

May 2025

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Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 8

7 p.m. in the Auditorium

Budget Vote & School Board Election

Tuesday, May 20

Noon to 8 p.m.

Auditorium Lobby

Superintendent's Overview 2025-26 Proposed Budget

Dear Community Members,

As we approach the annual budget vote, I want to take a moment to reflect on what truly makes our school special. Schroon Lake Central School is more than a building where education happens; it is the heart of our community. It is where we come together to support one another, where values are taught alongside academics, and where our children are not only educated, but also raised with care, purpose, and pride.

We believe in the power of our school to shape futures and strengthen the fabric of our community. That belief is shared by our Board of Education and by every teacher, staff member, and family who calls this district home. It is a collective commitment; one that recognizes our school as a place where lifelong connections are made and where every child is known and valued.

With that commitment comes a responsibility: to steward our resources wisely so that we can



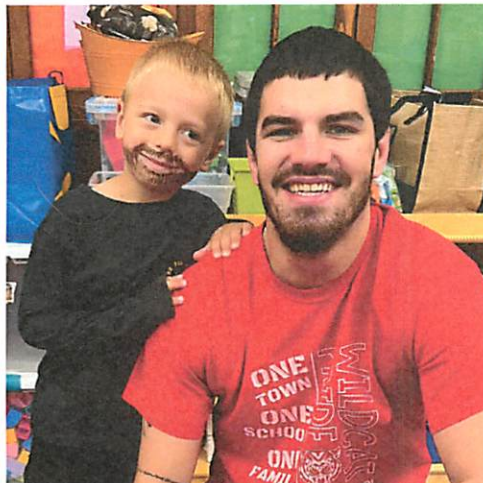
continue to provide a high-quality education today, while preparing for a strong and sustainable future. Like the Board of Education, I am deeply committed to ensuring the long-term financial health of our district. This means engaging in thoughtful, proactive, and strategic fiscal planning and making responsible decisions that reflect both our priorities and the trust you place in us as stewards of your taxpayer dollars.

I am proud of the work we are doing and grateful for your ongoing support. Thank you for your partnership, your voice, and your belief in the power of our potential.

Warm regards,



Kemm Pemrick
Superintendent of Schools



Board of Education President's Message

Dear Schroon Lake Community,

As we wrap up another school year, it is time for the board and administration to present the proposed budget for the 2025/26 school year. During the process of preparing the budget this year, we received confirmation of what we believed about our community—we are full of Wildcat Pride!

We would like to thank you for the support that has been shown to the teachers and programs of the school, as well as your dedication to the needs of our students. It hasn't gone unnoticed. Your support for the school and its staff has led us to propose the following budget. We have worked hard to minimize the budget's impact on our students as well as the programs provided.

The board and administration continue to strive to provide a quality learning environment for our students that is safe while also keeping operational costs to a minimum. One of the board's goals is for the budget to be transparent to the community,

utilizing only the essentials to operate the school while providing the highest quality education for our students. Unfortunately, the price increases we see in our household continue to affect our school budget as well.

Please join us for the budget hearing on Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium, where details of the budget will be presented. We also encourage your involvement in the budget vote on Tuesday, May 20, between noon and 8 p.m. Voting will take place in the Auditorium Lobby. Please enjoy the PreK-12 "Celebration of the Arts" concert on the same day.

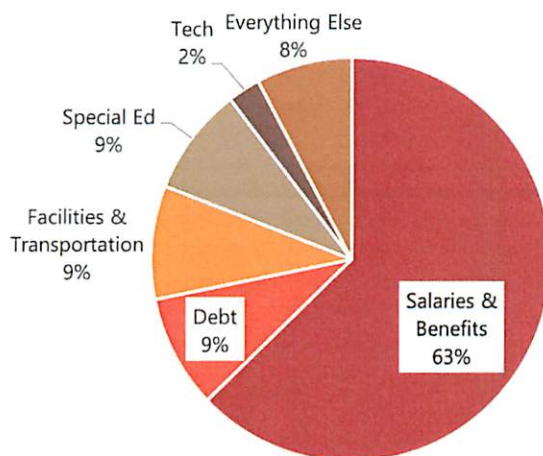
Serving you, the community, and the students of Schroon Lake Central School,

Jared Whitley

Jared Whitley

Board of Education President

2025-26 Proposed Spending



What is "Everything Else"?

- Teaching Curriculum & Conferences
- Athletic Program
- Supplies & Materials
- Books
- BOCES
- Audit
- Contractual Expenses
- Insurance
- Tax Collecting
- Membership Dues
- Co-Curricular Services



