



# South Jefferson 2023-24

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

## At a glance:

Proposed Budget:  
**\$42,483,308**

Spending Increase:  
**\$3,399,329 / 8.70%**

Tax Levy Increase:  
**\$160,000 / 1.91%**

## Vote:

**Tuesday,  
May 16, 2023  
12 - 8:00 p.m.**

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

### Also on the ballot:

- PROPOSITION I:  
Purchase of School Buses  
(See page 3)
- PROPOSITION II:  
Library Appropriation  
(See page 3)
- Board of Education Election  
(See pages 3 and 4)

**“Striving to provide a safe, positive learning environment that engages, nurtures, and challenges each student as they grow academically, socially, and emotionally.”**

- FROM OUR MISSION STATEMENT

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear South Jefferson Community Members,

The 2022-2023 school year has been a time for our students, staff and school community to respond, strategize and create plans for advancing our district, including enhanced opportunities for students while focusing on a return to expectations.

We continue to support our students' social/emotional learning needs while balancing the academic responsibilities required to support students in achieving personal success. As like any objective worth achieving, exceeding our district goals will take a multi-year approach and include home-to-school partnership to do so.

As we strategize for the future, we consider the best ways to provide outstanding educational experiences while supporting all students' needs. We use these strategies to evaluate and advance our systems and offerings for all students and seek to make advances toward the future by enhancing and building back some of our missed programs and student opportunities while also being fiscally responsible.

One of the ways we are doing that is planning for instructional positions that have been supported by federal American Rescue Funds for the past two years to come back into the budget so we are prepared for those costs when the funding ends.

We will be advancing remedial support for students by adding elementary math and literacy specialists to address learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also plan to add an additional full-time occupational therapist and school counselor at the elementary level.

Additionally, we plan to fund our one-book-one-district literacy initiative, building back our love of shared reading and celebrating once again as a school community. At the secondary level, we plan to add a Career and Technical Education teacher to provide additional hands-on opportunities and learning as students move toward their futures. Through the capital outlay project, we plan to continue addressing lighting in our large-spaced areas at Clarke Middle/High School.

Being fiscally responsible and using smart strategies will benefit the district in building strong and sustainable programs. We will build our fiscal security to mitigate the uncertainty the future holds. Specifically, we plan to reduce our reliance on fund balance, use appropriations to pay for two of our six bus purchases and transfer funds to reduce the capital project borrowing remaining balance.

We believe that our proposed budget reflects our mindful planning and a focus on Responding, Strategizing, and Advancing. If you have any questions about the proposal, please feel free to call me at 315-583-6104.

Here at South Jefferson, our mission is to provide a safe, positive learning environment that engages, challenges and nurtures all students. We are fortunate to have a community that embraces and supports that mission. I am very proud to be at South Jeff, to be back as a Spartan and look forward to our working together as we Respond, Strategize and Advance.

Christina Chamberlain,  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## Spartan Pride

The South Jefferson FFA - Gold Chapter meeting team placed first out of 10 Central Region teams in the Conduct of Chapter Meeting LDE event at the Sub-State FFA competition at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES in March. They are now one of the top six teams in New York state. In May, they will compete again at the state competition in Buffalo for a chance to compete at the national competition in Indianapolis, Indiana, next fall. Congratulations to the winning team and to all of our FFA member students for their hard work and dedication.



# 2023-24 Budget Summary

## REVENUES:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED
Property Taxes	\$8,390,000	\$8,550,000
State Aid	\$28,547,479	\$32,171,808
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$40,000	\$45,000
Fund Balance	\$1,900,000	\$1,500,000
Other Revenue	\$206,500	\$216,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,083,979</b>	<b>\$42,483,308</b> 8.70% INCREASE

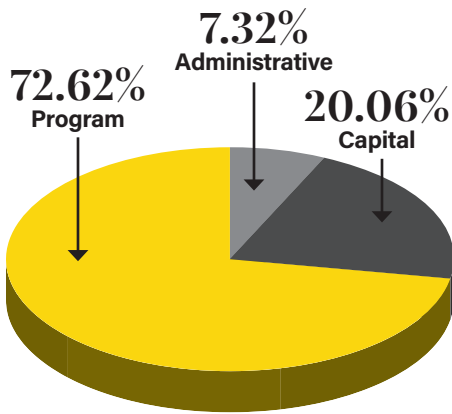
## EXPENDITURES:

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED
General Support	\$3,946,767	\$4,411,663
Instruction	\$16,734,456	\$18,966,385
Pupil Transportation	\$2,330,210	\$2,810,737
Employee Benefits	\$11,010,175	\$11,616,454
Debt Service	\$774,640	\$1,044,507
Interfund Transfers	\$4,287,731	\$3,633,562
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,083,979</b>	<b>\$42,483,308</b> 8.70% 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:



CATEGORY	2022-23 BUDGETED	2023-24 PROJECTED
<b>Program</b> 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).	\$28,104,156 71.90% OF BUDGET	\$30,852,193 72.62% OF BUDGET
<b>Administrative</b> 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.	\$2,758,181 7.06% OF BUDGET	\$3,109,501 7.32% OF BUDGET
<b>Capital</b> Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings and school bus purchases, utilities, equipment, and court-ordered costs.	\$8,221,642 21.04% OF BUDGET	\$8,521,614 20.06% OF BUDGET
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,083,979</b>	<b>\$42,483,308</b>



## Transportation

Our 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.

