

# Shenendehowa Central Schools

the  
great  
plains

The \$177.7 million 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 RELEVANT, 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.



*Acadia students in Mary Potter's sixth-grade Reading and Critical Inquiry classes enjoy a "flexible seating" classroom. The seats were funded by a grant applied through the Shenendehowa Educational Foundation.*

### 2019-20 BUDGET VOTE

May 21, 2019 • 7 am-9 pm • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	<b>\$ 177,729,400</b>
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.

### Program/Facility enhancements

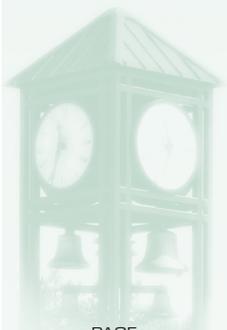
Each year, there are many different budget requests for potential program enhancements. These proposals and/or requests for funds are reviewed and analyzed based on the following value-added indicators:

- 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.

*Continued on page 2*



**2018-19 Budget Proposal (continued from page 1)**

“ We want our schools to look different, to be different. One-to-one technology and innovative teaching provides for more engaged learning through innovative exploration, global collaboration and active discoveries,” Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

- 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.
- 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 in-

- clude 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 purchases to meet the Next Gen Standards, \$200,000.
- 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 premiums, \$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 service payments (-\$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, moving to on-line platform (-\$15,000)

“We prepared a budget based on how we want to transform the school experience for kids over the next several years,” said Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson.

“ We want our schools to look different, to be different. One-to-one technology and innovative teaching provides for more engaged learning through innovative exploration, global collaboration and active discoveries.” ■



*Shen High School students enjoying their new library that was completely renovated and opened in January 2019.*



## Replace aging buses 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

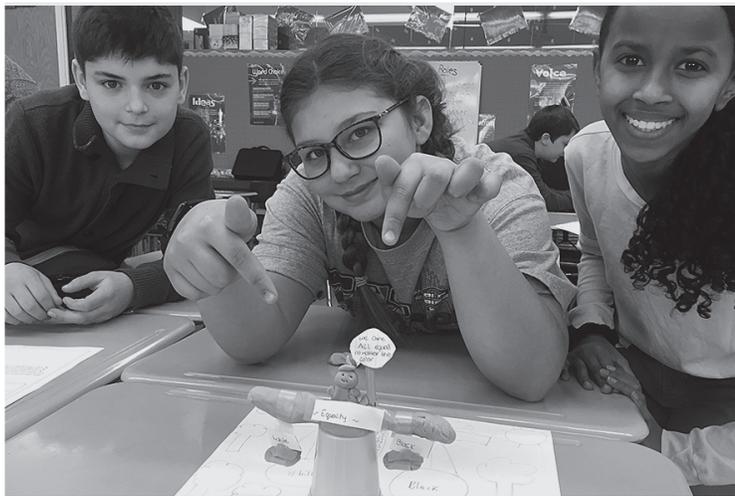
The purchase cost will not exceed \$2,189,188 of which approximately 60 percent will be reimbursed through state transportation aid, resulting in a 0.167 percent tax rate increase over five years (approximately a 2.8 cent increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2020-21. Retired buses will be sold at auction or used for other district purposes.

### Did you know?

The district's 207 buses travel 2.1 million miles per year. Shen bus drivers participate in 75-100 hours of behind-the-wheel and classroom training before they drive students. After that, bus drivers attend up to five plus hours of training each year on various topics including student management, defensive driving, accident avoidance, disaster preparedness and first aid. All bus drivers are subject to fingerprinting, federal drug and alcohol screening, annual defensive driving tests, biennial behind-the-wheel road tests and physical performance tests. ■



*Shatekon third graders in Tamara Allen's class learn to use their new student computer desks for Chromebooks!*



*Acadia 6th-grade students in Amanda Fava's ELA classes read about the Oklahoma City lunch counter sit-ins lead by Barbara Posey and the NAACP Youth Council. They then designed monuments honoring these civil rights leaders.*

## Bus Drivers Needed!

Interested in playing an important and rewarding role in the life of a child?