2025-26 Budget Comparison

| ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT | 2024-2025 Budget | 2025-2026 Proposed | Difference |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL SUPPORT: | | | |
| Board of Education | \$10,128 | \$8,284 | (\$1,844) |
| Central Administration | \$239,750 | \$243,704 | \$3,954 |
| Finance | \$217,816 | \$324,360 | \$106,544 |
| Staff | \$20,200 | \$18,000 | (\$2,200) |
| Special Items | \$182,600 | \$194,218 | \$11,618 |
| Instruction: Administration | \$103,000 | \$42,486 | (\$60,514) |
| Undistributed: Employee Benefits | \$177,900 | \$173,579 | (\$4,321) |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT | \$951,394 | \$1,004,631 | \$53,237 |
| | | | |
| PROGRAM COMPONENT | 2024-2025 Budget | 2025-2026 Proposed | Difference |
| INSTRUCTION: | | | |
| Instructional Improvement | \$62,500 | \$0 | (\$62,500) |
| Teaching Regular School | \$2,317,594 | \$2,043,412 | (\$274,182) |
| Special Apportionment Programs | \$1,160,998 | \$1,956,669 | \$795,671 |
| Instructional Media | \$294,000 | \$273,828 | (\$20,172) |
| Pupil Services | \$337,868 | \$320,468 | (\$17,400) |
| Transportation | \$311,726 | \$377,924 | \$66,198 |
| Undistributed: Employee Benefits | \$2,599,900 | \$2,653,540 | \$53,640 |
| Undistributed: Interfund Transfer | \$0 | \$0 | 0 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM COMPONENT | \$7,084,586 | \$7,625,841 | \$541,255 |
| | | | |
| CAPITAL COMPONENT | 2024-2025 Budget | 2025-2026 Proposed | Difference |
| Central Services | \$583,898 | \$571,862 | (\$12,036) |
| Undistributed: Employee Benefits | \$237,200 | \$157,596 | (\$79,604) |
| Undistributed: Debt Service | \$933,299 | \$939,328 | \$6,029 |
| Undistributed: Interfund Transfer | \$0 | \$120,000 | \$120,000 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL COMPONENT | \$1,754,397 | \$1,788,786 | \$34,389 |
| | | | |
| Total Budget Expenditures | \$9,790,377 | \$10,419,258 | \$628,881 |

Please Note: Budget documents, with detailed line-by-line delineation, will be available on May 2 in the school's main office or on our website at www.schroonschool.org. The Budget will be reviewed at the Public Hearing on May 8.

Property Tax Report Card

| | Budgeted 2024-25 | Proposed Budget 2025-26 | Percent Change |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Total Budgeted Amount | 9,790,377 | 10,419,258 | 6.42% |
| A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount | 7,757,281 | 8,401,135 | |
| B. Tax Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable | | | |
| C. Tax Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable | | | |
| D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy, if Applicable | | | |
| E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D) | 7,757,281 | 8,401,135 | 8.30% |
| F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit | 870,592 | 962,211 | |
| G. School Tax Levy Limit , <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions | 6,654,970 | 7,039,033 | |
| H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D) | 6,886,689 | 7,438,924 | |
| I. Difference: (G - H); (negative value requires 60% voter approval) | -231,719 | -399,891 | |
| Public School Enrollment | 226 | 225 | |
| Consumer Price Index | | | 2.95% |
| | Actual 2024-25 | Estimated 2025-26 | |
| Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance | 271,101 | 175,834 | |
| Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance | 500,000 | 400,000 | |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance | 1,852,519 | 1,500,650 | |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget | 19.23% | 14.40% | |

Estimated Revenues

| Budget Year | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Interest & Penalties | \$16,000 | \$14,000 | \$14,000 |
| Interest Earnings | \$5,000 | \$90,000 | \$110,000 |
| Misc. Revenue | \$45,800 | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| State Aid | \$1,309,100 | \$1,389,096 | \$1,454,123 |
| Use of Fund Balance | \$600,000 | \$500,000 | \$400,000 |
| Property Taxes | \$7,329,377 | \$7,757,281 | \$8,401,135 |
| Total Revenue | \$9,305,277 | \$9,790,377 | \$10,419,258 |

Community Corner

Wildcat Buddies

During the 2024-2025 school year, we are fortunate to have some wonderful volunteers helping out in some of the elementary classrooms. The majority of our Community Buddies are members of the Schroom Lake Senior Citizen Center. They enrich our classrooms with their dedication, support, and enthusiasm for our students. The roles they serve are varied, from helping out with 4th grade math centers to providing one on one practice to students in Pre-K through 2nd grade. If you are interested in volunteering at the school please email Kellie Hafner at www.slwildcats.org.



One School, One Book

Our elementary staff joined students and their families by reading and sharing one book together. This is our 2nd year participating in the One School, One Book program, and once again it was a great success! The students were engaged in sharing "Because of Winn Dixie" with peers, family members, and staff members.

Proposed Budget - Estimated Tax Change

| Sample Property Assessment | 2024-2025 Actual Taxes | 2025-2026 Estimated Taxes | Estimated Annual Tax Change |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$100,000 | \$670 | \$694 | \$24 |
| \$250,000 | \$1,675 | \$1,735 | \$60 |
| \$500,000 | \$3,350 | \$3,470 | \$120 |

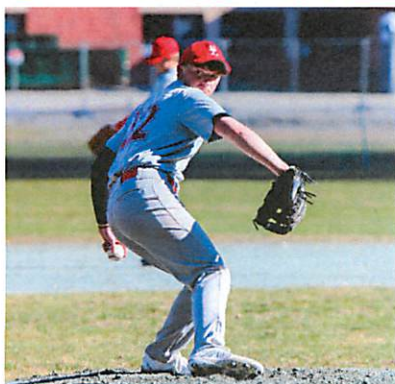
World of Wildcats



This year has been an exciting one for our athletic program. The Girls Varsity Basketball team made history by winning its first sectional title since 2007. This was an incredible accomplishment that reflects the hard work and dedication of our student athletes and coaches.

