

Riccardi Elementary School student Cody Zeidler is Principal for the Morning! Story on page 7.



# Saugerties

## Central School District

BUDGET 2014

Residents to Vote on May 20

## Budget Within Tax Levy Limit For Third Straight Year; Contract Settlements, Additional State Aid Help Offset Costs



### Lemonade! At Morse Elementary

On a recent Friday afternoon at Grant D. Morse Elementary School, a flurry of fairytale characters took to the cafeteria stage straight from the pages of Mother Goose to perform the kindergarten play, "Lemonade!" There was Little Miss Muffet, Chicken Little, the Three Little Pigs, Humpty Dumpty, the Cat with a Fiddle, Little Bo Peep, Little Boy Blue, and so many others, 46 fanciful players in all. And all were "having a bad day."

But as more than 150 parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends watched and listened with delight, the young performers learned to make the best out of life's ups and downs, with the help of upbeat songs like "Recipe for Joy" and "A Change of Heart." In their finale song, "Make Lemonade," the children sang these wise words:

*"When the world gives you sunshine,  
Don't live in the shade,  
And when the world gives you lemons,  
Make lemonade!"*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Meeting the educational needs of students and staying within State tax levy limit requirements were once again top priorities in the Saugerties Central School District as the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Seth Turner planned the 2014-15 proposed budget. The Board adopted the \$57,432,984 proposed budget on April 8. The tax levy will increase 1.72 percent, requiring only a simple majority vote by the community. The levy increase has been at or below the State-mandated limit for the last three years.

"The District's budget planning goals remain consistent: meeting students' needs to ensure success, maintaining our facilities and infrastructure, and staying mindful of the taxpayers' ability to fund education," Superintendent Turner said.

#### Addressing Safety and Security Needs

Saugerties received an increase of about \$829,000 in State Aid, approximately 4.41 percent more than 2013-14 and more than the District initially expected. Although he noted that State Aid has not returned to where it was before the Gap Elimination Adjustment was put in place in

"The District's budget planning goals remain consistent: meeting students' needs to ensure success, maintaining our facilities and infrastructure, and staying mindful of the taxpayers' ability to fund education."

—Superintendent Seth Turner

2010-11, Superintendent Turner is pleased with the coming year's increase and plans to use \$100,000 of the additional funds to address safety-related facilities needs.

"We continually improve our safety, security, and technology infrastructure," he said.

#### Offsetting Costs

The settlement of contracts last year with four bargaining units – Saugerties Teachers Association, Saugerties Educational Support Association, the Administrators and Supervisory Personnel Association, and CSEA – "allowed for certainty" in budgeting for salary and benefits this year, Superintendent Turner said. The contract settlements also establish larger

employee contributions to health insurance, which means that while such costs continue to grow, their impact will be offset in Saugerties.

Three teaching positions are being eliminated in the 2014-15 budget, in line with decreased enrollment in the incoming class of junior high school students. A similar situation occurred in recent years at the elementary level and classes were similarly "right-sized" then as well.

Superintendent Turner said the elimination of the three positions will be done through attrition.

"Because of good strategic planning, and a little luck, the reductions are hitting right where the retirements occur," he said, adding that eliminating positions through an attrition plan rather than layoffs results in a direct swap of a veteran teacher's salary for that of a lower-salaried new

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### Board of Education

George Heidcamp, *President*  
Thomas Ham, *Vice President*

Florence Hyatt  
Angie Minew  
Richard Petramale  
Charles Schirmer  
Robert Thomann  
Donald Tucker

### Superintendent of Schools

Seth Turner

### Assistant Superintendent

Lawrence R. Mautone

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

**Tuesday May 20**

**6 AM–9 PM**

Saugerties Central School District  
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www.saugerties.k12.ny.us

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Mt. Marion Families Get ‘Supper Support’

Mt. Marion Elementary School is strengthening the bond between home and school with the launch of its new Supper Support program.

Supper Support, which was held for the first time on April 30, invites families to come to the school twice a month in the early evening to work on homework together with Mt. Marion teachers on hand to assist, then enjoy a complimentary supper afterward.

Mt. Marion Principal Carole Kelder said the idea for Supper Support originated with her staff, who observed “a lot of disconnect” and concerns about the Common Core Learning Standards among parents.

“The staff felt the need to connect with families to give parents support in helping their children with homework,” Kelder said.

Special education teacher Cyn Kendall spearheaded the effort to launch Supper Support, with help from Assistant Superintendent Lawrence Mautone.

About 20 families signed up for the first session and 12 staff members were in attendance to help answer questions. The school library and computer lab were also open and families were invited to use them for study or just the pleasure of reading a book or playing a learning game together.

Brian Furbush, who attended Supper Support with his daughter Caitlyn, a

Grade 2 student, said the program is a great idea, not only because it gets parents involved in homework, but because it’s also quality time for families, away from other distractions.

“When we’re doing this, we’re not doing anything else,” Furbush said as he and Caitlyn sat together over a story about a retired letter carrier.

After working through math problems and studying new vocabulary words, the students and their families enjoyed not only quality time with each other, but community time as well as everyone gathered in the cafeteria for a dinner of sub sandwiches purchased through donations from the staff.

Kelder said she was thrilled with the turnout for the first session and plans to continue Supper Support next year, hopefully with grant funding she has applied for.



Mt. Marion Elementary student Constantinos Dinos examines a globe with his father, Theo Dinos, in the Mt. Marion Elementary School library while taking part in the school’s Supper Support program.

