



SHARON SPRINGS CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PO Box 218  
Sharon Springs, New York 13459

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Sharon Springs,  
NY 13459

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Helen Roberts, Vice President  
Laura Jackson  
Christine Cornwell  
Sofia Issa

**District Superintendent**  
**Patterson Green**

**Principal**  
**Thomas Yorke**

**Business Manager**  
**Anthony DiPace**

## BOXHOLDER

Sharon Springs Central School District  
Sharon Springs, New York 13459

Sharon Springs Central School District

Budget Issue –MAY 2020

### BUDGET HEARING & VOTE

The Sharon Springs Central School District Budget Vote and Election is scheduled for June 9, 2020. Sophia Issa is running unopposed for the 5-year term board seat due to expire June 30, 2020.

A Budget Hearing took place on May 18, 2020 via Zoom. A recording of that hearing is available on the school's website at [www.sharonsprings.org](http://www.sharonsprings.org).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.26 issued on Friday, May 1, 2020 by Governor Andrew Cuomo, all voting for the June 9, 2020 election will be done by absentee ballot, such that the school district must send absentee ballots with a postage paid return envelope to each "qualified voter." A qualified voter is someone who is a US citizen, 18 years of age, a resident of the District for at least 30 days prior to the vote, and not disqualified by any reason set forth in NYS Election Law §5-106.

Qualified voters on the most recent years' poll lists will be automatically sent an absentee ballot. Anyone who meets the definition of a "qualified voter," but does not believe he/she will be on the School District's poll list, which contains the names of residents who voted in recent years' elections, please contact the District Clerk, Anthony M. DiPace by email at: [adipace@sharonsprings.org](mailto:adipace@sharonsprings.org) as soon as possible to ensure timely receipt of an absentee ballot for the 2020 annual meeting/election.

All ballots must be received by the District by 5:00pm or be postmarked June 9, 2020. A drop mailbox will be set up by the new Main Entrance of the school on June 9th from 8:00am-5:00pm.

For Information and Updates at SSCS visit  
our website at : [www.sharonsprings.org](http://www.sharonsprings.org)



## Sharon Springs Central School District

### EDUCATION MATTERS

### School Budget Vote– June 9, 2020 By ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLY

#### *Sharon Springs Central School Mission/Vision Statement*

The mission of Sharon Springs Central School, a community oriented district, is to educate all students to become healthy, hardworking, honest and respectable citizens, who will value lifelong learning and contribute to a global society.

The vision of the Sharon Springs Central School is to provide a supportive and creative learning environment, which challenges our students to achieve excellence as a way of life.

**DISTRICT OFFICE 518-284-2266**  
Superintendent  
Business Manager  
FAX NUMBER 518-284-9033

**MAIN OFFICE 518-284-2267**  
Principal  
Guidance Counselor  
FAX NUMBER 518-284-9075

**BUS GARAGE 518-284-9047**

SHARON SPRINGS  
CENTRAL SCHOOL  
PO BOX 218  
SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459

**WEBSITE:**  
**[www.sharonsprings.org](http://www.sharonsprings.org)**

It goes without saying that this has been an interesting spring. The Covid-19 pandemic, and the "pause" instituted across the state and nation is unprecedented. SSCS was in a better position than most to handle the transition to remote learning via the Zoom Conferencing Software, Schoology Learning Management System and iPads equipped with Verizon cellular connectivity for students, K-12, with the expressed need. Principal Yorke will prepare a short overview of the SSCS Remote Learning Program later in this newsletter. The entire SSCS faculty and staff value our traditional school experience and hope that the state will allow for a full school opening and normal operations come September.

