

the
great
plains

Shenendehowa

Central School District

The \$194,356,052 budget for 2022-23 tax levy below tax cap

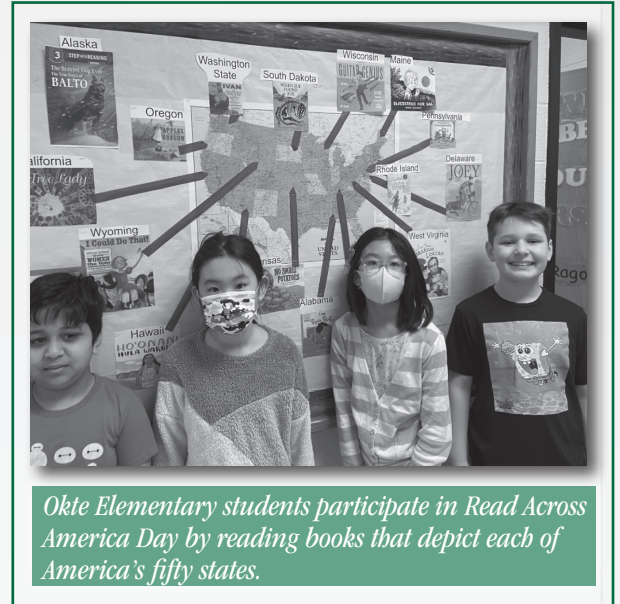
Boundless Possibilities...Redefining Normal

"The district began this budget development process by looking forward and redefining normal with a keen focus on continued adjustments, improving from the lessons learned over the past two years."

- Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson

Shenendehowa residents will vote on May 17 on a proposed \$194,356,052 budget for 2022-23 that includes a spending increase of 3.85 percent (\$7,197,668). The tax levy of 1.87 percent is **under the New York state tax cap.**

The estimated true value tax rate would **decrease** an estimated 0.77 percent. A property with an estimated market value of \$300,000 would see an estimated **decrease** of approximately \$36 in its tax bill.



Okte Elementary students participate in Read Across America Day by reading books that depict each of America's fifty states.

2022-23 BUDGET VOTE

May 17, 2022 • 7 a.m.-9 p.m. • Gowana Gym

Total budget:	\$194,356,052
Spending increase:	3.85%
NYS Tax levy limit cap:	4.29%
Proposed tax LEVY increase (below the tax cap):	1.87%
Est. true value tax RATE decrease:	0.77%

A property valued at \$300,000 would see an estimated tax bill decrease of \$36.

BUS PURCHASE PROPOSITION

Purchase 16 vehicles to replace aging buses and multi-purpose maintenance vehicles.

Total Cost Not to Exceed:	\$1,677,840
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SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Three seats on the Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Todd Gilbert, Robert Pressly and Deanna Stephenson.

Program enhancements

Each year, there are many different budget requests for potential program enhancements. A value added perspective is used to review requests. These proposals and/or requests for funds are reviewed and analyzed based on the following factors:

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

The proposed 2022-23 budget preserves current programs and services with a strategic focus on systematic opportunities to help our learners thrive in an authentic and dynamic learning environment. It provides for key program enhancements to support innovative and creative experiences in and out of the classroom. Some specifics include:

- Preserving class size at the elementary level to provide a more focused learning experience.
- Targeting investment in multi-tiered systems of supports (MTSS); connecting curriculum, instruction and assessment to support all students to success.

Continued on page 2

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.)

2022-23 Budget Proposal Program Enhancements (continued from page 1)

- Supporting the social and emotional needs of middle school students with the addition of a Student Support Counselor.
- Focusing on equity in outcomes for all students by adding English as a New Language (ENL) staff and an extra support personnel for Algebra 1A.
- Investing in areas of increased enrollment, including: Unified Arts, core areas of Math and Science, as well as support across all eight elementary schools.
- Expanding access with an increased investment in early education:
 - Expanded Extended Day Kindergarten (EDK) programming, move towards Full Day K;
 - 1:1 student Chromebooks for Grades 2-5; and
 - Integrative technology support with iPads for Grades K-1.
- Impactful investments to upgrade technology infrastructure, improving network resiliency and Internet redundancy.
- Investing in an obsolescence plan for an annual replacement of 2,500 student Chromebooks.
- Operational enhancements for increased reliability by upgrading wireless access points, which includes mobile displays for teachers to support dynamic learning.

