



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

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Sharon Springs,  
NY 13459

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

James MacFadden Jr., President  
Helen Roberts, Vice-President  
Laura Jackson  
Christine Cornwell  
Sofia Issa

## District Superintendent/Building 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 2022

**2022-23 School Budget Vote**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**  
**SSCS Auditorium Atrium**  
**12:00 noon– 9:00 p.m.**

**Budget Hearing**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
**SSCS Library– 7:30 p.m.**

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable beginning April 28, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before election, if the ballot is to be hand delivered personally to the voter. **Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022.**

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. prevailing time on each of the five days prior to the day of the election, except Sunday, May 15, 2022, and the day set for the election. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

For information and updates visit our website:  
[www.sharonsprings.org](http://www.sharonsprings.org)



# Sharon Springs Central School District

## EDUCATION MATTERS

## Superintendent's Message

### School Budget Vote– May 17, 2022

### 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)

This edition of **Education Matters** features a detailed summary of the proposed 2022-2023 budget and the school board candidates. The Annual Budget Hearing will be held Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:30 pm with **this year's budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium Atrium.** If approved by voters, the district's total budget will be \$10,208,809.00 with a **tax levy increase of 0%.** In addition, Brandi Kerber and Kelly Button are running for the 5-year board seat.

As you know, it has been a year of challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, related regulations, and subsequent ripple-effects have forced us all to exercise our patience, and also revealed the resilient, empathetic and respectful character of our school community. I am grateful for the performance of our teachers and staff, who provided a steady support system for our students. Unlike many other districts throughout the state and country, SSCS has remained open for our students, offering not just in-person instruction, but also an online option when students were put into quarantine or isolation by the Department of Health. We had both the technological infrastructure and caring and well-prepared teachers to do so. We plan to maximize what we learned throughout this process and move forward to better engage and serve our students.

Consistent with years past, our vision has been to prioritize developing a budget that maintains our tradition of strong core academic programs, meaningful electives and engaging extracurricular opportunities for students, while remaining fiscally responsible. The district, to every extent possible, continues to have a firm commitment to providing a broad range of positive experiences for our students by continuing to support field trips and extracurricular activities, including athletics and student leadership organizations such as FBLA and FFA. We also support students in pursuing vocational training, with students attending BOCES programs. Additionally, the

district is able to offer nine in-house University in the High School classes through collaborations with SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Morrisville and Siena College. We believe firmly that each SSCS student should have opportunities to discover, develop and pursue success.

SSCS will continue to explore opportunities for collaborating and sharing costs with other districts, including transportation and special education programming, whenever possible. The district collaborates with other districts for professional development for teaching staff, regional summer school, spring sports and for collective purchasing and health insurance. The district has been sharing the cost of a School Psychologist with Jefferson Central School and will also continue to share our Technology Specialist with Schoharie Central School two days per week.

As you may have learned through the recent series of public Board of Education meeting presentations, SSCS is excited to announce that our grant application was approved to use federal funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). As a result, over the course of the next several years, we will be building an outdoor learning space, expanding our agricultural education with the addition of a greenhouse, and improving air quality in our elementary wing. We will also be continuing our literacy program, providing additional mathematics support and extending our mental health services. For additional improvements that coincide with the ARP-funded projects, we are asking for your support of a \$4.625 million project to replace roofs, expand the weight room to include space for OT/PT services, (...continued on page 2)

**Upcoming Events**  
**For updates and changes, visit**  
[www.sharonsprings.org](http://www.sharonsprings.org)

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE  
CONTINUED...

additional improvement of air quality (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), as-  
bestos tile removal, improvements to the existing girls  
soccer field, and other minor renovations throughout  
the building (e.g., toilet room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and  
modernization of the special services area). This will  
be on the ballot as well as replacing one full size bus  
and one mini bus, maximum of \$185k. Please note  
that these projects will not only add value to our stu-  
dents' educational experiences but will maintain the  
long-term health of our school, and the funding of all  
these projects will be cost neutral (thus not impacting  
our local tax base).

Please vote on the annual school budget and board  
seat on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between 12:00 noon -  
9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium Atrium area. While we  
are able to return to an in person voting process this  
year, absentee ballots are available by contacting Ka-  
terina Bartlett or Lori Webb in the District Office.

Finally, and importantly, I would like to recognize and,  
on behalf of all of SSCS, offer my sincere gratitude for  
the current Board of Education President, James  
MacFadden. After 20 years of community-oriented  
leadership to Sharon Springs CSD (and the wider Sha-  
ron Springs Community) as a Board of Education  
member, Mr. MacFadden is passing the mantle. For  
two decades, Mr. MacFadden has brought a  
thoughtful, knowledgeable, detail-oriented, open-  
minded and mission-driven approach in leading SSCS  
and ensuring that SSCS is responsive to the values,  
beliefs and priorities of our community. Mr. MacFad-  
den’s genuine, honest, and to-the-point leadership  
was grounded in his deep passion and commitment to  
our school-community, where he attended as a stu-  
dent, where he sent his two sons and where he locat-  
ed his very successful business. Mr. MacFadden’s in-  
fluence certainly travels deeply into what SSCS is and  
what it will always strive to be. Thank you!

