

# YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Volume 37• Number 4

April 2016

## 2016/2017 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

### VOTE

# TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

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

### Proposed 2016/2017 Budget is Within the Tax Levy Limit

Sustaining the excellence expected of our school district and maintaining its fiscal stability are our priorities as your Board of Education. We know that education is a sound investment in our children's future. It is our collective goal to educate the whole child—academically, socially and emotionally. Our commitment is to provide opportunities so that our students can successfully meet the challenges of college, career, and citizenship. The reality of achieving these goals requires careful management, strategic planning, and the collective efforts of District staff, community members and, of course, our students. **The budget we are presenting maintains our educational staffing levels and the programs which provide our students the means for growth and opportunity.**

We are proud of our students and all their achievements. We must continue to improve and anticipate the needs as we plan for their future. To that end, the District has undertaken several initiatives. First, we will continue to provide all South Side High School students with International Baccalaureate classes in 11<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies. Research has shown students who are engaged in the more rigorous IB coursework are provided with a strong foundation for college and career readiness. Additionally the District is expanding on its successful Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) initiative and has begun to offer STEAM curriculum at both the elementary and high school levels. Computer coding and robotics, for example, are supported and provided for in this budget. The District has also continued its program to provide iPads to all students. In grades K-4 classes are provided with iPads to share; in grade 5 each student has an individualized iPad to use at school and in grades 6-12 each student has an iPad for use at school as well as at home.

Our community's high expectations and historic support of our public schools are reflected in the budget we are presenting which is within the New York State Tax Levy Cap. This State law mandates the total increase amount to our budget that can be raised through property taxes is capped at 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. It is not a limit on the assessed value, tax rate, or the amount which an individual homeowner's taxes may increase. Our District's proposed 2016/2017 tax levy increase is lower than the allowable limit. With the exclusions allowed by the State, the District's maximum allowable tax levy cap increase this year is calculated to be .85%. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of our Budget Work Sessions, we encourage you to view the presentations and documents that are available on the home page of the District website ([www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org)). We must work together as a school-community. Your vote plays an important part in Rockville Centre's continued excellence in education.

Please exercise your right to vote on:

**Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 7AM to 9PM in the gymnasium at South Side High School.**

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Message from the Board of Education
- ◆ School Improvement Bond Update
- ◆ Budget Summary
- ◆ Proposed 2016-2017 School Budget
- ◆ Registration and Voting Information

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

April	May	June
19 Board of Education Regular Meeting and Preliminary Budget Hearing	2 Meet the Candidates (tentative)	1 Board of Education Regular Meeting
25-29 Schools Closed—Passover Recess	4 Board of Education Meeting and Budget Hearing	21 Board of Education Public Work Session
	17 Annual School Board Election and Budget Vote	24 High School Graduation
	25 Board of Education Regular Meeting	

**WWW.RVCSCHOOLS.ORG**

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

Rockville Centre School District's long-range planning has allowed 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, other districts, the County and the State.
- Participating in County-wide transportation consortiums thereby reducing costs.
- Utilizing BOCES services in lieu of private contracts in an effort to increase State aid.
- Reducing tax anticipation note borrowing thus reducing interest payments.
- Completing a comprehensive energy upgrade at no net cost to the taxpayer and realizing guaranteed energy savings.

### **Maintaining Programs**

Education is one of our most precious community assets. The Board is committed to continuously improving our educational programs 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 2016/2017 school budget:

- Allows for all programs involving instruction and student activities to be kept whole.
- Preserves all academic programs including Foreign Language at the Elementary Schools (FLES), STELLAR, Middle Years Program (MYP) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).
- Supports all technological initiatives including 1:1 iPads in grade levels 5-12.
- Allows for professional development to build on the fundamentals of leadership and teamwork and to ensure that staff members continue with effective teaching methods.
- Continues the integration of technology into the curriculum.
- Creates in-district programs for special education students.
- 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 technology initiatives with our proposed 2016/2017 school budget. Much of our technology is purchased through an agreement with Nassau BOCES which allows the District to receive State aid on the purchases. The 2016/2017 budget includes the cost of

purchasing new iPads, as well as replacement laptops in all of our buildings. Even though our students now have access to iPads, laptops are still necessary for in-depth research and expanded essay writing, as well as accessing software. The laptops will also be utilized as New York State moves towards online testing. Funds are allocated to ensure our firewalls are sturdy to keep our students safe as they explore the Internet. Included within the proposed budget are SmartBoards, replacement projectors and carts in which to store the technology. With the introduction of programs such as Hour of Code and Robotics, and the addition of enhancements to our curriculum, we have seen the ties between technology and education grow even stronger throughout the District. Part of the Rockville Centre educational mission is to prepare our students for tomorrow's changing world. We feel strongly that the proposed 2016/2017 school budget helps do just that.