Mandatory Costs

With New York State's implementation of the tax cap levy, 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:

- Impact in pension costs due to contribution rate changes - reduction for ERS (Employee Retirement System), -\$1,137,034, increase in TRS (Teacher Retirement System), \$659,925.
- Increase in health/dental insurance premiums, \$2,119,721.

Cost Savings

As with every budget, the district looks to offset cost increases with cost reductions. For 2022-23, this includes:

- Reduction in costs due to 15 instructional retirements (-\$779,557);
- Strategic investment with Federal dollars on one-time purchases (\$208,000), supply expenses (\$274,000), and shared services (\$681,229);
- Reduction in equipment expenses (\$407,820). ■



Students participate in the Student Faculty Administration (SFA) Senate Dodgeball tournament at High School East.



Ms. Delwiche's class at Gowana Middle School plays the classic board game Battleship in Spanish!

Seven candidates vie for three seats on the Board of Education

Three seats on Shenendehowa's Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The seats are currently held by Todd Gilbert, Robert Pressly and Deanna Stephenson. The following candidates submitted petitions with the required 56 signatures to run. Board members are unpaid and run at large. They are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot.



Deanna Stephenson, of Halfmoon, is seeking her third term. She is employed at Fidelis Care as Director of Provider Relations. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology and forensic science from SUNY Oswego and is working towards a master's degree in health care administration from Union

College. She and her spouse have one child who attends Shenendehowa and one who is a graduate of Shenendehowa.



Jason Little, of Ballston Lake, is seeking his first term. He is employed at Farrell Fritz, P.C. as an attorney. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Clarion University and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University at Buffalo Law School. He and his spouse have one child who attends Shenendehowa.



Petra Holden, of Ballston Lake, is seeking her first term. She is a stay-at-home mom and was formerly an attorney. She holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Virginia School of Law. She and her spouse have three children who attend Shenendehowa.



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



Tom Templeton, of Clifton Park, is seeking his first term. He is the owner/psychotherapist at Templeton Mental Health Counseling, PLLC. He holds a bachelor's degree in history and psychology from Siena College and a master's degree in education and community mental health counseling from The College of

Saint Rose. He and his wife have two children who will attend Shenendehowa.



Jennyfer Gleason, of Clifton Park, is seeking her first term. She retired from an appointed position with the N.Y.S. Office of Legal Services and was formerly a legislative advocate and lobbyist. She holds a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University in political science and engineering. She has two children who attend Shenendehowa.



Amanda Siska, of Clifton Park, is seeking her first term. She is employed at Holy Spirit School and Woodland Hill Montessori School as a Speech Language Pathologist. She holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders from The College of Saint Rose. She and her

spouse have two children who attend Shenendehowa.

Vote May 17
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Gowana Gym

2022-23 School Budget
Bus Purchase Proposition
Three Seats on the Board of Education

Absentee ballots are available at the district office
by calling the district clerk at 518-881-0623.

Bus and Multi-Purpose Vehicle Proposition

In an ongoing effort to keep Shen's transportation and multi-purpose maintenance vehicles in safe working condition and decrease repair costs, residents will vote on a proposition that would allow the district to purchase 16 vehicles including:

School Buses

- (1) 66-passenger Type C buses
- (1) 57-passenger bus with capacity to accommodate up to 4 wheelchairs
- (4) 30-passenger buses with capacity to accommodate up to 3 wheelchairs
- (6) 30-passenger Type A buses

Grounds/Maintenance/Security Vehicles

- (1) Truck with Stow and Go Salter and Dump Body Combination
- (3) One-ton pickup with Dump Body, V-Plow, Salter

The purchase cost will not exceed \$1,677,840 of which approximately 60 percent will be reimbursed through state transportation aid, resulting in an average of 0.14 percent tax rate increase over five years. This is approximately a two cent (\$0.02) increase per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2023-24. Retired buses will be sold at auction or reassigned to the facilities and operations department.

