

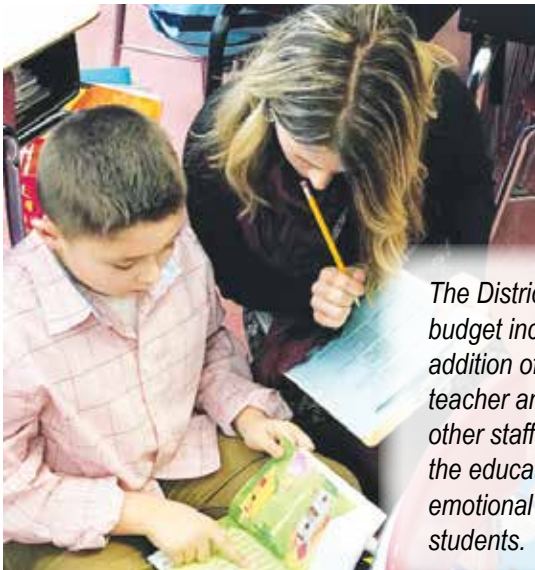
# DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District

Volume 35 No. 2

May 2019

## Message from Superintendent: Proposed 2019-2020 Budget Increases **Opportunities** for Students



*The District's proposed budget includes the addition of a reading teacher and various other staff to address the educational and emotional needs of students.*

On April 1, 2019 the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education adopted the 2019-2020 budget proposal in the amount of \$166,760,407. The proposed budget will be voted on by District residents on May 21.

This budget, which includes a levy at the tax cap, allows us to maintain our existing programs and services and to enhance opportunities for all students as outlined in **Vision 2020: Brighter Together**, our District's roadmap to success.

The eight focus areas of **Vision 2020**, Inclusive Settings, Response to Intervention, Standards-Based Learning, Social-Emotional Learning, Balanced Literacy P-12, NYS Science Learning Standards P-12, Math Frameworks P-6 and Career Technical Education, grew out of discussion with various community members, staff and students around the concept of moving the District forward together.

Over the past several years, we have collectively succeeded in phasing in many initiatives that have directly moved us toward our vision. This year's budget proposal includes further provisions, such as additional special education teachers, an additional reading teacher and school psychologist, two school psychologist interns, additional school counselors, increased mental health support and more, all to assist us in better meeting the educational and social-emotional needs of our students.

We are fortunate with this proposed budget, to include reinstatements to previously cut athletics and co-curricular activities in an effort to foster student connectedness. Additionally, the budget proposal includes a new middle school schedule providing more CTE/STEM opportunities for students, time within the school day for students to receive extra help, and collaboration time for staff.

*Continued on page 4*

## Northstars Shine Bright!

The District's students continue to excel in the classroom and beyond! The C-NS Marching Band received tremendous recognition this school year, marching in the 2018 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (pictured below) and being the first high school band ever to receive a Syracuse Area Music Awards People's Choice Award! Read more about some of the many student accomplishments for the current and recent school years on page 6.



2019 - 2020

## Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget  
\$166,760,407

Tax Levy increase  
\$2,431,764

Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 2.77%

**District Expenditures** - All public schools in New York State are required by law to report spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital.

Program	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$128,717,383</b>	<b>\$133,347,871</b>	<b>\$4,630,488</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Regular Instruction	\$44,427,655	\$46,630,988	\$2,203,333	5.0%
Special School Program	\$21,279,522	\$22,740,568	\$1,461,046	6.9%
Student Services	\$9,680,211	\$10,030,297	\$350,086	3.6%
In-Service Training	\$417,212	\$467,461	\$50,249	12.0%
Legal	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.0%
Transportation	\$8,382,417	\$8,542,831	\$160,414	1.9%
Employee Benefits	\$44,430,366	\$44,835,726	\$405,360	0.9%

The Program/instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for **80% of the entire budget**.

