while maintaining an environment that is welcoming and comfortable for our students. The proposed budget supports the addition of part-time security guards with law enforcement experience to our staff, as well as an allocation for additional security equipment, including vehicles and interior cameras.

As part of the previously approved Phase 1 construction projects, the District will replace classroom doors District-wide. Recently a door product that can be approved in a school setting became available which would enable us to have not only intruder-resistant, but firearm-resistant doors, although at an added expense over the original proposal. Therefore, a second proposition on the May ballot seeks the public's approval to authorize the District to use a combination of security reserve and grant monies to pay the cost difference for the upgraded replacement classroom doors and for a "one-button lockdown" remotely-controlled locking mechanism.

If approved, this proposition would have no impact on the tax levy. Last year, the community approved establishing a Capital Reserve Fund for Security which was funded by existing savings. The funds were set aside to be used specifically for security-related projects. Approval of this proposition allows the District to use these funds

already set aside to purchase the upgraded security doors.

In addition to the 2019-20 budget and capital reserve fund propositions, candidates for the annual Board of Education trustee election will appear on the May 21 ballot. All voting will take place from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. at Robbins Lane Elementary School, H.B. Thompson Middle School and Syosset High School. For more information on voting locations, please refer to the back of this newsletter or the District website.

We encourage you to attend the public budget hearing on May 13 at South Woods Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m. You may also refer to the Board of Education tab of the District website or call the District Office at 516-364-5600 to contact us. The Board and administration value your input. Please reach out to us with any thoughts, questions or concerns.

Regards,

The Syosset Board of Education

### Proposition No. 2: Capital Reserve Authorization

**The May 21 ballot contains a second proposition, separate from the proposed 2019-20 school district budget. Proposition No. 2 seeks voter approval to authorize the District to use a combination of reserves and grant funds to upgrade the specification of classroom doors to include firearm resistance.**

Syosset Central School District  
Syosset, New York 11791

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Organization  
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Resident of  
Syosset Central School District

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act requires school districts in Nassau County to provide election information in English and Spanish. In accordance with this Act, materials produced by Syosset Central School District pertaining to the 2019-20 District Election and School Budget Vote will be distributed in both languages.



# POINTS OF PRIDE

## SYOSSET SCHOOLS DELIVER

- Syosset High School ranked fifth best on Long Island, ninth best in New York State; H.B. Thompson and South Woods Middle School ranked in the top five middle schools in New York State; all elementary schools ranked within the top 35 best public elementary schools in the state by Niche.com.
- Syosset High School awarded National Blue Ribbon designation.
- One Regeneron Science Talent Search finalist, four semifinalists.
- Ten National Merit SemiFinalists, 31 Commended students.
- Syosset Forensics named champion of NYS Grand Championship Tournament.
- Nassau County Math Tournament Curt Boddie Memorial Award for first-place finish.
- NYS Champion of Poetry Out Loud.
- National Scholastic Arts & Writing gold medalist.
- 34 DECA qualifiers for the International Career Development Conference.

### Fine and Performing Arts

- Designated a 2019 Best Community for Music Education.
- Four All-National Honors.
- Nine All-Eastern musicians.
- 34 All-State musicians (largest number in the state).
- 318 All-County musicians (largest number in the county).
- Scholastic Art Award gold medalist.
- Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar Artist.

### Character and Community

- Both middle schools received “No Place for Hate” designation.
- Tens of thousands of dollars raised Districtwide for charitable organizations such as AHRC, Angela’s House, Cohen’s Children’s Medical Center, Cystic Fibrosis, Ronald McDonald House, Toys for Tots and local food pantries.
- Student-hosted community events, including a Veteran’s Day Breakfast and Senior Citizen Prom.

### Athletics

- Varsity girls basketball: undefeated conference champions, county finalists.
- Varsity boys swim: Conference 1 champions, Nassau County champions, New York State Team Scholar Athlete Award.
- Varsity gymnastics: Conference II champions, county champions, All-American team award.
- Varsity girls tennis: county champions.
- Varsity boys cross -country: county champions.
- Varsity cheer: First place at Section VIII Nassau competition.
- Varsity girls soccer: Nassau AA Girls Soccer champions.
- Coach of the Year awarded to varsity girls basketball coach Ferreira and varsity boys swim coach Schleider.



