

# TROY



TODAY'S  
STUDENTS.

TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS.

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2016

## BUDGET & CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE, & BOE ELECTION

**Tuesday, May 17, 2016**

*Poll Hours:*

**7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

- Proposed 2016-2017 Budget:  
**\$112,909,509**
- Proposed Capital Project:  
**\$23,303,400**
- **0% Tax Levy Increase**

## MEET THE BOE CANDIDATES Wednesday, May 11 – 6:30 p.m.

Troy Middle School, 1976 Burdett Ave.

*Followed by:*

## BUDGET & CAPITAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

### 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 17,  
please go to the District's website:  
[www.troycsd.org](http://www.troycsd.org) or contact the  
BOE Office at 328-5070*

 [facebook.com/TroyCSD](https://www.facebook.com/TroyCSD)

 [twitter.com/TCSD](https://twitter.com/TCSD)

## 2016-2017 BUDGET NEWSLETTER

# Maintaining Programs, Controlling Costs

— 0% Tax Levy Increase —

The Troy City School District Board of Education adopted the proposed 2016-2017 budget of \$112,909,509. The tax levy will be \$36,109,217, representing a 0% tax levy increase and nearly \$47,000 below the allowable tax cap.

On May 17, residents will vote on the proposed budget and a \$23.3 million Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project. This project also has a 0% tax levy increase. In addition, they will elect three candidates to the Board of Education.

"The proposed 2016-2017 school district budget was developed with the challenge of being both educationally sound and fiscally responsible," said Superintendent John Carmello. "The amount of state aid we received allows us to be responsive to taxpayers by offering a 0% tax increase, while maintaining staff and programs that will allow the District to continue its progress in helping all students succeed."

The plan preserves all of the added supports included in the current year's budget, including the three social workers that have proven to be an invaluable resource to students. The District is also adding seven elementary teaching positions in order to maintain class sizes, as well as an elementary monitor. The District will also replace a retiring principal

with two administrative positions, without increasing the salary budget.

The plan maintains our high-quality Pre-K – 12 instructional program as well as our extensive extra-curricular activities. Our program includes an emphasis on literacy in all elementary schools, state-of-the-art technology in every classroom, and a variety of engineering and computer technology classes. It also provides for college credit courses in math, science, social studies, psychology, media production and more.

The adopted budget increases spending by 4.39% from the current year's budget. This includes a \$3.5 million "Transfer to Capital" line, consisting of one-time revenues that will be used to pay for the local share of the Capital Project. Operationally, the budget increased 1.15% from the 2015-2016 budget.

Because the District stayed within its tax cap, taxpayers are eligible for the State's property tax rebate. STAR eligible taxpayers making less than \$200,000 a year will receive a rebate check of \$185 from New York State in the fall.

Residents will also vote for candidates running for three open seats for the Board of Education. A "Meet the Candidates" night will be held May 11.



# Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project



On May 17, residents will vote on a separate proposition, the Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project. This \$23.3 million project includes necessary improvements to each building's infrastructure as well as the construction of several playgrounds. This project has no future tax impact on residents.

The items contained in the project are considered "Priority 1" items of a five-year Capital Facilities Plan as determined by the results of the District's Building Condition Survey, performed by architectural firm Mosaic Associates.

## Scope of Project

Improvements to:

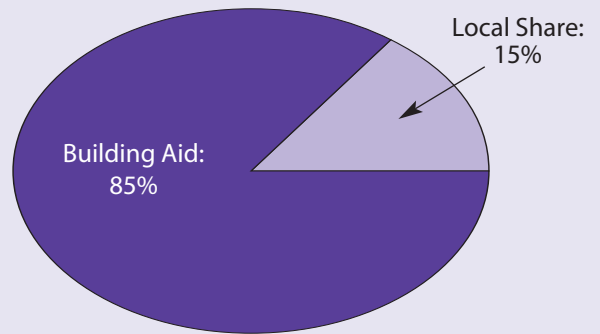
- HVAC and Heating systems
- Roofs
- Windows, doors and lighting
- Playgrounds

## Timeline

This project requires New York State Education Department review and approval as well as a comprehensive bidding process. Therefore, the anticipated start date for construction is summer 2017.

## CAPITAL PROJECT FINANCING

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Total Project Cost: .....                          | \$23,303,400 |
| Eligible for Building Aid: .....                   | 85%          |
| Local Share: .....                                 | \$3,500,000  |
| One-time Revenues Applied<br>to Local Share: ..... | \$3,500,000  |
| Tax Levy Increase: .....                           | 0%           |



## CAPITAL PROJECT Q & A

### Q: Will this project increase my taxes?

A: No. There is no future tax impact on residents.

