



RCS Central School District residents to consider \$53.5 million budget proposal

On Tuesday, May 16, residents of the Ravana-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District will vote on a proposed \$53,548,486 budget for the 2023-24 school year.

The RCS Board of Education adopted the proposed budget after spending the last few months reviewing programs, considering future opportunities, and finalizing necessities for the coming school year.

The proposed plan includes a spending increase of \$2,291,557 or 4.47%, and would result in an estimated tax rate increase of 1.48%. This estimated tax increase is at the district's tax cap and requires only a simple majority for the budget to be approved (50% plus one vote).

This increase in spending would allow for programming growth throughout the district while continuing to maintain the programs and opportunities that are already in place. One place in particular that would benefit from the increase in spending would be the Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathways. The proposed budget includes the hiring of additional staff who would possess the expertise needed to grow and advance these important programs for our students.



A building aide works with students as they discover and create during a mobile science museum held at Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary School earlier this year.

Beyond the scope of new opportunities for our students and staff, the district will also be focusing on students' social, emotional, and academic needs as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

"We are dedicated to providing students the supports that they need in order to thrive before and after graduation," said RCS Superintendent Dr. Brian Bailey. "We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community as we work to educate and prepare the next generation."

RCS residents, please join us on Tuesday, May 16 to cast your vote on the proposed 2023-24 school year budget.

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Page 4: Board election & propositions







More information is available online at <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>

BUDGET at a Glance

Vote Information:

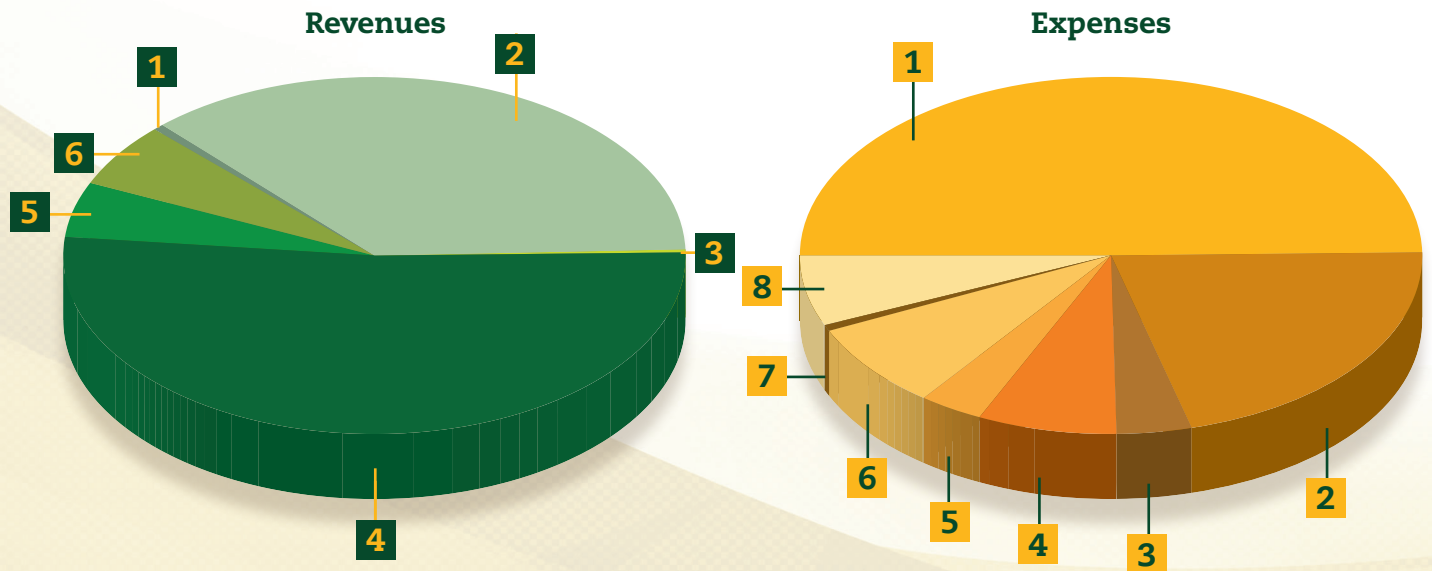
2023-24 school budget vote and Board of Education election will be held in-person and via absentee ballot. For budget details, visit <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>

What's on the ballot:

-  Proposed budget: **\$53,548,486**
-  Budget increase: **\$2,291,557 (4.47%)**
Estimated tax levy increase: **1.48%**
-  Proposition to continue bus replacement plan
-  Creation of Capital Reserve Fund
-  Election of three candidates to the RCS Board of Education
-  Community Library budget and Board of Trustees election

REVENUES: Where the money comes from

| Revenue category | 2022-23 Budget | 2023-24 Proposed | Increase/Decrease | Percent Change |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 Local Revenue | \$318,000 | \$403,000 | \$85,000 | 26.73% |
| 2 State Aid | \$18,681,603 | \$20,682,009 | \$2,000,406 | 10.71% |
| 3 Federal Medicaid | \$100,000 | \$150,000 | \$50,000 | 50.00% |
| 4 Real Property Taxes | \$26,616,176 | \$27,010,669 | \$394,493 | 1.48% |
| 5 Payments in Lieu of Taxes | \$2,583,683 | \$2,752,808 | \$169,125 | 6.55% |
| 6 Fund Balance & Reserves | \$2,957,467 | \$2,550,000 | -\$407,467 | -13.78% |
| Total | \$51,256,929 | \$53,548,486 | \$2,291,557 | 4.47% |



