

YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Volume 35• Number 3

April 2014

2014/2015 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

VOTE

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014

South Side High School - 7AM to 9PM

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Rockville Centre School District is to educate our students to become independent problem solvers. It is our goal to empower each student to meet the challenges of tomorrow's emerging world. The District will provide a safe, nurturing environment in which individual and civic responsibility is fostered, diversity is respected and all students are enabled to realize their full potential.

As a Board, we look at your child's education as an investment in our future. The Rockville Centre Board of Education once again presents a budget that is within the State Tax Levy Cap. Our school district administration and our Board of Education, through careful planning and management, have been able to develop a fiscally responsible budget that maintains the integrity of our instructional programs and aligns itself with our community's academic expectations.

Our district has been subject to ever increasing expenses resulting from implementation of the Common Core learning standards, health care benefits, Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and Employees' Retirement System (ERS) benefits, and other escalating costs. However, through planning, use of purchasing consortiums and cooperative resources, along with the streamlining of costs, we have been able to ensure that for the 2014/2015 school year, ALL academic, athletic, visual and performing arts, and extracurricular programs will be continued. Inside this brochure you can read about the achievements of our student scholars, athletes, musicians, actors, scientists, and engineers. These are only a few of the many areas in which our students can excel. We all should take great pride in the successes of our students both inside and outside of the classroom. We are dedicated to our mission of preparing students for college and careers, and to ensure that they have the skills necessary to meet success in a challenging and changing world.

With your support and that of the Rockville Centre community, on May 20th, we can ensure that our children will continue to have a variety of opportunities in which to flourish and look to a bright future. Read this brochure, become informed, come to the Preliminary Budget Hearing on April 24th with your questions, and vote on Tuesday, May 20th, at South Side High School. Your vote makes a difference.

The Board of Education
Rockville Centre School District

WWW.RVCSCHOOLS.ORG

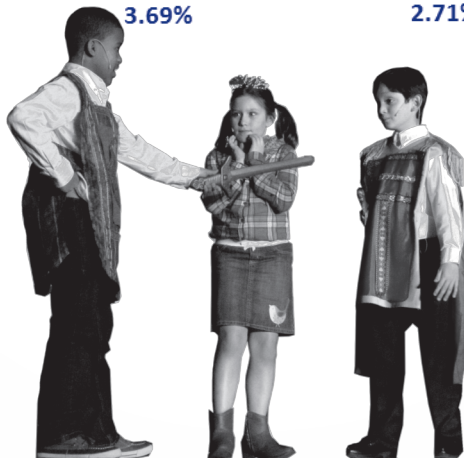
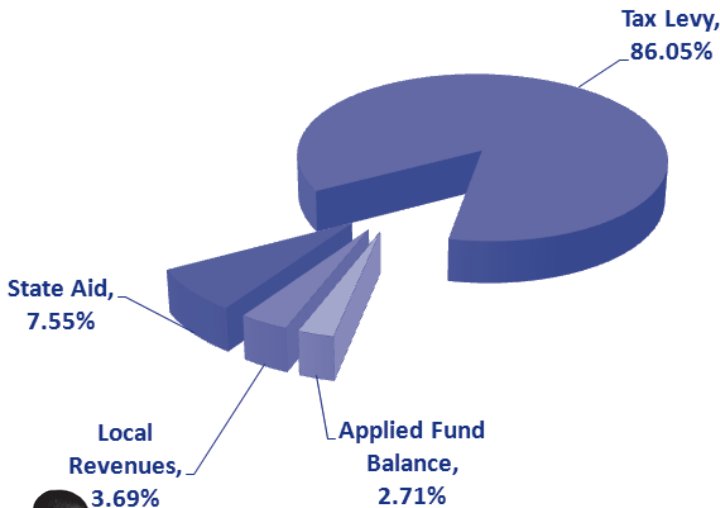
2014/2015 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
Appropriations			
General Support	10,284,003	9,845,778	9,991,582
Instruction	58,077,754	59,656,231	61,219,178
Transportation	4,003,727	4,098,505	4,150,989
Community Services	193,010	192,950	192,950
Employee Benefits	21,514,500	23,818,400	24,489,400
Debt Service, Building Improvements & Inter-fund Transfers	<u>3,187,494</u>	<u>3,136,488</u>	<u>3,092,655</u>
Grand Total: Appropriations	97,260,488	100,748,352	103,136,754
Receipts			
State Aid	6,932,414	7,132,414	7,782,414
Local Revenues	3,318,074	3,615,938	3,804,340
Applied General Fund Balance	<u>2,800,000</u>	<u>2,800,000</u>	<u>2,800,000</u>
Total Receipts	13,050,488	13,548,352	14,386,754
Balance to be raised by tax levy	84,210,000	87,200,000	88,750,000
Grand Total: Revenues	97,260,488	100,748,352	103,136,754
Assessed Valuation as of March 1	11,852,909	11,505,179	11,578,500*