Administrative	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,093,164</b>	<b>\$12,463,148</b>	<b>\$369,984</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
*Board of Education	\$164,420	\$183,897	\$19,477	11.8%
Central Administration	\$2,081,478	\$2,169,888	\$88,410	4.2%
Central Support	\$1,896,593	\$1,909,290	\$12,697	0.7%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$4,832,734	\$5,105,955	\$273,221	5.7%
Census	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Employee Benefits	\$3,117,939	\$3,094,118	-\$23,821	-0.8%

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up **7.4% of the entire budget**.

\*Please note, Board members are volunteers. There is no compensation associated with these positions.

Capital	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,390,433</b>	<b>\$20,949,388</b>	<b>-\$1,441,045</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$9,295,964	\$9,933,848	\$637,884	6.9%
Central Support	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$0	0.0%
Employee Benefits	\$3,124,296	\$3,246,887	\$122,591	3.9%
Debt service	\$9,785,173	\$7,583,653	-\$2,201,520	-22.5%

Consistent with the past several years, the Capital component includes a \$100,000 special security capital project. The District has been spending money each year to enhance security in our buildings.

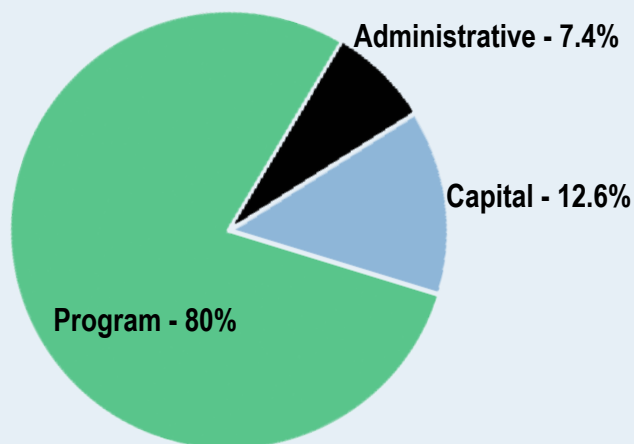
The Capital component accounts for **12.6% of the entire budget**.

Total Expenditures	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	<b>\$163,200,980</b>	<b>\$166,760,407</b>	<b>\$3,559,427</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

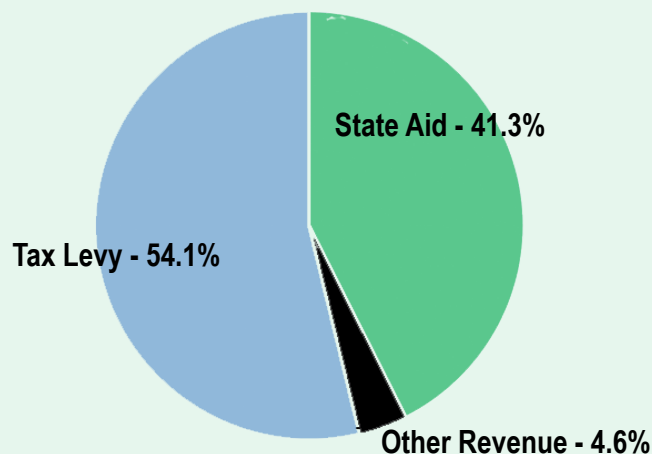
## District Revenues

	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
General Aid	\$63,443,162	\$64,945,776	\$1,052,614	2.4%
Building Aid	\$6,016,398	\$3,934,238	-\$2,082,160	-34.6%
<b>Total State Aid</b>	<b>\$69,459,560</b>	<b>\$68,880,014</b>	<b>-\$579,546</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
PILOTS	\$219,470	\$379,161	\$159,691	72.8%
County sales tax	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	0.0%
Interest	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	100.0%
Rent	\$400,000	\$404,000	\$4,000	1.0%
Fund balance	\$2,400,000	\$3,750,000	\$1,350,000	56.3%
Other	\$2,544,383	\$2,637,900	\$93,517	3.7%
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,963,853</b>	<b>\$7,671,061</b>	<b>\$1,707,208</b>	<b>28.6%</b>
<b>Property tax levy</b>	<b>\$87,777,567</b>	<b>\$90,209,332</b>	<b>\$2,431,765</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$163,200,980</b>	<b>\$166,760,407</b>	<b>\$3,559,427</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

### District Expenditures



### District Revenues



## Long-time Employee/Resident Appointed Superintendent

The North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education recently announced its selection of Daniel D. Bowles, the current Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, as the District's new superintendent. Mr. Bowles' will begin his duties as superintendent on July 1, 2019.

