



TROY

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2018

BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Poll Hours:

7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

- Proposed 2018-2019 Budget:
\$111,893,389
- **1.54%** Tax Levy Increase

TOWN HALL MEETING & BUDGET PRESENTATION

Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

Troy Middle School, 1976 Burdett Ave.

POLLING SITES:

SCHOOL 2 – 470 Tenth St.

SCHOOL 12 – 475 First St.

SCHOOL 14 – 1700 Tibbits Ave.

SCHOOL 16 – 40 Collins Ave.

SCHOOL 18 – 412 Hoosick St.

CARROLL HILL – 112 Delaware Ave.

*If you are not sure where to vote on May 15,
please go to the District's website:
www.troycsd.org or contact the
BOE Office at 518-328-5070.*



facebook.com/TroyCSD



twitter.com/TCSD

2018-2019 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

District stays under tax cap for sixth year

1.54% Tax Levy Increase - Maintains All Academic Programs

The Troy City School District Board of Education adopted a proposed 2018-2019 budget of \$111,893,389. With this plan, the tax levy will increase 1.54%, which is \$123,282 below the allowable tax cap of 1.88%. A typical homeowner will see their annual school tax bill increase approximately \$33, or \$2.78 a month. This is the sixth consecutive year the proposed budget is at or below the tax cap.

Residents will vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 15. In addition, they will vote for candidates running for three open seats for the Board of Education.

The District is once again able to offer a budget that maintains all academic programs and that includes no layoffs. This is thanks in part to several teacher retirements and the reduction of the number of elementary sections. Despite this reduction, class sizes will remain low.

"We had to get creative, but with a small dip into our fund balance, we are once again able to offer a strong educational program while being responsible to our taxpayers," said Superintendent John Carmello.

***A typical homeowner will
see their annual school tax
bill increase approximately
\$33, or \$2.78 a month.***

The plan provides support for each student beginning in Pre-K all the way through their last day of high school. This approach is reflected in our con-



*School 16 students surpass statewide averages on
New York State assessments in ELA and math.*

tinuously rising graduation rates that exceed statewide averages as well as in our progress on the state assessments for Grades 3 – 8.

Our elementary programs continue to focus on literacy, the foundation of a high-quality education. Troy Middle School will continue to offer strong honors, language and visual and performing arts courses. Troy High School will maintain its AP and other college level courses, athletic teams, and specialized programs and activities that help our students graduate college and career ready. The Troy CSD remains a great place to learn and grow.

"This year has proven to be the most difficult one in the recent past for budget development, but we are confident that we have once again developed a balance between a sound educational program and fiscal responsibility," said Carmello. "While we were unable to add any additional supports and programs this year, we are committed to continuing the positive trend of improved student outcomes throughout the District."

Safety remains a top priority



The safety and security of our students and staff continues to be a top priority. In light of recent national events, we'd like to highlight some of the ways that we work toward maintaining a safe environment for learning:

- **Annual Emergency Drills** – Four lockdown drills, eight fire drills and an evacuation drill in each building. This year we also conducted a large scale, multi-agency active shooter drill at Troy High School with the Troy Police Department and various other emergency responders.
- **Secure Buildings** – All doors to each building are locked at all times. Visitors must gain access from a school employee and sign in upon entering.
- **Security Cameras** – The District continues to expand our camera system, investing up to \$35,000 annually. The cost is eligible for building aid by New York State. The camera system proved to be a valuable tool during the active shooter drill.
- **Safety Committees** – Regular meetings of Building-level and District-level staff safety committees.
- **Safety Plans** – Continuously updating our building-level and District-wide safety plans and procedures to align with the latest research and best practice.
- **School Resource Officers** – The District will once again be paying for Resource Officers to be stationed at Troy High School and Troy Middle School.
- **Student Support** – School counselors and social workers to work with students throughout the year.



Troy High School won the 2017 NYSPHSAA Class AA Football Championship title. This is the second year in a row for The Flying Horses, making them the first team in Section 2 history to have back-to-back undefeated State Championship seasons (26-0). This season, the Flying Horses were ranked No. 1 for all 13 weeks.