Jody Kain helps his daughter Audrey, a Grade 4 Mt. Marion Elementary School student, with her math homework during Supper Support.

Goin’ Buggy at Riccardi Elementary School

Recently, the cafeteria at Riccardi Elementary School was “infested” with fun as the second grade class presented the play “Goin’ Buggy.” Thirty-five students donned colorful costumes as bees, spiders, ladybugs, caterpillars, and the like, in which they buzzed, crawled, and flitted around the stage just like the real thing.

In this musical by composer Jill Gallina, members of the insect population take on distinct personalities and demand the respect and positive attention they say they have lacked for so long. The action and humor are continuous in the show’s clever rhyming script, which includes seven imaginative songs that both performers and audiences enjoy.

Riccardi second grade teachers Mrs. Frances Murphy and Miss Sue Rinaldi worked with the students virtually every day since February, teaching them the music, the script, and the dances. Miss Rinaldi notes that by working on a show like this, the children develop listening, speaking, and memorization skills that are in line with the Common Core standards.

Mrs. Murphy thinks the lessons and benefits of putting on a play go far beyond meeting learning standards. “With these children, if you expect a certain level of achievement and ask them to do it, they will definitely reach for it – and you will end up with something that is an amazing, wonderful, beautiful thing,” Mrs. Murphy enthused. “They also learned that the whole is really greater than the sum of its parts – that together people can make a difference and do great things. And that is what these children did in this show.”

PTA parent Laurie Kuriplach-Candullo was one of many supportive members of the school community who helped out with the show, both by making costumes and creating the beautiful backdrop on the stage. Son Nicco was in the show, playing the part of a shining firefly. And what was her reaction to working with the young performers? “They warmed my heart,” she said. “They filled my eyes with tears – they were so theatrical, and so wonderful!”



“With these children, if you expect a certain level of achievement and ask them to do it, they will definitely reach for it – and you will end up with something that is an amazing, wonderful, beautiful thing.”

— Riccardi Teacher Frances Murphy

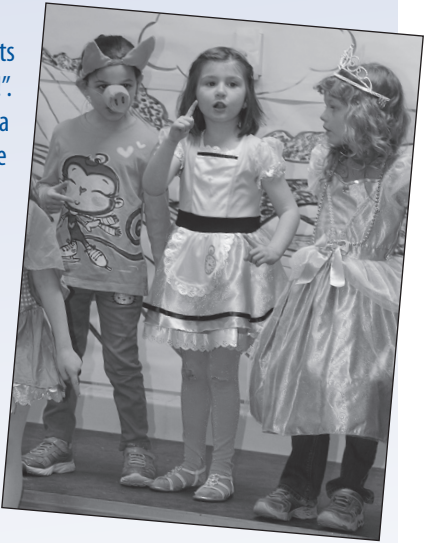


“Congressman” Nicholas Sawchuk rocks out on the snare drum.

The caterpillars turn into butterflies. Pictured are Jayden Bass, Nicolette Rifenburg, Mya Pineiro, Kyla Bondar, Anna Peterson, and Addison Costello.

Lemonade! CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kindergarten students perform in “Lemonade!”. From left are Victoria Phelan as one of the Three Little Pigs, Lilianna Carter as Little Miss Muffet, and Karen Bock as Cinderella.



“We purchased this play several years ago and do it every year with the youngsters because it fits in nicely with our nursery rhyme curriculum,” explained teacher Tracy Farrell on behalf of fellow kindergarten teachers Janet Sullivan and Patricia Pipitone. “Our three kindergarten classes have been practicing for about a month. It helps the children with their speaking and listening skills, memorization, and self-confidence. And they love it. When they get on stage, they are amazing!”

“We have a very supportive school community,” noted Morse Principal Don Dieckmann, who was very impressed with both the children’s performance and the large turnout. “Whenever we have plays or other events in the school, the parents and community come out with their full support.”



Maverick Napolitano and Regan Kavanagh perform as the goat and the princess in “Lemonade!”.



# Saugerties 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

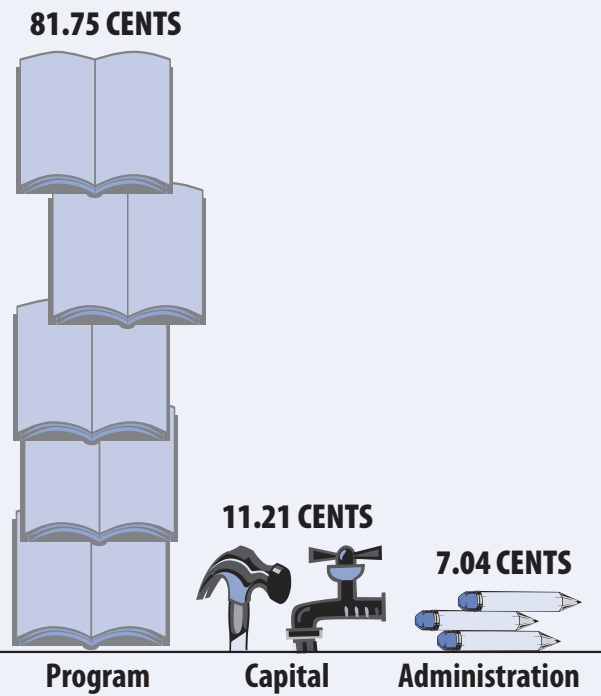
Central School District

## Three Part Budget

The legislation that requires New York State school districts to have a public budget vote includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three sections: Administration, Program, and Capital.

