



# South Jefferson 2024-25

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

## At a glance:

Proposed Budget:  
**\$44,147,572**

Spending Increase:  
**\$1,664,264 / 3.92%**

Tax Levy Increase:  
**\$171,000 / 2.00%**

## Vote:

Tuesday,  
May 21, 2024  
Noon-8 p.m.

AT THE GENERAL BRUCE C. CLARKE BUILDING, ADAMS, NEW YORK

### Also on the ballot:

- **PROPOSITION II:**  
Capital Project Changes  
(See pages 2 and 3)
- **PROPOSITION III:**  
Transportation  
(See pages 2 and 3)
- **PROPOSITION IV:**  
Library Appropriation  
(See page 3)
- **Board of Education Election**  
(See pages 3 and 4)

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear South Jefferson Community Members,

The South Jefferson Central School District works to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive learning community that empowers all students to reach their full potential. Through personalized instruction, innovative teaching practices and meaningful partnerships with our families and the community, we aim to inspire a lifelong love of learning and equip our students with the knowledge, skills and values needed to enhance student safety and wellness, as well as keep students engaged in a lifetime of learning in a rapidly changing world. Together, we are building a future where every student becomes a compassionate, responsible and engaged citizen, prepared to make positive contributions to society.

As we plan for the 2024-2025 school year, we consider how to make the greatest impact on student learning, growth and opportunities while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Next school year, we plan to provide an additional social worker and registered nurse at the secondary level, and as we continue working toward building back our elective programs, we plan to offer family and consumer science. Additionally, we will be further enhancing remedial support services for students by adding a learning center and instructional coach. We plan to maintain current staffing numbers at each elementary school.

Our district capital project is underway. Over the next several months, many improvements and enhancements will begin to take place in each building location. With much excitement, the Mannsville Elementary playground is anticipated to be completed in just a few weeks from now, followed by the beginnings of the sitework for our new softball/baseball complex at the Clarke building. The second proposition on the budget vote includes approval for additional funding to complete the capital project. The project bids for the Clarke building HVAC systems were higher than initially anticipated due to inflation and increased labor costs. This additional funding will have no financial impact to our taxpayers. Through our capital outlay project, we plan to address some much needed physical maintenance at the Mannsville bus garage including gutter replacement and replacing an overhead door.

As Spartans, we are committed to providing a safe and positive learning environment that engages, nurtures and challenges all students as they grow, and we are confident that our 2024-2025 school budget would help us to meet these goals. I believe that our proposed budget reflects our mindful planning and focuses on both proactive and reactive measures based on student need. If you have any questions about the proposal, please feel free to call me at 315-583-6104.

Christina Chamberlain, *Superintendent of Schools*

## Spartan Pride

The South Jefferson Central School Music Department presented Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" in March, and it was a tremendous success. The musical tells a tuneful, heartwarming tale based on the real-life story of the Von Trapp family singers in the years preceding World War II. Mia Mouikel played the role of Maria, a postulant sent from an Austrian abbey by Mother Abbess, played by Arianna Dyer, to become a governess in the home of a widowed naval captain with seven children. Captain Von Trapp, played by Grant Mullin, is engaged to Baroness Schraeder, played by Emma Heflin, but that fails when he falls in love with Maria, who has brought a new love of life and music into the home. Uncle Max, played by Jacob Janz, arranges for the family to sing at a festival before escaping from the German soldiers, who have arrived to escort Captain to serve in the war. Playing the roles of the children were Fiora Ackley (Liesl), Jack Bickel (Frederick), Julianne Goodenbery (Louisa), Ryan Sprole (Kurt), Aria Sperry (Brigitta), Colie Burt (Marta) and Jovienne Larsen (Gretl). They sang some favorite songs you may recognize, "Do Re Mi" and "So Long, Farewell." This was another fantastic production presented by our SJ students. Congratulations to all of our cast and crew!



