

Spencer - Van Etten Central School District
16 Dartts Crossroad
Spencer, NY 14883
Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations
Budget Newsletter 2021

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Spencer - Van Etten Central School District

Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations

2021-22 Budget Edition

Budget Vote and BOE Election

Tuesday, May 18, 2021
High School Auditorium Lobby
Noon – 8:00pm

Proposition 1

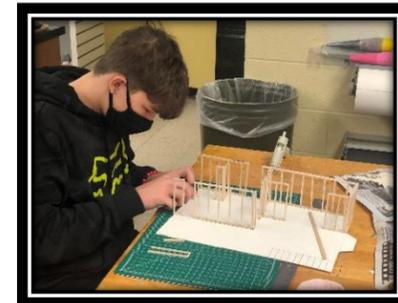
Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District be authorized to expend the sums listed in the budget presented April 21, 2021 in the amount of \$24,323,506?

Board of Education Election

Please vote to fill two (2), three-year terms on the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District Board of Education. **Write-ins may be offered and will be included in the election, although a combined total of no more than two persons may be voted for.**

The following individuals filed a petition for a position on the Board of Education.

Morgan Dwyer
Rick Rogers, Incumbent
Donna Mistler, Incumbent



Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots will be sent to voters registered with the County Board of Elections. If you are not registered with the County Board of Elections, and if you are a U.S., citizen, eighteen years of age or older, a resident of the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District for at least 30 days before the vote, you may apply for an absentee ballot for the school district vote by contacting the office of the clerk at lcooper@svecsd.org or 607-589-7101.

Spencer-Van Etten Board of Education 2020-21

Don Johnson, President
Sean Vallely, Vice-President
Matt Connor
Peter Johanns
Karen Johnson
Donna Mistler
Rick Rogers

Student Liaison
Alex Decker
Olivia Devlen

Diahann Hesler,
Superintendent of Schools
Laurie Cooper, District Clerk

Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Spencer-Van Etten High School
Auditorium Lobby
Noon – 8:00pm

***Bring ID**
Questions? Please call 589-7100

* Please remember that masks must be worn at all times on school property, as per the Department of Health and CDC.



Budget Hearing & Meet the Candidates

Thursday, May 6th @ 7:00pm

Livestreamed on our website:
www.svecsd.org

Dear S-VE Community Members,

One of my favorite parts of our S-VE school and community is our ability to problem solve and land on top during tough situations, and this year has put us through the paces. I would like to begin by saying thank you. Thank you to our staff for their dedication to our students, commitment to returning our students to in-person learning and ensuring a quality instructional program. Thank you to our food service, facilities and transportation staff for feeding, cleaning and transporting through the ups and downs of this year. But most of all, thank you to our students and families. We know this year has been like no other, and you have adapted, adjusted and maneuvered these challenges with such flexibility. Each of you make it a joy to come to work each and every day. Together We Achieve!

We thank our community for passing our Capital Project. We are working with our Architects and Construction Manager to plan and develop the much-needed upgrades and improvements to our buildings that will set the foundation for years to come. The Smart Schools Project is also underway, with supplies and materials ordered to begin construction this summer on the Middle School vestibule.

Yet again, we are facing a challenging budget year, as our foundation aid was not fully funded. Fortunately, the federal government has awarded our district additional revenue to assist with this shortfall, specifically to address the challenges brought on by COVID. We anticipate guidance at the end of April or early May that will better explain how these grants can be utilized over the next three years to address learning loss and other challenges brought on by COVID. Unfortunately, we cannot use these funds to balance our deficit this year; however, our continual goal is to maintain our quality programming and utilize attrition where necessary.

Recently our district was awarded a grant to assist with getting our families much needed internet service. We are thankful for this opportunity to ensure our families can stay connected through the ups and downs of COVID learning. This learning year has been like no other, so we are planning summer learning academies to address instructional gaps and assist our students in strengthening skills. Further details will be shared by your building principals as more information becomes available on these programs. We also understand that the COVID pandemic has fostered feelings of isolation and anxiety among our school community. We have created a Mental Health Task Force, which meets monthly, to address this need. The Mental Health Task Force designed a Facebook page to provide resources and supports to our community members, along with a big reveal planned in conjunction with the budget vote. You can become part of this Task Force by emailing sveinfo@svecsd.org.