This edition of **Education Matters** will feature a detailed summary of the proposed 2020-2021 budget and the school board candidate. Sofia Issa is running unopposed for the 5 year vacant board seat. Due to restrictions imposed by the state, this year's budget vote will be by absentee ballot. District residents that have voted in an election during the past 4 years will be mailed a ballot along with 2 envelopes to ensure confidentiality with the voting process. If you do not receive ballot in the mail by Wednesday, May 27th, please call the district office as 518-284-2266 or send an email to: [adipace@sharonsprings.org](mailto:adipace@sharonsprings.org). All ballots must be returned to the district by June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the pre-addressed postage paid envelopes included in the ballot mailing. Additionally, for those who may have forgotten, or have saved it to the last minute, the Red Postal Mail Box that you may remember being used for letters to Santa or Valentine's Day will be set up outside the loop by the new main entrance for ballot drop off from 8am-5pm on June 9th. It should be noted that all ballots are printed on special paper and cannot be reproduced.

If approved by voters, the district's total budget will be **\$10,044,090** with a tax levy increase of **0%**. As you may be aware, the district has received news of a significant reduction in state

aid, and will be taking from the reserve fund balance, that has been built by the district for this purpose. This budget will retain all staff positions including the additional half time Guidance Counselor that was added a few years ago. The elementary teaching position held by the retiring Marie Davis will not be replaced.

As always, our goal was to develop a budget that maintains our traditional, strong, core academic programs. SSCS will continue to work to provide a broad range of exposure and experiences for our students. Field trips, extracurricular activities, including athletics and student leadership organizations such as FBLA and FFA will continue to play a prominent part in student life. Additionally, the district is able to offer eight in-house University in the High School classes through collaborations with SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Albany and SUNY Morrisville.

Again this year, the district achieved annual yearly progress in all measurements used by the state to evaluate school districts. A link to the New York State Report Card for Sharon Springs Central can be found on the school web site ([www.sharonsprings.org](http://www.sharonsprings.org)) once it is released, if you would like additional information.

Finally, SSCS will continue to pursue opportunities for collaborating and sharing costs with other districts including transportation and special education programming, whenever possible. SSCS collaborates with other districts for professional development for teaching staff and regional summer school, as well as for collective purchasing and health insurance. We will also continue to share our Technology Specialist with Schoharie Central School one day per week.

The entire SSCS family is looking forward to a return to school and seeing students this September! Thank you for your continued support!

Patterson Green  
Superintendent

## SSCS Quickly Adjusts to Off-Site Instruction

The ongoing COVID-19 (i.e. Coronavirus) public health emergency has challenged SSCS to quickly and efficiently find new ways to support our students in their journey through K-12 education. Thankfully, SSCS was equipped with the technological resources, professional knowhow, and committed professionals to meet these challenges. Late in the day on Friday, March 13th the Schoharie County Department of Health required schools in our region to end on-site education for two weeks. Upon learning this, SSCS quickly mobilized...

On Monday, March 16th a staff development day was used, and all SSCS teachers and staff worked together in preparing materials for off-site, at-home learning for our students as well as ensuring students would have access to our breakfast and lunch program. The very next day, SSCS teachers and staff delivered instructional materials along with meals, and SSCS began housing the local food pantry. In the following weeks, on the recommendation of the NYS Health Department and CDC, Governor Cuomo extended the building

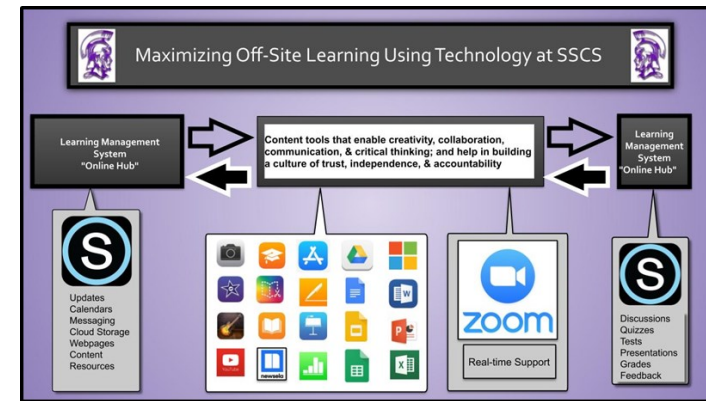


ing closure two weeks at a time, until he finally shut down on-site instruction for the 2019 - 2020 school year on May 1st. With that said, because of the dedication, collaboration, compassion, passion, and professionalism of SSCS teachers, staff, and administration quality instruction has continued, remote counseling/guidance services have been made available and food services are still being provided.