# 2024-25 Budget Summary

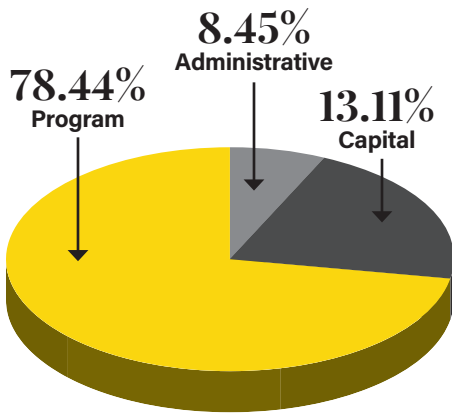
## REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED
Property Taxes	\$8,550,000	\$8,721,000
State Aid	\$32,331,808	\$33,773,572
Fund Balance	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Other Revenue	\$101,500	\$153,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,483,308</b>	<b>\$44,147,572</b> 3.92% INCREASE

## THREE-PART BUDGET:

New York law requires school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories—program, administrative and capital—and compare them to the previous year’s costs. South Jefferson’s three-part budget is as follows:



## EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED
General Support	\$577,410	\$626,868
BOCES	\$3,382,763	\$3,724,196
Instruction	\$16,422,607	\$17,333,117
Pupil Transportation	\$2,766,843	\$2,642,245
Operations & Maintenance	\$3,077,285	\$3,292,725
Employee Benefits	\$11,578,331	\$11,873,305
Debt Service	\$1,044,507	\$1,118,155
Interfund Transfers	\$3,633,562	\$3,536,961
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,483,308</b>	<b>\$44,147,572</b> 3.92% INCREASE

### CATEGORY

#### Program

Includes salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (excludes bus purchases).

2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED
\$30,852,193 72.62% OF BUDGET	\$34,627,439 78.44% OF BUDGET

#### Administrative

Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information, printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, general insurance and professional fees.

2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED
\$3,109,501 7.32% OF BUDGET	\$3,732,456 8.45% OF BUDGET

#### Capital

Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, equipment, and court-ordered costs.

2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED
\$8,521,614 20.06% OF BUDGET	\$5,787,677 13.11% OF BUDGET

### TOTAL

2023-24 BUDGETED	2024-25 PROJECTED
\$42,483,308	\$44,147,572

## Capital Project:

For Proposition II on the ballot, district residents will decide whether to increase the cost of the \$17,100,000 capital project that voters previously approved on Dec. 13, 2022, by \$1,575,000. This additional funding would have no financial impact to district taxpayers. The cost increase is because the project bids for the Clarke building HVAC systems were higher than initially anticipated due to increased inflation and labor costs. The overall capital project includes alterations and improvements to the buildings, playgrounds, athletic fields and courts and parking areas at the Mannsville Manor Elementary School, the Maynard P. Wilson Elementary School, the Bus Garage at Maynard P. Wilson Elementary School, the Middle/High School and the Maintenance Building. This increase would be funded using \$200,000 of available district funds and \$1,375,000 from the tax levy but would result in no additional tax impact for residents.

## Transportation

For Proposition III on the ballot, district residents will decide whether to authorize the purchase of six student transportation vehicles – including necessary furnishings, fixtures, equipment and all other incidental costs – at a total cost of up to \$1,137,424. The transportation proposition would allow the district to maintain its seven-year bus replacement cycle that helps ensure our fleet is well-maintained, prevents costly maintenance and repairs, and most importantly, allows our team of drivers to safely and efficiently transport children to and from school. The proposal aims to keep our kids safe, while leveraging our aid and fiscal resources. State Transportation Aid covers about 90% of the cost of new buses, leaving the district to pay about 10% for this expense. Our transportation fleet travels roughly a half-million miles each year, covering over 200 square miles daily to pick up our students and make sure they get home safely. The Transportation Department is a critical department, and our amazing drivers are most often the first district staff that greet our students and say goodbye at the end of the day.

# 2024-25 Required School District Budget Notice

## OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$42,483,308	\$44,147,572	\$43,976,572
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$1,664,264	\$1,493,264
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.92%	3.51%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
<b>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>\$8,550,000</b>	<b>\$8,721,000</b>	
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	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$8,550,000</b>	<b>\$8,721,000</b>	<b>\$8,550,000</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$70,735	\$61,254	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,480,514	\$8,706,536	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,479,265	\$8,659,746	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$1,249	\$46,790	
Administrative Component	\$3,109,501	\$3,732,456	\$3,506,779
Program Component	\$30,852,193	\$34,627,439	\$34,679,099
Capital Component	\$8,521,614	\$5,787,677	\$5,790,694

\*Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the Board of Education may re-vote or adopt a contingency budget. A contingency budget would require a reduction of \$171,000 from the proposed 2024-25 budget. Items considered for removal include: expenses attributed to additional staffing, equipment, supplies, services, the \$100,000 capital outlay project for needed facility improvements and the transfer to capital fund.