	2013-2014	2014-2015	INCREASE / (DECREASE)
<b>Administration</b>	7.05% \$3,939,391	7.04% \$4,045,738	2.69% \$106,347
<b>Program</b>	81.8% \$45,709,125	81.75% \$46,951,576	2.71% \$1,242,451
<b>Capital</b>	11.16% \$6,233,815	11.21% \$6,435,670	3.23% \$201,855
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,882,331</b>	<b>\$57,432,984</b>	<b>\$1,550,653</b>
2014-2015 Proposed Budget: \$57,432,984			

### Budget Components

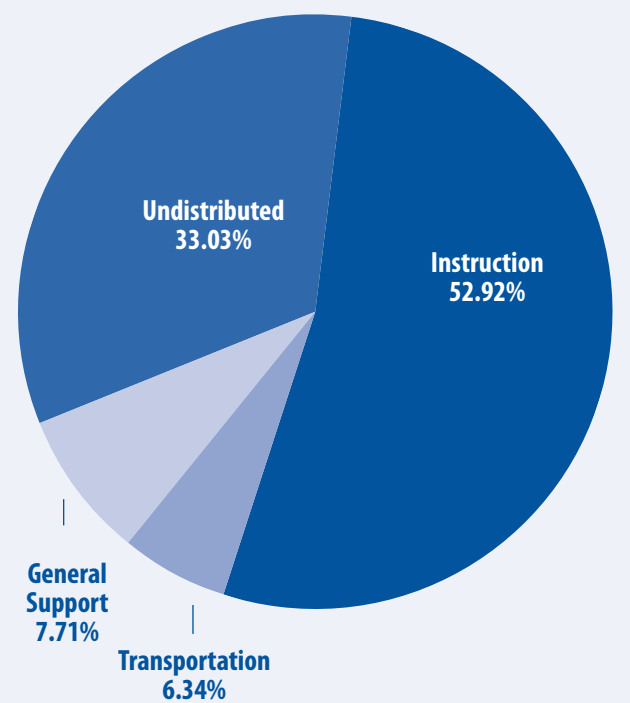


For each dollar spent on education, the majority goes towards program, with just about \$0.82 related to students and the classroom. Just over \$0.11 of every dollar is invested in maintaining our facilities. Administrative costs account for about \$0.07 of each dollar.

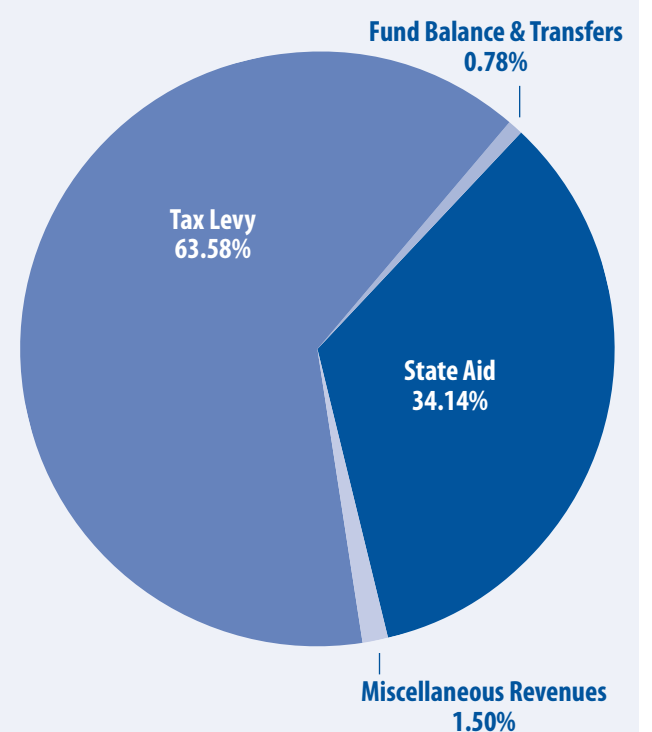
## Expenditure Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-2014	PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			
Board of Education	\$34,014	\$34,397	\$383
Central Administration	\$234,572	\$239,907	\$5,335
Finance	\$413,521	\$413,471	\$(50)
Staff	\$243,966	\$248,297	\$4,331
Central Services	\$2,724,792	\$2,794,215	\$69,423
Special Items	\$682,507	\$696,557	\$14,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,333,372</b>	<b>\$4,426,844</b>	<b>\$93,472</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
Administration & Improvement	\$1,262,290	\$1,344,741	\$82,451
Instruction - Teaching	\$25,046,929	\$25,633,618	\$586,689
Instructional Media	\$1,196,475	\$1,217,074	\$20,599
Pupil Services	\$2,172,829	\$2,203,468	\$30,639
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,678,523</b>	<b>\$30,398,901</b>	<b>\$720,378</b>
<b>PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>			
District-Owned Transportation	\$197,630	\$205,321	\$7,691
Contract Transportation	\$3,374,987	\$3,433,218	\$58,231
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,572,617</b>	<b>\$3,638,539</b>	<b>\$65,922</b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED</b>			
Employee Benefits	\$15,638,675	\$16,200,730	\$562,055
Debt Service	\$2,509,144	\$2,517,970	\$8,826
Interfund Transfers	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,297,819</b>	<b>\$18,968,700</b>	<b>\$670,881</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$55,882,331</b>	<b>\$57,432,984</b>	<b>\$1,550,653</b>

### How the Money Will Be Spent



### Where the Money Comes From



## Revenue Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2013-2014	PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
Total Other Revenue Sources	\$500,000	\$540,000	\$40,000
Total State Aid & Federal Aid	\$18,805,033	\$19,658,968	\$853,935
<b>Total Other Than Property Tax/STAR</b>	<b>\$19,305,033</b>	<b>\$20,198,968</b>	<b>\$893,935</b>
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$450,000	\$450,000	-
Property Tax	\$35,892,979	\$36,509,983	\$617,004
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$234,319	\$274,033	\$39,714
<b>Total Property Tax/STAR</b>	<b>\$36,577,298</b>	<b>\$37,234,016</b>	<b>\$656,718</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$55,882,331</b>	<b>\$57,432,984</b>	<b>\$1,550,653</b>

Saugerties

Central School District

2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Facts & Figures About the Proposed Budget

What is Saugerties’ budget per pupil?

