



Shenendehowa

Central Schools

the
great
plains

The \$173,682,956 budget for 2018-19 is focused on...

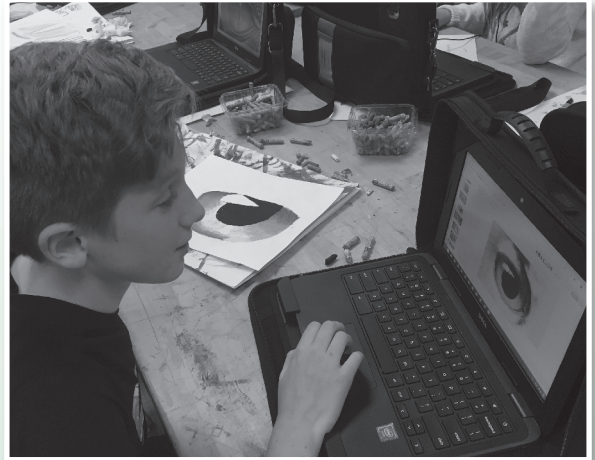
Engagement...Personalized, Innovative and Creative Experiences

"How do we foster a passion for learning? How do we create inquiry-based experiences? How do we focus on success for all and empower our students with a sense of significance? How do we prepare students to be ready for the world? These are the thoughts and questions that guide the decision-making process to ensure that the budget fosters a better, more engaging learning experience for our students."

Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 15 on a proposed \$173.7 million budget for 2018-19 that includes a spending increase of 2.19 percent (\$3,725,891). The tax levy increase of 2.92 percent is below the tax cap of 3.65 percent.

The true value tax rate would increase an estimated 1.24 percent. A property with a market value of \$250,000, would see a \$54 increase in the tax bill.



Gowana sixth grade art students in Jessica Clermont's class use their chromebooks for an observational drawing assignment creating realistic animal eyes with oil pastels.

2018-19 BUDGET VOTE

May 15, 2018 • 7 am-9 pm • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	\$ 173,682,956
Spending increase:	2.19%
Tax levy limit cap	3.65%
Total tax LEVY increase (below tax cap):	2.92%
Proj. true value tax RATE increase:	1.24%

A property valued at \$250,000 would see a property tax bill increase of \$54.

BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Purchase 23 vehicles to replace aging vehicles

Total Cost Not to Exceed:	\$ 2,381,505
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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Three seats on the Board of Education will be up for election on May 15, the seats currently held by Christina Rajotte, Robert Pressly and Bill Casey.

Program 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:

- Raise student achievement and improve the quality of the experience for students
- Addresses emerging needs, including safety, wellness and mental health
- Increases academic capacity to address class sizes and composition
- Ensures proper distribution of specialized and targeted academic supports
- Provides academic rigor through innovative course options
- Maximizes resources through implementation of best practices
- Leverages technology to improve instruction and operations
- Repurposes resources to ensure cost effectiveness
- Improves the personnel productivity through professional development

The proposed 2018-19 budget preserves current programs and services and allows for some key program enhancements to support personalized, innovative and creative experiences and improve student and staff safety, including:

- Additional high school teachers in English, math, science, social studies and other

Continued on page 2

2018-19 Budget Proposal (continued from page 1)

electives to address larger enrollments and class sizes.

- Addition of new innovative technology courses at the high school: Computer Science Discoveries and Mobile Device Application Development.
- Additional teachers/staff for elementary Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and the Extended-day Kindergarten (EDK) program as well as special education and English as a New Language (ENL) learners district wide.
- Additional psychologist to create a Wellness Center at High School West and expand services at Arongen and Shatekon.
- Address increase in costs for the Summer Special Education Program.
- The addition of a HS technology integration coach to provide training and support to classroom teachers as the district expands the 1:1 roll-out (one electronic device for every student) to the high school level.
- The addition of Future Ready Grants for teachers allowing them to apply for funds to implement innovative classroom practices.
- Professional Development- Additional funds for training for all support staff. Additional funds for safety training for transportation, maintenance, grounds and operational staff.
- Additional assistant coaches for boys and girls cross-country

track and girls track. Additional funds for athletic contest entry fees.

- Allocating \$300,000 to address safety and security needs.
- Funds to provide transportation for six weeks of summer school.
- Funds to pilot WiFi on 20 buses to potentially improve safety communications and student access while on the bus.

