

# YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Volume 38• Number 4

April 2017

## 2017/2018 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

### VOTE

# TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

## South Side High School - 7AM to 9PM

### Proposed 2017/2018 Budget is Under the Tax Levy Cap

The Board of Education, along with the Rockville Centre School District Administration, is dedicated to ensuring that each student is provided an excellent education that enables them to attain their individual goals and dreams, whether it takes them next door or around the world. Our educational system, and the budget that supports it, have been developed to provide each student with the ability to thrive educationally, emotionally and socially. In this brochure, we present the 2017/2018 budget which is fiscally responsible, remains under the tax levy cap and includes funds to support the evolving needs of our students.

In recent years technology has become ubiquitous in our lives. This budget includes funds to support growth in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) at all levels. The addition of the necessary software and hardware, robotics in the middle school and high school, a new coding elective at the high school and changes in various curriculums to further integrate technology are also included in this budget. In addition, our staff will be provided with professional development to support our students.

The continuation of the IB program at both the high school and middle school levels will ensure that our students are well prepared for their futures. The recent addition of the IB Business course at the high school and its increasing enrollment, indicates our students' positive reception to our continued efforts in meeting their requirements. Participation in the full IB diploma program at the high school increases every year and the success of our students never ceases to amaze.

Other items included in this budget are additional maintenance, security, and custodial staff to ensure that our students continue to have a well maintained infrastructure in which they can thrive and be safe.

This budget enables the District to maintain all programs and staffing levels. Due to careful planning by Administration and the settlement of contracts with teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, teacher aides and nurses, the District continues to be fiscally stable. It is the efforts of the entire community that contribute to the successes of our students. As we move forward during these challenging times, this Board of Education is dedicated to ensuring that the educational philosophy and excellence of this District is not only maintained, but continues to grow. Your vote plays an important role in our continuing efforts to educate all of our children to fulfill their potential.

**Please exercise your right to vote on:**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 7AM to 9PM in the Gymnasium at South Side High School**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	DATES TO REMEMBER		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Message from the Board of Education</li><li>◆ Budget Summary</li><li>◆ Proposed 2017/2018 School Budget</li><li>◆ Registration and Voting Information</li></ul>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
	20 Board of Education Meeting and Preliminary Budget Hearing	1 Meet the Candidates	1 Board of Education Meeting
		3 Board of Education Meeting and Budget Hearing	20 Board of Education Meeting
		16 Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote	23 High School Graduation
		25 Board of Education Meeting	

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### **Maintaining Current Programs**

The community's high expectations of the Rockville Centre Public schools are reflected in the opportunities our District provides its students so they can successfully meet the challenges of college, career and citizenship. The Board and Administration are committed to continuously improving the educational programs offered to its students while, at the same time, using taxpayer dollars wisely. Rockville Centre is a high performing school district that recognizes educational excellence and equity for all students and consistently receives regional, state and national recognition. The proposed 2017/2018 school budget:

- Allows for all programs involving instruction and student activities to continue
- Preserves all academic programs including Foreign Language at the Elementary Schools (FLES), STELLAR, Middle Years Program (MYP) and the International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Supports our technology initiatives including 1:1 iPads in grade levels 5-12
- Provides professional development to build on the fundamentals of leadership and teamwork and ensure that staff members continue with effective teaching methods
- Continues the integration of technology into the curriculum
- Creates special education programs allowing students to remain in-district, reducing costs
- Allows for students to participate in extracurricular activities and community service events

### **Technology Initiatives Supported by the Budget**

As part of our ongoing commitment to technology and building 21st century skills for all of our students, we are supporting several initiatives with the proposed 2017/2018 school budget. Much of our technology is purchased through an agreement with Nassau BOCES which provides state aid to the District on the purchases. As we continue this commitment, the proposed 2017/2018 budget includes the cost of purchasing iPads for students and staff, allocating funds towards web filters in order to keep our students safe as they explore the Internet, supporting an iPad Management system and continuing our replacement cycles for older laptops and desktops throughout the District. Laptops are necessary for in-depth research and expanded essay writing, and will also be utilized as New York State moves towards online testing.