*Tentative

HOW WE FUND OUR BUDGET



Riverside play, "Princess Whatsername"



SSHS Junior, Kieran McCarthy, after winning the Nassau County Cross Country Championship race

UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND

Work continues on last year's voter approved School Improvement Bond. Architectural plans for the additions at South Side High School and Watson School are complete and are currently awaiting approval at the New York State Education Department to begin construction this summer. School District staff and contractors have been able to undertake many bond projects since last summer and throughout the beginning of the school year.

Both inside and out, our buildings have begun to see work done. Outside, at South Side Middle School, the old track was removed, the existing foundation was repaired and resealed, and a new all-weather rubberized surface was applied. Front entrance doors were replaced at both South Side Middle School and Riverside School. The cornice was given a fresh coat of paint at Riverside School. Track and field reconstruction at South Side High School has been scheduled to begin in June and at Covert and Watson Schools, roof replacements are scheduled to begin in July.

Inside, the buildings have also seen changes. Throughout the District we have begun to install additional security cameras. The High School Gymnasium has been revitalized by the addition of new Gym floors, wall padding and bleachers. Wall padding at the Middle School Gymnasium has also been replaced.

Although complete installation of air-conditioning requires approval from the New York State Education Department, prior to approval and in an effort to get some air-conditioning into each of our buildings, a number of units have been purchased and installation will continue throughout the spring. The classrooms that these units will be installed in were determined in coordination with the principals of each of the buildings. Installations are taking place after school hours in order not to interfere with daily student activities.

The School Improvement Bond will not have an impact on the 2014/2015 budget. During the next school year the School District will continue to work on various projects approved within the bond without affecting the budget. We invite you to our Board of Education meetings, or to check on our District website as we update the progress of these and other projects.

2014/2015 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

General Support

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 Proposed Budget
Board of Education	26,445	26,910	28,325
District Clerk	59,136	43,802	44,819
District Meetings—Annual Election	124,715	95,525	110,754
Superintendent's Office	582,166	526,187	530,909
Business Administration	830,319	869,611	872,363
Auditing	130,000	125,000	120,000
Treasurer	86,342	88,044	90,214
Legal Services	409,900	359,900	309,900
Personnel Administration	503,077	462,042	470,439
Public Information Services	69,883	29,883	29,883
Plant Operations	4,221,381	3,928,871	4,017,007
Plant Maintenance	1,540,274	1,586,359	1,645,165
Central Printing	384,279	385,568	386,445
Data Processing Services	407,086	403,076	405,359
Insurance	415,000	415,000	420,000
BOCES Administrative Fees	<u>494,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>510,000</u>
Total General Support	10,284,003	9,845,778	9,991,582

Instruction

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 Proposed Budget
Curriculum Development	578,682	600,557	611,898
Supervision of Schools	2,697,336	2,815,978	2,938,580
Supervision of Special Schools	52,614	54,000	54,540
Research, Planning & Evaluation	115,013	121,490	124,527
In-service	268,273	302,190	302,727
All Regular Instruction	35,509,742	36,323,467	37,155,513
Pupils with Special Needs	9,728,337	10,032,274	10,421,723
Occupational Education	250,000	220,000	270,000
Instruction in Special Schools	937,475	910,625	895,375
Library and Audio-Visual Services	477,317	502,818	532,348
Educational Television	118,329	124,307	123,795
Computer Assisted Instruction	1,898,936	2,053,195	2,055,620
Attendance Services	52,000	56,113	57,516
Guidance Services	1,151,088	1,137,593	1,165,804
Health Services	1,013,772	1,023,587	1,098,930
Psychological Services	1,004,793	1,027,146	1,051,968
Social Work Services	746,898	791,000	789,375
Pupil Personnel Services	84,004	93,296	95,628
Co-Curricular Activities	360,379	379,120	385,720
Interscholastic Activities	<u>1,032,766</u>	<u>1,087,475</u>	<u>1,087,591</u>
Total Instruction	58,077,754	59,656,231	61,219,178

Transportation

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 Proposed Budget
District Transportation	385,212	411,941	501,651
Contract Transportation	3,230,515	3,243,564	3,194,338
Public Transportation	38,000	43,000	55,000
BOCES Transportation	<u>350,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
Total Transportation	4,003,727	4,098,505	4,150,989

2014/2015 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Community Services

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
General Support	180,000	180,000	180,000
Instruction	<u>13,010</u>	<u>12,950</u>	<u>12,950</u>
Total Community Services	193,010	192,950	192,950