## PROPOSITION NO. 2: *Expenditure of Capital Reserve Funds*

### What Is Proposition No. 2?

A second proposition on the May ballot seeks the public’s approval to authorize the District to use a combination of an existing fund balance, reserves and state grant funds to pay the cost difference of upgraded replacement classroom doors that offer added security features including firearm resistance and a “one-button lockdown” remotely-controlled locking mechanism.

### Why is the community being asked to vote on Proposition No. 2?

As part of the previously approved Phase 1 construction projects, the District will replace classroom doors District-wide. Recently a door product that can be approved in a school setting became available which would enable us to have not only intruder-resistant, but also firearm-resistant doors with a remotely-controlled locking mechanism. The more heavily-reinforced doors would provide a significantly enhanced security level, although at an added expense over the

original proposal. Public approval is required to use a combination of an existing fund balance, reserves and state grant funds pay for the cost difference of the upgraded doors.

### Will approval of Proposition No. 2 impact taxes?

No. The upgrade to the more heavily reinforced doors requires public approval to use \$2 million from the Security Capital Reserve Fund created last year, \$942,521 remaining in the capital reserve created in 2014, and up to \$2 million from undesignated unreserved fund balance, offset by revenue of approximately \$1.2 million anticipated from grant funds allocated to the District by New York State. With these identified revenue sources, approval of the Proposition would not result in an increase in taxes, additional borrowing would not be required and the District would not have to cut from other areas of the budget to support the initiative.

# SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNCTION

ACTUAL BUDGET AVAILABLE ON DISTRICT WEBSITE: [WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.SYOSSETSCHOOLS.ORG)

	2017-18 BUDGET	2018-19 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2019-20 BUDGET
1010 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$47,200	\$46,700	\$46,700
1040 DISTRICT CLERK	\$45,801	\$45,018	\$48,787
1060 DISTRICT MEETINGS	\$59,621	\$31,500	\$30,500
1240 CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE	\$406,900	\$410,862	\$422,699
1310 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$539,619	\$557,837	\$569,494
1320 AUDITING	\$141,000	\$123,270	\$128,370
1345 PURCHASING	\$429,127	\$494,892	\$592,833
1420 LEGAL FEES	\$374,900	\$378,000	\$429,600
1430 PERSONNEL OFFICE	\$570,705	\$593,872	\$645,520
1480 COMMUNITY RELATIONS	\$90,500	\$139,500	\$170,537
1620 CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS <sup>1</sup>	\$10,108,243	\$9,849,071	\$9,870,762
1621 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS <sup>2</sup>	\$3,446,371	\$4,085,302	\$6,178,261
1631 SECURITY OPERATIONS <sup>3</sup>	\$1,659,519	\$2,573,631	\$3,131,061
1670 CENTRAL PRINTING	\$380,505	\$447,020	\$554,359
1680 CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING	\$2,402,017	\$2,673,346	\$2,716,217
1910 ALLOCATED INSURANCE	\$1,704,661	\$1,770,000	\$1,140,923
1981 ADMIN CHARGE – BOCES	\$731,122	\$736,906	\$759,013
1983 BOCES CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$161,603	\$159,075	\$163,847
1989 UNCLASSIFIED	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
2010 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/SUPERVISION	\$2,425,569	\$2,467,980	\$2,434,478
2020 SUPERVISION REGULAR	\$6,290,991	\$6,382,827	\$6,578,512
2070 IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS	\$456,200	\$426,200	\$516,200
2110 REGULAR DAY SCHOOL	\$76,129,772	\$76,747,151	\$77,853,175
2250 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$28,581,989	\$29,049,073	\$29,770,065
2280 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION	\$384,943	\$385,000	\$400,000
2310 CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$135,428	\$133,525	\$118,623
2320 SUMMER SCHOOL	\$342,200	\$355,570	\$377,095
2610 LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM	\$2,357,855	\$2,474,980	\$2,712,937
2630 COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	\$3,095,325	\$2,820,000	\$3,303,500
2805 ATTENDANCE OFFICES	\$255,444	\$232,082	\$246,510
2810 GUIDANCE OFFICES	\$2,829,409	\$2,950,276	\$3,048,481
2815 HEALTH SERVICES	\$1,334,102	\$1,421,545	\$1,525,824
2820 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$2,315,900	\$2,563,261	\$2,698,807
2825 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	\$79,027	\$77,938	\$105,418
2850 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$1,429,937	\$1,529,150	\$1,573,965
2855 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS <sup>4</sup>	\$2,303,653	\$2,446,379	\$2,702,919
5510 DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	\$253,656	\$192,428	\$195,696
5540 CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION <sup>5</sup>	\$9,434,675	\$9,928,252	\$10,126,700
5581 BOCES TRANSPORTATION MGMT. SERVICE	\$32,000	\$47,210	\$47,210
7140 COMMUNITY SERVICES/RECREATION	\$273,502	\$243,352	\$261,221
8070 COMMUNITY SERVICES/CENSUS	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$18,750
9010 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – ERS	\$2,946,888	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
9020 RETIREMENT SYSTEM – TRS	\$10,325,380	\$11,490,000	\$9,909,500
9030 SOCIAL SECURITY	\$9,163,961	\$9,274,958	\$9,648,064
9045 LIFE INSURANCE	\$190,000	\$200,000	\$205,000
9060 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$27,084,122	\$30,525,138	\$30,360,112
9065 DENTAL INSURANCE	\$990,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
9000 OTHER BENEFITS	\$1,536,730	\$1,536,730	\$1,521,862
9760 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES INTEREST (TANs)	\$562,500	\$562,500	\$720,000
9901 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	\$3,456,954	\$3,397,963	\$4,309,913
9950 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL FUND <sup>6</sup>	\$3,335,898	\$1,400,000	\$2,200,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$68.9K equipment allocation for custodial equipment.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$1.7 million allocation for Districtwide equipment, including replacement vehicles for maintenance and grounds, generator, flexible classroom and library furniture, replacement office furniture, replacement auditorium and gym curtains.

