

Cobleskill Richmondville CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **Learn Forward**

2014 BUDGET VOTE MAY 20, 2014 7 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

Budget: \$37,583,403 ■ Tax Levy Increase: 2.36%

Proposed budget preserves current programming, staff

On Tuesday, May 20, residents will vote on the proposed 2014-15 Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District budget.

The \$37,583,403 proposed budget has a spending increase of \$1,012,750 (2.7 percent).

The proposed tax levy increase of 2.36 percent or \$346,722 is exactly at the district's maximum allowable limit as calculated by the state's tax levy limit formula. This means that a simple majority is needed to approve the school budget.

The proposed budget not only retains all staff and current programming and opportunities for students but also adds additional part-time sixth grade teachers to eliminate some sixth grade study halls.

"From the beginning of the budget process, we intended not to make additional cuts for next school year," Superintendent Lynn Macan said.

Like many districts, C-RCS began the budget process with a gap between expected revenues and expenses. A \$420,000 increase in state aid and an unspent funds surplus of \$400,000 in the current year's budget,

coupled with the board's decision to apply \$850,004 in reserves and fund balance to close the gap, allowed the district to propose a budget that preserves all current staff and programming while staying within the tax levy limit.

"We strongly believe that, as a district, we need to retain all the opportunities currently available to the students and maintain our staff," Macan said.

Because the district is staying within its tax levy limit, residents will be eligible for a refund under the state's Real Property Tax Freeze Credit. To qualify, homeowners must be eligible for a STAR exemption. The credit will be equal to the greater of 1.46 percent multiplied by school taxes paid in 2013-14 or the amount 2014-15 taxes exceed 2013-14 taxes.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 20 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Golding Middle School and Radez Elementary. Residents must be registered to vote. To register, contact your county board of elections. Absentee ballot applications are available in the district office. For more information on the budget or voting, please visit the district website at www.crcs.k12.ny.us.



What's on the ballot?

- The proposed \$37,583,403 2014-15 school budget, which carries a spending increase of \$1,012,750 (2.77%) and a tax levy increase of \$346,722 (2.36%).
- A proposal to purchase 5 buses and a van. (see page 2)
- Three seats on the Cobleskill-Richmondville Board of Education, each with a three-year term. Candidates are Steven Philbrick, Bruce Tryon, and Susan Emerson Strasser. Visit the district website for more information on the candidates.
- A separate proposition to fund The Community Library for \$258,997. (Under New York State Education Law, funding for the library is collected by the school district and then forwarded to the library.)
- Four library board seats. Candidates for the three open five-year seats include: Gerald Peters, Melodie Neary, and Ken Hotopp. Zhongchun Jiang is the candidate for the one-year seat.

www.crcs.k12.ny.us



Budget Q & A

What has been cut or added?

There are no program cuts or staff layoffs in the proposed budget. Some additional staff is added to reduce sixth grade study halls.

Where is the district increasing spending?

The increase in the district's expenses is driven by contractual obligations, such as health care premium increases and salaries, as well as increases in contributions to employee retirement systems.

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 suggestions any time.

How will the new state "tax freeze" affect my school tax bill?

The state Legislature passed a Property Tax Credit that may provide a rebate check to homeowners beginning in the upcoming school year. In the first year of this rebate program, a district must stay within its tax levy cap. In the second year, a district must stay within its 2015-16 tax levy cap and receive state approval for a shared services/efficiency plan that achieves savings equivalent to 1 percent of the tax levy each year for three years. If a district does so, homeowners who are eligible for the School Tax Relief Program will receive a rebate check from the state for a portion of school taxes paid. Residents will still receive a school tax bill in September and will still need to pay their annual taxes under the program. Additional details about the program, including when rebate checks will be mailed by the state, are still forthcoming.

Voter Information

Polling locations: Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, May 20.

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 20 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 20, 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 20.

2014-15 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 2014-15 school year includes:

■ Five large, 65-passenger school buses	\$583,850
■ One wheelchair accessible 7-passenger van	\$ 60,204
Total	\$644,054

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 78.8 percent, the local taxpayer share for the proposal is \$136,539 (\$27,307 for 5 years).

About the NYS 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 \$64,200 of the full value of a home from school taxes. Applications are available from your assessor's office.

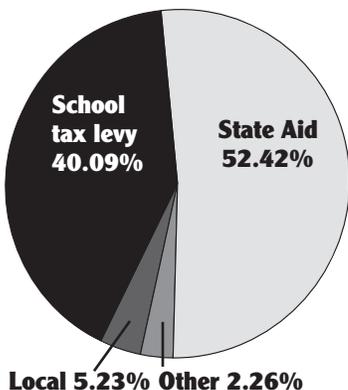
2014-15 PROJECTED REVENUES

	2013-14 Adopted Budget	2014-15 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From Prior School Year
Local sources (5.23% of total)			
Real property tax items	\$593,724	\$ 604,598	\$ 10,874
Charges for services	970,000	1,170,000	200,000
Interest earnings	4,000	4,000	0
Use of property	1,000	1,000	0
Refund of prior year expense	186,000	186,000	0
Subtotal	\$1,754,724	\$1,965,598	\$210,874
State sources (52.42% of total)			
Foundation aid	\$13,236,019	\$13,348,525	\$112,506
BOCES aid	1,048,664	1,134,231	85,567
Building aid	3,946,989	3,961,391	14,402
Textbook, software, library aid	150,228	145,316	(4,912)
Computer hardware, tech. aid	32,348	30,635	(1,713)
Transportation aid	2,539,135	2,546,862	7,727
Public/private excess cost aid	283,118	363,818	80,700
Gap Elimination Adjustment	(3,228,172)	(2,397,643)	830,529
Restoration of GEA	830,529	567,500	(263,029)
Subtotal	\$18,838,858	\$19,700,635	\$861,777
Other sources (2.26% of total)			
District reserves	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$ (50,000)
Appropriated fund balance	1,106,627	750,004	(356,623)
Subtotal	\$1,256,627	\$850,004	\$(406,623)
School tax levy (40.09% of total)			
	\$14,720,444	\$15,067,166	\$346,722
TOTAL	\$36,570,653	\$37,583,403	\$1,012,750

