

# Cobleskill Richmondville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **Learn Forward**

**2013 BUDGET VOTE** MAY 21, 2013 7 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

**Budget: \$36,570,653 ■ Tax Levy Increase: 2.98%**

## Proposed budget under ‘cap’: Preserves current programming, staff

On May 21, residents will vote on the 2013-14 C-RCS budget.

The \$36,570,653 proposed budget has a spending increase of \$1,513,534 and carries a tax levy increase of 2.98 percent or \$431,763.

The proposed budget not only retains all staff and current programming and opportunities for students but also carries a tax levy increase that is lower than the district’s maximum allowable tax levy increase of 5.14 percent, as calculated by the state’s tax levy limit formula. Therefore, a simple majority is needed to approve the school budget.

“We felt that we needed to preserve as much student opportunity as possible,” Superintendent Lynn Macan said. “In light of many of the cuts districts are making, there is a lot of talk in New York state that the Class of 2012 may have received the best education that districts will be able to offer for the foreseeable future. We’ve been concerned because we’ve had significant cuts earlier than a lot of the other districts.”

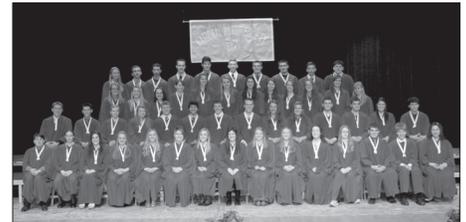
Those cuts at C-RCS were made because of decreases in state

aid and a loss of state and federal grant money, coupled with the Gap Elimination Adjustment, which is aid withheld from schools in order to help balance the state budget. Since the 2008-09 school year, C-RCS has lost a cumulative total of nearly \$18 million in state and federal funding. Nearly \$11.4 million of that is because of the GEA.

“To keep everything we had this year, we faced a budget gap of \$1.5 to \$1.6 million,” Macan said. “While we are very grateful for additional assistance, the proposed state aid increase of about \$1.1 million is not enough to bridge our budget gap.”

The board unanimously supported the cut-free spending plan and voted to apply a little more than \$1 million in reserves and fund balance to the budget to bridge the gap.

“A lot of conversations have been taking place about what are the educational programs and opportunities we want to provide our students,” Macan said. “We feel strongly that, as a district, we need to retain all the opportunities currently available to the students.”



Congratulations to the 2013 C-RCS National Honor Society Inductees.

### What’s on the ballot?

- The proposed \$36,570,653 2013-14 school budget, which carries a spending increase of \$1,513,534 and a tax levy increase of \$431,763 or 2.98 percent.
- A proposal to purchase 5 buses. (see page 2)
- Two seats on the Cobleskill-Richmondville Board of Education, each with a three-year term. Candidates are Mary E. Black, Jeffrey C. Foote and Susan Emerson Strasser. Visit the district website for more information on the candidates.
- A separate proposition to fund The Community Library for \$250,573. (Under New York State Education Law, funding for the library is collected by the school district in which the library is located and then forwarded to the library.)
- Two five-year library board seats. John Hart is a candidate. The other position is vacant.

[www.crcs.k12.ny.us](http://www.crcs.k12.ny.us)



## Budget Q & A

### What has been cut?

There are no program cuts or staff layoffs in the proposed budget. One music teacher retirement will not be replaced, however, band, chorus and orchestra will still be offered.

### What has been added?

The district is part of a consortium that won a Virtual AP grant, which will allow C-RCS to offer more advanced placement courses next year that will be funded through the grant. More Smart Scholars courses will also be available due to grant funding.

### On what budget items is the district increasing spending?

The increase in the district's expenses is driven by items over which the district has little or no control, such as health care premium increases, increases in contributions to employee retirement systems, and other

contractual obligations.

### Is the tax levy increase below the district's allowable limit?

Yes. C-RCS's calculated threshold or maximum levy limit increase for a simple majority vote is 5.14 percent. However, the board of education is proposing a budget that would allow the district to retain all current staffing, programming, and opportunities with a levy increase of 2.98 percent.

Because the proposed levy is below the calculated limit, a simple majority is needed to approve the budget.

### How can a 2.98 percent levy increase be under the 'cap'?

The levy limit legislation establishes a threshold (calculated according to a formula dictated by the law) that determines the number of votes needed to pass a school

(Continued on page 4)



The Cooking Channel's Fabulous Beekman Boys visit the C-RCS Bulldog Bakery.