Historically, Saugerties has had the lowest per pupil costs of any Ulster County School District. The District’s cost per pupil in 2013-14 was \$19,804.41. Using data from the 2013-14 Mid-Hudson School Study Council report, the Ulster County average is calculated as \$23,544.26.

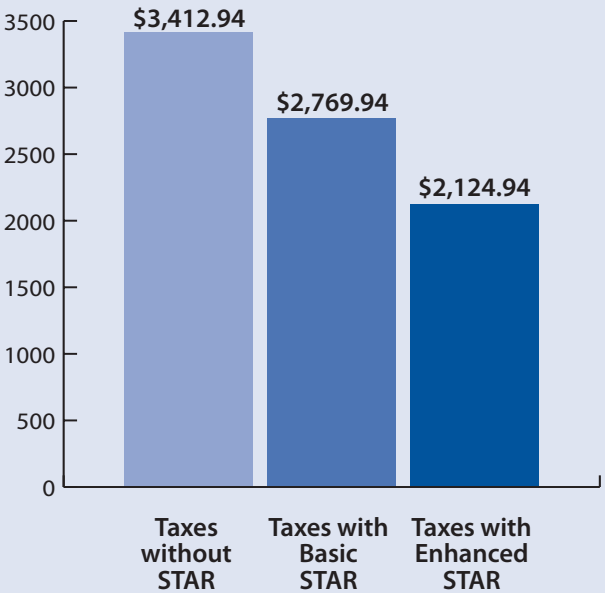
What are the estimated 2014-2015 equalization rates?

Estimated rates are based on the preliminary assessment rolls for the three towns comprising the Saugerties Central School District.

Town	Equalization Rate
Saugerties	1.00
Ulster	0.815
Woodstock	1.00

The estimated tax bills are for a property in Saugerties with an assessed value of \$175,000. (Since the estimated equalization rate for Saugerties is 1.00, the assessed value will equal the true value.)

2014–2015 Estimated Taxes  
(\$175,000 Home: Saugerties)



How does the STAR program work?

The School Tax Relief (STAR) Program that was passed by the Legislature in 1997 to provide Basic and Enhanced school tax relief for owner-occupied, primary residences is continued under the New York State budget but has been revised to also reflect income levels of owners. Owner-occupied, primary residences where the owners’ total income is less than \$500,000 are now eligible for STAR.

The Basic STAR exemption is offered to property owners on their owner-occupied primary residences, and is provided in the form of an actual reduction in homeowners’ property tax bills. Owners who are aged 65 or older who meet income criteria are eligible for even greater tax savings through the Enhanced STAR exemption.

Seniors must apply for Enhanced STAR each year. **Beginning in 2014, homeowners with the Basic STAR exemption will also have to apply annually.** New York State has advised that homeowners will be contacted with specific instructions in the future. For more information, contact your local assessor.

How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

You can stop by the District Offices in the Hildebrandt Building or any of the six schools for a copy of the complete Budget document, or visit [www.saugerties.k12.ny.us](http://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us). Please contact Superintendent Seth Turner at (845) 247-6551, or School Business Official Lissa Jilek at (845) 247-6520, if you have specific questions.

Questions and Answers About the Tax Levy

New York’s fiscal crisis has major implications for the State’s public school system, and for the way the Saugerties Central School District develops its budgets. Below are answers to some common questions people ask. Additional information about the Proposed Budget can be found at [www.saugerties.k12.ny.us](http://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us). The community is encouraged to vote on the budget on May 20, 2014. Board of Education members will also be elected.

What is the “tax cap”?

New York State has implemented a new law that changes the way budgets are approved. The changes went into effect beginning with the 2012 vote. Under the law, a school district must now plan its budget around a complex State formula that calculates a baseline tax levy increase. Budgets that carry a tax levy increase at or below this calculation will need the approval of a simple majority (50 percent plus one) of voters. Any proposal higher than this calculation will require a supermajority approval (60 percent). **The Board of Education has adopted a budget that is at the allowable levy level under the State’s formula and therefore will need a simple majority voter approval of 50 percent plus one.**

How is the tax levy increase calculated?

Although this law has been commonly referred to as the 2 percent tax cap, it is important to understand that it is not a cap, nor does it limit the levy increase to just two percent. That number may be above or below two percent, and it will vary each year. While the formula is influenced by the lesser of CPI (consumer price index) or 2 percent, it then allows for specific exemptions and the application of other factors in the formula. After applying the allowable exemptions, the Saugerties Central School District is permitted a maximum 1.72 percent levy increase.

What can I do?

The most important things community members can do are to become informed about the budget being presented and to vote on May 20. We understand that the school budget process is complicated, and that the addition of the levy limit legislation may make it more confusing. However, it is important for the community to understand the budget proposal. Please visit our website and attend Board meetings to stay informed. Helping everyone understand the budget and what it means to the future of the programs offered to students is very important. We want to assist in any way we can.

What is This Year’s Tax Freeze?

A Tax Freeze program is included in the State’s Adopted Budget. This two-year rebate program is designed to encourage school districts and municipalities to stay within the tax levy limit threshold for a simple majority voter approval.

By developing a budget that does not exceed the tax levy threshold, the District is ensuring that qualifying Saugerties taxpayers will be eligible for this Tax Freeze program on their September 2014 tax bills.

While details from the State are still being released, it is anticipated that the value of the increase in school taxes related to the operating budget will be returned to qualifying taxpayers who receive the STAR exemption. This is not to be confused with the STAR exemption, which will continue.

Changes in assessment value or real estate exemptions claimed could impact the amount of the rebate, but in an apples-to-apples comparison, the taxpayer is expected to have the full amount of the tax increase returned this year.

Further criteria (such as demonstrating savings achieved through sharing/consolidating services) must be met to earn the rebate in 2015, but specific details are not yet available. Further details about the Tax Freeze program will be shared when they are available.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Budget Within Tax Levy Limit For Third Straight Year; Contract Settlements, Additional State Aid Help Offset Costs

one. “It’s authentic breakage as opposed to wasting money on unemployment.”

In planning for the 2014-15 budget, the Board of Education also supported the newly established veteran’s exemption, which provides partial exemptions based on the nature of a veteran’s service.

The impact of Federal and State legislation is also one of the District’s major budget considerations and Superintendent Turner said the new

Tax Freeze Credit, a two-year plan that would give rebates to New York taxpayers whose districts abide by tax levy limit rules, is among the items on the District’s radar. For the 2014-15 proposed budget, the District has met the criteria for its qualifying taxpayers to receive a rebate check from New York State in the amount of the eligible increase in school taxes.

“We will be evaluating the criteria of the Tax Freeze for next year to ensure that we work with

it in a way that best serves our community,” Superintendent Turner said.

Voters will have the opportunity to cast their ballots on the budget and elect members of the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 20 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the District’s four elementary schools.





# Saugerties 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

## School Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2013-2014 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2014-2015 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2014-2015 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$55,882,331	\$57,432,984	\$56,815,980
Increase/Decrease for the 2014-2015 School Year		\$1,550,653	\$933,649
Percentage Increase / (Decrease) in Proposed Budget		2.77%	1.67%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.46%	
Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Including Levy to Support Library Debt, if applicable	\$35,892,979	\$36,509,983	\$35,892,979
Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,199,264	\$707,754	
A. Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions or Levy to Support Library Debt	\$34,692,715	\$35,802,229	
B. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Not</u> Including Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 35,229,193	\$35,802,229	
Difference: A - B (Positive Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)	\$(536,478)	\$-0-	
Administrative Component	\$3,939,391	\$4,045,738	\$4,012,717
Program Component	\$45,709,125	\$46,951,576	\$46,557,876
Capital Component	\$6,233,815	\$6,435,670	\$6,245,387

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2014-15 school year: Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, a contingency budget for 2014 -2015 requires that the tax levy increase by 0.00%. Therefore, a budget gap of \$617,004 would need to be addressed to reach the contingency level. The anticipated changes in order to meet the contingency level would possibly include the following:

- Potential cuts to Instructional and non-instructional positions
- Potential cuts to interscholastic sports programs
- Eliminating equipment spending unrelated to safety and security, and
- Reducing BOCES services.

There are no separate propositions for 2014-2015.



Under the Budget Proposed for the 2014-2015 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings <sup>1</sup> → \$643

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

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2014-2015 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at the Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

## Sample Ballot

The wording on the proposition will appear as shown in this example and you will have a choice of either YES or NO:

### Proposition 1 2014-2015 Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2014-2015 school year in the total amount of \$57,432,984 (the budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

There are three (3) 3-year term seats and one (1) 1-year term seat available on the Board of Education. The 3-year terms will run from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017. The 1-year term will run from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The three top vote-getters will fill the three 3-year seats. The candidate with the fourth highest number of votes will fill the 1-year term. The following six candidates filed petitions to run for the Board of Education:

- |                    |                  |                    |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ★ Krista Barringer | ★ Damion Ferraro | ★ Thomas Ham       |
| ★ Richard Kappler  | ★ Bruce Tucker   | ★ Charles Schirmer |

**Tuesday, May 20**  
**VOTE!**  
**VOTE!**  
**VOTE!**  
**6 AM-9 PM**  
Cahill Elementary School  
Morse Elementary School  
Mt. Marion Elementary School  
Riccardi Elementary School\*

\*PVI Hill bridge on Glasco Turnpike is still closed! Residents who vote at Riccardi School must take an alternate route to the school on May 20.

## Voting Information

### Who May Vote?

In order to vote you must be:

- ★ Registered to vote
- ★ A citizen of the United States
- ★ 18 years of age or older
- ★ A resident of Saugerties Central School District for at least 30 days, immediately before the election

### When and Where is the Vote?

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, from 6 AM to 9 PM. Polls are open in each of the Saugerties Central School District's Elementary Schools (Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, Cahill, and Riccardi) by School District voting areas.

### Where Can I Get An Absentee Ballot?

Absentee ballot applications are available for pick-up at the Hildebrandt Building on weekdays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. A voter can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them; however, the request for mailing must be made before May 12. The completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Hildebrandt Building in a sealed envelope no later than 4 PM on May 19.

### How Do I Register?

If you are already registered to vote in the general governmental elections in November, then you are registered to vote in the School District vote. If you are not registered, you may do so by obtaining a registration form available at the following locations:

- ★ Ulster County Board of Elections, 284 Wall Street, Kingston (phone: 334-5470)
- ★ Ulster County Department of Motor Vehicles, 244 Fair Street, Kingston (phone: 340-3700)
- ★ any United States Post Office

### Where Do I Vote?

#### District A: Grant D. Morse Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 6, 9, 15, and 16, and contains that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the New York State Thruway, north of Route 212 and east of the west boundary of the town of Saugerties located between Palenville and Zena.

#### District B: Mt. Marion Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 5 and 10 of the town of Saugerties and those parts of 3, 6, and 7 of the town of Woodstock. It is within that geographical area south of Route 212, west of the NYS Thruway (north of Glasco Turnpike), west of Snyder Road and Schoolhouse Road, north of the southern boundary of the town of Saugerties, with the exception of that area of the town of Saugerties located in the Kingston Consolidated School District and east of the School District boundary near the area of Plochmann Lane in the town of Woodstock.

#### District C: Cahill Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 14 of the town of Saugerties and is within that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the Hudson River, east of the New York State Thruway and north of the area commonly referred to as Barclay Heights.

#### District D: Riccardi Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 8, 11, 12 (including Mt. Marion Park), and 13 located in the Town of Saugerties and parts of 7, 9, and 12 located in the town of Ulster. Geographically, it is bounded north by the south boundary of Election District 3, on the east by the Hudson River, on the west by the New York State Thruway (north of Glasco Turnpike), then south of Glasco Turnpike to the east of Snyder Road and School House Road and on the south by the town of Ulster.





# Cahill Celebrates Arbor Day with a Tree Planting and Song and Dance

Students at Cahill Elementary School got a first-hand lesson on the history and importance of Arbor Day, as well as how important trees are to our ecosystem. In celebration of the 142-year-old holiday, a red sunset maple tree was planted on the southern portion of Cahill's Main Street campus. Grade 3 students celebrated with poetry readings, as did a Grade 1 student who wrote an original poem for the occasion. Students were also treated to songs by Grade 6 students and enjoyed watching Principal Susan Gies lead older students in an Israeli folk dance to the song "Mayim, Mayim," which was especially fitting for this event as the title translates to water, water.

Cahill Principal Gies explained that during the last few years some of the trees on the school's property had to be taken down because they were diseased, and planting this tree was a way to ensure that the younger generation understands the importance of maintaining the environment. "It's important for them to see the circle of life," says Gies. "We took something down, so now we put something back."

Rosemarie Brackett, chairwoman of the Saugerties Village Tree Commission, says that children have an understanding of nature that we need to nurture. "Mrs. Gies is a great supporter of that," acknowledges Brackett. The tree was provided by the Saugerties Village Tree Commission, and by donations from Adams Fairacre Farms, Expert Tree Service, and the Saugerties Society for Little Gardens.



## Morse Students Give a Hoot for Wildlife

When it comes to knowledge of wildlife and how to be safe visitors to open spaces, students at Grant D. Morse Elementary School are wise old owls, thanks to a recent wildlife assembly.

On April 24, wildlife educator Missy Runyon of Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center in Hunter visited Morse, bringing along several different species of birds.

Runyon, who has rehabilitated geese, hawks, turtles, foxes, and even a 137-pound bear, displayed a barn owl, a barred owl, a screech owl, and a red-tailed hawk. In a fun and fascinating presentation that touched on key ideas from the Living Environment portion of the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for elementary school science, Runyon explained how the birds have adapted to survive and find food in the wild. She also educated students about how human behavior can impact wildlife and urged them to be good citizens of nature by keeping a respectful distance from wild animals and disposing of litter properly so as not to attract undomesticated animals to residential areas.

Jace Misiano, a Grade 4 Morse student, has already proven himself to be a good friend of wildlife. He and his family were driving on Old King's Highway about a year ago when they saw another motorist hit a red-tailed hawk. The injured bird landed in a bush and Jace and his family rescued it. After getting in touch with Runyon, they drove the hawk, nicknamed Crasher, up to Hunter wrapped in a blanket.

Runyon's presentation was a first for Morse and students in all grades got the chance to enjoy getting up close and personal with their new feathered friends.



Top: Morse Elementary School students get up close and personal with a barn owl held by wildlife educator Missy Runyon. From left are: Emily Schlosser, Randal Richers, Isaac West, and Lena Goode.

Bottom: Morse Elementary School students Jace Misiano, left, Jack Quinlan, and Riley LeMay enjoy a close look at a barn owl.



## April Showers Bring Poetic Flowers to Cahill

Budding poet Helene Kerr, a Grade 1 student at Cahill Elementary School, shared her original poem "Spring is Here" to get everyone thinking of flowers and warm weather. Cahill students immerse themselves in poetry every April as part of a celebration of National Poetry Month. Teachers discuss poetry in the classroom and students are invited to submit poems – either those they've written themselves or those by other that they admire – to become the "leaves" of a Poet's Tree in the hallway. At the end of the month, families gather for an elegant evening tea party and poetry readings by students and adults. Principal Susan Gies said this year's tea party was a great success, with more than 100 people in attendance.





# Imaginations Take Flight at Junior-Senior High School Science Fair

The Saugerties Junior-Senior High School cafeteria was abuzz with excitement April 9 as the school held its first science fair in more than a decade.

Organized by the newly formed Science Alliance Club and sponsored by local businesses, the fair featured about 25 projects by students in Grades 7 to 12 that ran the gamut from a model of the solar system to a demonstration of heat induction.

“We haven’t had a science fair in years,” said Principal Tom Averill. “For a first one it’s a great turnout. The students worked hard to do some very interesting projects and it’s really energizing to see the excitement.”

The event was open to the public and many families from Saugerties and beyond attended for an evening of both learning and fun. Interactive exhibits invited guests to test their sense of smell and hearing, peer through a telescope, and create a noise-maker with yarn and a plastic cup.

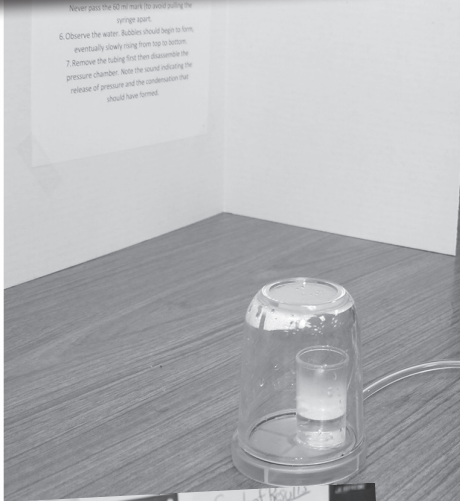
At a display created by Grade 7 students John and Riley Hewitt, kids (and kids at heart) could craft their own paper airplanes then test their design by launching them in the hallway. John said the idea for the project took off from all the times he and his brother made paper airplanes while staying after school for ninth period activities.

“The kids have some very thoughtful ideas,” said science teacher Ara Krom, who advises the Science Alliance Club along with teacher Amy Scanlon. “They’re really excited about what they’re learning.”

In addition to student projects, the fair also featured a reptile expo and some star-gazing with the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, which sponsors periodic nighttime “star parties” at Saugerties High School.

Krom and Scanlon hope to see the science fair become an annual event.

This year’s fair was sponsored by Village Apothecary, Saugerties Monday Club, IBM, and Krause’s Chocolates.



Clockwise, from top left:  
Grade 7 students John Hewitt and Riley Hewitt, left, with science fair visitors. Preparing to launch paper airplanes are Logan Jarrold, 4, Morse Elementary School Grade 4 student Keith Hewitt, and Mt. Marion Grade 1 student Grant Jarrold.  
Alejandro Martinez, 5, who will enter Kindergarten in Saugerties this fall, peers through a telescope at the science fair.  
Sophomore Dan Caffrey demonstrates how to boil water through heat induction.  
Megan Czebatol, a Grade 7 student, stands in front of her project on volcanoes.



“Principal for the Morning” Cody Zeidler conducts a walk-through of the building with real-life principal Sue Osterhoudt.

## Paging Principal Zeidler...

Elementary school students don’t usually give much thought to the challenging and complex work their principal does, but Riccardi Elementary School student Cody Zeidler got a behind-the-scenes look at the job recently.

Eight-year-old Cody, a student in Joanne Arcadipane’s Grade 3 class, spent the morning of March 20 as acting principal, an honor he earned through a random drawing at Riccardi’s McTeacher Night fundraiser earlier this month.

Principal Zeidler was thoroughly professional, from the tips of his sturdy shoes to his neatly combed hair. Sporting a necktie, a dress shirt, and a badge, he got busy right away, making the morning announcements, conducting a walk-through of the building, and visiting classrooms to watch learning in action.

“He worked hard and did a great job,” said Riccardi’s real principal, Sue Osterhoudt, who shepherded Principal Zeidler through the morning but also gave him his own responsibilities. Among these were helping school nurse Denise Dittus organize all the clothing that had collected in Lost and Found, and checking to make sure the DVD for the school’s upcoming movie night was in working order.

For Principal Zeidler, one of the highlights of the day was the chance to carry and use a real walkie-talkie. School support staff paged him on it throughout the morning whenever he was needed in the office....or, in one case, to remind him that it was his lunch period.

Although his classmates in Grade 3 were jealous of the walkie-talkie, Principal Zeidler used his influence to give them some perks: an extra game of kickball and a quick ride in the school’s usually off-limits elevator.

The young principal also achieved newfound popularity when he decided the day was warm enough for everyone to go outside for recess.

Principal Zeidler no doubt went home that evening and relaxed with a round of his favorite video games or some soccer to unwind from all the decisions and responsibilities. Of course, that wasn’t all he did. After all, even principals have to finish their homework.





Keenan Irvin, a junior at Saugerties High School, lights a candle during his induction to the National Honor Society.



Senior Korinna Ranyak lights a candle during the induction ceremony.

## 62 Students Inducted into National Honor Society

### Seniors:

Tracyann Bernard  
Olivia Bronson  
Joseph Dittus  
Nicholas Lawless  
Zachary Michaels  
Victoria Palcher  
Korinna Ranyak

### Juniors:

Ana Alarcon  
Cory Backus  
Lauren Ball  
Dominique Bigando  
Richard Buono  
Nicholas Carageane  
Nicole Carney  
Connor Christiansen  
Jillian Ciferri  
Lauren Costa  
Adelina Coughlin  
Phoebe Defino  
Paige Dennis  
Emlyn Ellerby  
Kelsey Feeney  
Taylor Foley  
Jade Forman  
Danielle Frederickson  
Nicole Frisbie  
Bronson Gardner  
Berenger Garnica  
Michael Giarraputo  
Paton Gibbs  
Giovana Guimaraes  
Marissa Hogan  
Keenan Irvin  
Allison Joers  
Curtis Jorgensen  
Brian Kilmer  
Nicholas Kopycinski  
Monica Krajcovic  
Ryan LaTourrette  
Angel Leni  
Jonathan Lezette  
Lauren Longtoe  
Carly Masula  
Karley O'Connor  
Karen Panke  
Margaret Pederson  
Alexandra Peterson  
Daniel Poll  
Rachel Reimer  
Ashton Rodman  
Ishmeet Sekhon  
Nicholas Skalla  
Madison Smith  
Isabella Staiano  
Amber Storm  
Lane Sulzer  
Benjamin Swart  
Darian Trnka  
Audrey Trossen  
Matthew Urrutia  
Carly Voerg  
Hannah Webber

Sixty-two Saugerties High School (SHS) scholars and leaders were reminded to “cherish the lessons” of high school as they were inducted into the school’s chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) on April 24.

The seven seniors and 55 juniors joined a proud tradition of 70 classes that have been inducted into NHS at Saugerties since the organization’s inception in the 1940s.

Each of the new inductees has demonstrated the four pillars of NHS, leadership, scholarship, character, and service, by maintaining a 90 average or higher, showing leadership and character both in and out of school, and giving back to the Saugerties community through volunteering.

In a candlelight ceremony witnessed by family and friends, current members ushered in the new members while officers Hunter Igoe, Shannon Averill, Danielle Lukaszewski, and Corey Curran offered words of wisdom about each of the four pillars.

Igoe told the new inductees that leadership is “being the best version of you for the benefit of the whole,” while Lukaszewski reminded them that service “isn’t just showing up for the required hours,” but taking the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and learn from them.

The students also heard from guest speaker Neal Smoller, a 1998 SHS graduate and NHS alumnus who has opened several pharmacies in the area. In a light-hearted but powerful speech, Smoller drew a parallel between video games and students’ experiences in school and beyond.

“Right now your lives are kind of like Mario Brothers,” Smoller said. “You start on one side of the stage and eventually you save the princess. After high school, life is going to start resembling Minecraft, where there’s no real objective.”

To narrow the gap between students’ dreams and what they achieve, Smoller urged them to make use of both vision and action and to remember the foundation they built at SHS.

Following Smoller’s remarks, the NHS members and their families were treated to both vocal and instrumental performances and a comedy skit featuring students.

The new NHS officers for the coming school year are President Phoebe Defino, Vice President Lauren Ball, Secretary Audrey Trossen, and Treasurer Emlyn Ellerby.

Both current and new members alike expressed their appreciation to longtime NHS advisor Debra Cacchillo and the Saugerties Teachers Association, which contributed to the purchase of National Honor Society cards and pins for the new members.

## Dark Comedy of *Little Shop of Horrors* Comes Alive on SHS Stage

The Saugerties High School (SHS) stage came alive in April with all the dark doo-wop fun of the classic musical “Little Shop of Horrors.”

Launched off-Broadway in 1982, “Little Shop of Horrors” became a worldwide hit for its darkly comic portrayal of the hapless Seymour, a skid row flower shop employee who tries to make his dreams of a better life come true by following the orders of a man-eating plant.

“I love this show,” said SHS English teacher John Wells, who directed the production. Wells, who has led the drama club for the last four shows, said he’s always wanted to do a musical and “Little Shop” is a favorite from his childhood. “There’s the man-eating plant, the love story, the music. Who doesn’t like doo-wop?”

The cast featured 19 students, some of them underclassmen, a first on the SHS stage. Until this year, the show was always a seniors-only project.

Cast in the leads of Seymour and his lady love Audrey were seniors Avery Herzog and Victoria DiViesti, with fellow seniors Hunter Igoe as Orin, Audrey’s evil dentist boyfriend, and Kevin Wood as Mr. Mushnik, the owner of the flower shop were Seymour and Audrey work.

“It’s so much fun,” said DiViesti. “Getting cast in this show was a big thing for me.”

DiViesti, who also plays the oboe, sings and enjoys reading, will continue to pursue drama in college at SUNY Potsdam, where she will major in theatre education this fall.

The equally hard-working understudy leads also had their moment to shine. At Saturday’s matinee performance the roles of Seymour, Audrey, Orin, and Mushnik were played by Dan Caffrey, Phoebe Defino, Ian Curran, and Angelica Owen, respectively.

Herzog, who plays four instruments, competes on the SHS tennis team, and hones his film-making skills in the school’s computer video production class, said that taking part in “Little Shop” has changed his life because it showed him the enormous commitment required to present a top-notch show.

In addition to including underclassmen, this year’s show featured a wireless sound system for the first time, as well as new auditorium curtains. Wells said the improvements to the auditorium show off the students’ many talents to their best advantage.

Wells said that taking part in drama gives students the opportunity to “collaboratively create something and really bond as a family.” Even after rehearsing until nine o’ clock at night, the students “still want to stay late and hang out.”

“It made us a family,” Herzog said of the time the club members spent together since January. “It’s been fantastic.”

Wells called the students “incredibly talented” and dedicated and said, “It’s been an honor to work with them.”

Ariela Lozano, Emily Langton, and Kaylin Bowen play the skid row urchins.



Members of the cast of “Little Shop of Horrors” rehearse a scene. From left are seniors Victoria DiViesti as Audrey, Kevin Wood as Mr. Mushnik, and Avery Herzog as Seymour.



Mr. Mushnik is getting swallowed by the man-eating Audrey II.



The cast of “Little Shop of Horrors”.