Included within the proposed budget are new interactive TV systems which will begin to replace outdated Smartboards. This new technology is similar to a TV or computer monitor, requiring no additional costs for projectors or replacement bulbs. The new monitors are more flexible, with interactive touch screens and are more cost efficient. The proposed budget will continue to support STEAM (Science, Technology Engineering, Art, Mathematics) initiatives with a new Coding elective at the high school and additional support for our Secondary Robotics program. We are proud to say that STEAM initiatives can now be found at every level of our District K-12.

The Rockville Centre School District's Mission Statement calls upon us "...to empower each student to meet the challenges of tomorrow's emerging world." We feel strongly that the proposed 2017/2018 school budget helps do just that.

### **Measures the District Has Taken to Keep Expenditures Low**

Rockville Centre School District's careful management of resources and strategic, long-range planning has enabled the District to develop a budget that keeps educational expectations high while minimizing the cost to District residents. Some of the steps taken to keep expenditures low are:

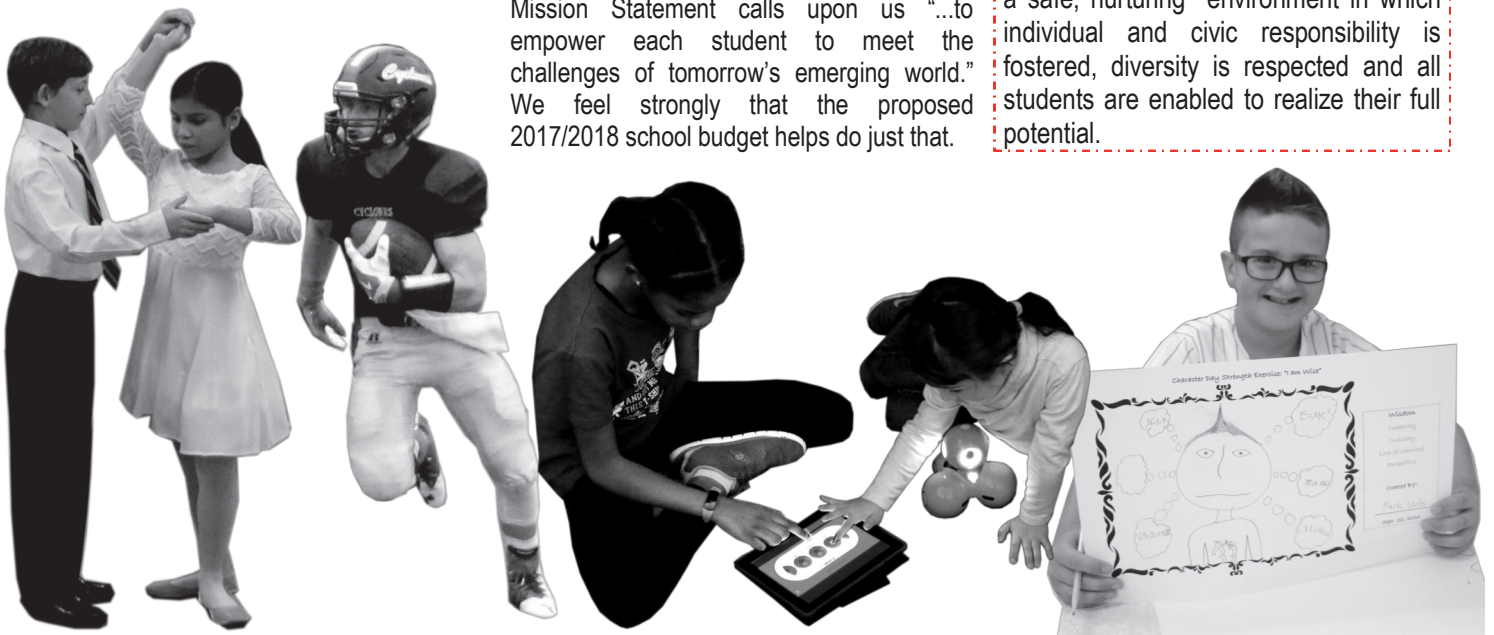
- Working with all bargaining units to fairly settle contracts and negotiate increased employee contributions to health insurance
- Cooperatively bidding for services and supplies with BOCES, the county, the state and other districts
- Participating in county-wide transportation consortiums thereby reducing costs
- Utilizing BOCES services in lieu of private contracts in an effort to increase state aid

### **Transfer to Capital Fund**

The Transfer to Capital Fund is a part of our capital expense budget which is used to repair, maintain and improve all District facilities. This transfer will be used for repair and upgrades to roof systems, HVAC systems, floors and ceilings, auditoriums, access and security of buildings, bathrooms, painting and site work.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Rockville Centre School District is to educate our students to become independent problem solvers. It is our goal to empower each student to meet the challenges of tomorrow's emerging world. The District will provide a safe, nurturing environment in which individual and civic responsibility is fostered, diversity is respected and all students are enabled to realize their full potential.



