

the
great
plains

Shenendehowa

Central Schools

The \$187 million spending plan for 2021-22 maintains the current tax cap

Reimagining Education with Resilience and Fortitude...



Shen is In! We are in it together! Shen Baseball collects donations for the district's Bountiful Backpack Program to fight food insecurities in our community.

"The goal of this budget is to advance our commitment to an inclusive and axiomatic learning environment, preparing all students with the knowledge and tools they will need to thrive as civic-minded learners in a dynamic society," Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 18 on a proposed \$187 million budget for 2021-22 that includes a spending increase of 3.03 percent (\$ 5,500,955). The proposed budget is at **the NYS tax cap of 2.00%, the lowest tax cap percentage since the inception of the law in 2012.**

The estimated true value tax rate would decrease an estimated 0.5 percent per \$1,000. A property with an estimated market value of \$250,000 would see a **decrease** of approximately \$23 in its school property tax bill.

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:

- Engagement - Student voice and choice, 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 2021-22 budget preserves current programs and services with a strategic focus on moving forward and putting COVID in the rearview mirror. This includes a steadfast commitment to:

- Building on the momentum and lessons learned from September 2020 re-opening
- Leveraging changes in laws related to social distancing through vaccinations, herd immunity, and low transmission rates
- Planning for three-foot social distancing focused on maximizing space and staffing for September 2021; exercising a measured approach and due diligence on details and procedures to provide a safe environment for all

"This year has presented many challenges and our learning community has risen to those challenges and come back stronger," said Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson. "We are excited about the return to full, in-person learning for 2021-22 and the renewed commitment to provide engaging experiences on-site for all of our students."

2021-22 BUDGET VOTE

May 18, 2021 • 7 a.m.-9 p.m • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	\$187,158,384
Spending increase:	3.03%
Tax levy limit cap:	2.00%
Total tax LEVY increase (at the tax cap):	2.00%
Est. true value tax RATE decrease:	- 0.5%

A property valued at \$250,000 would see a property tax bill DECREASE of \$23.

BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Purchase 17 vehicles to replace aging buses

Total Cost:	\$1,757,170
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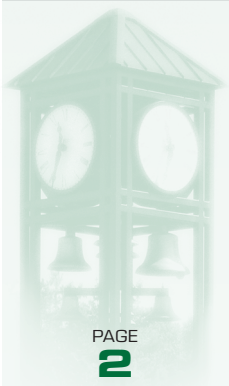
CAPITAL PROJECT

Capital improvements to address repairs and strategic enhancements (using \$2.5 million in Capital Reserves to offset impact to taxpayers.)

Total Cost	\$26,500,000
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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Three seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Two seats carry a three-year term, one seat carries a one-year term.



\$26.5 million Capital Project to address strategic repairs and enhancements

On May 18 residents will be asked to vote on a \$26.5 million capital construction proposition, using \$2.5 million in the district's Capital Reserves to offset the impact to taxpayers.

With the reserve funds, declining debt service and approximately 69.6 percent reimbursed by New York State building aid, it is estimated that ***the tax impact of this project will be approximately \$0.046 (less than a nickle) per thousand of tax assessed value per year over 17 years.***

The capital project addresses repairs and strategic enhancements focused on:

Environment-friendly and efficient operations

- Replace lighting across the district with LED bulbs for improved energy efficiency and cost savings
- Replace aging water pipes and fittings, boilers, windows/sealants and damaged roofs
- Upgrade and expand electrical capacity
- Abate floor tiles and replace with non-asbestos containing materials
- Provide air conditioning for expanded operation in large group spaces and throughout Chango and Okte. Air conditioning provides the district with an expanded ability for summer school and special education programming

Prioritizing safety and security while maximizing instructional space for the middle schools:

- Provide a secure front entrance at Gowana, creating a main office area that focuses on essential and safety needs
- Add an additional art room and classroom
- Upgrade science rooms