While instruction has not been the same as in a traditional classroom, our students have opportunities to be engaged and continue learning new material - guided and directed by their teachers and supported by outstanding access to technology and technological support. In fact SSCS has provided:

- iPads connected to Verizon internet service to all K - 12 students;
- physical resources (i.e. learning packets, books, worksheets, etc.) for pickup or drop-off were conducted on 3/17, 3/31, 4/23, and 5/12;
- online learning opportunities made accessible via teacher-created websites for students in K - 5 as well as regularly scheduled video conferences; and
- online learning via a learning management system ( Schoology) customized and updated regularly by 6 - 12 teachers as well as regularly scheduled video conferences.

Teachers at every level continue to monitor and document progress of each student's learning. Using a high tech, but simple feedback loop (see below), students provided engaging content, guidance and feedback on their work.



**Middle & High School Feedback Loop:** SSCS teachers post weekly learning objectives for students on the district's online learning management system (LMS), Schoology. These objectives are posted in the "Updates" section of each Schoology "Course," and they correspond with specific learning opportunities that allow students to use a variety of online and physical materials to provide evidence of learning. Additionally, each teacher arranges live-time, video conferences to provide direct instruction, conduct discussions, and answer questions. Students then use a variety of apps to show evidence of learning and submit their work via Schoology assignments. Teachers then assess and provide feedback in Schoology's gradebook, where students (and parents) can see how well students are progressing.



**Elementary Feedback Loop:** SSCS teachers post daily learning opportunities on their website and then reach out to parents via email, texting, Class Dojo or the Remind App to ensure students have what they need to learn. Next, teachers host video-conferences with students to provide direct instruction, allow students to socialize and to complete work with teacher-support. Then using a variety of online and physical materials, students are given opportunities to show their learning.

Thomas Yorke  
Principal

## PROJECTED REVENUE

### State Aid

	2019/2020	2020/2021	DIFFERENCE \$	%
Foundation Aid	3,696,342	3,696,342	0	0%
BOCES & Special Services	327,013	370,405	43,392	13.3%
Community Schools Aid	0	0	0	0.0%
High Tax Aid	84,238	84,238	0	0.0%
High Cost Excess Cost	3,985	0	-3,985	---
Hardware & Technology	3,772	3,818	46	---
Software, Library, Textbook	18,212	18,375	163	0.9%
Transportation Aid	509,469	558,386	48,917	9.6%
Pandemic Adjustment	0	-181,674	-181,674	-100.0%
Building Aid	701,163	797,631	96,468	13.8%
Federal Cares Restoration	0	181,674	181,674	---
<b>Total State Aid</b>	<b>5,344,194</b>	<b>5,529,195</b>	<b>185,001</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

### Other Revenues

Local Grants	0	0	0	0.0%
PILOT Agreements	667,610	374,098	6,488	1.0%
Interest & Penalties on Tax	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Admissions Sports Game	1,400	1,400	0	0.0%
Interest & Earnings on Money	2,853	2,853	0	0.0%
Other	81,255	81,255	0	0.0%
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>755,618</b>	<b>762,106</b>	<b>6,488</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

Estimated Fund Balance	1,187,834	1,349,699	161,865	13.6%
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<b>Total Revenue Before Tax Levy</b>	<b>7,287,646</b>	<b>7,641,000</b>	<b>353,354</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
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Tax levy before PILOT Reclassification	2,403,090	2,403,090	0	0.0%
Adjustments:	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Tax Levy</b>	<b>2,403,090</b>	<b>2,403,090</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>9,690,736</b>	<b>10,044,090</b>	<b>353,354</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
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Proposed Expenditures