## 2017/2018 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

### SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017/2018</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
<b>Appropriations</b>			
General Support	\$10,104,967	\$10,010,516	\$10,037,866
Instruction	63,302,674	65,472,213	67,661,396
Transportation	4,157,977	4,192,108	3,983,336
Community Services	192,950	192,950	192,950
Employee Benefits	25,210,400	24,987,400	25,359,400
Debt Service, Building Improvements & Inter-fund Transfers	4,109,692	4,627,508	5,447,125
<b>Grand Total: Appropriations</b>	<b>\$107,078,660</b>	<b>\$109,482,695</b>	<b>\$112,682,073</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
State Aid	\$8,732,414	\$10,089,695	\$11,765,073
Local Revenues	4,499,790	4,778,000	5,617,000
Applied General Fund Balance	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$16,032,204</b>	<b>\$17,667,695</b>	<b>\$20,182,073</b>
<b>Balance to be Raised by Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$91,046,456</b>	<b>\$91,815,000</b>	<b>\$92,500,000</b>
<b>Grand Total: Revenues</b>	<b>\$107,078,660</b>	<b>\$109,482,695</b>	<b>\$112,682,073</b>
<b>Assessed Valuation as of March 1</b>	<b>\$10,803,247</b>	<b>\$10,156,262</b>	<b>\$10,274,784 **</b>