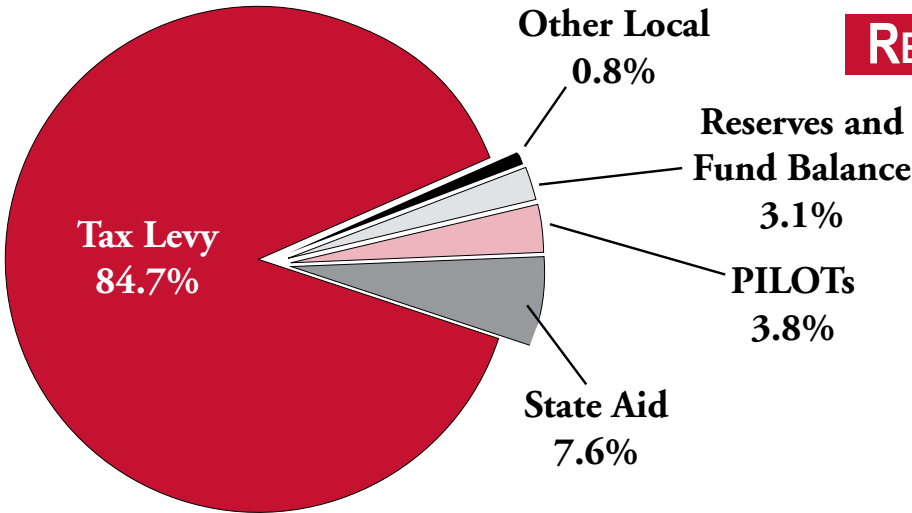
<sup>3</sup> Includes \$127K allocation for security vehicles and equipment.

<sup>4</sup> Includes \$158K for athletic equipment, including replacement gym wall padding and divider, utility cart, and pool bleachers.

<sup>5</sup> Includes second of three-year transportation services contract at the NYSED-allowable CPI increase.

<sup>6</sup> The \$2.2 million Transfer to Capital Fund includes flooring and lighting work at elementary schools, elementary library renovations, HS pool deck renovation, replacement of HBT dust collection system, partial roof replacement at South Woods, and school security upgrades including bollards, enhancements to the HS vestibule and HS guard booth. These projects have no additional tax levy impact as they are being completely funded by an allocation of fund balance.

GRAND TOTALS	\$223,702,174	\$230,346,020	\$236,977,020
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## REVENUES

	Budget 2018-19	Proposed 2019-20
Net State Aid	\$16,302,931	\$ 17,918,722
Restricted Reserves	\$3,880,000	\$ 3,880,000
Appropriated Fund Balance:		
-General Purpose	\$1,600,000	\$1,200,000
-Capital Work	\$1,400,000	\$2,200,000
-Security Upgrades	\$1,000,000	--
Other Local Revenues	\$1,616,436	\$ 1,867,424
PILOTs	\$8,591,699	\$ 9,080,555
Tax Levy	\$195,954,954	\$ 200,830,319
TOTAL REVENUE	\$230,346,020	\$236,977,020



# VOTER GUIDE

## PROPOSITION No. 1

### SCHOOL BUDGET 2019-2020

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2019-2020 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.