## Voter Information

**Polling locations:** Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, May 21.

School district residents in the towns of Worcester, Decatur, Roseboom, Seward, Summit, Richmondville, Jefferson, Blenheim, and Fulton (west of the junction of Tower and Greenbush Roads) vote at Radez Elementary, 319 E. Main Street, Richmondville (294-6621).

District residents in the towns of Root, Carlisle, Esperance, Schoharie, Cobleskill, Middleburgh, and Fulton (east of the junction of Tower and Greenbush Roads) vote at Golding Middle School, 155 Washington Ave., Cobleskill (234-4032).

If you have questions about your voting location, call 234-4032, ext. 2000.

**Voter eligibility:** 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 May 21 and a registered voter. To register, contact your county board of elections.

**Absentee ballots:** Absentee ballots are available to anyone who will be out of the area for work, school, military service or vacation on May 21, or who is hospitalized, permanently disabled, or homebound due to illness. For an application, call the District Office at 234-4032. Completed applications must be received by the District Office no later than May 14, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. All ballots must be received by 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 21.

## 2013-14 Bus Proposal

More than 10 years ago, C-RCS developed a long-range bus replacement plan. The goal of the plan is to meet the recommendations of the State Education Department and the State Department of Transportation to replace buses every 10 years. The bus purchase proposal for the 2013-14 school year includes:

■ Three large, 65-passenger school buses	\$349,700
■ Two 7-passenger Suburbans	\$ 86,000
Total	\$435,700

Please note that the above proposal does not show trade-in allowances that might apply, and these cost estimates may change as prices are adjusted based on state contracts. With the state aid ratio for bus purchasing at 85.5 percent, the local taxpayer share is 14.5 percent, or \$63,177 for the proposal.

### 2013-14 PROJECTED REVENUES

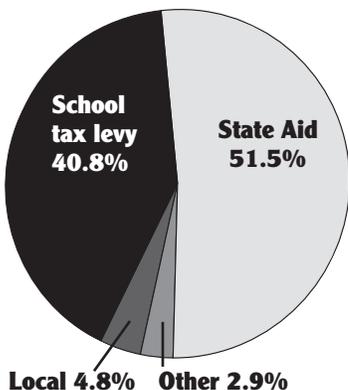
	2012-13 Adopted Budget	2013-14 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From Prior School Year
<b>Local sources (4.80% of total)</b>			
Real property tax items	\$ 571,213	\$593,724	\$22,511
Charges for services	572,000	970,000	398,000
Interest earnings	6,500	4,000	(2,500)
Use of property	6,500	1,000	(5,500)
Refund of prior year expense	186,000	186,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,342,213</b>	<b>\$1,754,724</b>	<b>\$412,511</b>
<b>State sources (51.51% of total)*</b>			
Foundation aid	\$13,196,430	\$13,236,019	\$39,589
BOCES aid	878,348	1,048,664	170,316
Building aid	4,085,370	3,946,989	(138,381)
Textbook, software, library aid	151,245	150,228	(1,017)
Computer hardware, tech. aid	33,303	32,348	(955)
Transportation aid	2,707,615	2,539,135	(168,480)
Public/private excess cost aid	309,797	283,118	(26,679)
Gap Elimination Adjustment	(3,355,797)	(3,228,172)	127,625
Restoration of GEA	127,625	830,529	702,904
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$18,133,936</b>	<b>\$18,838,858</b>	<b>\$704,922</b>
<b>Other sources (2.89% of total)</b>			
District reserves	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
Appropriated fund balance	1,092,289	906,627	(185,662)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,092,289</b>	<b>\$1,056,627</b>	<b>(\$35,662)</b>
<b>School tax levy (40.80% of total)</b>			
	\$14,488,681	\$14,920,444	\$431,763
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,057,119</b>	<b>\$36,570,653</b>	<b>\$1,513,534</b>

\* Final state aid received for 2012-13 was less than estimated in the adopted 2012-13 budget.