Again, we thank our entire community for your con-  
tinued support.

Thomas Yorke  
Superintendent/K-12 Building Principal

PROJECTED REVENUE			
	2021/2022	2022/2023	CHANGE
State Aid			
Foundation Aid	3,807,232	3,921,448	114,216
BOCES & Special Services	345,437	443,860	98,423
High Tax Aid	84,238	84,238	0
High Cost Excess Cost	0	0	0
Hardware & Technology	3,895	3,895	0
Software, Library, Textbook	17,226	18,948	1,722
Transportation Aid	506,346	626,164	119,818
Building Aid	603,621	597,060	-6,561
Total State Aid	5,367,995	5,695,613	327,618
Local Revenues			
PILOT Agreements	680,543	688,317	7,774
Interest & Penalties on Tax	2,500	2,500	0
Interest & Earnings on Money	2,853	2,853	0
Other	81,255	81,255	0
Total Local Revenues	767,151	774,925	7,774
Estimated Fund Balance	1,346,065	1,338,505	-7,560
Real Property Taxes	2,399,766	2,399,766	0
Total Operating Revenues	9,880,976	10,208,809	327,833

What is ARP ESSER?

- The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund provided funds throughout the U.S in response to the impact of COVID-19.
- Through ARP ESSER, nearly \$9 billion was provided to New York State to “help safely return more of our students to in-person learning and maintain safe operations while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.”
- Funds are divided among other school districts statewide based on enrollment.
- ASP ESSER funds can be used for the following key aspects: Health and Safety, Facilities, Nutrition, Transportation, Social Emotional Well-being, School Schedules, Budget and Finances, Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism, Technology and Connectivity, Teaching and Learning, Special Education, Bilingual Education and World Languages and/or Staffing and Human Resources.
- Funds are available for a limited time.
- School districts that do not act within the allotted time will lose eligibility for funds.

PROPOSED ARP Projects in Combination with Proposed Capital Improvement Project

Over the past several months, you may have heard about the proposed building projects that have been presented at our Board of Education Meetings. The School Board was very thorough in evaluating the needs of the district. Essentially, the project calls for renovations throughout the school.

Preliminary items include:

American Rescue Plan Projects

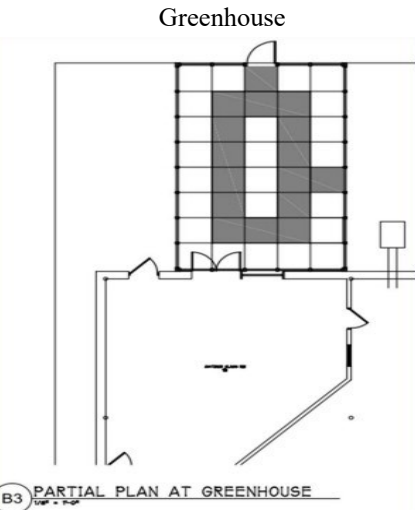
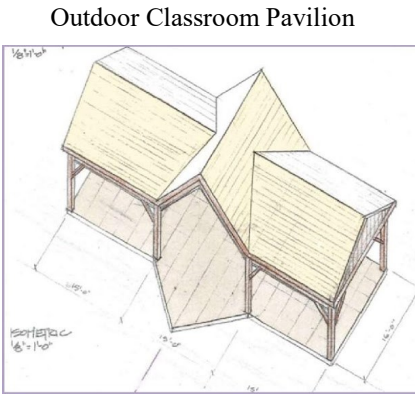
- Outdoor Classroom “Pavilion” (adjacent to existing playground)
- Greenhouse (adjacent to Ag/Tech Area)
- Updated Elementary School Ventilation

Proposed Capital Projects

- Roof Replacement
- Soccer Field Reconstruction (Increased Drainage, Regulation Sized Field, and Safer Playing Conditions)
- Physical Therapy Expansion (Expand the Weight Room Area to include a PT/OT area)
- Toilet Room Added to the Second Floor
- Third Floor Improvements (Improved Special Education spaces)
- Elementary School Abatement

The Board understands the community’s desire to find the right balance between support for our schools and the cost to taxpayers. It is expected that there will be no tax increase for these projects. We plan to combine the ARP aid with the available NYS regular building aid reimbursement the district receives. Interest earned through the temporary investment of the project funds results in no additional tax dollars needed.

To receive funding, a capital project must be approved by voters, with the primary purpose of the funds having to comply with one of five categories: Health and Safety, Accessibility, Physical Capacity Expansion, Energy, or Educational Technology.