EXPENSES: Where the money is spent

| Expense category | 2022-23 Budget | 2023-24 Proposed | Increase/Decrease | Percent Change |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 Instructional Programs | \$25,520,283 | \$26,444,960 | \$924,677 | 3.62% |
| 2 Employee Benefits | \$10,834,998 | \$11,506,352 | \$671,354 | 6.20% |
| 3 General Support | \$2,006,155 | \$2,078,300 | \$72,145 | 3.60% |
| 4 Operations/Maintenance | \$3,685,425 | \$3,788,800 | \$103,375 | 2.80% |
| 5 Administration/Improvement | \$1,781,382 | \$1,897,100 | \$115,718 | 6.50% |
| 6 Transportation | \$3,921,290 | \$4,261,000 | \$339,710 | 8.66% |
| 7 Interfund Transfers | \$235,000 | \$315,000 | \$80,000 | 34.04% |
| 8 Debt Service | \$3,272,396 | \$3,256,974 | -\$15,422 | -0.47% |
| Total | \$51,256,929 | \$53,548,486 | \$2,291,557 | 4.47% |

School District Budget Notice

| Overall Budget Proposal | Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year | Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year | Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year * |
|---|--|---|--|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions | \$51,256,929 | \$53,548,486 | \$52,602,541 |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year | | \$2,291,557 | \$1,345,612 |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget | | 4.47% | 2.63% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | 8.0% | |
| A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | \$26,616,176 | \$27,010,669 | |
| 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) | \$26,616,176 | \$27,010,669 | \$394,493 |
| F. Total Permissible Exclusions | \$1,335,204 | \$1,072,759 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | \$26,048,517 | \$25,937,910 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | \$25,280,972 | \$25,937,910 | |
| I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) ** | \$767,545 | \$0 | |
| Administrative Component | \$4,530,080 | \$4,693,506 | \$4,293,032 |
| Program Component | \$39,027,649 | \$40,953,747 | \$40,583,276 |
| Capital Component | \$7,699,200 | \$7,901,233 | \$7,726,233 |

* 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 the 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 current school year.

** 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.)

| Description | Amount |
|--|--------------|
| School bus proposition allows for the purchase of (3) 64-passenger buses at a total price not to exceed \$495,084.14 prior to any state aid. | \$495,084.14 |

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings for Bethlehem-Coeymans-New Baltimore and New Scotland ¹ | \$548 - \$533 - \$554 - \$542 |
|---|-------------------------------|

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 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 16, 2023 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.

Estimated tax increase with a 1.48% Tax Levy Increase*

| Town | Estimated 2023-24 Tax Bill | 2022-23 Tax Bill | Increase** |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Bethlehem | \$1,992.24 | \$1,963.18 | \$29.06 |
| Coeymans | \$1,803.51 | \$1,777.21 | \$26.30 |
| New Scotland | \$2,115.37 | \$2,084.52 | \$30.85 |
| New Baltimore | \$3,086.95 | \$3,041.93 | \$45.02 |

*At present, the RCS School District will increase the tax levy for the 2023-24 school year by 1.48%. 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 2023-24 tax bill.

** Based on \$100,000 home value



2023-24 Budget

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

Board of Education

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Kristin Hill-Burns, *Vice President*

Edward Bedinotti
Michael Deyo
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Tina Furst-Hotaling
William McFerran
Jennifer Molino
Peter Ross

Brian Bailey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

VOTE May 16, 2023

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 and 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 \$53,548,486 during the school year 2023 - 2024 and levy the necessary tax therefore.

Bus Purchase Proposition: Shall the Board of Education of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District, Albany County, New York, be authorized to (a) purchase three (3) 64-passenger buses at a total price not to exceed \$495,084.14 (after deducting the value of the trade-in vehicles), (b) expend such sums or so much thereof as may be necessary for such purpose; (c) levy the necessary tax, to be levied and collected in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid and monies received on the trade-in of other vehicles; and (d) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the district at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$495,084.14, and to levy a tax to pay the interest on such obligations when due.

Capital Reserve Account Referendum: Shall the Board of Education of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District be authorized to (1) create a Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Education Law § 3651(1) for the purpose of financing the purchase of, and general improvement, reconstruction, renovations or additions to the district's buildings, including the acquisition of sites (land and/or buildings), site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery, acquisition and installation of technology equipment, or other apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings are to be used; (2) the maximum amount for such fund shall be capped at \$10,000,000; (3) deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund such unallocated fund balance of the General Fund as determined by the Board of Education; state aid related to expenditures from the Capital Reserve Fund; and interest income related to investment monies in the fund. The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is ten (10) years. This Capital Reserve Fund is in addition to any existing Capital Reserve Fund not an extension or amendment of any existing Capital Reserve Fund.

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. View a complete list of candidates and full candidate profiles at <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>

Library Vote: District residents will have the opportunity to elect two (2) trustees to the Board of Trustees of the RCS Community Library for two (2) full three (3) year terms, and vote on the proposed library levy of \$637,297 or a 1.5% increase from the current year. For more information, contact the library at 518-756-2053.

The complete 2023-24 RCS budget proposal is available online at <https://www.rcscsd.org/page/budget-and-taxes>