The NYS Department of Health released new guidance on April 9th regarding the return to in-person learning. This guidance was designed to assist schools in transitioning students back to in-person learning. The newest guidance readjusts mask wearing to 100% of the time on school grounds, both indoor and outdoor. The guidance also readjusts social distancing to allow a three feet proximity between students in classroom settings. As with new regulations, we incorporate them into our plan so we can ensure our students can be with us, in-person as much as possible.

We are looking forward to our end of the year celebrations, including graduations and award recognitions. Our principals have begun planning such events while following the guidance to ensure safety for all who attend. The end of the year will be here before we know it, and although you may be looking forward to this year ending, we encourage you to reflect on some of the good that may have come out of this challenging time. One positive that comes to my mind is the additional time the closure allowed for us to connect with our children and family members that we may not have had during the fast-paced days of pre-COVID. I know I appreciated the additional time with my children.

Thank you for your support of our school district and for placing your children in our care and thank you for your support of our budget at the upcoming vote on May 18th.

Be well,

Diahann Hesler

Diahann Hesler
Superintendent of Schools
Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations

bus drivers, cafeteria workers, maintenance guys and gals, and administrative staff who spend their days in the S-VE school community. My most recent volunteer activity has been a commitment to the recycling and composting program at the schools. Until the pandemic dramatically changed how schools' function on a daily basis, I worked within the schools assisting in the composting/recycling effort. That involved working during lunch times, helping kids sort their food waste and recyclables. Every three weeks, I assisted the maintenance team in dumping the subsequent, washing of the compost bins, rain or shine, sleet, or snow. Until the pandemic, S-VE was the only school district within 100 miles that took its food waste from the plate, to the compost pile, and to the garden beds of the high school agriculture program.

I initially ran for a seat on the S-VE school board because I felt it was a way that I could give back to the S-VE community. I was able to retire at 63 because of the commitment the taxpayers have made to support the long-term efforts of those who teach their children. It is also important to me to be involved in the community in which I live. As members of society, it is essential that we personally give our time and talents to those with whom we share community. As the old saying goes, "think globally, act locally." Perhaps the most important experience that has prepared me to serve on the board is residing and being a teacher in Spencer-Van Etten. As a teacher, we learn as role models to welcome diversity, to respond positively to divergent points of view, to work cooperatively to build consensus bringing the group of many faces, backgrounds, and perspectives to agreeable common ground. We are fortunate that the present members of the BOE are committed to this cooperative democratic process. One of the important issues that motivates me to serve on the BOE is my commitment to the essence of the purpose of public schools. Schools are living, creative spaces where adults and young people come together to learn and develop as individuals but ultimately for the common good.

Donna Mistler:

I grew up in Spencer and graduated from S-VE in 1970. I lived away for several years and returned to my small, beloved community when family life began. I retired from Ithaca College four years ago but have been actively involved in my community throughout my adult life. Through my many acts of service, I feel I know and represent my constituents well. I have been an active volunteer, first as a parent and now as a community member since my son was in kindergarten and he just turned 40. Besides my school board experience, I have volunteered in the classroom, at extracurricular activities, and served as PTO co-chairperson for several years many years ago. Since my term on the board, I have been a member of the Sports Merger Committee, the Budget Committee, the Financial Audit Committee, and have served as a classroom volunteer. Presently, I am actively involved with the Spencer-Candor Lions Club and the Spencer-Van Etten Food Cupboard, helping to establish Grab and Go bags in the Middle School and the Panther Pantry at the High School. I serve as area representation for the Salvation Army Emergency Services and organize the S. A. Kettle Campaign. These commitments outreach to county, as well as state committees. Through collaboration with school clubs and other local organizations and businesses, not to mention county and higher levels, we all work to serve our community more intensely.