Shen offers

- a competitive salary
- great benefits for both full- and part-time employment.
- full GPS system complete with route stops for new drivers.
- opportunities to drive a bus accompanied by trainer to see if it is for you
- Training for the CDL license

Contact the Transportation Department today at 518-881-0240

**Be the first and last smiling face a child sees on a school day!**



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Vote May 21  
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Gowana Gym

- 2019-20 School Budget
- Bus Resolution
- Three Seats on the Board of Education

Absentee ballots are available at the district office by calling the district clerk at 881-0623.



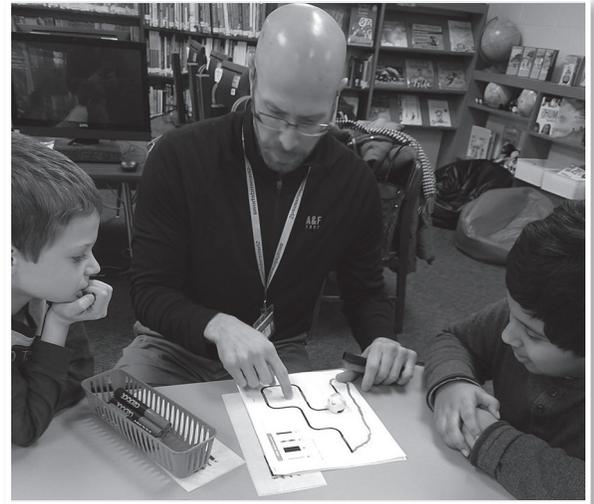
Acadia 8-1 students in Crystal Perno's science class had to apply the New York State Science Learning Standards to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer given specific materials.



Koda 6th-grade students in Cortnee St. John's classes took virtual field trips to Egypt to see the dynamic pyramids, walk inside a tomb, and see the mysterious hieroglyphics.



Middle school technology students experiment with a 3-D printer.



The Karigon Math and Robotics club work with Ozobots, a tiny toy robot that teachers kids how to program.

## Projected tax impact on homeowners

These figures are based on an estimated increase in assessment values of 3.16% (three-year average increase in taxable assessed value). Assessments are determined by the towns. Final data on assessments and equalization rates are not available to the district until August, prior to setting the tax levy and printing tax bills.

Town	Full Market Value*	Equalization Rate**	Taxable Assessed Value***	Est. Tax Rate Per \$1,000	Est. Total Tax Bill
Clifton Park	\$250,000	56.00	\$140,000	\$30.17	\$4,224
Halfmoon	\$250,000	57.25	\$143,125	\$29.52	\$4,224
Malta	\$250,000	100.00	\$250,000	\$16.90	\$4,224
Waterford	\$250,000	100.00	\$250,000	\$16.90	\$4,224
Ballston	\$250,000	91.50	\$228,750	\$18.47	\$4,224
Stillwater	\$250,000	90.50	\$226,250	\$18.67	\$4,224

\*Full market value is the estimated potential selling price of a home.

\*\*Equalization rates used above are the 2018-19 equalization rates. These rates are established by the NYS Office of Real Property Services and used to determine the percentage of the total tax levy each town must pay. They are usually finalized in August.

\*\*\*Taxable assessed value is the amount used in calculating the actual tax bill once the equalization rates have been applied.

## Board of Education Election

Three seats on Shenendehowa’s Board of Education are up for election. Four candidates submitted petitions with the required 42 signatures to run. Board members are unpaid and run at large.

The seats are currently held by Gary DiLallo, Todd Gilbert and Deanna Stephenson. Each carry a three-year term.



**Ram Lalukota**, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term on the board. He is employed at SHRUTHISOFT, LLC /NYS ITS as an IT Consultant. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Civil Engineering from CBIT Hyderabad INDIA. He and his wife have two children attending Shenendehowa.



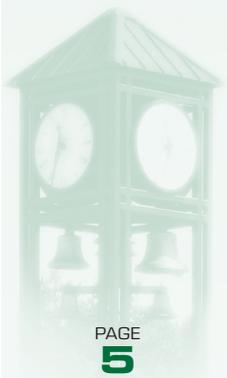
**Todd Gilbert**, of Mechanicville, is seeking his third term on the board. He is employed at Spectrum Enterprise and has a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Plattsburgh in business management and an Masters in Business Administration from the University of Dallas. He lives with his wife and his two children attend Shenendehowa.