	2019/2020	2020/2021	CHANGE
Salaries	3,845,508	3,890,706	45,198
Benefits	2,380,337	2,455,155	74,818
Equipment	99,913	84,788	-15,125
Contractual expenses	1,236,671	1,254,833	18,162
BOCES Expenses	993,685	1,008,582	14,897
Materials & Supplies	269,740	272,908	3,168
Total Operating Budget	8,825,854	8,966,972	141,118
Debt Service			
Principal	822,952	905,435	82,483
Interest	61,847	171,683	109,836
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,710,653	10,044,090	333,437

3-Part Budget Summary

	2019/2020	2020/2021	CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE	733,386	750,125	16,739
CAPITAL	1,718,365	1,924,148	205,783
PROGRAM	7,258,903	7,369,818	110,916
TOTAL	9,710,653	10,044,090	333,437

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2019-20 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2020-21 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2020-21 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	9,710,653	10,044,090	9,948,889
Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year		333,437	238,236
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.43 %	2.37%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.81%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	2,403,090	2,403,090	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	2,403,090	2,403,090	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	121,091	121,091	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>EXCLUDING</u> Permissible Exclusions	2,474,710	2,474,710	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>EXCLUDING</u> Permissible Exclusions and levy for Library Dept, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E – B – F + D)	2,281,999	2,281,999	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	192,711	143,375	
Administrative Component	733,386	750,125	738,312
Program Component	7,258,903	7,369,818	7,315,913
Capital Component	1,718,365	1,924,148	1,894,665
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.			
* <b>Reductions would be required in the areas of staffing, equipment, maintenance and transportation.</b>			
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)			
		Description	Amount

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: [emscmgts@nysed.gov](mailto:emscmgts@nysed.gov)

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year
	569

As per Executive Order of Governor Cuomo, the annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2020-21 by the qualified voters of the Sharon Springs Central School District, Schoharie County, New York, will be held by Absentee Ballot Only on June 9, 2020. Voting ballots must be submitted by 5:00pm on June 9, 2020.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

2020-21 Property Tax Report Card

Sharon Springs Central School			
Contact Person:	Anthony M. DiPace	Budgeted	Proposed Budget
Telephone Number:	518-284-2266	2019-20	2020-21
		(A)	(B)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions	9,710,653	10,044,090	3.43%
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>1</sup>	2,403,090	2,403,090	
B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable <sup>2</sup>	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	2,403,090	2,403,090	0.00%
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	71,755	121,091	
G. School Tax Levy Limit , <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>3</sup>	2,355,971	2,353,619	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	2,331,335	2,281,999	
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) <sup>2</sup>	24,636	192,711	
Public School Enrollment	280	285	1.79%
Consumer Price Index	1.60%	2.44%	0.84%

<sup>1</sup> Include any prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

<sup>2</sup> Tax levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion under the School Tax Levy Limit and may affect voter approval requirements.

<sup>3</sup> For 2020-21, includes any carryover from 2019-20 and excludes any tax levy for library debt or prior year reserve for excess tax levy, including interest.

PROJECTED  
TAX RATES

TOWN	2019-20	2020-21	Dollar	Percent
	Tax Rate (actual)	Tax Rate (estimated)		
Canajoharie	16.48	16.48	0.00	0.00%
Root	19.21	19.51	0.00	0.00%
Cherry Valley	18.86	18.86	0.00	0.00%
Roseboom	16.29	16.29	0.00	0.00%
Carlisle	24.64	24.64	0.00	0.00%
Seward	24.75	24.75	0.00	0.00%
Sharon	24.16	24.16	0.00	0.00%

	Actual 2019-20 (D)	Estimated 2020-21 (E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance	1,222,025	1,263,136
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance	1,174,610	1,349,699
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance	379,342	387,629
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget	3.9%	3.9%

Budget Overview

2020-2021

Operating Budget	8,966,972
Building Projects	1,077,118
Overall Budget	10,044,090

Operating Budget \$ increase	141,118
Operating Budget % increase	1.6%