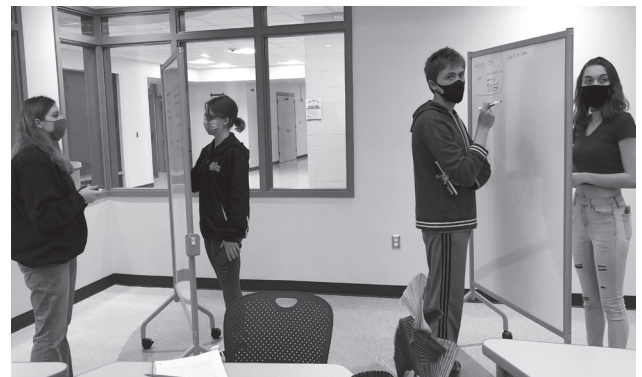
Programmatic upgrades for athletics/physical education and community use

- Install a multi-use turf field near Koda
- Refurbish tennis courts at the high school
- Replace track and turf at the Plainsmen Stadium

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



Chango Elementary students celebrate the 100th day of school.



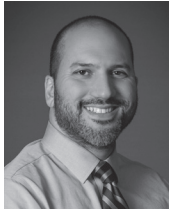
Shen High School math students engaged in collaborative work in the showcase science classroom, part of the new STEM Center in High School East.



Shenendehowa football defeats CBA on a snowy April Fools Day.

Nine candidates vie for three seats on school board

Three seats on Shenendehowa's Board of Education are up for election— Two seats carry a three-year term, one seat carries a one-year term due to the passing of a Board member. The following candidates submitted petitions with the required 45 signatures to run. They are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot.



Jason DiGianni, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term. He is employed as director of procurement at the NYS Division of the Budget. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University at Albany in political science. DiGianni and his spouse have two children who attend Shenendehowa schools.



Joseph Weber, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term. He is employed as an associate manager at Public Consulting Group, LLC. He has a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross in economics and a masters of business administration (MBA) from Clark University. He and his spouse have three children, two who attend Shenendehowa and one who will attend in fall 2022.



Meghan Chapin, of Ballston Lake, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is employed as a management consultant at KPMG LLP. She has a bachelor of science and a masters of public administration from Rockefeller College. She and her spouse have three children, all of whom attend Shenendehowa schools.



Ram Lalukota, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is employed at SHRUTHI-SOFT, LLC / NYS ITS as an IT consultant. He holds a bachelor of engineering in civil engineering from CBIT Hyderabad INDIA. He and his wife have two children attending Shenendehowa.



Alfred Ives, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is employed at the Office of the State Comptroller. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and computer science from the College of St. Rose and an MBA with a concentration in information security from SUNY Albany. He and his wife have one child who attends Shenendehowa.



Stacey Pflomm, of Mechanicville, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is a stay-at-home mom. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from SUNY Geneseo and masters of arts degree from Binghamton University with majors in Italian and secondary education and certification in Spanish. She and her spouse have two children who attend Shenendehowa.



Robert Pressly, of Rexford, is seeking his third term. He is currently employed as a commercial manager at Momentive Performance Materials, retired as a colonel from the US Marine Corps Reserve. He has a bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He and his spouse have two children who attend Shenendehowa.



Tom Templeton, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term on the Board of Education. He is the owner and a psychotherapist at Templeton Mental Health Counseling, PLLC. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in history and psychology and a masters of science in education and community mental health counseling. He and his wife have two children.



Kara Tubbs, of Clifton Park, is seeking her first term on the Board of Education. She is both a part-time teacher at Shen Methodist Preschool and a part-time registrar at Saratoga Hospital. She holds a bachelor of political science and a masters of education administration from the University at Albany. She and her spouse have two children in Shenendehowa.

Vote May 18
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Gowana Gym

- 2021-22 School Budget
- Bus Resolution
- Capital Project
- Three Seats on the Board of Education

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

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 17 vehicles including:

- (10) 66-passenger Type C buses
- (2) 30-passenger buses with capacity to accommodate up to 3 wheelchairs
- (5) 30-passenger Type A buses

The purchase cost will not exceed \$1,757,170 of which approximately 60 percent will be reimbursed through state transportation aid, resulting in an average of 0.10 percent tax rate increase over five years. This is approximately less than two cents (\$0.0159) increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2022-23. Retired buses will be sold at auction or reassigned to operation and maintenance.

Did you know?

The district’s 214 buses (excluding this COVID year) travel 1.9 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 twelve 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.



Girl's volleyball team celebrates victory!