Our Boys Varsity Basketball team had an equally impressive season, making a deep playoff run and narrowly falling short in the sectional title game. Both teams were recognized in the final statewide rankings, with the girls finishing 10th and the boys 14th. We are proud of this outstanding achievement.

Our soccer teams also had a strong showing, both reaching the sectional Final Four and bringing pride to our school community.



Spring sports are now well underway, and we're thrilled to be fielding both Modified and Varsity Baseball teams for the first time in over a decade, another great milestone for our program.

Our Girls Flag Football and Golf teams will round out the spring season, and both are off to a strong start with great outlooks ahead.

We also want to recognize the best fans in the North Country. Your support, energy, and school spirit make all the difference. Thank you for always showing up and cheering on our teams!



The Arts

Music & Theater

Our music department began the year by hosting the CASMA Fall Festival in our own building. Many of our students participated in the Jazz Band, Elementary Band, Junior Chorus, and Senior Chorus during this festival. Two students were accepted into the Area All State Band, which performed in November at Peru Central School.

Our next performances were the Veterans Day Celebration where we proudly honored our local veterans with band and chorus performances, our Holiday Concert which included performances by our elementary, middle, and high school ensembles, and a trip to the Elderwood Senior Center in Ticonderoga by the Senior Jazz band and 7-12 Chorus to perform carols for the residents.

We kicked off 2025 with rehearsals starting for our stage production of *Into the Woods*. Our stellar cast and crew worked tirelessly for three months to bring us a performance that we are all so proud of. Many hours of practicing songs, lines, and choreography by our wonderful actors went into the final performance.

Our Pops Concert in February was a great evening of popular songs. This concert featured our Beginning Band, 5/6 Band, 7-12 Band, Junior Jazz Band, and Senior Jazz Band. Then, in early March we brought our students to the CASMA Spring Festival in North Warren. Ms. Masiello conducted the Elementary Chorus, accompanied by Mr. Tracy.

We are looking forward to the last few performances of the year. In May, 12 band students will be attending the NYSSMA Solo Festival in Peru. They will perform solos for a judge who will give feedback on their performances. Elementary students will be participating in the Young American Voices concert hosted at the MVP Arena in Albany. We will have our annual Celebration of the Arts concerts in May, where all of our performing groups will have their final concerts of the year. And finally, the 9-11 Band students will perform at this year's graduation to send off our seniors with a well deserved musical farewell.



Visual Arts

The Art Room is a buzz of activity as we prepare for our annual art show during Celebration of the Arts on May 20! Students have been painting, designing, collaging, sculpting, and printing, creating collaborative murals, and exploring a variety of 2D and 3D materials to prepare work that will be on display in the main hall before the musical performances. We look forward to sharing our hard work with the community.

7th Graders participated in the annual Lions Club peace poster contest this fall. The contest theme this year was "Dare to Dream," and students created posters to visually represent the theme. Posters were judged by community members, and one student winner had their poster move on to judging at the next level. Two other students received honorable mention, and all three won a monetary prize from the Lions Club.

Artworks at all levels were selected for display at the Town of Chester Public Library's annual art showcase highlighting the works of our talented students. This show was on display for the month of January.

Thanks to a generous donation, a mural initiative was kicked off in our own school library. The mural is a tribute to the 'growth' of our students within the walls of the building as plants and mountains grow from the tops of the book shelves. A handful of junior and senior students helped to paint the mural over the course of the year. New proposals have been coming in from inspired students to create murals in other locations throughout the school. This project will be ongoing.



Fourteen high school Art students submitted artwork into the Hyde Collection's annual Juried Show and two students had a 3D work selected to be on display in the museum for a month, along with other talented regional artists. Not only was their work selected, these two students were chosen by the museum educator to present their written artist statement at a special event highlighting student artists and writers in partnership with the Hyde and the Adirondack Center for Writing.



REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Community members may request an absentee ballot by completing the application found on our website or calling the district office.



WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Noon to 8 p.m.**

Schroon Lake Central School
Auditorium Lobby

WHAT AM I VOTING ON

☐ 2025-26 Budget

☐ 1 Mini-Bus

☐ 2 Seats on the Board
of Education

BUDGET HEARING MAY 8 AT 7:00 PM

Schroon Lake Central School Auditorium
1125 US Rt. 9, Schroon Lake, N.Y. 12870



For more information on the 2025-26 Budget

Visit our district website
www.schroonschool.org

VOTE ON MAY 20, 2025

www.schroonschool.org

**Kemm Pemrick
Superintendent
518-532-7164**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Jared Whitley, Board President
Susan Repko, Vice President
Bruce Murdock
Codie Aiken
Valerie LeBlanc**

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☐ NO