Bowles has dedicated more than 20 years of his educational career to North Syracuse, starting in the District as a school counselor at C-NS in 1997. Before serving as an associate superintendent, he worked as an associate principal, building principal and educational director.

"I'm honored and humbled to have been selected," Bowles said. "This is an exciting time and I look forward to collaborating with staff and all District stakeholders to encourage a robust and challenging environment for all students that allows them to be competitive in any college or career that they choose. By working together, we will continue the great things that are happening and emphasize opportunities such as STEM, CTE, inclusion and more."

Bowles will succeed current Superintendent Annette Speech, who will retire this year after more than 30 years of service to the North Syracuse Central School District.

Congratulations Mr. Bowles!

# Annual Community Survey Provides Positive Feedback



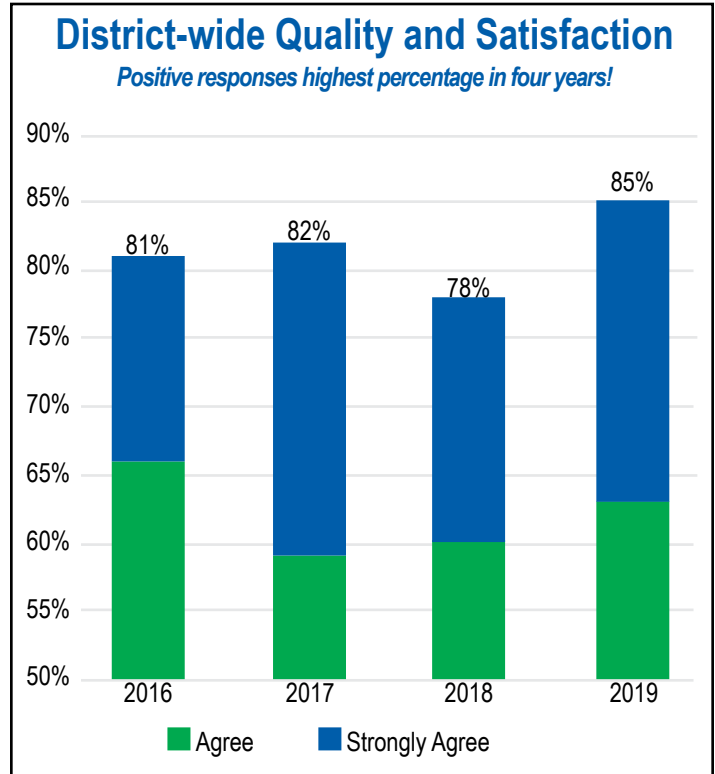
For the fourth consecutive year, this January and February, the North Syracuse Central School District administered a survey to gather feedback from members of the community to help assess progress and set goals for the District. More than 1,200 participants responded to this year's survey, answering various questions about climate, academics, communications, safety, homework & reporting, engagement, responsiveness and quality & satisfaction for individual schools and the District as a whole.

Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach spoke about this year's results saying, "As we look at the preliminary results, we are very optimistic. We have seen the percentage of overall positive responses increase in almost every area. We appreciate everyone taking time to provide feedback."

Each year, survey results are broken down by school so that individual building planning teams have the opportunity to use their school's feedback to plan for upcoming years.

The results are compiled and made available online by building as well as District-wide. Feedback from 2016-2018 is currently available online. Once the reports for 2019 are complete, they will also be added to the survey website at [www.nscsd.org/survey](http://www.nscsd.org/survey).

