

Cobleskill-Richmondville

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Traveling Lunch Ladies visit Radez fourth graders with tastes of spring.

BUDGET REVOTE

JUNE 19, 2012

7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Budget: \$35,057,119 ■ Tax Levy Increase: 2.72%

Proposed budget retains academic opportunities

On Tuesday, June 19, residents will vote on a proposed 2012-13 district budget of \$35,057,119. The budget includes an \$888,568 spending increase (2.6 percent) from the 2011-12 budget and carries a proposed tax levy increase of \$383,656 or 2.72 percent – the district’s maximum allowable levy limit under the state’s new tax “cap” legislation. The budget would need a simple majority of 50 percent plus one “yes” votes to pass.

The previous budget, which was defeated on May 15, carried a spending increase of \$1,121,280 and a tax levy increase of 4.54 percent. To reach the 2.72 percent tax levy increase, \$256,712 had to be cut from the previously defeated budget.

Taking public feedback into consideration when crafting the new budget, district officials identified cuts that would not directly affect student academic offerings and would not result in any teacher layoffs.

“Decisions were based exclusively on how to least impact students,” Board President Bruce Tryon said.

THE PROPOSED CUTS INCLUDE:

- 1 FTE teacher (A mid-year

The proposed budget contains no cuts to academic opportunities and no teacher layoffs.

- retirement; position will not be filled.) Savings: \$60,000
- 0.4 FTE technology position in the middle school (Lower eighth grade enrollment requires less staff. This is not a lay off.) Savings: \$21,000
- 0.5 FTE maintenance (Due to a resignation; position will not be filled.) Savings: \$20,000
- Reduction in BOCES data service. Savings: \$20,000
- Reduction in summer clerical staff. Savings: \$5,000
- Reduction in sports (The proposal includes the elimination of modified sports, varsity golf, boys volleyball, bowling and boys/girls tennis.) Savings: \$90,000

In addition to the cuts, there were other changes in expenses and revenues that are reflected in the proposed budget and its tax levy.

What’s on the ballot

- The proposed \$35,057,119 2012-13 district budget, which calls for a spending increase of \$888,568 (2.6 percent) and a tax levy increase of \$383,656 or 2.27 percent
- Bus bond proposal for three buses (see Page 2)

Voting takes place from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at Golding Middle School and Radez Elementary. You may vote if you are at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to June 19 and a registered voter. To register, contact the county board of elections.

www.crcs.k12.ny.us

CHANGES IN EXPENSES:

- Family Room personnel will be funded through a grant instead of the general budget. Savings: \$7,850
- Reduction in budgeted unemployment. Savings: \$8,862

CHANGES IN REVENUE:

- Increase in tuition (Jefferson Central School District will be sending a tuition-paying student to C-RCS). Additional revenue: \$24,000

Residents to vote on new bus prop

Residents will vote on June 19 on a revised bus proposition for \$337,961 to purchase three 65-passenger school buses.

With the district's state aid ratio for bus purchases set at 90 percent, the local taxpayers' cost for the buses would be \$33,796.10 paid over the duration of five years. This total does not reflect any trade-in allowances.

When the original proposition (which also included one smaller bus) was voted down, Blue Bird Corporation, the district's bus dealer, lowered the price of each full-size bus by \$7,000, thus reducing the current proposition by an additional \$21,000.

The state recommends that school buses remain in service for no more than 10 years or a certain number of miles, which may vary by district. C-RCS operates a 66-bus fleet that transverses routes covering the 181 square miles of the district. While the engines of district buses remain in good order, the harsh Northeast climate and salted roads result in less-favorable conditions of the bodies of some of the district's buses, requiring the purchase of new buses.

"Rust is something that is not acceptable relative to the safety of the students," Superintendent Lynn Macan said.

How much will my taxes increase?

The impact of the proposed budget on individual tax payers' bills cannot be predicted until a number of factors outside the control of the district, such as equalization rates, assessments and STAR exemptions, are determined later in the year. However, based on last year's equalization rates and assessments — **please note: These are likely to change for 2012** — for a home assessed at \$90,000, residents of Cobleskill would see an estimated increase of \$56.61 (\$4.72 per month) in taxes. Residents of Richmondville would see an estimated \$44.19 (\$3.68 per month) increase.