The bus proposition is essential to student safety. It allows us to maintain a 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. State Transportation Aid covers about 90% toward the cost of new buses, leaving the District to pay about 10% for this expense. In addition to replacing two buses using district funds, the bus proposition to finance the purchase of an additional four buses is an opportunity to keep our kids safe while leveraging our aid and fiscal resources.

# 2023-24 Required 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	\$39,083,979	\$42,483,308	\$41,036,640
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-24 School Year		\$3,399,329	\$1,952,661
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		8.70%	5.00%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		8.0%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,390,000	\$8,550,000	
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>\$8,390,000</b>	<b>\$8,550,000</b>	<b>\$8,390,000</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$131,354	\$70,735	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,260,560	\$8,480,514	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$8,258,646	\$8,479,265	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$1,914	\$1,249	
Administrative Component	\$2,758,181	\$3,109,501	\$2,987,294
Program Component	\$28,104,156	\$30,852,193	\$30,464,632
Capital Component	\$8,221,642	\$8,521,614	\$7,584,714

\*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 \$1,446,668 from the proposed 2023-24 budget. Items considered for removal include: expenses attributed to two school buses from appropriations, 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 I: School bus proposition for the purchase of 4 student transportation vehicles	\$712,000

## Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$330
---	-------

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 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 16, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The polls will be opened to vote by paper voting ballot for the school district budget, one Board of Education member, school bus proposition, and library proposition. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

<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 I: Transportation

Shall the Board of Education of the South Jefferson Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance four (4) replacement student transportation vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$712,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$712,000 shall be issued?

### PROPOSITION II: Library Appropriation

Pursuant to Education Law Section 259, shall the Board of Education of the South Jefferson Central School District be authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, for the additional amount of \$10,000 (above the current amount of \$55,000 for a new total amount of \$65,000) which shall be paid to the Adams Center Free Library, for the support of maintenance of the libraries, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the South Jefferson School District?

### Board of Education Election

Voters will elect one member to the Board of Education to a five-year term, to succeed current member James Juczak, commencing on July 1, 2023, and expiring June 30, 2028.

## 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.

### 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. All information about voting by absentee ballot can be found at [www.spartanpride.org](http://www.spartanpride.org). Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on May 16.

# South Jefferson

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PO Box 10  
Adams, NY 13605

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 68  
ADAMS, NY

## Board of Education

Mrs. Pamela Thomas, *President*  
Mr. Kenneth Bibbins, *Vice President*  
Mr. Joseph Eberle II  
Mr. James Juczak  
Mr. Troy Matteson  
Mr. Justin VanCoughnett  
Mrs. Stephanie Widrick

Christina Chamberlain, *Superintendent of Schools*

## ECRWSS

## SOUTH JEFFERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENT

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES  
Communications Service, Monique Jacobs, Editor.

 **South Jefferson** 2023-24  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

**Vote:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
12-8:00 p.m.



## Meet the Board of Education candidates



### Mrs. Carrie A. Mangino

Carrie resides in the Village of Adams with her husband and their children. She's the proud mother of one South Jefferson graduate and three current South Jefferson students. She and her family are active in the district's numerous sports programs and area community programs.

Carrie grew up in Syracuse and earned an associate degree from Onondaga Community College. She then earned a bachelor's in Human Services from SUNY Empire State College and a master's in Behavioral Forensics from SUNY Oswego. She was also awarded a Certificate in Public Policy from Georgetown University's School of Public Policy Fellowship Program. Carrie is a detective at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and previously spent eight years as a School Resource Officer, where she was involved in working with area school districts' school safety plans and working with students on mediation and diversion. Carrie is an active member at Saint Cecilia's Church and is a Law Enforcement Ambassador for New York State Special Olympics.



### Mr. James S. Juczak

Jim has been a member of the South Jefferson School District Board of Education from July 2012 to June 2020 and May 2021 to present. Prior to that, he was a teacher with the South Jefferson School District for 23 years.

Jim achieved his bachelor's in Industrial Arts and Driver's Ed and his master's in Technology Education from SUNY Oswego in the early '80s. In addition to teaching in the public-school system, his career has been very diverse. He has also had experience in factory work, vocational teaching and as a civilian contractor in Afghanistan, to name a few. Jim has been an adjunct professor for SUNY Jefferson, SUNY Oswego and Empire State College, teaching Energy and Power Technology to future teachers and industrial managers. He lives with his wife in a home they built in Adams Center, and they use their property to continue to educate people on issues like sustainability, off-grid energy production and simple agriculture. Jim is presently vice president of the South Jefferson Rescue Squad, an EMT/MIH (Mobile Integrated Health) Caregiver, and president of the SciTech Museum board in Watertown.