### 2013-14 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2012-13 Adopted Budget	2013-14 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From Prior School Year
<b>General support (9.31% of proposed budget)</b>			
Board of Education	\$16,623	\$16,623	\$0
Central Administration	236,591	207,083	(29,508)
Finance	307,762	293,351	(14,411)
Support Services	110,415	108,153	(2,262)
Central Services	2,388,438	2,402,650	14,212
Special Items	482,077	376,760	(105,317)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,541,906</b>	<b>\$3,404,620</b>	<b>(\$137,286)</b>
<b>Instruction (42.54% of proposed budget)</b>			
Administration & Curriculum Development	\$907,421	\$870,290	(\$37,131)
Teaching – Regular School	8,388,068	8,761,318	373,250
Teaching – Special Programs	3,670,161	3,879,077	208,916
Teaching – Special Schools	30,729	22,937	(7,792)
Instructional Media	630,553	656,605	26,052
Pupil Personnel Services	1,225,746	1,368,155	142,409
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,852,678</b>	<b>\$15,558,382</b>	<b>\$705,704</b>
<b>Transportation (5.85% of proposed budget)</b>			
	\$2,267,430	\$2,138,995	(\$128,435)
<b>Benefits and debt service (42.30% of proposed budget)</b>			
Employee Benefits	\$9,842,398	\$10,997,700	1,155,302
Bus Payments & Debt Services	4,552,707	4,470,956	(81,751)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,395,105</b>	<b>\$15,468,656</b>	<b>1,073,551</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,057,119</b>	<b>\$36,570,653</b>	<b>\$1,513,534</b>

### REVENUES

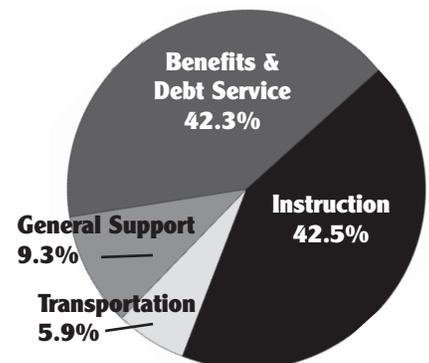


### THREE-PART BUDGET

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

	2012-13	2013-14	\$ change
Administrative	\$2,287,349	\$2,176,855	\$(110,494)
Program	30,313,384	31,946,673	1,633,289
Capital	2,456,386	2,447,125	(9,261)

### EXPENDITURES



**Superintendent**

Lynn Macan, Ph.D.

**Board of Education**

Bruce L. Tryon, President

Jeffrey C. Foote, Vice President

Melissa A. Bartlett

Maureen E. Nicholas

Steven H. Philbrick

Daniel B. Schulte

Russell D. Smith

**To: Postal Customer**

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**Editor**

Nanette Blake

The annual school budget vote will be held Tuesday, May 21, 2013, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.

**What happens if the budget is voted down?**

School districts in the state of New York have a maximum of two votes to pass a budget. If the proposed C-RCS budget is voted down on May 21, the board of education has the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for vote or adopting a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated a second time, then the district will be forced to go to a contingent budget. Under the new tax levy legislation, when a district adopts a contingent budget, the tax levy cannot be increased for any reason; it is set at a zero percent increase. There are no exemptions allowed under a contingent budget. For C-RCS, this would mean the need to cut \$431,763 from the proposed budget.

**Budget Q & A** (continued from page 2)

budget. It does not cap a levy increase at 2 percent. In fact, it does not restrict any proposed tax levy increase.

**How were residents involved in the budget process?**

The board of education began soliciting feedback from the community in January through the Citizens' Budget Committee. Residents were also encouraged to speak during public comment at board meetings and contact the board or the administration with any suggestions any time.

**How will a 2.98 percent levy increase affect my taxes?**

What will happen to your tax bill cannot be predicted until a number of factors outside the control of the school are determined later in the year, such as equalization rates, assessments, and STAR

exemptions. However, an estimate can be given using last year's equalization rate and assessments. (Please note these are likely to change for 2013.) For a home assessed at \$90,000, residents of Cobleskill would see an increase of \$81.07 in taxes. Residents of Richmondville would see a \$63.75 increase.

**What about the STAR program?**

The New York State School Tax Relief Program provides New York homeowners with partial exemptions from school property taxes. Basic STAR is available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the owners' total income is less than \$500,000, and exempts the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home from school taxes. For qualifying seniors, Enhanced STAR exempts the first \$63,300 of the full value of a home from school taxes.