



RCS Central School District continues to focus on career development and post-graduate opportunities for all students

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District continues to focus on employment, enrollment, or enlistment for its graduates with special focus on instruction and exploration of career pathways. The pandemic created challenges for all school districts, but our mission has remained the same: preparing the next generation of citizens who will be successful in our ever changing world. It will take strong partnerships with our entire community to provide students with the chance to explore workplace opportunities, contribute through volunteerism, and discover their passions and interests.

"Varied opportunities are essential to help mold well-rounded members of society. The connections we have made with businesses within our community are critical to supporting the success of our students," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian Bailey. "By providing mentorships, workplace visitations, apprenticeships, internships, job shadowing, and by bringing together businesses and educators,

we can continue to create diverse opportunities for our students and strengthen our curricula. These relationships are necessary for our students to understand what's available in today's workplace, higher education, and beyond."

In looking toward the budget for the 2022-2023 school year, we would like to continue to expand the programs and create facilities that allow our entire community to

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PBC student holding up a maple leaf during maple sap collection day as part of a project-based learning program.

BUDGET at a Glance

Vote Information:

2022-23 school budget vote and board of education election will be held in-person and via absentee ballot. For budget details, visit <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>

What's on the ballot:



Proposed budget:
\$51,256,929



Budget increase:
\$2,619,628 (5.39%)

Estimated tax levy increase: **2.00%**



Proposition to continue bus replacement plan.



\$2.3 Million Capital Project Proposition



Fund the Repair Reserve by \$500,000



Election of three candidates to the RCS board of education



Community library budget and Board of Trustees election

COVID-19 safety during our vote:

- distancing
- hand sanitizing

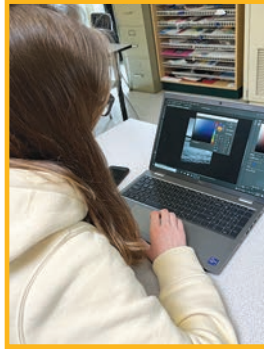
Page 3: RCS Launches Career Cafe

Page 7: Budget notice & Estimated tax rate

Page 8: Board candidates & propositions

More information is available online at

<https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>



RCS CSD focuses on... continued from page 1

participate in the broadening of our students' potential. Here are some ways RCS is currently delivering explicit instruction on skills centered around career development:

- We have created Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Labs at both elementary schools and have repurposed staff to teach students how to engage in real-world, work-based problem-solving;
- Our counseling staff pushes into classrooms in all buildings to engage students in interest inventories and job exploration;
- We have expanded work-based learning opportunities to now include about 5% of high school students.
- We also have approximately 10% of RCS High School students enrolled in formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) at BOCES;
- We have launched the High School Career Cafe, which has already held a manufacturing job fair for juniors and seniors in mid-march. This space will also host mock interviews, guest speakers, mini-classes in resume building, interview strategies, and professional communications;
- Hiring staff with certifications in Career and Technical Education.

RCS community feedback from stakeholders has identified a number of skills that will best prepare our students for the complexities of the world beyond graduation: communication, collaboration, critical



thinking, and creativity. These skills are an essential part of the instructional program at RCS and will help our students adapt to the rigors of an ever-changing employment landscape.

The budget development process allows us to commit to our priorities by funding programs and fulfilling staffing that will deliver meaningful and relevant instruction to our students. Within this budget newsletter, you will see information about past and future capital projects that help to fulfill our mission. This year's budget also includes staffing who will provide needed remediations as we recover from the pandemic. We will provide more opportunities for all of our students to actively explore the working world. Every student should have access to some form of job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, or formal Career and Technical Education training. The budget for the 2022-23 school year will lay the groundwork for hiring, retaining, or training staff who will help provide these important opportunities for our RCS students. We are looking ahead to future school years, where we will continue to develop programs that give our RCS students knowledge of what comes after graduation and all of the skills necessary to pursue their dreams.

RCS High School Launches Career Cafe with Manufacturing Job Fair for Juniors and Seniors

On Friday, March 18, the RCS High School launched its Career Cafe with a Manufacturing Job Fair for roughly 60 of its juniors and seniors. The job fair provided students with the opportunity to learn directly from the source what skills, attitudes, and experiences are needed for a local manufacturing job.