*Below: The percentage of respondents positively answering the question, "Overall I am Satisfied with the North Syracuse Central School District" increased by 7% from 2018 to 2019.*



## North Syracuse Central School District

### Board of Education

Michael Shusda, President  
Michael A. Mirizio, Vice President  
Michael Donofrio  
Paul Farfaglia  
George Harrington  
Terri Krueger  
Erin McDonald  
Mary Scanlon  
Mark Thorne  
Connie Gibson, District Clerk

### Superintendent of Schools

Annette Speach

### Administration

Daniel D. Bowles, Associate Superintendent for Teaching & Learning  
Donald F.X. Keegan, Associate Superintendent for Business Services  
Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
Jason Nephew, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

### Newsletter Information

Suggestions for the *District Dispatch* are welcome and should be directed to:  
Laurie Cook, School Information Officer: E-mail: [lcook@nscsd.org](mailto:lcook@nscsd.org).

## Proposed Budget Increases Opportunities

*Continued from front page*

The past year has seen great progress as well as student and teacher success. Please take a few moments to read some individual highlights on page 6 of this newsletter and be sure to read about our positive community survey results shown above.

As I write this article, I cannot help but reflect on the successes of the past year as well as look forward to those yet to come. The proposed staffing and programmatic changes in the 2019-2020 budget align resources to our long range plan that will continue to move the District forward.

Please learn more about the proposed budget online at [www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org) or by attending our Budget Public Hearing, which will take place on Tuesday, May 7 at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building at 7 p.m. We look forward to seeing you then!

*Annette Speach*  
Superintendent of Schools



## SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The Board is composed of nine members who are elected by District voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board. The terms of three Board members expire each June 30<sup>th</sup>. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote.

This year there are three candidates running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three (3) year terms (from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022).

*Each Board of Education candidate is responsible for providing information for his or her own biography. The District does not endorse one candidate over another and reserves the right to edit biographies for space purposes. Candidate biographies are listed alphabetically below.*



**Robert Crabtree** is seeking a term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education after having previously served on the Board from 2009-2015. He served as Vice President from 2013-2015, was on the Policy Committee and chaired the Legislative Committee. He currently serves on the Board of Education for OCM BOCES, where he is a member of their Audit, Policy and Board Assessment committees.

Mr. Crabtree has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for 33 years, currently residing in North Syracuse. He worked in the District for 36 years as an elementary teacher, math specialist, multi-subject curriculum writer and a test program supervisor.

He is a member of the Central New York, Onondaga Madison and New York State School Boards associations. He is currently a North Syracuse Central School District Parent Advisory Council member and was previously a member of their Superintendent's Advisory and District Advisory committees and their Community of Learning Professionals.

Mr. Crabtree has been a C-NS Optimist member since 1990. He serves on the Church Council at Immanuel Lutheran Church and is the facilitator for their food pantry and monthly senior luncheon. He volunteers for North Area Meals on Wheels, is a former member of North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars and he has received numerous community and professional awards, including three New York State Assembly resolutions from Assemblymen Michael Bragman and Al Stirpe.

He graduated from Onondaga Central High School, holds a Bachelor of the Arts (Magna Cum Laude) degree from SUNY Fredonia, a Masters of Science in Education from SUNY Cortland and a Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Cortland.



**Michael Donofrio** is seeking a fourth term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. Mr. Donofrio became a member of the Board in July of 2013 and currently serves on their Legislative Committee and Special Education Subcommittee.

He is a lifetime resident of the North Syracuse Central School District where he currently resides with his wife Allyson and children Eric and Addison.

Mr. Donofrio is employed by Donofrio's Body & Paint Shop. He graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from Le Moyne College. He is a member of the North Syracuse Central School District Advisory Committee.

Mr. Donofrio is a founding board member of GiGi's Playhouse, Syracuse; Down Syndrome Achievement Center and the President of Ability Fitness, providing lifelong fitness for individuals with disabilities.



**Mary Scanlon** is seeking a third term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. She has served on the Board since July of 2013, is currently on the Board's Executive Committee and chairs its Policy Committee. She served on the Board's Legislative and Capital Improvement committees in the past and served on the Budget Subcommittee.

Ms. Scanlon has been a resident of the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 30 years, currently residing in Cicero. She has two sons, Corey and Andrew, who attended District schools.