## PROPOSITION No. 3

### SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year 2019-2020 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.

## PROPOSITION No. 2

### EXPENDITURE OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

SHALL the Board of Education of the Syosset Central School District be authorized to expend the sum of (a) \$2,000,000 from the Security Capital Improvement Program 2018 Reserve established on May 15, 2018; (b) \$942,521 from the 2014 Capital Reserve Fund established on May 20, 2014; and (c) \$2,000,000 from undesignated unreserved fund balance, less funds anticipated from the District's Smart Bond allocation in an amount not to exceed \$1,197,042 for the purpose of installing ballistic doors Districtwide, all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto.

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Three members for the term of three years and one member for the balance of an unexpired term commencing May 21, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2020.  
**Vote for Four.**

1A <input type="checkbox"/>	Tracy Frankel
2A <input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Gershon
3A <input type="checkbox"/>	Court Cousins
4A <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Uzma Syed
5A <input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Parker
6A <input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas A. Rotolo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in Candidate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in Candidate

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in Candidate
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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q: What is the estimated tax levy increase of the proposed budget?**

**A:** The proposed budget would increase the school tax levy by 2.49%. This is below the state-mandated tax cap set at 3.34%. The total proposed budget of \$236,977,020 carries a budget-to-budget increase of 2.88% for the 2019-20 school year.

**Q: What does the 2019-20 budget support?**

**A:** The proposed budget preserves all current academic offerings, as well as all extracurricular and co-curricular programs. It also funds the addition of two new positions to support student social-emotional health, the continuation of Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, ongoing new technology initiatives, including the purchase of interactive instructional technology and the continuation of KidOYO programming, school library redesigns, the purchase of flexible classroom furniture and initiatives to enhance school security, including hiring of part-time security guards with law enforcement background and an allocation for security equipment including cameras and vehicles.

**Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?**

**A:** If the budget is defeated on May 21, 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 2019-20 year. That

would require the District to make \$4,875,365 in reductions to the proposed budget and delay capital projects included in the budget.

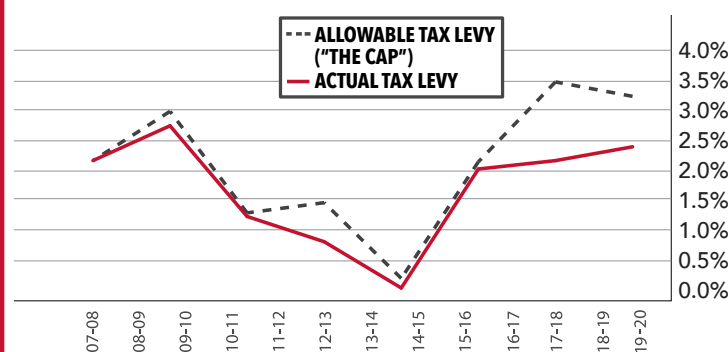
**Q: What happens if the capital reserve fund proposition is defeated?**

**A:** The budget and capital reserve fund proposition are separate and independent from one another, so passage or failure of one has no impact on the other. Should the Expenditure of Capital Reserve Funds proposition fail, the plan to upgrade the classroom doors to have firearm resistance capability would be delayed.

**Q: Where can I find more information about the District's proposed budget?**

**A:** Complete copies of the 2019-20 proposed budget can be downloaded from the District's website, [www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org), and are available in the District's Office and at each school building.

## SYOSSET CSD TAX CAP HISTORY



Since New York State implemented the tax levy cap in 2012, Syosset has produced budgets at or below the district's calculated cap.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 21 AT YOUR DESIGNATED VOTING LOCATION!**

## Voting Information

The annual budget vote and election of Board of Education trustees will be held on **Tuesday, May 21 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](http://www.syossetschools.org) and click on the District tab located in the channel bar in the top right of the homepage. 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 13, 2019 from 4-8 p.m.**

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

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 registered on one of the 2019 registration dates.

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot applications are available on the District's website at [www.syossetschools.org](http://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.

BUDGET 2019

# SyossetPride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

[www.syossetschools.org](http://www.syossetschools.org)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tracy Frankel, President Rob Gershon, Vice President  
Carol C. Cheng Christopher DiFilippo Andrew Feldman  
Anna Levitan Susan Parker Chris Ulrich

Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools