

SOUTH COUNTRY

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A day is a day, a year is a year, a life is a life.

1. d 2022-2023 P . . d Sc . B d .

Dear SCCSD Community:

Following a comprehensive budget review process that included careful examination and consideration of all budget lines and availability of revenue, the Board of Education approved the budget recommended by the Administration. This fiscally sound budget maintains all educational and extracurricular programs at current levels while remaining well below the District's allowable tax levy cap. The \$142,798,980 budget being presented to the voters carries a 1.75% tax levy increase.

While the proposed spending plan includes a staffing decrease due to attrition and efficiencies, it maintains all academic courses and support services, as well as funding to allow addition of three full-time equivalent contingent positions to adjust staffing based on enrollment shifts and student needs. The proposed budget maintains our low class sizes, continues all academic programs and support services, and maintains our fine and performing arts and interscholastic athletic programs. It adds a new unified basketball team, expands our restorative justice circle practices, addresses additional needs of our English language learners and provides funding to continue free breakfast for all students.

The Board of Education, together with Administration, vows to remain steadfast and proactive in overseeing the District's finances and revenue sources so our students can continue to thrive and pursue success through our outstanding array of programs.

In addition to casting a ballot on the District's 2022-2023 budget, voters will be asked to elect three (3) members of the Board of Education

for three-year terms and one (1) member for the Board of Education to fill a Board of Education vacancy. The three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will fill the three (3) terms commencing July 1, 2022, and expiring on June 30, 2025. The candidate receiving the fourth-highest number of votes will fill the

term commencing May 18, 2022, and expiring June 30, 2023.

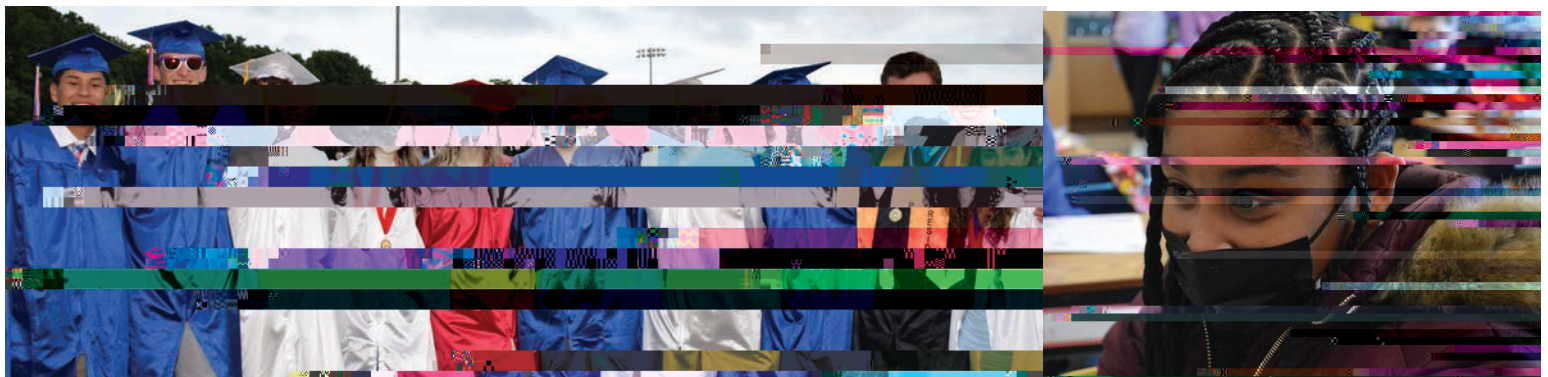
The annual budget vote and school board election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will be held at Bellport Middle School Auditorium. The public hearing for this year's proposed budget was held on May 4, 2022, at Bellport Middle School. Absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Applications for absentee ballots are available in the District Clerk's office during business hours and on the District website. [Click Here for absentee ballot application.](#)

We hope that you will take the time to read this newsletter and access budget information on the District website to make an informed vote. For more information about the 2022-2023 school budget vote, please visit the district website at www.sccsd.org.

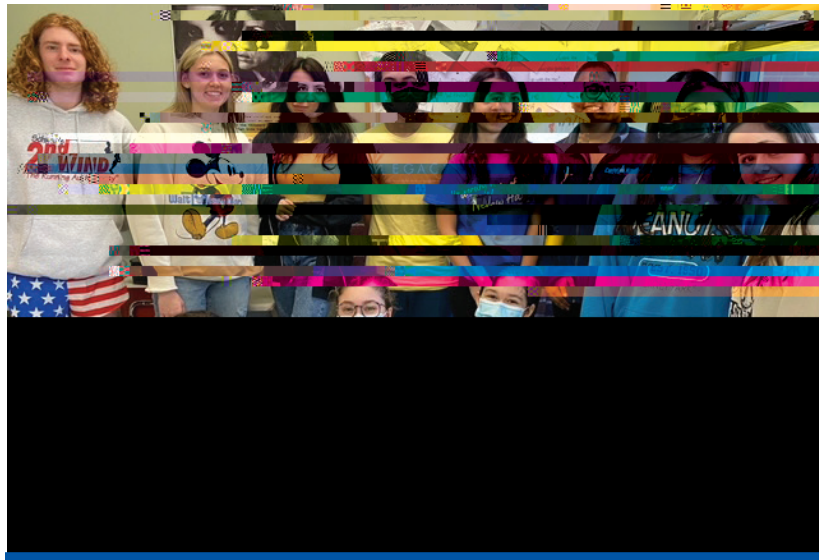
outstanding array of programs. e Boar ..8 (')

Additional Information

Board of Education	88,212	90,166	1,954
Central Administration	412,451	370,444	(42,007)
Finance	948,911	952,892	3,981
Legal Services	392,240	404,008	11,768
Personnel Services	495,052	491,128	(3,924)
Public Information	56,121	56,807	686
Other Central Services	2,187,465	2,414,519	227,054
Insurance, BOCES and Other Items	1,418,529	1,379,100	(39,429)
Curr. Development and Supervision	1,191,040	1,249,978	58,938
Supervision – Regular Schools	4,352,806	4,189,326	(163,480)
Research, Evaluation and Planning	59,197	40,073	(19,124)
Community Services	0	10,000	10,000
Employee Benefits	5,305,176	3,927,001	(1,378,175)
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For school districts, the tax levy limit is the highest allowable tax levy (before exemptions) that a school district can propose as a part of its annual budget for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus 1) is required.

The 2022-2023 budget includes funding to maintain all academic courses and support services, as well as funding to allow addition of three full-time equivalent contingent positions to adjust staffing based on enrollment shifts and student needs. The proposed budget maintains our low class sizes, continues all academic programs and support services, and maintains our fine and performing arts and interscholastic athletic programs. It adds a new unified basketball team, expands our restorative justice circle practices, addresses additional needs of our English language learners and provides funding to continue free breakfast for all students.

If the proposed budget is not approved, the District can offer the same or a revised spending plan for vote or can adopt a contingent budget. If a contingent budget is adopted, the District may not increase its current tax levy over the 2021-2022 amount; this would impose a zero percent cap.

The 2022-2023 budget continues to be influenced by pandemic, inflationary and supply chain pressures. In addition, during this year's budget development process, we included preliminary long-range projections showing revenue sources in the coming years. Revenue sources, which support our educational programs, will be strained in the coming years. Growth in revenue is not keeping pace with growth in expenditures. The district also has strains on revenue sufficient to cover operating expenses due to declining building aid and the need to pay debt incurred in the 2006 through 2010 era. We are able to use some federal pandemic relief aid monies to support our budget this year and next year, but those monies will not be available after 2023-2024. The current Board of Education is committed to making fiscal decisions with a long-range focus. We are student centered and want to provide an educational program that guarantees success for our students now and in the future. There will be fiscal challenges ahead, but we have the tools and resources in place to make informed decisions.

Shall the South Country Central School District budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023 in the amount of \$142,798,980 be adopted and the requisite portion thereof be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District?

To elect three (3) three-year terms (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025) and one (1) member for the Board of Education to fill a Board of Education vacancy (May 18, 2022-June 30, 2023). The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will fill the terms commencing July 1, 2022, and expiring on June 30, 2025. The candidate receiving the fourth-highest number of votes will fill the term commencing May 18, 2022, and expiring June 30, 2023.

To be eligible to vote in school district elections a person must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Be a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the date of the vote.
3. Be a citizen of the United States.
4. Be a registered voter with the school district or with the Suffolk County Board of Elections.

Absentee ballot applications may be obtained at the District Office, 189 Dutton Ave., E. Patchogue or via the District website at www.southcountry.org. Ballots will be issued upon the satisfactory completion of the application form. All absentee ballots must be filed with the district clerk by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Please contact the district clerk at 631-730-1542 for additional information.