**Gary DiLallo**, of Clifton Park, is seeking a seventh term on the board. He is a retired school teacher who taught secondary social studies at Mechanicville City Schools. He holds a bachelor’s degree from McNeese State University and a master’s degree in educational administration, sociology and psychology from Louisiana State University. He and his wife have three children who have graduated from Shenendehowa.



**Deanna Stephenson**, of Halfmoon, is seeking her second term on the board. She is employed at Fidelis Healthcare as Director of Provider Relations. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and forensic science from SUNY Oswego and is in the process of earning a master’s degree in health care administration from Union College. She and her husband have two children attending Shenendehowa.



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).

### 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%

### Contingency Budget Info

Under the tax levy cap law, if a district fails to get voter approval twice, it must adopt a contingent budget with NO INCREASE in the tax levy. In other words, Shenendehowa would have to cut an additional \$3,070,155 from its proposed 2019-20 budget which is equal to approximately 47 staff positions.

All non-contingency expenses must be removed. This includes: student supplies, community use of buildings and grounds, certain equipment purchases, certain salary increases (typically non-contractual increases) and the provision of some bus routes. ■

# State-required School District Budget Notice

State law requires school districts to distribute this state-designed budget notice to district residents after the public hearing, but no later than six days prior to the school budget vote.

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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-20 by the qualified voters of the Shenendehowa Central School District, Saratoga County, New York, will be held in the gymnasium at Gowana Middle School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Overall Budget Proposal		2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Budget	Contingency Budget 2019-20*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions		\$173,682,956	\$177,729,400	\$174,659,245
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year			\$4,046,444	\$976,289
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget			2.33%	.56%
Change in the Consumer Price Index			2.44%	
<b>A.</b>	Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$121,993,016	\$125,063,171	
<b>B.</b>	Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	NA	NA	
<b>C.</b>	Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	NA	NA	
<b>D.</b>	Total Tax Cap Reserve Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
<b>E.</b>	Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$121,993,016	\$125,063,171	\$121,993,016
<b>F.</b>	Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,576,839	\$3,514,820	
<b>G.</b>	School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$119,285,182	\$123,324,675	
<b>H.</b>	Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)	\$118,416,177	\$121,548,351	
<b>I.</b>	Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval (See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions))	\$869,005	\$1,776,324	
Administrative component		\$16,161,141	\$16,516,197	\$16,230,890
Program component		\$132,656,214	\$136,505,410	\$134,144,372
Capital component		\$24,865,601	\$24,707,793	\$24,280,983
* CONTINGENT BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS: The contingent budget assumes no increase in the tax levy over the 2018-19 budget. Budget cuts would be pro-rated across all three component parts of the budget. Non-contingency items would be removed including: student supplies, community use of facilities, certain equipment purchases and certain non-contractual salary increases. In addition to this limitation, the percentage of the administrative component for the contingency budget cannot be greater than the percentage from the previous year.		<b>**Separate Propositions</b>		
		<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
		Bus Proposition	\$2,189,188	

Heather Flood's Advanced Placement English Literature class engaged in a Socratic seminar discussion on the Poisonwood Bible Unit.



## Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Average Basic STAR Tax Savings for 2019-20 Budget Proposal is \$669.

## Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit

Using a complicated 8-step formula developed by the Office of the State Comptroller, Shen's 2019-20 maximum allowable tax levy limit is 3.97 percent. However, the proposed 2019-20 budget would increase the tax levy by 2.52 percent (\$3,070,155), which is below what the law allows.

## Proposed 2010-20 Expenditures

Budgeted 2018-19    Projected 2019-20

### Program Budget: 76.81% of Budget

Instruction	\$80,831,331	\$84,354,304
Pupil Transportation	9,721,249	10,058,604
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,150,866	1,336,229
In-service Training	405,287	438,471
Community Service	17,650	17,650
Transfers	406,000	406,000
Employee Benefits	40,123,831	39,894,152
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$132,656,214</b>	<b>\$136,505,410</b>

### Capital Budget: 13.90% of Budget

Operation & Maintenance	\$9,434,985	\$9,682,026
Tax Certiorari	100,000	100,000
BOCES Administration/Facilities	1,101,424	1,157,095
Debt Service-Building/Buses	11,200,000	10,700,000
Employee Benefits	3,021,692	3,061,172
Unclassified	7,500	7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,865,601</b>	<b>\$24,707,793</b>