Shenendehowa’s Food Service Department provides pancake breakfast to Arongen Elementary third graders as they read a book entitled “Pancakes for Breakfast” by Tomie DePaola.

Projected tax impact on homeowners

The following figures are based on estimated assessment values (2020-21 values decreased by 2.59% - five year average). 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	51.00	\$127,500	\$31.96	\$4,076
Halfmoon	\$250,000	56.75	\$141,875	\$28.73	\$4,076
Malta	\$250,000	100.00	\$250,000	\$16.30	\$4,076
Waterford	\$250,000	100.00	\$250,000	\$16.30	\$4,076
Ballston	\$250,000	85.70	\$214,250	\$19.02	\$4,076
Stillwater	\$250,000	86.00	\$215,000	\$18.95	\$4,076

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

**Equalization rates used above are the 2020-21 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.

Maximizing additional foundation aid for instructional enhancements

Foundation aid, which is the general aid category that supports programs offered to students and helps mitigate the tax levy increase, has remained relatively flat for Shenendehowa over the past several years. However, an increase of \$971,561 for 2021-22 will allow the district to enhance instructional programs while still being at the NYS tax levy cap of 2.00%, the lowest tax cap percentage since the inception of the law in 2012.

- Increased allocation for instruction materials including new textbooks and technology tools with an expanded focus on accessibility and efficiency such as Math Series K-5, Literacy Framework K-5 and Technology Integration K-12.
- Increase instructional capacity to address uncertainties of reopening, including the transition on a continuum, from three feet and beyond in September 2021.
- Investing in targeted professional development resources: block schedules, progressive learning, and equity, diversity & inclusivity.
- Increased allocation for instructional tech purchase through BOCES allowing the district to collect reimbursements and pool cost points in collaboration with other local districts.
- Repurposing resources to provide increased opportunities for the arts (music, drama, etc.) and physical education.
- Increased capacity to complete outstanding maintenance projects and reduce future operational costs.
- Increased allocation for equipment as non-recurring expenditure.



Gowana Middle schoolers in Mr. Godlewski's music class rock out both in person and online!

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 \$2,571,014 from its proposed 2021-22 budget which is equal to approximately 39 staff positions.

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



Thinking outside the box during COVID-19, the Shen HS Musical Company presented You're a Good Man Charlie Brown at the Malta Drive-in.

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 2021-22 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 18, 2021, 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	Budget for the 20-21 school year	Budget proposed for the 21-22 school year	Contingency budget for the 2021-22 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$181,657,429	\$187,158,384	\$184,587,370
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$5,500,955	\$2,929,941
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.03%	1.6%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$128,320,744	\$130,891,758	
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)	\$128,320,744	\$130,891,758	\$128,320,744
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$3,321,276	\$2,414,852	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$125,547,568	\$128,476,906	
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)	\$124,999,468	\$128,476,906	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval (See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$548,100	\$0	
Administrative component	\$16,813,439	\$17,267,990	\$17,030,778
Program component	\$140,485,851	\$145,629,074	\$143,628,552
Capital component	\$24,358,139	\$24,261,320	\$23,928,040

** Separate Propositions	
Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$1,757,170
Capital Project	\$26,500,000

** CONTINGENT BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS: The contingent budget assumes no increase in the tax levy over the 2021-22 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.*

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Average Basic STAR Tax Savings for 2021-22 Budget Proposal is \$621.

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit

Using a complicated 8-step formula developed by the Office of the State Comptroller, Shen's 2021-22 maximum allowable tax levy limit is two percent. The proposed 2021-22 budget is at the NYS tax cap of **2.00%, the lowest percentage since the laws inception in 2012.**



Shen is In! We are in it together! Shen boys basketball take the Suburban Council Championship title!