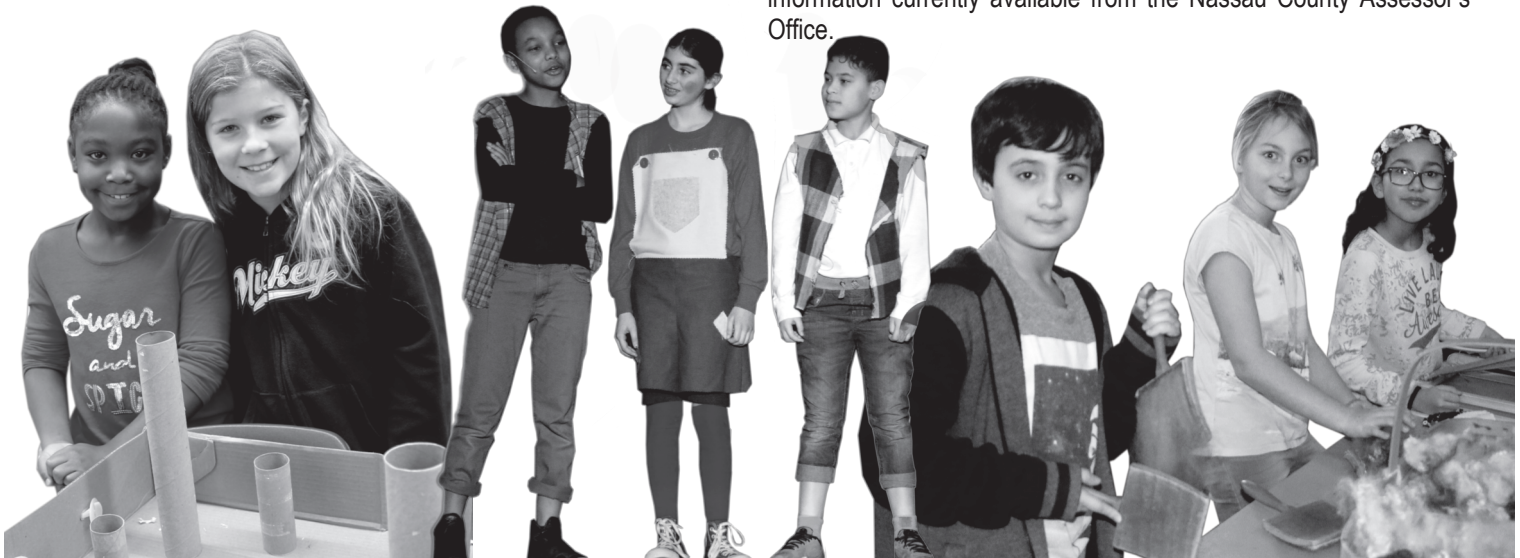
\*\*Tentative

#### Contingency Budget

If the budget fails to pass on May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Board can decide to put up the same budget or an adjusted budget for a public re-vote in June. If the re-vote fails, the District would be forced to adopt a contingency budget with a 0% tax increase. A 0% tax levy increase budget would require the Rockville Centre School District to reduce the budget by \$685,000. In addition, school districts that do not receive approval from the voters for their budgets are required to develop "contingent" budgets that **strictly limit** the types of activities, programs, services and purchases that may be funded.

#### Impact of the 2017/2018 Budget on the Average Taxpayer

There are a number of factors and variables that contribute to the changes in how much a homeowner pays in taxes each year. These include changes to the assessed value, tax levy, adjusted base proportion and STAR exemptions. According to the Nassau County Department of Assessment, the average home in Rockville Centre for the 2017/2018 school year is tentatively valued at \$448,400. The projected tax increase on the average home in Rockville Centre for 2017/2018 is estimated to be approximately \$90 based on the information currently available from the Nassau County Assessor's Office.





# 2017/2018 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

## General Support

	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Board of Education	\$28,400	\$28,015	\$28,240
District Clerk	45,756	45,136	45,636
District Meetings—Annual Election	120,440	108,700	109,700
Superintendent's Office	535,265	550,309	541,809
Business Administration	894,360	967,950	952,450
Auditing	120,000	120,000	120,000
Treasurer	93,266	97,300	97,300
Legal Services	281,500	277,500	252,500
Personnel Administration	474,516	463,700	415,700
Public Information Services	30,333	29,883	29,133
Plant Operations	4,049,921	3,947,413	3,928,405
Plant Maintenance	1,698,025	1,649,635	1,697,433
Central Printing	384,474	383,575	399,510
Data Processing Services	408,711	391,400	435,050
Insurance	440,000	450,000	470,000
BOCES Administrative Fees	500,000	500,000	515,000
<b>Total General Support</b>	<b>\$10,104,967</b>	<b>\$10,010,516</b>	<b>\$10,037,866</b>

## Instruction

	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Curriculum Development	\$619,524	\$662,200	\$704,210
Supervision of Schools	2,968,788	3,018,149	2,976,439
Supervision of Special Schools	55,358	55,000	55,000
Research, Planning & Evaluation	126,084	120,000	120,000
Staff Development	321,984	348,200	352,000
All Regular Instruction	38,483,736	40,087,974	41,292,612
Pupils with Special Needs	10,632,080	11,088,413	11,614,305
Occupational Education	270,000	270,000	330,000
Instruction in Special Schools	908,220	888,425	1,012,925
Library and Audio-Visual Services	545,723	551,707	579,988
Educational Television	141,601	140,996	140,778
Computer Assisted Instruction	2,313,282	2,317,013	2,320,954
Attendance Services	58,810	50,000	50,000
Guidance Services	1,216,208	1,272,455	1,347,520
Health Services	1,126,530	1,090,653	1,128,589
Psychological Services	1,082,880	1,059,250	1,019,250
Social Work Services	834,578	866,000	985,000
Pupil Personnel Services	97,780	102,000	107,000
Co-Curricular Activities	390,171	389,000	442,000
Interscholastic Activities	1,109,337	1,094,778	1,082,826
<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>\$63,302,674</b>	<b>\$65,472,213</b>	<b>\$67,661,396</b>

## Transportation

	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
District Transportation	\$511,595	\$516,200	\$531,200
Contract Transportation	3,218,382	3,247,908	3,037,136
Public Transportation	55,000	55,000	52,000
BOCES Transportation	373,000	373,000	363,000
<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$4,157,977</b>	<b>\$4,192,108</b>	<b>\$3,983,336</b>

## 2017/2018 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

### Community Services

	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017/2018</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
General Support	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Instruction	12,950	12,950	12,950
<b>Total Community Services</b>	<b>\$192,950</b>	<b>\$192,950</b>	<b>\$192,950</b>