I am running for the BOE because I have always been proud of our school and what we bring to our students. We have worked through challenging times creatively through collaboration between administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents and community. We are a school "family" with dedication to our students, going above and beyond daily activity. As a board member of eight years in the past and six years presently, I have attended school board training, participated in legislative sessions, BOCES events that pertain to our school and am available to listen to all members of our community and refer back through proper channels when appropriate. This has been a hard and frustrating year for all due to COVID. Guidelines have changed frequently, more than daily in many instances. In times like this past year, communication to faculty, staff and parents becomes difficult. I am concerned that as we work to get back to normal, whatever that is, communication and collaboration continues to grow, rather than deteriorate. We need to bridge the gaps that this past year has brought, and I am concerned what budget cuts will bring to our instructional program as we navigate forward.

Meet the Candidates



Morgan Dwyer



Rick Rogers



Donna Mistler

* There will be an official “Meet the Candidates” night on Thursday, May 6th during the Board of Education Meeting at 7:00pm. Our current protocols have BOE meetings livestreamed and accessible from the S-VE website: www.svecsd.org.

Here is another opportunity for you to get to know the candidates!

Morgan Dwyer:

I have been a member of the S-VE community since August 2017. I am a mother, wife, and Physician Assistant. I had heard about the tightly-knit, family-focused, community-involved S-VE district for several years. When my son began to struggle in our previous district, we intentionally sought out properties in S-VE. We wanted the small class sizes and the enriching and supportive learning experiences for our children. S-VE’s reputation drew us to the areas that we now call home. In our time here, we have explored Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and SVEYA Soccer. We also attended Open Houses, Holiday drive-throughs and seasonal celebrations.

We are new, as a family, to the district, although we plan on this being our “forever-community”. By being a member of the Board of Education, I feel like this would be the start to planting deeper roots. I want to be more involved with the community and school district and my children’s role within it for years to come. These were the attributes that drew us to the area, and I hope to be part of keeping its legacy. My days are spent problem-solving. I listen, take stock, ask questions, and formulate plans. I feel that my experience within my profession can further help to facilitate success as a BOE member. Initially, I simply wanted to be involved by serving on the Board of Education. However, after spending time with my fellow district neighbors, I feel that my new purpose will be communication with transparency. There is a demand by the community for communications, as well as involvement and explanation. I would like to serve as an advocate to better integrate the Board of Education with the schools and the community members.

Rick Rogers:

My family and I have been members of the S-VE community for twenty-three years. We moved to a hilltop in Spencer in 1998. Prior to that, we lived for twelve years on a hilltop in Candor. My background is in Education. Most of my adult working life has been as an educator to children, families, and teachers. For nineteen years, I made my living as an author and storyteller of woodland fiction for young readers. For twenty-two years, I was a classroom teacher. The last twelve of those years was as a 6th grade science teacher in the S-VE Middle School. My connection to the S-VE schools is based on having spent twelve years as a classroom teacher in the Middle School. I continue to care sincerely for the well-being of all the children, families, teachers,

Questions and Answers

Question: Who establishes the budget that residents vote on?

Answer: The Board of Education approved the 2021-22 Budget on April 21st to be voted on by the residents of the district May 18, 2021. Residents vote on the budget total and the tax levy threshold.

Question: What is a tax levy?

Answer: Total sum to be raised by the school district after subtracting out all other revenues including state aid. The tax levy is used to determine the tax rate for property owners in each of the towns or villages that makes up a school district.

Question: What is a tax rate?

Answer: The amount of tax paid for each \$1,000 of assessed value of property. In districts that cover just one municipality, the tax rate is figured simply by dividing the total assessed property value by 1,000 and then dividing that again into the tax levy (the amount of money to be raised locally). In districts that encompass more than one municipality, the formula for figuring the tax rate is more complicated. It involves assigning a share of the total tax levy to each municipality and applying equalization rates to take into account different assessment practices.

Question: What is an Equalization Rate?

