

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations
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SPENCER, NY 14883
March Newsletter

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SPENCER - VAN ETTEN
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Together We Achieve Excellence Beyond Expectations

March 2020
Newsletter

Postal Patron Local

VOTER INFORMATION

In order to vote in any School District Meeting, a person must meet the following qualifications:

- ◆ Be a citizen of the United States
- ◆ Be 18 years of age or older
- ◆ Be a resident of the School District for a period of 30 days or more, prior to the meeting at which he/she offers to vote.

Residents offering to vote will be asked for identification upon registration.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available. If you will be away or unable to be at the polls on Tuesday, March 17th, please request an application for an absentee ballot from the District Clerk. After receipt of the application, the ballot will be sent. All absentee ballots must be filed with the District Clerk by 5pm on the day of the election. If you have any questions regarding registration, eligibility to vote or absentee ballots, you may call Laurie Cooper, District Clerk, at 589-7100.

TRANSPORTATION VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
S-VE High School Auditorium Lobby
12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
*Please bring valid ID

COMMUNICATION REGARDING TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION

Dear Spencer-Van Etten Community,

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020 we will hold a vote on the purchase of new buses. The district is currently on a bus replacement schedule that replaces our school buses on a 5-year rotation. The district adopted a bus replacement schedule several years ago to ensure that our bus fleet remains under warranty and the buses retain their value upon trade in. Our district receives approximately 90% state aid on the purchase of buses.

The vote will take place on March 17 from noon - 8:00pm in the S-VE High School Auditorium Lobby, regarding the proposition below. If you have any questions about the proposition, please contact Susan Gray at 589-7105 or sgray@svecsd.org.

Respectfully,
Diahann Hesler, Superintendent

2019-2020 Bus Purchase

Three (3) 70-Passenger School Buses

Total Estimated Price for 2019-20 Bus Purchase = \$385,500

Trade-Ins

Three (3) 72-Passenger School Buses

Total Estimated Revenue from Trades = \$105,000

PROPOSITION I - TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education purchase and, at the option of the Board, finance three (3) 70 passenger buses at an estimated cost not to exceed \$385,500 including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other necessary costs incidental thereto and to expend a total sum not to exceed \$385,500 which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and levy a tax which is hereby voted for the foregoing in the amount of \$385,500, which shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds, notes or installment purchase contracts are hereby authorized to be issued or executed at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$385,500 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due?



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Transportation Department

The transportation department is comprised of 18 full-size and 4 suburban buses, 15 drivers, 1 head bus driver, 2 mechanics, 6 monitors and a transportation supervisor, Tim Wilson (pictured below).



We work off of a 5-year rotation cycle for our buses, which cuts down maintenance costs and gains us a higher trade-in value. Fleet rotation is cost effective, predictable, easy to budget and maximizes state aid revenue stream. It reduces pollution by using newer technology and reduces both repair costs and parts inventory. Additionally, it provides safer equipment. Our buses traveled over 307,000 miles in 2019.

The maintenance provided to the S-VE transportation fleet by our head and assistant mechanic ensures that we continuously excel with DOT vehicle inspections. They perform daily preventative maintenance tasks on our fleet, as well as ensuring our maintenance department vehicles are in top shape for NYS inspections. In addition to maintenance responsibilities, they are also called upon to assist in driving routes when required.

Substitute Bus Driver Opportunity

Many of our students begin and end their day with their bus driver. One of the numerous benefits to being a small district is that our drivers get to personally know our students. Our drivers take great pride in being welcoming and encouraging to our students. When a driver is absent for the day, it affects our students similarly to if their teacher is absent.



Currently, our transportation department is fully staffed following years of bus run consolidation. Although we are currently meeting the needs of our district, we are always in need of substitute bus drivers. A few of the qualifications include a Commercial Drivers License with a Passenger and School Bus Endorsement, current medical card and fingerprints. If you're interested in applying to be a substitute bus driver and do not have any experience, you can begin with a physical and obtaining a CDL permit. We pay for fingerprinting and up to 30 hours of training, if license needed. If you're interested in becoming a substitute driver and to access the full list of qualifications, please contact Tim Wilson at 589-7160.

Highlights



In addition to normal bus routes, our drivers are kept busy transporting our students on enrichment field trips and extra-curricular activities. Whether our students head off to a local business, college or museum for the day or to an athletic event, our drivers always support our students. Although our drivers could wait for our students on the bus, it is normal for them to join the field trip experience or to see them in the stands cheering on our athletes.

Pictured to the left is one of our drivers supporting our Varsity Cheerleaders at the IAC Competition in Newark Valley.

Delay or Cancellation Process

The Spencer-Van Etten Central School District is comprised of 144 square miles that includes ten towns in four counties. Weather conditions vary widely throughout our school district. The process to determine if roads are safe for busses to travel begins at 4:00 AM with the transportation supervisor personally driving the roads and communicating with the various town highway superintendents and our facilities director. A recommendation is given to the superintendent, who then contacts other area districts, as well as our BOCES prior to determining if we are delaying or closing. The decision to close or delay school is typically made by 5:30 AM. At this point, the administrative team is contacted to begin disseminating the information through the parent all-call, staff communications and media outlets.

The primary consideration in a school closing is the safety of students. Factors relevant to safety include icy roads, reduced visibility, drifting snow, chill factor, flooding, high wind and mechanical and health hazards at the school. The decision to close or delay school is based on the district in its entirety, not on a specific road or area. If you believe the road conditions where you live are too hazardous, please err on the side of safety and communicate your concern to your child's principal.

ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COMMUNICATION

Electronic Newsletters

In an effort to be more fiscally and environmentally responsible, *next school year* we will transition from bulk mailings to electronic newsletters. Our newsletters will be sent electronically to our S-VE families and will be available on our website, as well as linked on social media.

We acknowledge that some community members may prefer to receive newsletters by mail. If you would like to continue receiving newsletters by mail, please contact the District Office at 589-7100 and provide your name and address.

Upcoming Census

A census is expected to begin in April. Please do your part in completing the 2020 Census so that the Spencer-Van Etten Central School District is represented accurately to ensure we receive appropriate funding.



Stay Informed Via Social Media

Website: www.svecsd.org
Facebook: Spencer-Van Etten Central School District
Twitter: @SpencerVanEtten
Instagram: @sveschooldistrict

#svefamily #svetogetherweachieve #svepantherpride

Meet our Panther Staff!

We would like our S-VE community to get to know our staff. Over the past several months, we have been highlighting our new staff on Twitter. Be sure to follow us, as we continue to highlight the rest of our staff throughout the remainder of the school year. You can still see our highlights even if you don't have a Twitter account! Go to our website (www.svecsd.org) to view our Twitter feed under District Communications! You can also look up the hashtag #svefamily.

Scholarship Opportunities

SVE Alumni Association is offering three, \$2,000 scholarships for continued education. One scholarship will be awarded to a trade school attendee. Two scholarships will be issued to college or university enrollees. Complete your application online and submit no later than April 27, 2020. For more information on the SVE Alumni Association, go to www.svealumni.org.