Aren't taxes to be limited to 2 percent?

Although the new law has been referred to as a "2 percent tax cap," the legislation applies to the district's tax levy, not to tax rates or individual tax bills, and it will not limit your tax bill to 2 percent. In fact, it does not restrict any proposed tax levy increase. What it does is establish a threshold (calculated by each district according to a formula dictated by the law) that determines the number of votes needed to pass a school budget.

C-RCS' threshold or levy limit for a simple majority vote (50 percent +1) is 2.72 percent. As the proposed budget carries a 2.72 percent levy increase, it falls within the levy limit and therefore needs a simple majority to pass.

For more information on the tax levy legislation, please visit the district's website at www.crcs.k12.ny.us.

Proposed budget carries 2.72% levy increase

From Page 1

"In this proposed budget, we did not lay off one teacher," said Superintendent Lynn Macan. "We did not eliminate any programming within the academic day. We are cutting it as close as we feel is fiscally prudent."

Macan also noted that the proposed budget is not designed to intentionally generate fund balance, unlike budgets in previous years. Excess fund balance in the district has traditionally been applied against the coming year's levy. Macan warned that will not likely be a possibility next year.

What if the proposed budget is voted down a second time?

If residents vote down the proposed district budget on June 19, the district will be required by law to adopt a contingent budget. Under the new state legislation, when a school district adopts a contingent budget, the tax levy cannot be increased for any reason; it is set at a zero percent increase, and no exemptions are allowed.

C-RCS would need to cut an additional \$383,656 from the proposed budget to meet contingency requirements.

Under state regulations, \$3,893 would need to be cut from equipment. District officials are currently examining where the remaining \$379,763 potential cuts would be made if the district was forced to adopt a contingent budget. When finalized, that information will be made available on the district website.

"I don't believe it would be possible to cut an additional \$380,000 from the budget without being forced to make reductions and eliminations that directly impact academic programming at C-RCS," said Macan.

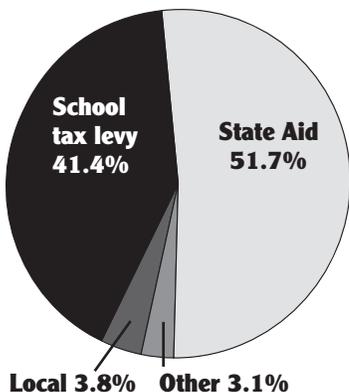
2012-13 PROJECTED REVENUES

	2011-12 Adopted Budget	2012-13 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From Prior School Year
Local sources (3.8% of total)			
Real property tax items	\$ 551,075	\$571,213	\$20,138
Charges for services	547,699	572,000	24,301
Interest earnings	6,500	6,500	0
Use of property	6,500	6,500	0
Refund of prior year expense	186,000	186,000	0
Subtotal	\$1,297,774	\$1,342,213	\$44,439
State sources (51.7% of total)			
Foundation aid	\$13,117,724	\$13,196,430	\$78,706
BOCES aid	1,019,289	878,348	(140,941)
Building aid	4,071,849	4,085,370	13,521
Textbook, software, library aid	156,698	151,245	(5,453)
Computer hardware, tech. aid	35,513	33,303	(2,210)
Transportation aid	2,731,800	2,707,615	(24,185)
Public/private excess cost aid	259,239	309,797	50,558
Gap Elimination Adjustment	(3,674,821)	(3,355,797)	319,024
Restoration of GEA	0	127,625	127,625
Subtotal	\$17,717,291	\$18,133,936	\$416,645
Other sources (3.1% of total)			
District reserves	\$93,012	\$0	(\$93,012)
Appropriated fund balance	607,237	1,092,289	485,052
Other	348,212	0	(348,212)
Subtotal	\$1,048,461	\$1,092,289	\$43,828
School tax levy (41.4% of total)			
	\$14,105,025	\$14,488,681	\$383,656
TOTAL	\$34,168,551	\$35,057,119	\$888,568