2016 INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE CAPITAL PROJECT IN PROGRESS

Thank you to our voters for approving the \$23.3 million Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project in 2016. Phase I is now complete and Phase II is scheduled to begin this summer. Highlights of the current project are listed below:

Phase I – Complete

- Roofs: School 2, School 12, School 16, CHS, THS
- Playgrounds: School 14, School 16, School 18, CHS
- Window replacements: School 2

Phase II – Beginning Summer 2018

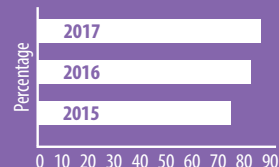
- HVAC/Boiler: TMS, THS
- Stage Upgrades: School 2, School 14, School 16, School 18, CHS
- Basement Vaults: School 12, School 18

2017 Troy High School Graduation Rates

86% Overall

Overall, the 2017 Troy High School Graduation rate is 86%. This is up 10% from just two years ago.

On the rise!



Troy High Surpasses Statewide Rate

With an 86% graduation rate, Troy High School is 6% above the statewide rate of 80%.



6% higher overall



12% higher for African American students, 16% higher for Hispanic students



55% higher for English Language Learners



14% higher for students with disabilities

Thank you to the Citizens Advisory Committee for their input on the proposed budget!

School 18 Odyssey of the Mind team takes first place



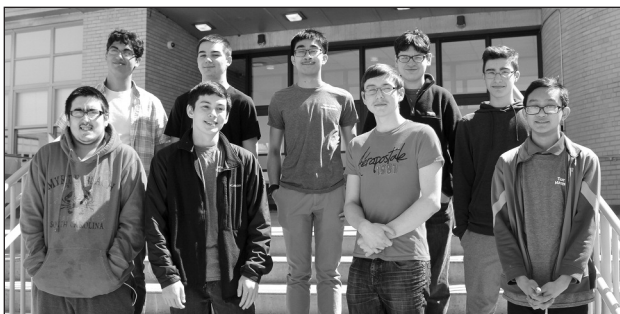
For the second year in a row, the team from School 18 won first place in their problem and division at the Region Four Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. A team from Troy High School received second place. Both teams advanced to the statewide tournament in Binghamton.

Odyssey of the Mind is a competition that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students of all ages. It encourages students to use their imaginations and to work in teams.

Fifth Grade team member Abby Kussler attributes their success to their ability to work as a team. "We all worked together on every little thing that happened," she said. "Thank you to our coach, Jessica Maloney, because we wouldn't be here without her."

School 18 defeated fourteen other teams from the region who also participated in the problem, "A Stellar Hangout." The team had to create a humorous performance centered on an intergalactic hangout that included original creatures, foods, and a search for space treasure.

Congratulations to the entire team: Vincent Adams, Dawson Fera, Finnegan Fronhofer, Abby Kussler, Ryan Maloney, Lauren Matthews and Emily Meyer.



Congratulations and good luck to the Troy High School MasterMinds team this Memorial Day weekend! They are the first team in Troy High School history to head to the National High School Quiz Bowl Championships in Atlanta, Georgia.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much is the proposed budget?

The proposed budget is \$111,893,389.

How does this financially impact the taxpayer?

The proposed budget comes with a 1.54% Tax Levy Increase. Based on a \$100,000 home, the annual tax increase would be approximately \$33, roughly \$2.78 per month.

How will the State's Property Tax Credit affect the taxpayers?

Because the District once again stayed within its tax cap, New York State will issue the STAR Tax Relief Credit for Basic STAR and Enhanced STAR exempt property owners. The Basic STAR credit is now calculated on a sliding scale, based on the property owner's reported income. The maximum Basic STAR credit is estimated to be up to \$381 for 2018. Conversely, the Enhanced STAR credit is not income based. Anyone who is eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption will receive 26% of the exemption, estimated to be \$321 for 2018. Credits will only be given to those tax payers that have paid their school tax bill. In addition, the credit can not be greater than your tax bill amount.

How has State Aid affected Troy's budget?

The 2018-2019 State Aid projections estimate that the District will receive \$64.7 million in State Aid. This represents 57.8% of all revenues, indicating the Troy City School District is heavily reliant on State Aid.

How do charter schools impact the budget?