\*\* 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
Proposition II: Capital proposition to complete original scope of work with alternates included	\$1,575,000
Proposition III: School bus proposition for the purchase of 6 student transportation vehicles	\$1,137,424

### Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$330
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the South Jefferson Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at General Bruce C. Clarke Building, Adams, New York in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00 pm and 8:00 pm. The polls will be opened to vote by paper voting ballot for the school district budget, two Board of Education members, school bus proposition, capital proposition, and the library proposition. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

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

## On the ballot

### Proposition II: Capital Project

Voters will decide whether to authorize the district to increase the cost of the capital project previously approved by district residents on Dec. 13, 2022, by \$1,575,000. This increase would be funded using \$200,000 of available district funds and \$1,375,000 from the tax levy but would result in no additional tax impact for residents.

### Proposition III: Transportation

Voters will decide whether to authorize the district to purchase and finance six student transport vehicles – including necessary furnishings, fixtures, equipment and all other incidental costs – at a total cost of up to \$1,137,424.

### Proposition IV: Library Appropriation

Voters will decide whether to authorize the district to levy and collect an annual tax, separate from the annual school district budget, for the additional amount of \$5,000 (above the current amount of \$30,000 for a new total amount of \$35,000) to be paid to the Mannsville Free Library for the support of maintenance of the libraries, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until modified by a future vote.

### Board of Education Election

Voters will elect two members to the Board of Education as follows: one five-year term to succeed current member Stephanie Widrick, commencing on July 1, 2024, and expiring June 30, 2029, and one term of one-year and 40 days commencing on May 22, 2024, through June 30, 2025, to succeed current member James Juczak, who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Kenneth Bibbins.

## Voter Information

### Who may vote?

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote. You do not need to be registered to vote in the general election to vote on the school budget.

### Early voting and absentee ballots

Absentee ballot applications are available from the district clerk and will be issued upon request to residents who will be out of town or unable to vote at the polls due to illness or disability. The new Early Mail Voter Act effective Jan. 1, 2024, also allows for early voting via mail without any reasons needed. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications for voting by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the district office at 315-583-6104. If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 14, 2024. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2024. The completed ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024.

# South Jefferson

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 10  
Adams, NY 13605

Non-Profit  
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ADAMS, NY

## Board of Education

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Carrie Mangino  
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Stephanie Widrick

Christina Chamberlain, *Superintendent of Schools*

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## SOUTH JEFFERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENT

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES  
Engagement & Development Service, Bryon Ackerman,  
Editor.

# South Jefferson 2024-25

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

# Vote:

Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
Noon-8 p.m.



## Meet the Board of Education candidates



### Kathryn (Kate) Mangan

Kate Mangan resides in the village of Adams with her husband, Rich, and their three children. She grew up in Rodman and attended South Jefferson Central School, graduating in 1989. She subsequently attended the University of Texas/ Austin and Clarkson University, receiving a

Bachelor of Science in civil and environmental engineering. Upon graduating, Kate co-operated a heavy civil construction firm, Tug Hill Construction Inc. with her brother. They grew the business, which had been created by their parents, to focus on large-scale environmental remediation projects for public and private owners and the construction of tank training ranges for the Army Corps of Engineers. They performed these projects throughout the United States. She received her contracting licenses in Kentucky, Virginia and Texas. After 20 years of involvement in the business, Kate and Rich started a family, and Kate then moved into a consulting role at Tug Hill, before starting an interior design and construction management company, 6th Floor Interiors. Eventually, they moved from their home in Henderson back into the district to ensure their children could attend SJCS. They have twins in eighth grade and a son, who will graduate this year. Throughout the years at South Jefferson, they have been involved in academic, music and sports endeavors to encourage growth in each area.



### Erin Gaffney

Erin Gaffney, a resident of the district, currently resides in Adams Center with her two children, Max and Mollie. She graduated from South Jefferson in 1997. Erin holds a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation from Utica College, a master's degree in adult education from the University of Phoenix

and a master's degree in education and special education from SUNY Potsdam. Currently, Erin works as a high school special education teacher at Sandy Creek Central School. Erin also holds a position at the Sackets Harbor American Legion, and she tutors students of all ages. Previously, Erin served on the South Jefferson Board of Education and has completed numerous trainings for school board members, along with attending various conferences and seminars to enhance her understanding of her role. Additionally, Erin coached Eastern Shore Soccer for eight years and served as an assistant coach for the Jefferson Community College women's basketball and soccer teams. She also serves as a board member for the In Bloom Foundation.