The job fair included some of the RCS community's largest local companies, TCI of NY, SABIC, Finke Equipment, Owens Corning, and Carver Companies. Each business gave a brief introduction of their company and what they have to offer our students either before or after graduation. The students also had the opportunity to separate into smaller groups and meet with each business individually to ask questions and gain more insight. When meeting in groups, the students could also sign up to tour the company's local facility in the near future.

"Being able to provide students with direct access to local employment information prior to them graduating is a key component of preparing our students for the working world," said Curriculum Content Specialist for Business, FACS, Library & Technology, and Certified Work-Based Learning Coordinator Maureen Martin. "We look forward to offering more opportunities like this one in the future."

The RCS High School opened its "Career Café" in order to provide additional career-based opportunities, experiences, and knowledge to its students. This dynamic space is housed in the high school library and recently received updates to make the space more adaptable to the needs of our students. These updates will allow for the space to be used for work-based learning opportunities to promote our mission: to prepare our students for employment, enrollment, or enlistment. The furniture can be moved to create spaces for speakers, mini-classes on resume building, and interview strategies. A makerspace is also in development for students to explore problems and create solutions in a hands-on environment.

"We know that not every student knows what they want to be and where they want to go after they graduate, but it is our responsibility to provide



them with the knowledge, skills, training, and environment where they can explore their options," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian Bailey. "The groundwork for this event was done in partnership with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Committee. The more exposure we can provide to our students while coupling it with an educational experience, the more they will be ready for the ever-changing world that awaits them."

A big thank you to all of the companies, students and staff that participated! The Career Cafe will host more events later in the spring centered around career development.

Moving forward – past, present, and future improvements on the horizon

On May 17, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk residents will vote on a proposed \$51,256,929 spending plan for the 2022-23 school year that will be supported in part by a 2% tax levy increase. The proposed budget includes additional instructional staff and leadership in order to address the complexities of recovering from the pandemic. This year's budget vote will also include referendums to continue our bus replacement plan, set money aside for future capital improvements, and begin a small-scale capital project that will repair or improve our school facilities.

The proposed 2022-23 school budget represents a \$2,619,628 increase over the previous year's spending plan. As part of this plan, the district has proposed to utilize \$1.6 million from Fund Balance to mitigate the impact on taxpayers. A tax levy increase of 2% will provide the remaining necessary funds. Depending on the municipality in which they reside, taxpayers will see an increase ranging from \$54.21 to \$82.13 per year, based on a home valued at \$150,000.

Our bus replacement plan is part of our continued commitment to safe and reliable transportation for our students. Our buses cover hundreds of thousands of miles each year and, by implementing a replacement plan, we have better ensured that students are arriving at school on time and ready to learn. The proposition includes:

- Purchasing three 65 passenger school buses;
- Two smaller buses/vans: a 14 passenger and 30 passenger.

Also as part of the May vote, residents will be asked to vote on assigning funds for unanticipated equipment or facility repairs. This proposal transfers \$500,000 from our Fund Balance into our Repair Reserve.

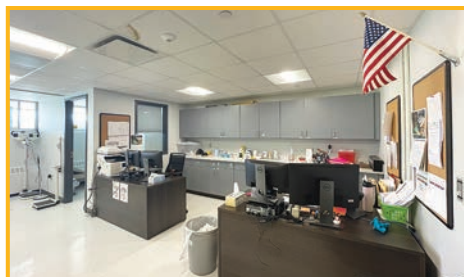
The District has continually been working on improving all of its school buildings, including completing a number of projects over the past four years. Our last large-scale capital project began with planning and voter approval back in 2015. As you pass by or visit any of the campuses you will be able to see the many improvements that we have made with the approval and completion of this 2015 capital project. This three-phase project addressed a wide array of facility needs, including:

- A bus access road to our transportation department;
- Renovated science-technology-engineering-arts-mathematics (STEAM) labs (libraries), ADA compliant restrooms in the health offices & new boilers in both elementary schools;
- Redesigning the front parking lot and drop off at A.W. Becker Elementary;
- A brand new gymnasium, main entry, main lobby, and music rehearsal space at the high school;
- New tennis courts on the middle/high school campus;
- Updated athletic fields on every campus;
- New fuel island at the Transportation Department;
- Updated air handling units in various buildings and HVAC improvements;
- Updated and secure entrances/ vestibules in the elementary, middle, and high school;
- Main entry awning signage at the entrance for our high school;
- Updates to the middle school and high school Family and Consumer Science (FACS) and art rooms; and more...