Employee Benefits

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
NYS Employee Retirement System	1,300,000	1,400,000	1,200,000
NYS Teacher Retirement System	4,600,000	5,800,000	6,500,000
Social Security	4,250,000	4,350,000	4,300,000
Workers' Compensation	430,000	475,000	510,000
Life Insurance	60,500	60,500	60,500
Unemployment Insurance	125,000	110,000	100,000
Health/Dental Insurance	9,901,000	10,758,000	10,961,000
Union Benefits	<u>848,000</u>	<u>864,900</u>	<u>857,900</u>
Total Employee Benefits	21,514,500	23,818,400	24,489,400

Debt Service, Building Improvements and Inter-fund Transfers

	2012/13 <u>Budget</u>	2013/14 <u>Budget</u>	2014/15 <u>Proposed Budget</u>
Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes	350,000	331,481	200,000
Transfer: Debt & Special Aid Funds	1,837,494	1,805,007	2,892,655
Transfer: Capital Fund	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Debt Service, Building Improvements and Inter-fund Transfers	3,187,494	3,136,488	3,092,655

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE 2014/2015 BUDGET ON THE AVERAGE TAXPAYER?

There are a number of factors and variables that contribute to the changes in how much a homeowner pays in taxes each year. These include changes to the assessed value, tax levy, adjusted base proportion, and STAR exemptions. According to the Nassau County Department of Assessment, the average home in Rockville Centre for the 2013/2014 school year is valued at **\$510,800**. The projected tax increase on the average home in Rockville Centre for 2014/2015 is estimated to be approximately **\$172** based on the information currently available from the Nassau County Assessor's Office.

WHAT WILL BE THE BUDGET INCREASE THAT THE COMMUNITY IS ASKED TO VOTE ON?

After budget deliberations with the Board and the Public, the budget that will be presented to the voters reflects a 2.37% budget increase and a 1.78% tax levy increase.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF VOTERS REJECTED THE PROPOSED BUDGET?

If the budget fails to pass on May 20th, the Board can decide to put up the same budget or an adjusted budget for a public re-vote in June. If the re-vote fails, the District would be forced to adopt a contingency budget with a 0% tax increase. The contingency budget cap for the 2014/2015 school year would require a budget reduction of \$1,550,000.

WHAT IS THE TAX LEVY CAP?

The Tax Levy Cap is a State limit on the total levy set by local governments and school districts. **It is not a limit on the assessed value, tax rate, or the amount to which an individual homeowner's taxes may increase.** The Tax Levy Cap is calculated using a State determined formula. School districts may not adopt a budget that requires a tax levy which exceeds the prior year's levy by more than 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, unless the voters officially override the tax levy limitation with a 60% super majority vote.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WILL THE DISTRICT REQUIRE A 60% SUPER MAJORITY VOTE TO PASS THE 2014/2015 BUDGET?

No. The budget being presented to the community requires a tax levy which is under the allowable Tax Levy Cap. Therefore, the budget needs a simple majority approval rate in order to be successful.

HOW IS THE 2014/2015 BUDGET AFFECTED BY COMMON CORE AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION?

Unfortunately, the Common Core Curriculum and its implementation will negatively affect the District's 2014/2015 budget. New York State issues new curriculum modules in English Language Arts and Math on an ongoing basis. The District is therefore compelled to review and revise its curricula on an ongoing basis in order to ensure that it is matching or even more rigorous than what the State offers. Additionally, it is incumbent upon the District to continually solidify our teachers' skill sets when it comes to teaching the Common Core and as a result the Professional Development burden and costs are ongoing and substantial. Each of these modifications and requirements comes with no funding from the State. The burden continues to be put upon the District and ultimately, the taxpayers of Rockville Centre.

WHAT ARE THE LARGE ESCALATING COSTS AND WHAT IS THE DISTRICT DOING TO CONTROL THEM?

Each year, the increases in the District's health care obligations and contributions to retirement systems have proven to be the escalating costs over which the District has little control.

The Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and Employees' Retirement System (ERS) expect that their rates will stabilize in the next few years. This year, the District will be utilizing reserves in order to reduce the impact of the increase in the employer's contribution to ERS. The adoption of the new retirement tiers, which will require a higher contribution by the employee, will reduce District contributions in the future and aid the District as new employees are required to contribute at a higher rate and for a longer term.

Health care costs are expected to increase over the next few years. In response to these increases, the District has successfully negotiated with our bargaining units to increase employee contributions. In response to the required implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the District is currently working with a consulting firm in order to determine the financial impact while attempting to provide affordable quality health care for our employees under this new requirement.