Troy City School District is required by law to pay tuition for our residents who attend a charter school. The 2018-2019 tuition rate will be \$17,048, up \$562 from the current year. In addition, the District is required to pay for transportation costs for these students. Charter School tuition represents 11% of the total proposed budget.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the school district – as in the past – has the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a re-vote, or adopting a contingency budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice by the voters, the District must adopt a contingency budget. This requires a 0% tax increase and would mean a \$665,000 reduction from the current proposed budget. Contingency budgets also prohibit the public use of buildings for non-District related events. It would also prohibit the purchase of student supplies and equipment, including computers and technology equipment.

TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2017-18 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-19 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 112,018,797	\$111,893,389	\$111,227,584
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-19 School Year		\$(124,408)	\$(791,213)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		(0.11)%	(0.71)%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$36,273,420	\$36,832,473	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$36,273,420	\$36,832,473	\$36,273,420
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,018,015	\$747,689	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$35,255,405	\$36,208,066	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$35,255,405	\$36,084,784	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$123,282	
Administrative Component	\$9,334,620	\$8,997,341	\$8,873,936
Program Component	\$88,090,369	\$88,695,126	\$88,442,726
Capital Component	\$14,593,808	\$14,200,922	\$13,910,922
<p>* Under a contingency budget the District may not raise the tax levy over the prior year. In addition, the District cannot purchase any equipment, transfer funds to the Capital fund, allow buildings and grounds to be used by the public, or provide salary increases to non-contractual personnel</p>			
Description	Amount		
<p>** List 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)</p>			

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for
the 2018-19 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$635
---	-------

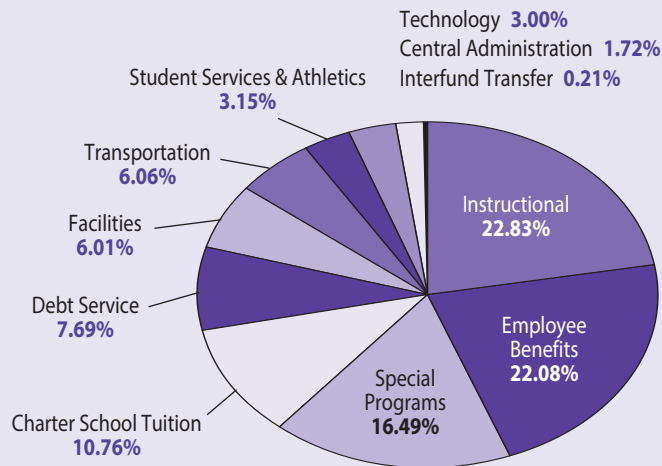
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-19 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, Rennselaer County, New York, will be held at all elementary schools in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in PS2, PS12, PS14, PS16, PS18, and Carroll Hill schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

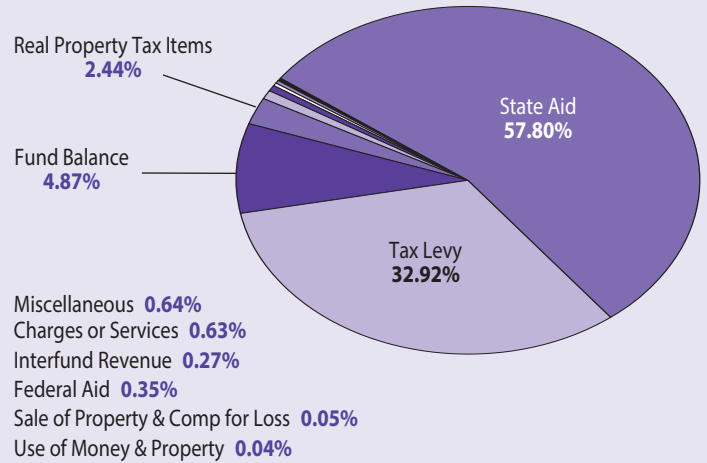
Expenditures — How is the money spent?