Did you know...

The district's 217 buses 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 12 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. ■



High School students taking Black and White Photography learn the technique of hand tinting photographs with local artist Robert Gullie.



Varsity Hockey's Freddy Hicks helps the team skate to their first Section II Championship since 2014, earning a spot in the NYSPHSAA State semifinals, the first since 2005.

Now Hiring for the 2022-23 School Year



SCAN ME

Hiring for Excellence:
Shenendehowa seeks
culturally proficient
individuals who actively
promote the highest levels
of achievement for
every student.

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone or visit www.shenet.org/employment to make a difference in the lives of our students, today.

On the Leading Edge of Statewide Initiatives: Equity in Opportunities and Outcomes

At Shenendehowa, we create a learning environment that acknowledges diversity, preserves equity and fosters inclusivity where the aspirations of students are prioritized, lending to an authentic sense of belonging. Students are celebrated and encouraged to stay true to themselves throughout their educational journey. Here are some key initiatives where Shen is leading the way across New York and beyond:

World Language and English Language Learner (ELL) Expansion

- With the consistent growth of ELL students across K-12, Shen has committed to add 1.6 FTE personnel, increasing English as New Learner (ENL) staff from 15 teachers to 16.6 FTE.
- Shen High School ranked first across NYS in 2021 with 236 graduates achieving the NYS Seal of Biliteracy, which recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages.

Service follows need for STEM initiatives and High School Mathematics

- Providing resources in high school math, the subject area of Algebra 1A. The district is committing support of an additional 1.0 FTE staff member to meet the needs of those students in the Algebra 1A sequence of courses.
- Expansion of the STEM Club for fourth and fifth graders. Starting at Shatekon Elementary in 2018, the program has now expanded to serve students at Arongen and Okte Elementary schools.

Leading comprehensive assessment practices and graduate recognition

- Shen is a pilot district, leading the way for the NYSED Diploma Seal of Civic Readiness, giving students recognition for their achievements in Social Studies and their ability to make a positive societal impact.
- Planning for a Fall 2022 launch of a Universal Screener, which will provide data-driven assessment on the learning needs of students K-8 to make sure they have every support available to them on their learning journey.

Did you know?

English Language Learners have increased **18%** across all grade levels since **2017**

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Shenendehowa's STEM Club is dedicated to empowering students to work collaboratively with peers, to think critically and to be independent problem-solvers.

Projected tax impact on homeowners

The following figures are based on estimated taxable assessment values (2021-22 values increased by 2.66% - 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	\$300,000	51.00	\$153,000	\$31.61	\$4,837
Halfmoon	\$300,000	54.70	\$164,100	\$29.48	\$4,837
Malta	\$300,000	100.00	\$300,000	\$16.12	\$4,837
Waterford	\$300,000	93.00	\$279,000	\$17.34	\$4,837
Ballston	\$300,000	85.30	\$255,900	\$18.90	\$4,837
Stillwater	\$300,000	86.00	\$258,000	\$18.75	\$4,837

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

**Equalization rates used above are the 2021-22 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.

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 2022-23 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 17, 2022, 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 21-22 school year	Budget proposed for the 22-23 school year	Contingency budget for the 2022-23 school year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$187,158,384	\$194,356,052	\$191,914,713
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$7,197,668	\$4,756,329
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.85%	2.54%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed tax levy to support the total budgeted amount	\$130,891,758	\$133,333,097	
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)	\$130,891,758	\$133,333,097	\$130,891,758
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit	\$2,414,852	\$3,682,656	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$128,476,906	\$129,650,441	
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)	\$128,476,906	\$129,650,441	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval (See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$0	\$0	
Administrative component	\$17,267,990	\$17,616,204	\$17,394,924
Program component	\$145,629,074	\$152,102,206	\$150,191,625
Capital component	\$24,261,320	\$24,637,642	\$24,328,164

** Separate Propositions

Description	Amount
Bus & Multi-Purpose Vehicle Proposition	\$1,677,840

* 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 2022-23 Budget Proposal is \$602.

Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit

Using a complicated 8-step formula developed by the Office of the State Comptroller, Shen's 2022-23 maximum allowable tax levy limit is 4.29 percent. The proposed 2022-23 budget is under the NYS tax cap at 1.87%.

Karigon Musical Club performed Lion King Kids this spring.



Proposed 2022-23 Expenditures

Budgeted 2021-22 Projected 2022-23

Program Budget: 78.26% of Budget

Instruction	\$89,790,524	\$93,302,865
Pupil Transportation	10,503,468	11,297,689
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,314,176	1,408,405
In-service Training	788,095	636,247
Community Service	17,650	17,650
Transfers	612,000	600,000
Employee Benefits	42,603,161	44,839,350
TOTAL	\$145,629,074	\$152,102,206

Capital Budget: 12.68% of Budget

Operation & Maintenance	\$10,391,944	\$10,847,367
Tax Certiorari	100,000	100,000
BOCES Administration/Facilities	1,151,258	1,193,193
Debt Service-Building/Buses	9,500,000	9,500,000
Employee Benefits	3,110,618	2,989,582
Unclassified	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	\$24,261,320	\$24,637,642

Administrative Budget: 9.06% of Budget

Board of Education	\$53,837	\$53,837
Central Administration	486,330	504,139
Finance	1,258,599	1,295,408
Personnel/Records Mgmt	669,778	665,265
Central Svc & Legal Costs	1,100,733	1,103,402
Insurance	699,066	720,038
Public Information	143,627	137,664
Curriculum Development	346,638	350,806
School Supervision	6,261,151	6,491,404
Research/Evaluation/Planning	597,986	607,606
Pupil Transportation	267,069	296,104
Employee Benefits	5,383,176	5,390,531
TOTAL	\$17,267,990	\$17,616,204

Total Expenditures:

\$187,158,384 \$194,356,052



Acadia Middle School students learn to use a drill press in Mr. Symond's technology class.

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Proposed 2022-23 Revenues

Budgeted 2021-22 Projected 2022-23

Property Taxes: 68.60% of Budget

Property Taxes	\$130,891,758	\$133,333,097
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State Aid: 29.16% of Budget

Foundation Aid	\$31,557,191	\$36,952,452
Excess Cost Aid	1,536,319	1,630,169
Instructional Material Aid	923,614	937,511
BOCES Aid	2,399,617	2,561,008
Building Aid	5,243,793	4,171,975
Transportation Aid	10,017,763	10,320,366
Other State Aid	0	100,000
TOTAL	\$51,678,297	\$56,673,481

Other Items: .74% of Budget

Interest Earnings	\$50,000	\$35,000
Tuitions & Admissions	211,575	154,175
Rentals, Sales, Refunds & Other	469,500	400,000
Federal Reimbursements	300,000	200,000
Other Tax Items	647,254	650,299
TOTAL	\$1,678,329	\$1,439,474

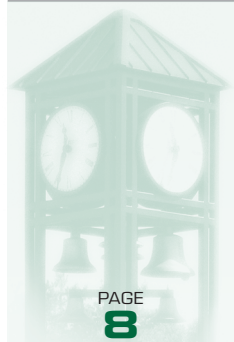
Fund Balance: 1.5% of Budget

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:

\$187,158,384 \$194,356,052

Shenendehowa *Central Schools* ■ 2022-23 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 17, 2022

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 pre-registration 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 certified by Saratoga County as 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 17.

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 \$194,356,052 million budget for 2022-23 that includes a spending increase of 3.85 percent (\$7,197,668). The proposed budget is a tax levy of 1.87 percent which is under the New York state tax cap levy limit. The estimated true value tax rate would decrease by an estimated 0.77 percent. A property value estimated at \$300,000 would see an estimated tax bill decrease of \$36.

Proposition 2

Authorize the purchase of buses and multi-purpose maintenance vehicles at an estimated aggregate cost not to exceed \$1,677,840.

Proposition 3

Three seats on the seven-member Board of Education are up for election. Each seat carries a three-year term. The last incumbents are Todd Gilbert, Robert Pressly and Deanna Stephenson. The candidates with the plurality of votes shall be declared elected.



High School students in Mrs. Barnum's biology class experiment making cheese!