Answer: In simple terms, an equalization rate represents the average level of assessment in each community. For example, an equalization rate of 80 means that, on average, the property in a community is being assessed at 80% of its market value. The words “on average” are stressed to emphasize that an equalization rate of 80 does not mean that each and every property is assessed at 80% of full value. Some may be assessed at lower than 80%, while others may be assessed at higher than 80%. Equalization rates are established by the New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment. School districts that comprise more than one city, town or village must use the equalization rate to determine the tax rates for each municipality. The purpose is to bring some semblance of equity to how the taxes are distributed in any one school district, so that ideally a home with a full market value of \$100,000 in one community will pay the same taxes as a home with a market value of \$100,000 in the next community, regardless of how those two homes are assessed.

Question: What is the impact if the school budget is defeated?

Answer: Typically, if a budget fails to be passed by the voters, the board has a few options, they can put the budget out to a second vote on June 16th or they can adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget the tax levy will remain the same with no increase over the 2020-21 school year.

Question: What is a contingency budget?

Answer: Under state law, school boards can submit a budget to voters a maximum of two times. If the proposed budget is defeated twice, the board must adopt a contingency budget. The board also has the option of going directly to a contingent budget immediately after the first budget defeat. State law mandates that under a contingent budget, a school district must adopt a budget with no tax levy increase and eliminate all non-contingent expenses, such as certain student supplies, certain equipment purchases and the free community use of school facilities (the district must charge a fee). The administrative budget would also be subject to certain restrictions. For Spencer-Van Etten contingency budget means the budget may not exceed the tax levy from the previous year which would be an additional \$135,629 in reductions to the revenue side of the budget to account for the levy increase not being approved and then there would be an additional reduction of \$75,500 in equipment from our expense side of the proposed budget.

Question: What percentage of voter approval is required for this budget to pass?

Answer: The District has a calculated maximum property tax cap limit of \$7,145,248 or 1.93% increase, which requires a simple majority vote of 50% to approve.

Documents Available to the Public: The documents listed below can be obtained during the 14 days immediately preceding the budget vote and board election at the following locations: on the District’s website at www.svecsd.org, at the District Office, at all three Spencer-Van Etten Schools and at each public library within the district during normal operating hours. Available documents include, Proposed Budget in Three Components, Proposed Revenue, Property Tax Report Card, School Academic Report Card, District’s Financial Accountability Summary, Administrative Compensation Information, and Exemption Impact Reports by May 4, 2021.

Proposed 2021-22 Breakdown of Expenditures

DISTRICT SUPPORT	2020-21	2021-22
9.21% of budget	Budget	Proposed
Board of Education	29,738	33,918
Central Administration	199,409	207,605
Business Administration	611,288	656,108
BOCES Administration Charge	256,942	253,208
BOCES – Capital Expenses	108,828	105,078
Liability/Property Insurance	114,556	125,371
Supervision of Schools & Curriculum Development	742,125	858,179
SUBTOTAL	2,062,886	2,239,467

INSTRUCTION	2020-21	2021-22
45.60% of budget	Budget	Proposed
Teaching/Regular School	5,387,044	5,900,287
Special Education	2,533,862	2,955,251
Library/Media/Computer Instruction	1,172,886	1,151,097
Pupil Services	585,296	633,968
Co-Curricular Activities	138,660	127,887
Athletics	279,061	323,169
SUBTOTAL	10,096,809	11,091,659

CENSUS	2020-21	2021-22
0% of budget	Budget	Proposed
SUBTOTAL	11,100	0

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	2020-21	2021-22
3.92% of budget	Budget	Proposed
Transportation	874,272	917,901
Garage Building	32,961	34,864
SUBTOTAL	907,233	952,765

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	2020-21	2021-22
6.33% of budget	Budget	Proposed
Operation of School Buildings	1,138,645	1,183,191
Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	348,307	355,505
SUBTOTAL	1,486,952	1,538,696

DEBT SERVICE	2020-21	2021-22
9.31% of budget	Budget	Proposed
School Construction Bonds, Principal and Interest	2,087,682	2,062,238
School Bus Bonds, Principal and Interest	0	52,279
Energy Performance Contract	149,590	149,590
SUBTOTAL	2,237,272	2,264,107