The final proposal is for a small-scale construction project. All schools in New York State are required to complete a building condition survey (inspection) every five years. Looking toward the future, our RCS budget vote for 22-23 will include a referendum to address some of the items from our most recent building condition survey and will also address modernization and usability for our students and community. By utilizing money from our Capital Reserve Fund, this \$2.3 million capital project will cost taxpayers, on average, \$32,000 annually and is expected to have minimal impact on our taxpayers and will include the:

- Installation of a code-required backflow preventer at the main water line to the middle school;
- Upgrading of the electrical service by replacing the high-voltage yard and main underground power supply on the MS/HS campus;
- Demolishing the old high school concession stand and updating and repairing the press box;



- Installation of an enclosure for electrical panels for the high school athletic field lights;
- Installation of precast dugouts at the varsity baseball field at Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary School
- Sitework to improve drainage at Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary;
- Installation of a new air handler at The Aquatics Center;
- Renovations of six classrooms in each elementary school, including asbestos abatement, new flooring, and HVAC upgrades.

The proposed project will cost approximately \$2,323,000 and is estimated to be completed by fall of 2023.

The District will also be making improvements to our buildings and infrastructure beyond the scope of this referendum. This additional work will be done over the next 18 months

with no impact on our taxpayers by utilizing existing funds from grants, donations from community or PTA/PTO Organizations, and Community Host Benefit Agreements.

This work will include:

- Updating and/or expanding playgrounds at both elementary schools;
- Improving or creating nature spaces/trails and gardens at both elementary schools;
- Repaving and/or roadway repairs on all campuses;
- Installing dugouts on our varsity softball field on the high school campus;
- Improved signage on all campuses.

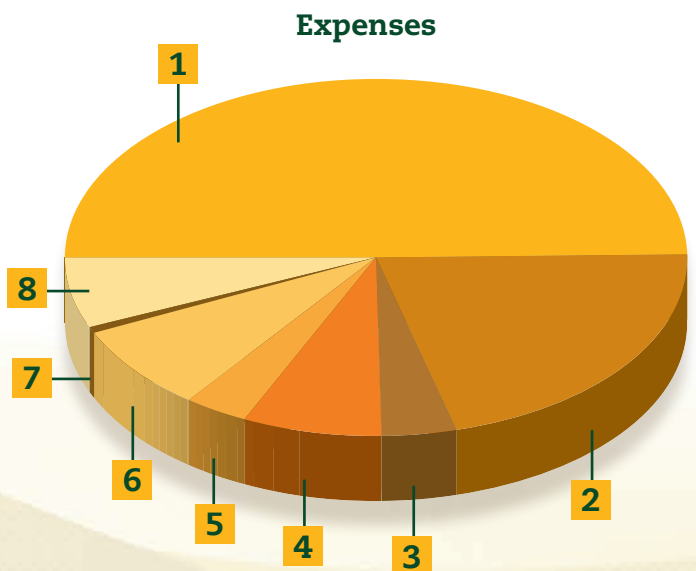
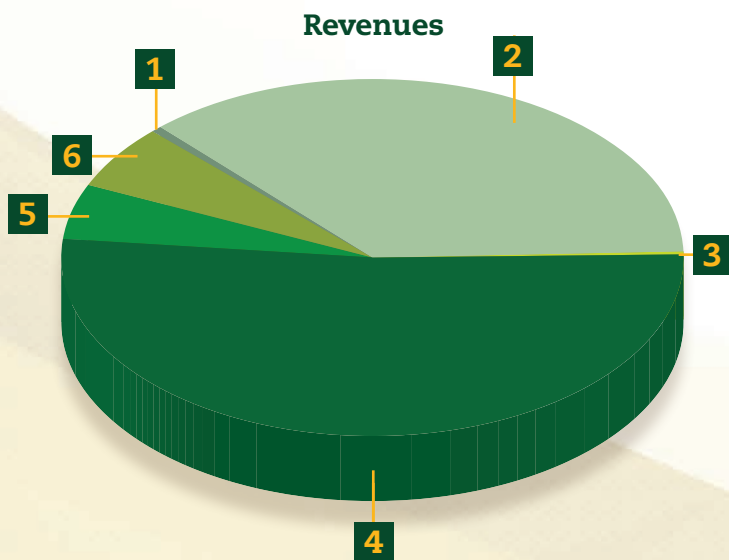
“We have seen a lot of change in our community and in the world over the past two years,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brian Bailey. “We frequently