2014-15 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2013-14 Adopted Budget	2014-15 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From Prior School Year
General support (8.93% of proposed budget)			
Board of Education	\$16,623	\$10,123	\$(6,500)
Central Administration	207,083	185,220	(21,863)
Finance	293,351	321,813	28,462
Support Services	108,153	107,332	(821)
Central Services	2,402,650	2,361,650	(41,000)
Special Items	376,760	368,359	(8,401)
Subtotal	\$3,404,620	\$3,354,497	(\$50,123)
Instruction (42.19% of proposed budget)			
Administration & Curriculum			
Development	\$870,290	\$889,686	\$19,396
Teaching – Regular School	7,933,616	7,799,895	(133,721)
Teaching – Special Programs	4,706,779	4,964,315	257,536
Teaching – Special Schools	22,937	33,315	10,378
Instructional Media	656,605	699,341	42,736
Pupil Personnel Services	1,368,155	1,469,393	101,238
Subtotal	\$15,558,382	\$15,855,945	\$297,563
Transportation (5.69% of proposed budget)			
	\$2,138,995	\$2,139,972	\$977
Benefits and debt service (43.19% of proposed budget)			
Employee Benefits	\$10,997,700	\$11,689,249	\$691,549
Debt Services & interfund trans.	4,069,463	4,071,263	1,800
Bus Payments & other borrowing	401,493	472,477	70,984
Subtotal	\$15,468,656	\$16,232,989	764,333
TOTAL	\$36,570,653	\$37,583,403	\$1,012,750

REVENUES

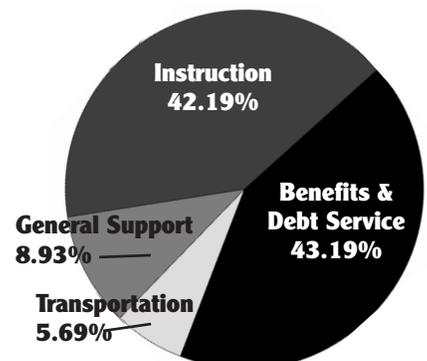


THREE-PART BUDGET

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

	2013-14	2014-15	\$ change
Administrative	\$2,176,855	\$2,128,024	\$(48,831)
Program	31,946,673	32,946,268	999,595
Capital	2,447,125	2,509,111	61,986

EXPENDITURES



Superintendent

Lynn Macan, Ph.D.

Board of Education

Bruce L. Tryon, President

Jeffrey C. Foote, Vice President

Melissa A. Bartlett

Mary E. Black

Steven H. Philbrick

Daniel B. Schulte

Russell D. Smith

To: Postal Customer

Produced in cooperation with the
Capital Region BOCES Communications Service

Editor

Nanette Blake

The annual school budget vote will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 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 20, 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 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 \$346,722 from the proposed budget as well as \$99,724 in equipment and capital transfers for a combined total of \$446,446 in additional cuts.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

State law requires school districts to mail this information to all households in the district. If you would like additional information about the budget, please call the Superintendent's Office at 234-4032.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2014-15 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, May 20, 2014, 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.

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2013-14 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2014-15 School Year	Contingency for the 2014-15 School Year
Total budget amount, excluding separate propositions	\$ 36,570,653	\$ 37,583,403	\$ 37,136,957
Increase for the 2014-15 school year		\$ 1,012,750	\$ 566,304
Percentage increase in each proposed budget		2.77%	1.55%
Change in the Consumer Price index		1.46%	
Total proposed school year tax levy, not including levy to support Library Debt	\$ 14,720,444	\$ 15,067,166	\$ 14,720,444
Total permissible exclusions	\$ 445,866	\$ 217,270	
A. Proposed school year tax levy, not including levy for permissible exclusions or levy to support library debt	\$ 14,274,578	\$ 14,849,896	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, not Including levy for permissible exclusions	\$ 14,522,447	\$ 14,849,896	
Difference: A - B (Positive value requires 60.0% voter approval. See note below regarding separate propositions)	\$ (247,869)	\$ 0	
Administrative Component	\$ 2,176,855	\$ 2,128,024	\$ 2,128,024
Program Component	\$ 31,946,673	\$ 32,946,268	\$ 32,547,822
Capital Component	\$ 2,447,125	\$ 2,509,111	\$ 2,461,111

If voters do not approve the proposed 2014-15 budget within two tries, the board must adopt a contingent budget. The board would be required to reduce the budget by \$346,722 to reach a zero-percent property tax levy increase. In addition, outside groups would not be able to use the school facilities without paying a usage fee, and the district would be unable to make equipment purchases or capital reserve transfers.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with propositions not eligible for exclusion may affect property tax levy limit and voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Bus Proposition	\$644,054
Decrease tax levy limit allowed and equipment purchase	\$446,446

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹ 2014-15 Proposed budget: \$542

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.