



# Shenendehowa

## Central Schools

the  
great  
plains

The \$177.7 budget for 2019-20 ...Future Present

## Relevant, Responsive and Responsible

*"We began this budget development process by looking forward and defining success for the school district (Future Present) and asking these important questions..."*

*What can we do to make the school and classroom experience more REL- EVANT, helping to foster students' passion for learning?*

*How can we be more RESPONSIVE to and capitalize on emerging changes and cultural shifts?*

*What else do we need to do to demonstrate a sense of RESPONSIBILITY for equity in outcomes, all students succeeding and realizing their full potential?"*

*Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson*

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 21 on a proposed \$177.7 million budget for 2019-20 that includes a spending increase of 2.33 percent (\$4,046,444). The tax levy increase of 2.52 percent is below the tax cap of 3.97 percent. The true value tax rate would decrease .602% per \$1000. A property

with a market value of \$250,000, would see a reduction of \$26 in the tax bill.

### Program/Facility enhancements

Each year, there are many different budget requests for potential program enhancements. These proposals and/or requests for funds are reviewed and analyzed based on the following value-added indicators:

- Engagement - Student voice and choice to foster a passion for learning
- Innovation - Personally relevant learning opportunities
- Cultural Competence - Equity in opportunities and outcomes
- Global Collaboration - Self-directed, civic-minded learners
- Collective Work and Responsibility - School and community partnerships

The proposed 2019-20 budget preserves current programs and services. It provides for some key program enhancements to support personalized, innovative and creative experiences, and improve student and staff safety. Some specifics include:

- Expansion of the K-Jumpstart program piloted in 2018-19 to help selected students better transition into kindergarten.
- Additional 2.5 teachers to address class size/composition in high school science and social studies; middle school music lessons; and elementary art, music and physical education.

### Five-year Budget Increase History

5 Year Average	2.11%
Proposed 2019-20	2.33%
2018-19	2.19%
2017-18	2.19%
2016-17	2.10%
2015-16	1.72%

### Three-part Budget

Administrative	9.29%
Program	76.81%
Capital	13.90%

### 2019-20 BUDGET VOTE

**May 21, 2019 • 7 am-9 pm • Gowana Gym**

Total budget: **\$ 177,729,400**

Spending increase: 2.33%

Tax levy limit cap 3.97%

Total tax LEVY increase (below tax cap): 2.52%

Proj. true value tax RATE decrease: -0.602%

**A property valued at \$250,000 would see a property tax bill DECREASE of \$26.**

### BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION

20 Vehicles, Cost Not to Exceed: \$ 2,189,188

Tax Rate Increase (5 yrs) 0.167%

**A 2.8 cent increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning 2020-21.**

### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Three seats on the Board of Education will be up for election on May 21, the seats currently held by Gary DiLallo, Todd Gilbert and Deanna Stephenson.

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### Important Dates:

Residents looking to run for school board, petitions are due to the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on April 22.

The Budget Public Hearing will be held on May 7, 7 p.m. in the Gowana Library

Absentee ballots are due to the district clerk on May 21, no later than 5 p.m.

Budget vote and school board election is May 21. Polls are open from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. in the Gowana Gym

### 2019-20 Budget Proposal (continued from page 1)

- Potential addition of new allied health course for students looking to go into the health services field.
- Additional staff to address equity in outcomes for English as a New Language (ENL) learners at the high school; expansion of the high school's ASPIRE Program (alternative education) to High School West; and accelerated math at the elementary level.
- Additional staff in athletics to start a girls golf team and expand the swim program to include a co-ed modified team.
- Funds to start a Pep Band (equipment/instruments)
- Addition of a special education administrator to address increasing demands.
- An increase in funding for Future Ready Grants for teachers, allowing them to apply for funds to implement innovative classroom practices.
- Additional funds for various professional development for staff; expansion of instructional coach to gr. 6-12; K-8 reading; kindergarten programming; TCI (Therapeutic Crisis Intervention) training for special education aides; and bus driver safety training.
- Expansion of the 1:1 classroom Chromebooks for grade 4 across all eight elementary schools.
- Funds for safety improvements include an increase in high school monitors; digital radios; and automatic lockdown renovations.
- Reallocation of Capital fund Transfer to Capital Outlay Project to address Arongen roof repairs.

### Mandatory Costs

With New York State's implementation of the tax levy cap, which essentially caps school district expenditures, building a budget begins by identifying legal and contractual obligations while staying at or below the cap. These include:

- Increase in charter school enrollment, \$39,000
- Funds for science kit rentals to meet the Next Gen Standards, \$200,000 (currently \$28,000).
- Impact in pension costs due to contribution rate changes - reduction in TRS (Teacher Retirement System) - \$883,000, increase in ERS (Employee Retirement System), \$117,000
- Increase in health/dental insurance, \$209,000.

### Cost Savings

As with every budget the district looks to offset cost increases with cost reductions. For 2019-20, this includes:

- Reduction in costs due to 13 instructional retirements (-\$538,600)
- Retiring debt (-\$500,000)
- Combining two central office staff positions into one (-\$80,000)
- Reduction in IMS (Information Management Systems) contracts and supplies (-\$49,000)
- Reduction in transportation contracts (-\$48,000)
- Elimination of substitute callers (-\$15,000)

### Bus proposition

In an ongoing effort to keep Shen's bus fleet in safe working condition and decrease maintenance costs, residents will vote on a proposition that would allow the district to buy 20 vehicles including:

- (14) 72-passenger Type C buses
- (6) 29-passenger Type A buses

The purchase cost will not exceed \$2,189,188 of which approximately 60 percent will be reimbursed through state transportation aid, resulting in a .167 percent tax rate increase over five years (approximately a 2.8 cent increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2020-21. Retired buses will be sold at auction or reassigned within the district. ■

### Who can vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older and have been a Shenendehowa district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. No preregistration is required but official personal identification with photo is required at the polls. It is a crime to falsify votes (i.e., voting twice, or using false identification).

### Can't get to the polls?

Absentee ballots may be used by any resident who will not be available to come to the campus to vote. They are available at the district office, 5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park. For information, call the district clerk at 881-0623. Ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 21.