### Q: Where will the money come from?

A: Approximately 85% of the total \$23.3 million project will be offset by State Aid. The remaining \$3.5 million is the local share. To offset this local share, the District has added a line item to the 2016-2017 school district budget titled "Transfer to Capital." A number of one-time revenues will be used to fund this item, thus offsetting the entire local share. There is no additional cost to taxpayers.

### Q: Why switch to hot water heating systems if the steam systems are still working?

A: Currently, the outdated, high-pressure steam systems in several of the buildings are costly to maintain. They require constant upkeep and continuous maintenance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. By switching to hot water systems, the District will save an estimated \$100,000 annually each year in energy savings. In addition, it will allow us to utilize our maintenance department staff to address other needs.

### Q: What happens if the referendum is not approved?

A: If the capital project referendum is not approved by a majority of voters on May 17, district officials will have to strongly consider whether or not to revise the plan and hold another vote, or to do as many of the proposed items as possible through the general fund budget. Building items completed through the general budget are not eligible for state aid.

[www.troycsd.org/capitalproject2016](http://www.troycsd.org/capitalproject2016)



## Troy CSD Offers Comprehensive Pre-K – 12 Program

The Troy City School District is committed to graduating all students ready for college and careers. Support for each student begins in Pre-K and continues through their last day of high school. We offer a full summer program at each level with meals and transportation included. All these programs and more continue to be offered next year with the proposed 2016-2017 budget.

### Pre-K and Kindergarten

- Safe, nurturing environments
- New 3-year-old Pre-K program
- 4-year-old Pre-K at 11 locations
- Full-day Kindergarten in every elementary school

### Elementary

- Opportunities unique to each building
- Literacy coaches in every building
- Access to social workers and school counselors
- Two hours of daily uninterrupted reading
- Hour-long daily block of math
- Hands-on science lessons
- State of the art technology in every classroom
- Music, art and physical education

### Troy Middle School

- State-of-the-art facility
- Honors and Accelerated Program options
- Enrichment Courses in each grade level
- Spanish, French and Italian language courses
- Intramural sports
- Strong programs in visual and performing arts and music
- National Junior Honor Society

### Troy High School

- Broad range of AP courses
- Up to 36 college credits available before graduation
- Troy Riverfront P-TECH, one of only a few of its kind in the state
- Highly competitive Suburban Council athletic teams
- Specialized courses such as Media Production, Architectural Drawing, Principles of Engineering, and Intro to Programming
- Innovative Distance Learning classes
- Spanish, French and Italian Language
- Sponsor-a-Scholar
- Extensive music and arts program
- Over 20 extracurricular clubs and activities

## Frequently Asked Questions



**How much is the proposed budget?** The proposed budget is \$112,909,509.

**How does this financially impact the taxpayer?**

The proposed budget comes with a 0% tax levy increase – no additional cost to taxpayers.

**How will the State's Property Tax Rebate affect the taxpayers?**

This rebate is for homeowners who receive the STAR exemption and who live in school districts that pass budgets at or below their tax levy cap. Because the District stayed within its tax cap this year, eligible Troy taxpayers making less than \$200,000 a year will receive a rebate check for \$185 from New York State in the fall.

**How has State Aid affected Troy's budget?**

The 2016-2017 State Aid projections estimate that the District will receive \$58.9 million in State Aid. This represents 52.2% of all revenues, indicating the Troy City School District is heavily reliant on State Aid.

**What are the major items that increased or decreased from the current year to the 2016-2017 year?**

Expenditures decreased for teachers' retirement and for the cost for gas, fuel and electric. Expenditures increased for health benefits and contractual salaries.

**Are there any proposed cuts in the budget?**

The budget was developed through a series of workshop meetings to determine if and where cuts could be made while preserving programs for Troy's students. For the third consecutive year, we were able to close the budget gap without any reductions in staff or programs.

**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 tuition rate is currently \$15,986 per student. In addition, the District is required to pay for transportation costs for these students. Charter School tuition represents 10.7% of the 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. Contingency budgets 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.