## **UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND**

On September 1, 2015, students at South Side High School and Watson Elementary School entered buildings with newly completed additions. At the High School, the new construction holds a new fitness room, a music lab and photography and art rooms. Reconfiguration in the main building of the High School also took place last summer, creating five classrooms where the library previously existed and allowing for the Outdoor Structures classroom to be brought into the main building. At Watson Elementary School, the new construction includes three classrooms and a small instructional space. South Side High School Principal, John Murphy, said, "By the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of school, students were perfectly acclimated with the new space and it was as though the art wing had been there all along."

District-wide installation of classroom air-conditioning began in 2014 and is expected to be completed by May 2016, just in time for the hotter days of June prior to the ending of school. The installation of main assembly space air-conditioning units at the elementary buildings will begin this summer. District-wide safety upgrades to classroom locksets is also underway.

This summer will be a busy time in the school district as work on the next phase of the School Improvement Bond projects continues. South Side High School will see the completion of the south addition. Construction on this addition has been moving along steadily throughout the school year. Currently, the foundation of the new structure has been poured, the roof decking completed and the block walls, along with the electrical and plumbing, have been installed. This addition will hold the new library, updated science rooms, a new social studies classroom, a chemical storage room, a new testing center and social worker and psychologist offices. The main building at South Side High School will also see interior renovations and upgrades. This work includes updating the kitchen and almost doubling the seating capacity in the student cafeteria, creating a new chemistry office, and moving and upgrading the research lab and greenhouse. South Side Middle School will also see some work over the summer months, including upgrades to the library and the auditorium and adding ADA access to the music rooms.

In order to complete the extensive work in the school buildings over the summer, the District, working with Village staff, has relocated some of the school district and the Rockville Centre Recreation Center summer programs. A detailed list of these relocations is available on the District website.

We expect all of our buildings to be ready for students in September 2016. We invite you to visit the District website regularly for the latest updates on projects and additional pictures. You can find us on [www.rvcschools.org](http://www.rvcschools.org).

# 2016/2017 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

## SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>2014/2015</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
<b>Appropriations</b>			
General Support	\$9,991,582	\$10,104,967	\$10,010,516
Instruction	61,219,178	63,302,674	65,472,213
Transportation	4,150,989	4,157,977	4,192,108
Community Services	192,950	192,950	192,950
Employee Benefits	24,489,400	25,210,400	24,987,400
Debt Service, Building Improvements & Inter-fund Transfers	3,092,655	4,109,692	4,627,508
<b>Grand Total: Appropriations</b>	<b>\$103,136,754</b>	<b>\$107,078,660</b>	<b>\$109,482,695</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
State Aid	\$7,782,414	\$8,732,414	\$10,089,695
Local Revenues	3,804,340	4,499,790 *	4,778,000
Applied General Fund Balance	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$14,386,754</b>	<b>\$16,032,204</b>	<b>\$17,667,695</b>
<b>Balance to be Raised by Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$88,750,000</b>	<b>\$91,046,456 *</b>	<b>\$91,815,000</b>
<b>Grand Total: Revenues</b>	<b>\$103,136,754</b>	<b>\$107,078,660</b>	<b>\$109,482,695</b>
<b>Assessed Valuation as of March 1</b>	<b>\$11,231,583</b>	<b>\$10,803,247</b>	<b>\$10,681,699 **</b>

\*Nassau County reduced Tax Levy due to LIPA PILOT which is now in local revenue

\*\*Tentative

### Contingency Budget

If the budget fails to pass on May 17<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 \$768,544. 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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 school year is tentatively valued at \$469,200. The projected tax increase on the average home in Rockville Centre for 2016/2017 is estimated to be approximately \$97 based on the information currently available from the Nassau County Assessor's Office.

### 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.



# 2016/2017 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

## General Support

	<u>2014/2015</u>	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Board of Education	\$28,325	\$28,400	\$28,015
District Clerk	44,819	45,756	45,136
District Meetings—Annual Election	110,754	120,440	108,700
Superintendent's Office	530,909	535,265	550,309
Business Administration	872,363	894,360	967,950
Auditing	120,000	120,000	120,000
Treasurer	90,214	93,266	97,300
Legal Services	309,900	281,500	277,500
Personnel Administration	470,439	474,516	463,700
Public Information Services	29,883	30,333	29,883
Plant Operations	4,017,007	4,049,921	3,947,413
Plant Maintenance	1,645,165	1,698,025	1,649,635
Central Printing	386,445	384,474	383,575
Data Processing Services	405,359	408,711	391,400
Insurance	420,000	440,000	450,000
BOCES Administrative Fees	510,000	500,000	500,000
<b>Total General Support</b>	<b>\$9,991,582</b>	<b>\$10,104,967</b>	<b>\$10,010,516</b>