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 - \$53,000
- Increases in tuition for placing 50 students with special needs in out of district and BOCES programs- \$400,000
- Impact in pension costs due in part to contribution rate changes- \$765,418

- Implementation of CSEA Vision Program per CSEA contract - \$88,000

Cost Savings

As with every budget the district looks to offset cost increases with cost reductions. For 2018-19, this includes reductions in:

- Health insurance due to changes in plan design, better utilization and buyouts as well as lower prescription costs due to better discounts and rebates in the BOCES Consortium plan - \$1,061,159
- Debt services due to refinancing - \$200,000
- Utility costs due to energy management - \$125,000
- Transportation fuel costs due to improvements in routing and fuel efficiency - \$100,000
- The number of parentally-placed special education students - \$90,000
- Workers Compensation Claims due to improved practices \$75,000
- Unemployment Claims due to improved practices - \$10,000 ■



Tesago Best Buddies always have fun together.

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 23 vehicles including:

- (14) 72-passenger Type C buses
- (5) 29-passenger Type A buses
- (1) Wheelchair bus
- (2) 7-passenger Suburbans
- (1) Plow/salt truck

The purchase cost will not exceed \$2,381,505 of which approximately 60 percent will be reimbursed through state transportation aid, resulting in a 0.199 percent tax rate increase over five years. This is approximately a three cent (\$.034) increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2019-20. Retired buses will be sold at auction or reassigned to operation and maintenance departments.

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. ■



Laura Ryan's team 6-2 students at Acadia complete an online lab simulation to determine the density of objects.



Katelyn Lagowski's first grade at Karigon made slime and boo bubbles with dry ice.



Arongen students get to know each other through book share time.



Dave Roe's Aerospace Engineering class built Mars Rovers that turned into Battlebots.



Vote May 15
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Gowana Gym

- 2018-19 School Budget
- Bus Resolution
- Tree Seats on the Board of Education

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

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 \$3,459,783 from its proposed 2018-19 budget which is equal to approximately 41 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. ■

Five-year Budget Increase History

5 Year Average	2.07%
Proposed 2017-18	2.19%
2016/17-2017/18	2.19%
2015/16-2016/17	2.10%
2014/15-2015/16	1.72%
2013/14-2014/15	2.15%



High School students in Daniel Anderson's math class work collaboratively to solve problems.



Orenda students perform *The Music Man, Kids*.



The Middle School Treble Choir performed for Music In Our Schools Month at the Capitol building.

Projected tax impact on homeowners

The following figures are based on estimated assessment values of 1.66% (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	58.00	\$145,000	\$30.23	\$4,384
Halfmoon	\$250,000	58.00	\$145,000	\$30.23	\$4,384
Malta	\$250,000	100.00	\$250,000	\$17.54	\$4,384
Waterford	\$250,000	31.80	\$79,500	\$55.14	\$4,384
Ballston	\$250,000	93.20	\$233,000	\$18.81	\$4,384
Stillwater	\$250,000	90.50	\$226,250	\$19.38	\$4,384

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

**Equalization rates used above are the 2017-18 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.

Two candidates vie for three seats on school board

Three seats on Shenendehowa's Board of Education are up for election. Two seats currently held by Christina Rajotte and Robert Pressley carry a three-year term. The seat held by Bill Casey, who will resign on June 30, carries a two-year term. Board members are unpaid and run at large. The two people with the highest number of votes would serve the three-year terms and the person with the third highest number of votes would serve the two-year term. Only two candidates submitted petitions with the required 64 signatures to run. The third vacant position will be filled by a qualified individual with the most write-in votes. If there are not enough write-in candidates for the vacancy, the remaining vacancy may be filled by appointment of a qualified person by the Board of Education.



Robert Pressley, of Rexford, is seeking his third term. He is currently employed as a Commercial Manager at Momentive Performance Materials and is a retired Colonel from the US Marine Corps Reserve. He has a bachelor's degree in control systems engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife have two children who attend Shen.



Christina Rajotte, of Halfmoon, is seeking her second term on the board. She is currently employed as the Director of Development and Community Relations at Equinox, Inc. She has a bachelor's degree in communications/journalism from St. John Fisher College. She and her husband have three children, two attend Shen and one who graduated from Shen.



Chango fourth graders investigated several NY fish species in local waterways as part of the "Go Fish" program run by Cornell Cooperative Extension



Skano kindergartners use pool noodles for hands-on practice building teen numbers.

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).

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.