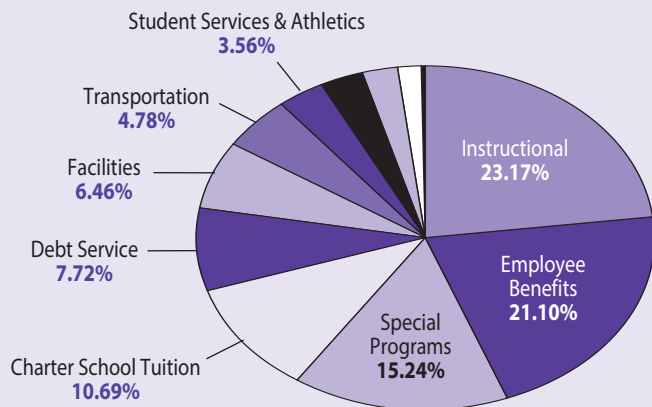
*Thank you to the Citizens Advisory Committee for their input on the proposed budget!*

# Expenditures — How is the money spent?

| BUDGET CATEGORY                      | 2015-2016            | 2016-2017            | DIFFERENCE         | % CHANGE     |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Instructional                        | \$24,164,143         | \$26,159,202         | \$1,995,059        | 8.26%        |
| Employee Benefits                    | \$24,945,507         | \$23,822,919         | -\$1,122,588       | -4.50%       |
| Special Programs                     | \$16,875,385         | \$17,206,396         | \$331,011          | 1.96%        |
| Charter School Tuition               | \$11,707,808         | \$12,069,780         | \$361,972          | 3.09%        |
| Debt Service                         | \$8,442,997          | \$8,713,713          | \$270,716          | 3.21%        |
| Facilities                           | \$7,537,366          | \$7,299,127          | -\$238,239         | -3.16%       |
| Transportation                       | \$5,796,036          | \$5,397,657          | -\$398,379         | -6.87%       |
| Student Services and Athletics       | \$3,990,793          | \$4,023,716          | \$32,923           | 0.82%        |
| Capital Project Interfund Transfer** | \$0                  | \$3,500,000          | \$3,500,000        | N/A          |
| Technology                           | \$2,535,964          | \$2,578,450          | \$42,486           | 1.68%        |
| Central Administration               | \$1,949,851          | \$1,923,549          | -\$26,302          | -1.35%       |
| Interfund Transfer                   | \$218,000            | \$215,000            | -\$3,000           | -1.38%       |
| <b>Total General Fund Budget</b>     | <b>\$108,163,850</b> | <b>\$112,909,509</b> | <b>\$4,745,659</b> | <b>4.39%</b> |

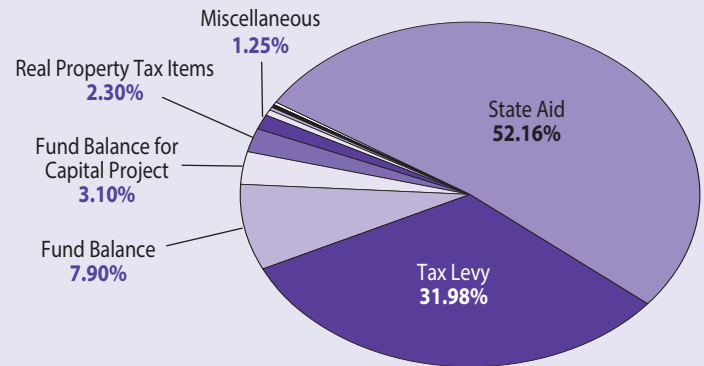
## Expenditures

Capital Project Interfund Transfer **3.10%**      Central Administration **1.70%**  
 Technology **2.28%**      Interfund Transfer **0.19%**



## Revenues

Charges or Services **0.72%**      Sale of Property & Comp for Loss **0.05%**  
 Interfund Revenue **0.31%**      Use of Money & Property **0.03%**  
 Federal Aid **0.20%**



# Revenues — Where does the money come from?

| REVENUE CATEGORY                   | 2015-2016            | 2016-2017            | DIFFERENCE         | % CHANGE     |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| State Aid                          | \$57,610,992         | \$58,894,381         | \$1,283,389        | 2.23%        |
| Tax Levy                           | \$36,109,217         | \$36,109,217         | \$0                | 0.00%        |
| Fund Balance                       | \$8,925,000          | \$8,925,000          | \$0                | 0.00%        |
| Fund Balance for Capital Project** | \$0                  | \$3,500,000          | \$3,500,000        | N/A          |
| Real Property Tax Items            | \$2,490,000          | \$2,590,000          | \$100,000          | 4.02%        |
| Miscellaneous                      | \$1,490,666          | \$1,415,000          | -\$75,666          | -5.08%       |
| Charges or Services                | \$826,875            | \$808,911            | -\$17,964          | -2.17%       |
| Interfund Revenue                  | \$317,000            | \$350,000            | \$33,000           | 10.41%       |
| Federal Aid                        | \$250,000            | \$225,000            | -\$25,000          | -10.00%      |
| Sale of Property & Comp for Loss   | \$54,600             | \$52,500             | -\$2,100           | -3.85%       |
| Use of Money & Property            | \$89,500             | \$39,500             | -\$50,000          | -55.87%      |
| <b>Total General Fund Budget</b>   | <b>\$108,163,850</b> | <b>\$112,909,509</b> | <b>\$4,745,659</b> | <b>4.39%</b> |