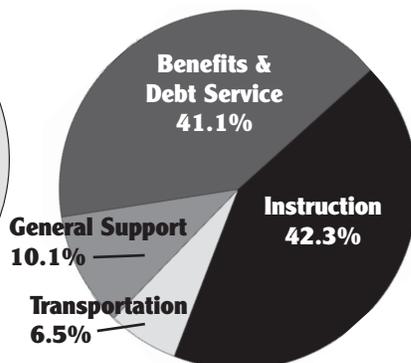
2012-13 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2011-12 Adopted Budget	2012-13 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From Prior School Year
General support (10.1% of proposed budget)			
Board of Education	\$16,623	\$16,623	\$0
Central Administration	235,108	235,307	199
Finance	311,130	307,762	(3,368)
Support Services	103,790	110,415	6,625
Central Services	2,478,782	2,388,438	(90,344)
Special Items	381,344	482,077	100,733
Subtotal	\$3,526,777	\$3,540,622	\$13,845
Instruction (42.3% of proposed budget)			
Administration & Curriculum Development	\$869,869	\$906,729	\$36,860
Teaching – Regular School	7,176,919	8,385,816	1,208,897
Teaching – Special Programs	3,806,210	3,670,161	(136,049)
Teaching – Special Schools	30,291	30,729	438
Instructional Media	715,866	630,552	(85,314)
Pupil Personnel Services	1,298,152	1,221,975	(76,177)
Subtotal	\$13,897,307	\$14,845,962	\$948,655
Transportation (6.5% of proposed budget)			
	\$2,237,235	\$2,275,430	\$38,195
Benefits and debt service (41.1% of proposed budget)			
Employee Benefits	\$9,652,120	\$9,842,398	\$190,278
Debt Service & Interfund Transfers	4,479,862	4,218,659	(261,203)
Bus Payments & Other Borrowing	375,250	334,048	(41,202)
Subtotal	\$14,507,232	\$14,395,105	(\$112,127)
TOTAL	\$34,168,551	\$35,057,119	\$888,568

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



THREE-PART BUDGET

School districts are required to present their budgets in three component parts. For Cobleskill-Richmondville, they are as follows:

	2011-12	2012-13	\$ change
Administrative	\$3,051,620	\$3,061,082	\$9,462
Program	27,846,812	28,850,451	1,003,639
Capital	3,270,119	3,145,586	(124,533)

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Editor
Nanette Morges

State law requires school districts to mail this budget notice to all households in the district. If you would like additional information about the budget, please call the superintendent's office at 234-4032 or visit www.crcs.k12.ny.us.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2012-13 by the qualified voters of the Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District, Schoharie County, New York, will be held at the Golding and Radez schools in said district on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot or machine.

** The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law. The Basic STAR exemption assumes estimated projection of assessments and equalization rates. These assumptions will change by August 2012.*

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2011-12 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2012-13 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2012-13 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 34,168,551	\$ 35,057,119	\$ 34,673,463
Increase (or decrease) for the 2012-13 school year		\$ 888,568	\$ 504,912
Percentage increase (or decrease) in each proposed budget		2.6%	1.48%
Change in the consumer price index		3.2%	
School tax levy limit		\$ 14,039,545	
Proposed school year tax levy (without permissible exclusions)		\$ 14,038,946	\$ 14,105,025
Total permissible exclusions		\$ 449,735	
Proposed school year tax levy (including permissible exclusions)	\$ 14,105,025	\$ 14,488,681	\$ 14,105,025
1. Administrative Component	\$ 3,051,620	\$ 3,061,082	\$ 3,061,082
2. Program Component	\$ 27,846,812	\$ 28,850,451	\$ 28,466,795
3. Capital Component	\$ 3,270,119	\$ 3,145,586	\$ 3,145,586

What happens if the budget is not approved by a majority of voters?

If voters do not approve a proposed 2012-13 budget within two tries, the board must adopt a contingency budget, which limits the property tax levy increase to zero percent, with no exclusions. As a result, the board would be required to further reduce the budget by \$383,656 to \$34,673,463 in order to reach a zero-percent property tax levy increase. Those cuts would include \$3,893 in equipment, as required under regulations.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR* exemption savings are based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

	2012-13 Proposed budget
Basic STAR Savings (Cobleskill; Richmondville)	\$712; \$556