## Instruction

	<u>2014/2015</u>	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Curriculum Development	\$611,898	\$619,524	\$662,200
Supervision of Schools	2,938,580	2,968,788	3,018,149
Supervision of Special Schools	54,540	55,358	55,000
Research, Planning & Evaluation	124,527	126,084	120,000
Staff Development	302,727	321,984	348,200
All Regular Instruction	37,155,513	38,483,736	40,087,974
Pupils with Special Needs	10,421,723	10,632,080	11,088,413
Occupational Education	270,000	270,000	270,000
Instruction in Special Schools	895,375	908,220	888,425
Library and Audio-Visual Services	532,348	545,723	551,707
Educational Television	123,795	141,601	140,996
Computer Assisted Instruction	2,055,620	2,313,282	2,317,013
Attendance Services	57,516	58,810	50,000
Guidance Services	1,165,804	1,216,208	1,272,455
Health Services	1,098,930	1,126,530	1,090,653
Psychological Services	1,051,968	1,082,880	1,059,250
Social Work Services	789,375	834,578	866,000
Pupil Personnel Services	95,628	97,780	102,000
Co-Curricular Activities	385,720	390,171	389,000
Interscholastic Activities	1,087,591	1,109,337	1,094,778
<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>\$61,219,178</b>	<b>\$63,302,674</b>	<b>\$65,472,213</b>

## Transportation

	<u>2014/2015</u>	<u>2015/2016</u>	<u>2016/2017</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
District Transportation	\$501,651	\$511,595	\$516,200
Contract Transportation	3,194,338	3,218,382	3,247,908
Public Transportation	55,000	55,000	55,000
BOCES Transportation	400,000	373,000	373,000
<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$4,150,989</b>	<b>\$4,157,977</b>	<b>\$4,192,108</b>



## 2016/2017 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

### Community Services

	<u>2014/2015</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</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>2014/2015</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
NYS Employee Retirement System	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$900,000
NYS Teachers Retirement System	6,500,000	6,500,000	5,900,000
Social Security	4,300,000	4,400,000	4,600,000
Workers' Compensation	510,000	525,000	550,000
Life Insurance	60,500	60,000	60,000
Unemployment Insurance	100,000	95,000	90,000
Health/Dental Insurance	10,961,000	11,577,000	12,032,000
Union Benefits	857,900	853,400	855,400
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$24,489,400</b>	<b>\$25,210,400</b>	<b>\$24,987,400</b>

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

	<u>2014/2015</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015/2016</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2016/2017</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	\$200,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Transfer: Debt & Special Aid Funds	2,892,655	3,929,694	3,936,243
Transfer: Capital Fund	0	0	511,265
<b>Total Debt Service, Building Improvements and Inter-fund Transfers</b>	<b>\$3,092,655</b>	<b>\$4,109,694</b>	<b>\$4,627,508</b>

### Student Achievements

Our students have made our community proud through their vast 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 of our high school juniors are enrolled in the most rigorous English and Social Studies International Baccalaureate courses. Last year 100% of our graduates received a Regents Diploma and 85% received a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. This year we've had commended students in the National Merit Scholarship Program, a semifinalist in the Siemens Science Competition and a finalist in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. High School students have participated in the Intel Science and Talent Search, a Chemistry competition called Chemagination and the NAACP's Afro Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics. Our athletes have participated in All-County, All-Region, All-State and All-Class competitions while several teams have also been named Conference Champions. In art and music, our students have performed in many prestigious groups including All-County, All-State, and All-National Honors programs.

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





**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Rockville Centre Public Schools  
128 Shepherd Street Rockville Centre, NY 11570

(516)255-8957

LIZ DION, President

MAYDA KRAMER, Vice President

GREGG SPAULDING, Secretary

MARK MASIN, Trustee

JOHN O'SHEA, Trustee

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, Ed.D., Supt. of Schools

ROBERT A. BARTELS, Asst. Supt. of Schools

CHRISTOPHER J. PELLETTIERI, Asst. Supt. of Schools

NOREEN LEAHY, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. of Schools

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Rockville Centre, NY

Permit # 273

**Annual Election and Budget Vote**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2016—7 AM to 9 PM**  
**South Side High School Gymnasium**

**Preliminary Budget Hearing:**

Changes or modifications to the budget may result at this meeting.  
Tuesday, **April 19, 2016** at 7:30 PM – South Side High School

**Budget Hearing:**

No changes to the budget can be made at this time.  
Wednesday, **May 4, 2016** at 7:30 PM – South Side High School

**Voter Registration:**

School Business Hours 8:15 AM—4:30 PM through **May 12, 2016**  
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 17, 2016**.

**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**