### Administrative Budget: 9.29% of Budget

Board of Education	\$49,137	\$53,837
Central Administration	447,209	471,156
Finance	1,174,808	1,202,514
Personnel/Records Mgmt	521,769	564,480
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,109,918	1,003,269
Insurance	694,066	694,066
Public Information	157,344	156,953
Curriculum Development	283,297	320,795
School Supervision	5,928,859	6,142,381
Research/Evaluation/Planning	601,802	622,306
Pupil Transportation	195,374	200,554
Employee Benefits	4,997,558	5,083,886
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,161,141</b>	<b>\$16,516,197</b>

### Total Expenditures:

**\$173,682,956    \$177,729,400**



Change third graders work hard to build strong bridges.

## Proposed 2019-20 Revenues

Budgeted 2018-19    Projected 2019-20

### Property Taxes: 70.37% of Budget

Property Taxes    **\$121,993,016**    **\$125,063,171**

### State Aid: 27.00% of Budget

Foundation Aid	\$28,310,189	\$28,531,160
Excess Cost Aid	1,392,572	1,489,795
Instructional Material Aid	965,726	955,640
BOCES Aid	1,936,306	2,188,090
Building Aid	5,522,280	4,868,441
Transportation Aid	9,079,937	9,953,006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$47,207,010</b>	<b>\$47,986,132</b>

### Other Items: 1.00% of Budget

Interest Earnings	\$13,000	\$100,000
Tuitions & Admissions	319,500	320,000
Rentals, Sales, Refunds & Other	460,700	460,700
Federal Reimbursements	210,000	250,000
Other Tax Items	569,730	639,397
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,572,930</b>	<b>\$1,770,097</b>

### Fund Balance: 1.63% of Budget

Appropriated	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Re-approp. Employee Benefits	660,000	660,000
Use of Retirement Reserve	\$750,000	750,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,910,000</b>	<b>\$2,910,000</b>

### Total Revenues:

**\$173,682,956    \$177,729,400**

Robert Pressly, President 5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park, NY

Deanna Stephenson, V.P.

Gary DiLallo

Todd Gilbert

Naomi Hoffman

Gusta Miller

Christina Rajotte

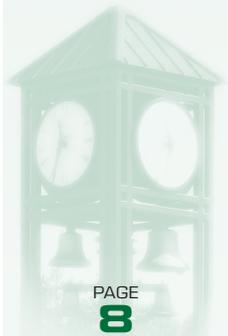
**Superintendent**  
Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

**Editor**  
Kelly DeFeciani

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**Shenendehowa Central Schools** ■ **2019-20 Budget Newsletter**



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The complete budget complies with the regulations set by the N.Y.S. Education Department requiring school districts to include salary information as well as student achievement. Copies are available on Shen's website ([www.shenet.org](http://www.shenet.org)), in the main office of each school and at the district office. If you have questions, please call the superintendent's office at 881-0610.

## When/where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 21, 2018

7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Gowana Middle School Gym

## 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. By law, absentee ballots are mailed to any resident who is disabled. If you are disabled and did not receive one, please call the district clerk's office. Ballots must be returned to the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 15.

## Directions to the polls

Gowana Middle School is located on Shen's main campus. Enter the campus using the Route 146 entrance and then bear left. Gowana is on the right.

## What's on the ballot?

### Proposition 1

A \$177,729,400 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%.

### Proposition 2

\$2,189,188 to buy 20 school vehicles. State aid will reimburse approximately 60 percent and the impact on the tax rate would be 0.167 percent over five years beginning in year 2020-21. This is approximately a 2.8 cent (\$.028) increase per \$1,000 of assessed value.

### Proposition 3

Four candidates (Ram Lalukota, Todd Gilbert, Gary DiLallo and Deanna Stephenson) are running for three seats on the seven-member Board of Education currently held by Gary DiLallo, Todd Gilbert and Deanna Stephenson. All terms commence on July 1, 2019.



*Gowana students in Jessica Clermont's art room use chrome-books to spread their artistic wings and create abstract pet portraits.*