discuss improving programs and creating more opportunities for our students. In this instance, we are specifically focusing on functional, attractive, and well-maintained facilities and grounds that will make these things possible. Our students deserve a place where they are safe, feel motivated, and are comfortable exploring career pathways and their general interests. We are preparing the next generation of employees, caregivers, volunteers, and citizens of this world, and our RCS school facilities are at the center of this community effort.”

We are so grateful for the support of our school community. As we look toward the future, we are continuing to plan for ongoing maintenance and improvements based on our building condition survey and 21st century programmatic needs for our RCS students. We will be proposing a more extensive construction/maintenance referendum in the fall of 2022 that will capitalize on expiring debt and our current Capital Reserves and is expected to have little or no impact on our taxpayers. We will be seeking community and stakeholder feedback as we explore this extensive Capital Project. Check the RCS website this summer for further updates (www.RCSCSD.org).

REVENUES: Where the money comes from

Revenue category	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Increase/Decrease	Percent Change
1 Local Revenue	\$303,000	\$318,000	\$15,000	4.95%
2 State Aid	\$18,413,650	\$18,681,603	\$267,953	1.46%
3 Federal Medicaid	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.00%
4 Real Property Taxes	\$26,094,290	\$26,616,176	\$521,886	2.00%
5 Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$2,370,612	\$2,583,683	\$213,071	8.99%
6 Fund Balance & Reserves	\$1,355,749	\$2,957,467	\$1,601,718	118.14%
Total	\$48,637,301	\$51,256,929	\$2,619,628	5.39%



EXPENSES: Where the money is spent

Expense category	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Increase/Decrease	Percent Change
1 Instructional Programs	\$24,723,889	\$25,520,283	\$796,394	3.22%
2 Employee Benefits	\$10,707,451	\$10,834,998	\$127,547	1.19%
3 General Support	\$1,806,114	\$2,006,155	\$200,041	11.08%
4 Operations/Maintenance	\$3,353,431	\$3,685,425	\$331,994	9.90%
5 Administration/Improvement	\$1,545,691	\$1,781,382	\$235,691	15.25%
6 Transportation	\$3,663,690	\$3,921,290	\$257,600	7.03%
7 Interfund Transfers	\$235,000	\$235,000	\$0	0.0%
8 Debt Service	\$2,602,035	\$3,272,396	\$670,361	25.76%
Total	\$48,637,301	\$51,256,929	\$2,619,628	5.39%

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$48,637,301	\$51,256,929	\$50,341,933
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$2,619,628	\$1,704,632
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.39%	3.50%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$26,094,290	\$26,616,176	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$26,094,290	\$26,616,176	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$662,924	\$1,335,204	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$26,184,820	\$26,048,517	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$25,431,366	\$25,280,972	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$753,454	\$767,545	
Administrative Component	\$3,996,954	\$4,530,080	\$4,109,980
Program Component	\$37,902,537	\$39,027,649	\$38,710,253
Capital Component	\$6,737,810	\$7,699,200	\$7,521,700
<p>* In the event that the voters of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District fail to approve the proposed budget, the Board of Education would have to adopt a contingent budget or amend current budget proposal. A contingent budget limits the property tax levy to a zero percent increase. In that event the school would have to eliminate most equipment purchases as well as limit the increase in the administrative portion of the budget. The administrative portion would need to be at or below the same percentage of the previous year.</p>			
<p>** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements.)</p>		Description	Amount
		School Bus proposition allows for the purchase of three (3) 65 passenger buses, one (1) 14 passenger van, and one (1) 30 passenger van. The maximum cost shall not to exceed \$521,000 prior to any state aid. The first payment will be in the 2023-2024 school year.	\$521,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings for Bethlehem-Coeymans-New Baltimore and New Scotland¹