INTERFUND TRANSFER	2020-21	2021-22
0% of budget	Budget	Proposed
School Food Service	65,000	0
Special Education Summer School	30,000	0
SUBTOTAL	95,000	0

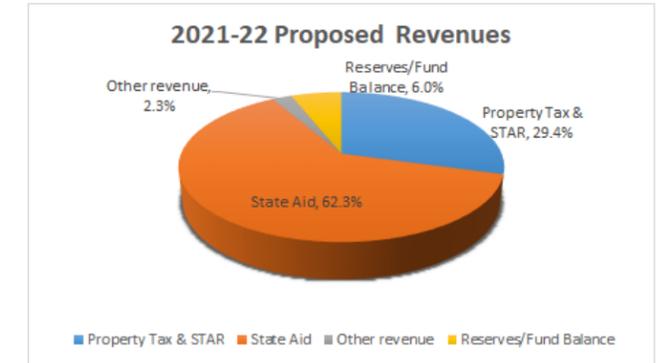
BENEFITS	2020-21	2021-22
25.64% of budget	Budget	Proposed
Health Insurance, Flex, & HRA	4,103,819	4,228,314
Teachers' Retirement	650,000	711,935
Employees' Retirement	325,780	378,123
Social Security (FICA)	751,604	763,040
Workers' Compensation	109,000	83,700
Unemployment	15,000	45,000
Disability Insurance	6,600	6,700
Deferred Compensation/Other Benefits	20,000	20,000
SUBTOTAL	5,981,803	6,236,812

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	2020-21	2021-22
	22,879,055	24,323,506



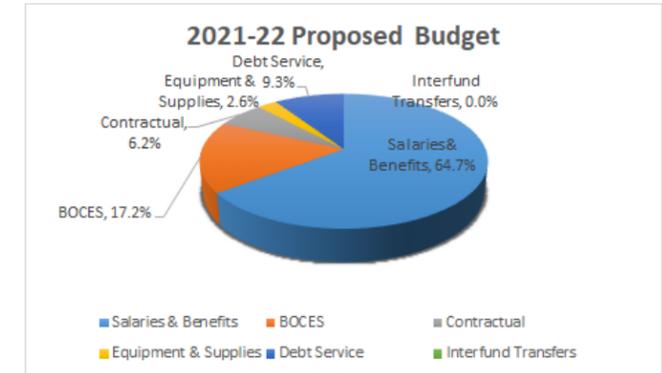
Revenues...where the money will come from:

Revenues	2020-21	2021-22
	Budget	Proposed
Property Tax & STAR	7,009,619	\$ 7,145,248
State Aid	14,767,482	15,164,607
Other revenue	567,100	561,976
Reserves/Fund Balance	534,854	1,451,675
Total	22,879,055	24,323,506



Expenditures... what it will be spent on:

Expenditures	2020-21	2021-22
	Budget	Proposed
Salaries & Benefits	15,153,777	15,733,008
BOCES	3,421,082	4,172,382
Contractual	1,421,993	1,510,620
Equipment & Supplies	549,931	643,389
Debt Service	2,237,272	2,264,107
Interfund Transfers	95,000	0
Total	22,879,055	24,323,506



Three-Part Budget

Program:		
2020-21	\$16,496,813	72.10%
2021-22	\$17,782,790	73.11%
Capital:		
2020-21	\$ 4,044,492	17.68%
2021-22	\$ 4,134,296	17.00%
Administrative:		
2020-21	\$ 2,337,750	10.22%
2021-22	\$ 2,406,420	9.89%
Total:		
2020-21	\$22,879,055	100.00%
2021-22	\$24,323,506	100.00%

The **Program Component** provides funding for instruction and educational support services for students. Funds for transportation are also included in this component.

The **Capital Component** pays for maintaining building and grounds, including electricity, heat, repairs, phone services and the principal and interest payments on serial bonds.

The **Administrative Component** provides for overall general support and management activities including business office operations, payroll, accounts payable, purchasing, tax collection, general administration, personnel, legal representation, public information, insurance, and auditing services. Cost of administration and supervision of each of the three schools is also included here.