Proposed 2021-22 Expenditures

Budgeted 2020-21 Projected 2021-22

Program Budget: 77.81% of Budget

Instruction	\$86,186,353	\$89,790,524
Pupil Transportation	10,533,880	10,503,468
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,376,113	1,314,176
In-service Training	745,160	788,095
Community Service	17,650	17,650
Transfers	412,000	612,000
Employee Benefits	41,214,695	42,603,161
TOTAL	\$140,485,851	\$145,629,074

Capital Budget: 12.96% of Budget

Operation & Maintenance	\$9,821,041	\$10,391,944
Tax Certiorari	100,000	100,000
BOCES Administration/Facilities	1,157,539	1,151,258
Debt Service-Building/Buses	10,200,000	9,500,000
Employee Benefits	3,072,059	3,110,618
Unclassified	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	\$24,358,139	\$24,261,320

Administrative Budget: 9.23% of Budget

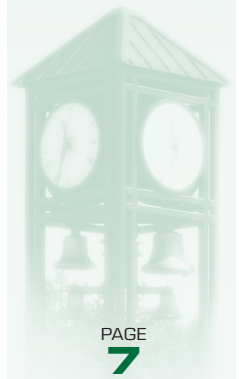
Board of Education	\$53,837	\$53,837
Central Administration	474,868	486,330
Finance	1,236,007	1,258,599
Personnel/Records Mgmt	645,808	669,778
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,028,389	1,100,733
Insurance	699,066	699,066
Public Information	160,297	143,627
Curriculum Development	338,336	346,638
School Supervision	6,193,324	6,261,151
Research/Evaluation/Planning	635,710	597,986
Pupil Transportation	206,568	267,069
Employee Benefits	5,141,229	5,383,176
TOTAL	\$16,813,439	\$17,267,990

Total Expenditures:

\$181,657,429 \$187,158,384



Gowana eighth graders engineered systems to respond to a 14-foot egg drop



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Proposed 2021-22 Revenues

Budgeted 2020-21 Projected 2021-22

Property Taxes: 69.94% of Budget

Property Taxes	\$128,320,744	\$130,891,758
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State Aid: 27.61% of Budget

Foundation Aid	\$28,531,690	\$31,557,191
Excess Cost Aid	1,389,592	1,536,319
Instructional Material Aid	940,340	923,614
BOCES Aid	2,280,033	2,399,617
Building Aid	4,849,715	5,243,793
Transportation Aid	10,244,332	10,017,763
TOTAL	\$48,235,702	\$51,678,297

Other Items: .9% of Budget

Interest Earnings	\$500,000	\$50,000
Tuitions & Admissions	288,500	211,575
Rentals, Sales, Refunds & Other	444,200	469,500
Federal Reimbursements	300,000	300,000
Other Tax Items	658,283	647,254
TOTAL	\$2,190,983	\$1,678,329

Fund Balance: 1.55% 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:

\$181,657,429 \$187,158,384

Deanna Stephenson, President 5 Chelsea Place, Clifton Park, NY

Todd Gilbert, Vice Pres.

Jason DiGianni

Naomi Hoffman

Gusta Miller

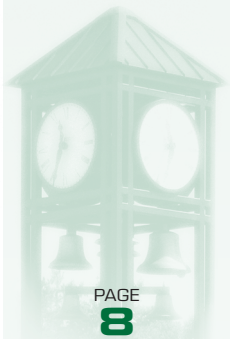
Robert Pressly

Joseph Weber

Superintendent
Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Editor
Lindsay Valenti

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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), 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 18, 2021

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 18.

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 \$187 million budget for 2021-22 that includes a spending increase of 3.03 percent (\$ 5,500,955). The proposed budget will maintain the tax cap levy at 2.00%. The estimated true value tax rate would **decrease by** an estimated 0.5 percent. A property value estimated at \$250,000 would see a property tax bill **decrease** of \$23.

Proposition 2

\$1.76 million proposition to purchase 17 school buses to update the fleet, prioritizing safety for students, resulting in an average of 0.10 percent tax rate increase over five years. This is approximately less than two cents (\$0.0159) increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2022-23.

Proposition 3

A \$26.5 million capital project to address repairs and strategic enhancements, using \$2.5 million in Capital Reserves to offset impact to taxpayers. With the reserve funds, declining debt service and approximately 69.6 percent reimbursed by New York State building aid, it is estimated that the tax impact of this project will be approximately \$0.046 (less than a nickle) per thousand of tax assessed value per year over 17 years.

Proposition 4

Three seats on the seven-member Board of Education are up for election. Two seats carry a three-year term, one seat carries a one-year term due to the sad passing of a Board member. All members serve without pay.