Proposed Expenditures

	2021/2022	2022/2023	CHANGE
Salaries	3,763,781	3,890,226	126,445
Benefits	2,617,392	2,854,530	237,138
Equipment	84,788	84,788	0
Contractual expenses	1,015,451	1,045,898	30,447
BOCES Expenses	1,278,159	1,303,213	25,054
Materials & Supplies	271,249	272,682	1,433
Total Operating Budget	9,030,820	9,451,337	420,517
Debt Service	850,157	757,472	-92,685
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,880,976	10,208,809	327,833

3-Part Budget Summary				PROJECTED TAX RATES				
				TOWN	2021-22	2022-23	Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
	2021/2022	2022/2023	CHANGE		Tax Rate (actual)	Tax Rate (estimated)		
ADMINISTRATIVE	707,084	716,652	9,568	Canajoharie	16.14	16.14	0	0%
CAPITAL	1,716,774	1,661,964	-54,810	Root	17.35	17.35	0	0%
PROGRAM	7,457,119	7,830,193	373,074	Cherry Valley	16.14	16.14	0	0%
				Roseboom	16.14	16.14	0	0%
TOTAL	9,880,976	10,208,809	327,833	Carlisle	24.45	24.45	0	0%
				Seward	24.45	24.45	0	0%
				Sharon	24.45	24.45	0	0%

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	9,880,976	10,208,809	10,104,445
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		327,833	223,469
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.32%	2.19%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	2,399,766	2,399,766	
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)	2,399,766	2,399,766	
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	76,714	98,987	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>EXCLUDING</u> Permissible Exclusions	2,323,052	2,394,196	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, <u>EXCLUDING</u> Permissible Ex- clusions and levy for Library Dept, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E – B – F + D)	2323,052	2,300,779	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	0	93,417	
Administrative Component	707,084	716,652	695,676
Program Component	7,457,119	7,830,193	7,776,288
Capital Component	1,716,774	1,661,964	1,632,481
* Reductions would be required in the areas of staffing, equipment, maintenance and transportation.			
** 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
		Bus Proposition	185,000
			Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>			592

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Sharon Springs Central School District, Schoharie County, New York, will be held at the Auditorium Atrium on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Sharon Springs School(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

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



## 2022-23 Property Tax Report Card

<b>Sharon Springs Central School</b> Contact Person:   Anthony M. DiPace Telephone Number: 518-284-2266			Budgeted	Proposed Budget
			2021-22	2022-23
			(A)	(B)
Total Budgeted Amount, not Including Separate Propositions			9,880,976	10,208,809
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount <sup>1</sup>			2,399,766	2,399,766
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)			2,399,766	2,399,766
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit			76,714	98,987
G. School Tax Levy Limit , <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions <sup>3</sup>			2,323,052	2,394,196
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)			2,323,052	2,300,779
I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60.0% voter approval) <sup>2</sup>			0	93,417
Public School Enrollment			290	292
Consumer Price Index			1.23%	4.70%
			Actual	Estimated
			2021-22	2022-23
			(D)	(E)
Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance			1,677,243	1,241,630
Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance			1,425,706	1,346,065
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance			1,387,703	855,860
Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget			14.04%	8.66%

### Schedule of Reserve Funds

Reserve Type	Reserve Name	Reserve Description *	3/31/22 Actual Balance	6/30/22 Estimated Ending Balance	Intended Use of the Reserve in the 2022-23 School Year
Capital	CAPITAL	To pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued.	0	0	
Repair	REPAIR	To pay the cost of repairs to capital improvements or equipment.	49,082	49,082	For unanticipated repairs.
Workers' Compensation		To pay for Workers Compensation and benefits.			
Unemployment Insurance	UNEMPLOYMENT	To pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund.	70,317	70,317	For reimbursement to the State Insurance Fund.
Reserve for Tax Reduction		For the gradual use of the proceeds of the sale of school district real property.			
Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service	DEBT SERVICE	To cover debt service payments on outstanding obligations (bonds, BANS) after the sale of district capital assets or improvements.	117,964	117,964	For future debt service payments.
Insurance	INSURANCE	To pay liability, casualty, and other types of uninsured losses.	252,669	252,669	For unanticipated uninsured loss.
Property Loss	PROPERTY LOSS	To establish and maintain a program of reserves to cover property loss.	149,846	149,846	For anticipated property loss.
Liability		To establish an maintain a program of reserves to cover liability claims incurred.			
Tax Certiorari		To establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari settlements			
Reserve for Insurance Recoveries		To account for unexpended proceeds of insurance recoveries at the fiscal year end.			
EBALR – Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ACCRUED LIABILITY	For the payment of accrued 'employee benefits' due to employees upon termination of service.	230,108	230,108	For accrued paid time off balance.
Retirement Contribution	EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	To fund employer retirement contributions to the State and Local Employees' Retirement System	751,582	751,582	For unanticipated future retirement contributions.
Other Reserve	NYS TEACHERS RETIREMENT	For future contributions to the NYS TEACHERS' Retirement System	54,228	108,546	For future contributions to the NYS TEACHERS' Retirement System