Finally, the District continues to maximize cost savings by utilizing a competitive bidding process and participating in cooperative agreements with other school districts, the Village of Rockville Centre and Nassau County.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND AFFECT THE 2014/2015 BUDGET?

For the last two years, the District has budgeted \$1 million to cover various capital projects. In this year's budget, there is no transfer to the Capital Fund but rather a transfer to the Debt Service Fund in order to pay for the debt related to the Bond projects. This will not have an affect on the budget or the tax levy.

WHAT TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES ARE SUPPORTED BY THE BUDGET?

This past year, the District successfully piloted an iPad initiative at South Side Middle School providing all 6th and 7th grade students an iPad to work with at school and at home. For the 2014/15 school year, we will continue to grow this initiative by expanding it to the 8th grade, allowing all of our middle school students to have an iPad for home and school use.

The District will continue to support its laptops and desktops by replacing older and out of warranty devices with newer and faster technology. By doing so, the District will be well prepared for the impending online assessments from the State.

We will also be expanding video delivery capabilities by enhancing VBrick, the technology that we use to record and deliver video throughout the District. Additionally, we plan to expand our wired and wireless networks to allow us to have more devices online and in use at any one time. We are purchasing additional digital storage allowing the District to maintain control and responsibility over our students' data.

We have purchased Technology Professional Development days from BOCES so that we can continue to support our teachers' professional growth when it comes to the use of the latest technology.

The majority of these purchases, including the iPads and Professional Development days, are obtained through BOCES which ensures that the District receives aid back on the cost at a ratio of approximately 50%. In other words, for every one dollar spent, the District receives approximately 50 cents in aid. This is an outstanding bargain for us and a major reason for purchasing services through BOCES.

Striving for Excellence and Success

Academics

- In 2013, 100% of students graduated with a Regents Diploma and 84% of students received a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, compared to 38% Statewide
- In 2013, 96% of graduates went on to higher education
- 1 National Merit Scholarship finalist
- 5 Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program

Science

- 1 Intel Science and Talent Search National Semi-Finalist
- 1 Junior Mathematics, Science and Humanities Symposium Regional Semi-Finalist
- 2 Chemaginations/American Chemical Society first place Students
- 5 National Semifinalists in the Museum of Natural History Young Naturalist award
- SSSH team Advanced to the Vex Robotics State Championships
- SSMS team won the "First Place Teamwork Award" at the Lego League Robotics Competition

Athletics

- 1 All American athlete
- 8 All State athletes
- 1 All Region athlete
- 3 All Long Island athletes
- 17 All County athletes
- 4 All County Honorable Mention athletes
- 7 All Class athletes
- 48 All Conference athletes
- 1 Conference Player of the Year in boys basketball
- 1 Conference Champion for long jump
- 16 All Division athletes
- 2 Scholar athletes

Music & Art

- 1 American Choral Directors' Association Eastern Division Vocalist
- 5 All State musicians
- 78 All County musicians
- 4 Long Island String Festival musicians
- 3 American Choral Directors' Association Vocalists
- 31 PEAK (Parents, Educators, And Kids) musicians



SSMS Robotics Club



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rockville Centre Public Schools
128 Shepherd Street Rockville Centre, NY 11570
(516)255-8957
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MAYDA KRAMER, Vice President
GREGG SPAULDING, Secretary
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NOREEN LEAHY, Asst. Supt. of Schools

School closings and other urgent messages will be sent through ConnectEd, a telephone and email communication system. Contact information on file for students and staff will be utilized for these notifications. Other community members who wish to receive District-wide messages should send an email with their name, phone number and/or email address to connected@rvcschools.org or send a letter to the Business Office in the Administration Building at 128 Shepherd Street, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 requesting to be added to this messaging list. Parents who would like to change their contact information should contact the main office of their child's school.

Annual Election and Budget Vote **Tuesday, May 20, 2014 7 AM to 9 PM** **South Side High School Gymnasium**

Preliminary Budget Hearing:

Changes or modifications in budget may result at this meeting.
Thursday, **April 24, 2014** at 7:30 PM – South Side High School

Budget Hearing:

No changes to expenditures can be made at this time.
Wednesday, **May 7, 2014** at 7:30 PM – South Side High School

Voter Registration:

School Business Hours 8:15 AM—4:30 PM through **May 16, 2014**
District Administration Bldg. 128 Shepherd Street

Voter Qualifications:

You must be eighteen years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the District for at least thirty days before the day of the vote.

Absentee Ballot Information:

Absentee ballot applications can be picked up at the District Clerk's office, mailed to you, or downloaded from the District's website at www.rvcschools.org. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5:00PM on **May 20, 2014**.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!