### Employee Benefits

	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017/2018</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
NYS Employee Retirement System	\$1,200,000	\$900,000	\$1,400,000
NYS Teacher Retirement System	6,500,000	5,900,000	5,400,000
Social Security	4,400,000	4,600,000	4,650,000
Workers' Compensation	525,000	550,000	550,000
Life Insurance	60,000	60,000	50,000
Unemployment Insurance	95,000	90,000	60,000
Health/Dental Insurance	11,577,000	12,032,000	12,492,000
Union Benefits	853,400	855,400	757,400
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$25,210,400</b>	<b>\$24,987,400</b>	<b>\$25,359,400</b>

### Debt Service, Building Improvements and Inter-fund Transfers

	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017/2018</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Transfer: Debt & Special Aid Funds	3,929,692	3,936,243	4,467,125
Transfer: Capital Fund	0	511,265	800,000
<b>Total Debt Service, Building Improvements and Inter-fund Transfers</b>	<b>\$4,109,692</b>	<b>\$4,627,508</b>	<b>\$5,447,125</b>

### Student Achievements

Our students have made our community proud through their many and varied accomplishments throughout the school year. Children of all ages have spread their wings and have soared in the classrooms, on the fields and courts, at countless competitions, on the stage and during their many community service activities. Here are just a few of their many spectacular feats!

All high school juniors are enrolled in the most rigorous English and Social Studies International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Last year 99.6% of our graduates received a Regents Diploma, 86% received a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and over 50% completed the full requirements for an IB Diploma. Among this year's graduates are National Merit Finalists and Commended Scholars, and the winners of science competitions such as the Junior Science and Humanities Symposia, Chemaginations, and the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. Our athletes have participated in All-Conference, All-Division, All-Class, All-County, All-Long Island, All-State and All-Region competitions, while one student was chosen as a County Scholar Athlete and several students were State Qualifiers. Our musicians and artists have performed in many prestigious groups including All-County, All-State, and NAFME, All-Eastern programs.

We are not finished, the best is yet to come! Visit our website, download our App, follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all of the latest student success stories.

### Educating Students Beyond the Classroom

As a District, in addition to working hard to provide high quality education for all students, we strive to create well-rounded individuals who value the importance of community involvement. Below are some of the many programs in which our students have participated which foster these qualities.

- The Annual Rockville Centre Schools Walkathon, Community Resource and Wellness Fair, when students unite with community members to stand against substance use and to promote healthy living.
- National Inclusive Schools Week promotes acceptance for all students throughout the District.
- Spirit Week at South Side High School, a time when students unite in various activities to show their school spirit and to support those in need by collecting canned foods and small toys.
- The Annual Intergenerational Sharing Conference that partners students with senior citizens from the Sandel Senior Center to work together and learn from each other while creating a performance by students and their senior partners.
- Challenge Day at South Side Middle School allows 8<sup>th</sup> graders to build a connection with their peers to become positive forces of change in their schools and communities.
- Character Day at South Side Middle School teaches students the importance of developing resilience, grit, empathy, courage and kindness as character strengths.
- Take a Veteran to School Day allows students and faculty to honor and show their appreciation for the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces.
- Red Ribbon Week is an elementary level campaign which provides prevention awareness for alcohol, tobacco, drugs and violence.



### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Rockville Centre Public Schools  
128 Shepherd Street Rockville Centre, NY 11570  
(516)255-8957

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LIZ DION, Vice President

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Rockville Centre, NY

Permit # 273

## **Annual Election and Budget Vote** **Tuesday, May 16, 2017—7 AM to 9 PM** **South Side High School Gymnasium**

### **Preliminary Budget Hearing:**

Changes or modifications to the budget may result at this meeting.

Thursday, **April 20, 2017** at 7:30 PM – South Side High School

### **Budget Hearing:**

No changes to the budget can be made at this time.

Wednesday, **May 3, 2017** at 7:30 PM – South Side High School

### **Voter Registration:**

School Business Hours 8:15 AM—4:30 PM through **May 11, 2017**

District Administration Building, 128 Shepherd Street

### **Voter Qualifications:**

You must be eighteen years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the District for at least thirty days before the day of the vote.

### **Absentee Ballot Information:**

Absentee ballot applications can be picked up at the District Clerk's office, mailed to you, or downloaded from the District's website at [www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org). Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00PM on **May 16, 2017**.

## **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUDGET, VISIT [WWW.RVCSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.RVCSCHOOLS.ORG)**