BUDGET CATEGORY	2017-2018	2018-2019	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Instructional	\$24,957,962	\$25,548,805	\$590,843	2.37%
Employee Benefits	\$24,550,959	\$24,702,920	\$151,961	0.62%
Special Programs	\$18,987,683	\$18,446,428	-\$541,255	-2.85%
Charter School Tuition	\$12,035,535	\$12,035,534	-\$1	-0.00%
Debt Service	\$8,726,258	\$8,605,530	-\$120,728	-1.38%
Facilities	\$6,793,441	\$6,726,295	-\$67,145	-0.99%
Transportation	\$6,146,647	\$6,785,888	\$639,241	10.40%
Student Services and Athletics	\$3,724,235	\$3,523,398	-\$200,837	-5.39%
Technology	\$3,906,343	\$3,358,102	-\$548,240	-14.03%
Central Administration	\$1,954,734	\$1,925,488	-\$29,246	-1.50%
Interfund Transfer	\$235,000	\$235,000	\$0	0.00%
Total General Fund Budget	\$112,018,797	\$111,893,389	-\$125,408	-0.11%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — Where does the money come from?

REVENUE CATEGORY	2017-2018	2018-2019	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
State Aid	\$61,239,907	\$64,678,916	\$3,439,009	5.62%
Tax Levy	\$36,273,420	\$36,832,473	\$559,053	1.54%
Fund Balance	\$9,250,000	\$5,450,000	-\$3,800,000	-41.08%
Real Property Tax Items	\$2,775,000	\$2,725,000	-\$50,000	-1.80%
Miscellaneous	\$1,100,000	\$715,000	-\$385,000	-35.00%
Charges or Services	\$726,650	\$709,000	-\$17,650	-2.43%
Interfund Revenue	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	0.00%
Federal Aid	\$265,000	\$390,000	\$125,000	47.17%
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	\$52,320	\$52,000	-\$320	-0.61%
Use of Money & Property	\$36,500	\$41,000	\$4,500	12.33%
Total General Fund Budget	\$112,018,797	\$111,893,389	-\$125,408	-0.11%



475 First Street, Troy, NY 12180

Board of Education 2017-18

Tom Mayo, *Vice President, Acting President*

Ann Apicella

Elizabeth Denio

Carol Harvin

Mary Marro-Giroux

Bill Strang

Michael Tuttmann

Anne Wager-Rounds

Mary Beth Bruno, *District Clerk*

District Administration

John Carmello, *Superintendent of Schools*

Donna Watson, *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*

Adam Hotaling, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*

Kristen Miaski, *Director of Human Resources*

District Office: (518) 328-5052

www.troycsd.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 652

**BUDGET
VOTE**
BOE Election
**TUESDAY
MAY 15**

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 1.54% for the 2018-19 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners is \$635.
- The tax rates will be established upon receiving the equalization rates from the New York State Office of Real Property Services and the final assessments from the City of Troy and Town of Brunswick.

Voter Eligibility:

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Troy City School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date. You must be registered before you are permitted to vote.

Absentee Ballot Information:

To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Please contact the Board of Education Office at 518-328-5070. If you want a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received seven days before the vote. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received one day prior to vote. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 15, the day of the vote.

School Tax Relief Program:

STAR is New York State's School Tax Relief Program that includes a school property tax rebate program and a partial property tax exemption from school taxes. All New Yorkers who own and live in their one-, two-, or three-family home, condominium, cooperative apartment, manufactured home, or farm dwelling are eligible for STAR on their primary residence. For information about the STAR rebate program, please visit the website of the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance or call 518-457-2036.

Understanding the Tax Cap Laws:

The law does allow for tax levy increases greater than 2% despite how it has been described. The law requires districts to calculate their own tax levy limit based on the law which includes exemptions for voter-approved local capital expenditures, increases in pension rates that exceed two points; and court order judgments. The Troy City School District's maximum allowable tax levy increase is 1.88%. The District is proposing going below this figure with the budget at 1.54%.

BALLOT FOR THE MAY 15 VOTE:

Budget:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2018-19 school year in the amount of \$111,893,389 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by the law.

YES ☐

NO ☐

Board of Education Election:

The School Board election will be held on May 15 to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: three members to three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2018 and expiring on June 30, 2021. Three candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast will be elected to the three-year terms. Deadline for nominating petitions was April 25. Candidate information is available at: www.troycsd.org/board-candidate.



Troy Middle School to welcome new principal

Beginning July 1, 2018, Ian McShane will be the principal at Troy Middle School. For the past four years, Mr. McShane has been the assistant principal at Troy High School. He has more than 11 years of experience as an educator. Dr. Maxine Fantroy-Ford is currently the interim principal and will assist with the transition. *Welcome, Mr. McShane!*