\$554 - \$542 - \$554 - \$542

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk school district, Albany County, New York, will be held at RCS High School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the High School Gymnasium at 2025 Route 9W Ravena NY 12143, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Increase with a 2.00% Tax Levy Increase

Town	Estimated 2022-23 Tax Bill*	2021-22 Tax Bill	Increase
Bethlehem	\$2,972.58	\$2,914.29	\$58.29
Coeymans	\$2,764.53	\$2,710.32	\$54.21
New Scotland	\$3,037.74	\$2,978.18	\$59.56
New Baltimore	\$4,188.47	\$4,106.34	\$82.13

At present, the RCS school district will increase the tax levy for the 2022-23 school year by 2.00%. With assessed values and equalization rates not being finalized until August, we are unable to provide a final impact those changes will have on your 2022-23 tax bill.

*Based on \$150,000 home value



2022-23 Budget

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 79
Albany, New York

Board of Education

Edward Reville, *President*
Jason Hyslop, *Vice President*

Howard Engel III
Tina Furst-Hotaling
Kristin Hill-Burns
Tracy Klein
William McFerran
Peter Ross
Yvonne Shackelton

Brian Bailey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Ravena, New York 12143

518.756.5200

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Deirdre Buckley
Editor

VOTE

May 17, 2022

Voter Eligibility

A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election and (4) not otherwise disqualified under the Election Law. Contact our District Clerk with any questions at (518) 756-5200 ext. 6000.



Improved Academic, Career and College Planning with Naviance

At RCS, the district encourages students to utilize Naviance to identify their interests while charting their future pathway. What is Naviance? Naviance is a powerful software tool that assists students with their post-secondary planning. Students can explore careers & colleges, and it is a vital aspect of the college application process. To learn more about this resource, visit <https://student.naviance.com/ravena> For additional questions, please reach out to your student's counselor.

Residents of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District will vote on the following propositions:

Proposition 1: Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit: RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District be authorized to spend a total amount of \$51,256,929.00 during the school year 2022 - 2023 and levy the necessary tax therefore.

Proposition 2: School Bus proposition allows for the purchase of three (3) 65 passenger buses, one (1) 14 passenger van, and one (1) 30 passenger van. The maximum cost shall not to exceed \$521,000 prior to any state aid. The first payment will be in the 2023-2024 school year.

Proposition 3: RESOLVED: SHALL the Board of Education of the RCS Central School District Board of Education be authorized to fund the Repair Reserve in the amount of \$500,000.00, from the 2021-22 unappropriated fund balance to be used for repairs of capital improvements or equipment, which repairs are of a type not recurring annually or at shorter intervals?

Proposition 4: Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED, that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District, Albany and Greene Counties, New York (the "District"), is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project (the "Project") consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof), to implement various health, safety, accessibility, and code compliance measures required by the State Education Department in connection with any significant capital improvement project, and to undertake various other measures as described in greater detail in (but not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$2,323,000; (b) the Board is authorized to expend toward such Project an amount not to exceed \$750,000 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund; (c) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$1,573,000 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board.

Board of Education Election: Residents will vote to fill three seats on the Board of Education. Candidates will be elected to three-year terms to begin July 1. Board of Education Candidates are listed on the ballot in order based on a random selection process as dictated by law. They are listed in the order in which they were drawn. Candidates will appear on the ballot in the following order Tracy Klein, Michael Deyo, Jacqueline Kalney, Edward Bedinotti, Yvonne Shackelton & Jennifer Molino -- updated 5/2/22. Read full candidate profiles at <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>

Library Vote: District Residents will have the opportunity to elect four members to the RCS Community Library Board, and vote on the proposed Library levy of \$627,879. For more information, contact the Library at 518-756-2053.

The complete 2022-23 RCS budget proposal is available online at <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>