Overall budget proposal	Budget for the 2017-18 school year	Budget proposed for the 2018-19 school year	Contingency budget for the 2018-19 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$169,957,065	\$173,682,956	\$170,223,173
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$3,725,891	\$266,108
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.19%	0.16%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$118,533,233	\$121,993,016	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	NA	NA	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable**	NA	NA	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)	\$118,533,233	\$121,993,016	\$118,533,233
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,342,408	\$3,576,839	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$116,204,555	\$119,285,182	
H. 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)	\$115,190,825	\$118,416,177	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval (See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$1,013,730	869,005	
Administrative component	\$16,211,422	\$16,161,141	\$15,839,209
Program component	\$128,852,735	\$132,656,214	\$130,013,688
Capital component	\$24,892,908	\$24,865,601	\$24,370,276

* 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.



Joe Porto's high school physics students worked collaboratively on a Universal Gravitation Simulation Lab.

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit

Using a complicated 8-step formula developed by the Office of the State Comptroller, Shen's 2018-19 maximum allowable tax levy limit is 3.65 percent. However, the proposed 2018-19 budget would increase the tax levy by 2.92 percent (\$3,459,783), which is below what the law allows.

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Average Basic STAR Tax Savings for 2018-19 Budget Proposal is \$700.

** Separate Propositions

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$2,381,505

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 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 15, 2018, 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.

Proposed 2018-19 Expenditures

Budgeted 2017-18 Projected 2018-19

Program Budget: 76.38% of Budget

Instruction	\$78,173,812	\$80,831,331
Pupil Transportation	9,034,824	9,721,249
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,149,641	1,150,866
In-service Training	210,398	405,287
Community Service	17,650	17,650
Transfers	350,000	406,000
Employee Benefits	39,916,410	40,123,831
TOTAL	\$128,852,735	\$132,656,214

Capital Budget: 14.32% of Budget

Operation & Maintenance	\$9,237,151	\$9,434,985
Tax Certiorari	100,000	100,000
BOCES Administration/Facilities	1,080,775	1,101,424
Debt Service-Building/Buses	11,400,000	11,200,000
Employee Benefits	3,067,482	3,021,692
Unclassified	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	\$24,892,908	\$24,865,601

Administrative Budget: 9.3% of Budget

Board of Education	\$49,137	\$49,137
Central Administration	435,462	447,209
Finance	1,165,021	1,174,808
Personnel/Records Mgmt	529,979	521,769
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,064,516	1,109,918
Insurance	694,066	694,066
Public Information	153,255	157,344
Curriculum Development	226,093	283,297
School Supervision	5,968,904	5,928,859
Research/Evaluation/Planning	588,495	601,802
Pupil Transportation	189,258	195,374
Employee Benefits	5,147,236	4,997,558
TOTAL	\$16,211,422	\$16,161,141

Total Expenditures:

\$169,957,065 \$173,682,956



Gowana student Aiden Farber gives a lesson to seventh grade technology classes on the rules and regulations of owning a drone.

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Proposed 2018-19 Revenues

Budgeted 2017-18 Projected 2018-19

Property Taxes: 70.24% of Budget

Property Taxes	\$118,533,233	\$121,993,016
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State Aid: 27.18% of Budget

Foundation Aid	\$27,772,305	\$28,310,189
Excess Cost Aid	1,492,628	1,392,572
Instructional Material Aid	974,785	965,726
BOCES Aid	1,965,875	1,936,306
Building Aid	6,370,223	5,522,280
Transportation Aid	8,502,314	9,079,937
TOTAL	\$47,078,130	\$47,207,010

Other Items: .90% of Budget

Interest Earnings	\$13,000	\$13,000
Tuitions & Admissions	256,000	319,500
Rentals, Sales, Refunds & Other	426,700	460,000
Federal Reimbursements	190,000	210,000
Other Tax Items	550,002	569,730
TOTAL	\$1,435,702	\$1,572,930

Fund Balance: 1.68% 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
TOTAL	\$2,910,000	\$2,910,000

Total Revenues:

\$169,957,065 \$173,682,956

Shenendehowa Central Schools ■ 2018-19 Budget Newsletter



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), 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 15, 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 \$173,682,956 budget for 2018-19 that includes a spending increase of 2.19 percent (\$3,725,891). The tax levy increase of 2.92 percent is below the tax cap of 3.65%.

Proposition 2

\$2,381,505 to buy 23 school vehicles. State aid will reimburse approximately 60 percent and the impact on the tax rate would be 0.199 percent over five years beginning in year 2019-20. This is approximately a three cent (\$.034) increase per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Proposition 3

XX candidates are running for three seats on the seven-member Board of Education that are up for election. Members serve without pay. The two candidates with the highest number of votes will serve a three-year term and the candidate with the third highest number of votes will serve the two-year term all commencing July 1, 2018.



QUEST students at Tesago participate in a parent presentation of a dissection as part of their science biology unit.