\*\* One time transfer for local share of proposed \$23.3 million Capital Project

# TROY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

| Overall Budget Proposal   | Budget Adopted<br>for the 2015-16<br>School Year | Budget Proposed<br>for the 2016-17<br>School Year | Contingency<br>Budget for<br>the 2016-17<br>School Year * |
|---|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions  | \$108,163,850                                    | \$112,909,509                                     | \$107,681,178   |
| Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year   |  | \$4,745,659                                       | (\$482,672)   |
| Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget   |  | 4.39 %  | -0.45%  |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index  |  | 0.12 %  |   |
| <b>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve</b>  | <b>\$36,109,217</b>                              | <b>\$36,109,217</b>                               |   |
| <b>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</b>   |  |   |   |
| <b>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</b>  |  |   |   |
| <b>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</b>   |  |   |   |
| <b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>   | <b>\$36,109,217</b>                              | <b>\$36,109,217</b>                               | <b>\$36,109,217</b>                                       |
| <b>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</b>  | <b>\$1,167,768</b>                               | <b>\$1,035,555</b>                                |   |
| <b>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</b>  | <b>\$35,034,561</b>                              | <b>\$35,120,391</b>                               |   |
| <b>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)</b> | <b>\$34,941,449</b>                              | <b>\$35,073,662</b>                               |   |
| <b>I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</b>      | <b>\$93,112</b>                                  | <b>\$46,729</b>                                   |   |
| <b>Administrative Component</b>   | <b>\$7,706,351</b>                               | <b>\$7,975,183</b>                                | <b>\$7,761,767</b>  |
| <b>Program Component</b>  | <b>\$85,394,019</b>                              | <b>\$86,346,884</b>                               | <b>\$85,056,969</b>                                       |
| <b>Capital Component</b>  | <b>\$15,063,480</b>                              | <b>\$18,587,442</b>                               | <b>\$14,862,442</b>                                       |

\* 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.

\*\* 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)

| Description | Amount |
|-------------|--------|
|             |        |
|             |        |
|             |        |
|             |        |

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

Under the Budget Proposed  
for the 2016-17 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings<sup>1</sup>

\$611

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Enlarged City School District or Troy, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at all elementary schools in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in PS2, PS12, PS14, PS18, and Carroll Hill schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Today's Students. Tomorrow's Leaders.



Troy City School District  
475 First Street  
Troy, New York 12180

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### Board of Education 2015-16

Jason Schofield, *President*  
Tom Mayo, *Vice President*  
Ann Apicella  
Elizabeth Denio  
Carol Harvin  
Mary Marro-Giroux  
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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](http://www.troycsd.org)

**BUDGET  
VOTE**  
**BOE Election**  
**TUESDAY  
MAY 17**

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

### Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 0% for the 2016-17 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners is \$611.
- 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 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 17, 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 New Tax Cap Laws:

The law does not prohibit 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 0.13%. The District is proposing a 0% levy increase which is below the maximum allowable by law.

## BALLOT FOR THE MAY 17 VOTE:

### Budget:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2016-17 school year in the amount of \$112,909,509, 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

### Proposition – Infrastructure Upgrade Capital Project

Shall the bond resolution authorizing the Board of Education to reconstruct and renovate various School District buildings and facilities, including site work, and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus (the "Project") at a maximum cost of \$23,303,400, and providing that the cost of the Project (including the interest due on any District obligations), taking into account state aid received and the expenditure of \$3,500,000 of fund balance, be raised by a tax levy to be collected in annual installments, with District obligations to be issued in anticipation thereof, be approved?

YES

NO

### Board of Education Election:

The School Board election will be held on May 17 to elect three members of the Board of Education as follows: three members to three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2016 and expiring on June 30, 2019. Three candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast will be elected to the three-year terms. Deadline for nominating petitions was April 27. Candidate information is available at: [www.troycsd.org/boe/candidates.asp](http://www.troycsd.org/boe/candidates.asp).