She is currently employed by Protective Life Insurance Company as a Business Systems Analyst, where she provides daily support to the business areas for MONY Life Insurance and Annuity products. She also serves on project teams to support multiple IT system conversions and works with legal and corporate compliance teams on insurance industry related issues and State regulations.

Ms. Scanlon studied psychology at SUNY Geneseo. She is a member of the C-NS Football Booster Club and the C-NS Optimist and Optimist International Clubs. She volunteers for the Food Bank of CNY and performs various community service initiatives through her employer. Mary also raises funds for the United Way, American Red Cross, Clear Path for Veterans, Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, Humane Society of CNY and is a member of the Oneida Lake Association.

**Our Students Succeed!** The District's students continue to excel in the classroom and beyond, receiving local, state and national recognition. Just a few of the MANY highlights from the past school year include those listed here. Be sure to see more accomplishments online at [www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org).



### Outstanding Academics

21 Cicero-North Syracuse High School students (pictured above) earned a **New York State Seal of Biliteracy** for their 2019 diplomas. Two students, **Donna Lin** and **Viktorii Tereshchuk**, met the requirements for a **Seal of Triliteracy**.

Four Cicero-North Syracuse High School students and one teacher were named award winners by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) for aspirations in computing. The NCWIT selected **Gianna Germain**, **Madison King**, and **Morgan Steckler** as "Aspirations in Computing" Upstate New York award-winners and **Makenzie Simon** as the "Rising Star" winner for Upstate NY. Teacher **Matt Harbinger** was named NCWIT's **Upstate New York Educator of the Year**.



Cicero-North Syracuse High School senior **Joshua Budihardjo** (pictured left with Executive Principal LaClair) was named a **Finalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program**.

### Talented Artists

More than 50 Cicero-North Syracuse High School students, with nearly 100 individual works of art, were honored with awards in the **Central New York Regional Scholastic Art Competition**. Four of the students, **Emma Bloom**, **Cassidy Colvin**, **Shannon Kirkpatrick** and **Jillian Lantry**, received Gold Key awards for their entire portfolios. **Shannon Kirkpatrick** was also recognized at the **CNY Young Amazing Awards**, won the **Everson Museum of Art Award for Fine Arts** and created a 507 square foot mural on the side of a building (pictured right) within the community for her Girl Scouts Leadership Project!

### History-Making Musicians

The Cicero-North Syracuse High School Marching Band had an exceptional year, both performing in the **2018 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** and being selected as the first-ever high school band to receive a **Syracuse Area Music Association (SAMMY) People's Choice Award**.



### Exceptional Extra-Curricular & Athletics

Several Varsity athletic teams from Cicero-North Syracuse High School earned Section III Championships during the 2017-2018 school year. Thus far during the 2018-2019 school year, Section III Championships have been earned by Football, Field Hockey (pictured below), Boys' Volleyball, Cheerleading and Girls' Indoor Track.

The Cicero-North Syracuse High School **Varsity Winterguard** was **nationally ranked** in the top 15 teams in the country for much of the competitive season and was awarded the prestigious **Robert Morris Award**.



## Information for Voters

**Voter Qualifications:** In order to vote in the May 21, 2019 election, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older and meet the following qualifications:

- A resident of the school District for at least 30 days prior to the vote,
- Not under sentence for a felony conviction and not adjudged mentally incompetent,
- Registered to vote in Onondaga County or the North Syracuse Central School District.

## Absentee Ballots

Qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the Office of the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2019, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2019 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the Office of the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. through May 20, 2019, on regular business days (not weekends or holidays.)








**Registration Information:** If you are not registered to vote, you must pre-register by May 16, 2019 to vote in the May 21, 2019 election.

### When and Where

- ✓ Until May 16, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse
- ✓ On May 7, 2019 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cicero Elementary School, 5979 Route 31 in Cicero and at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse

## Connect With Us in the Way(s) That Work For You!

The North Syracuse Central School District wants to make sure our families and community members hear about the great things happening in our schools and throughout the District! We try to continually promote the positive contributions our students make to the community whether through volunteer work, athletics, fine arts or educational achievements. Every day, our students are making a positive impact in the community and we strive to showcase these actions and achievements. One of the primary ways for you to obtain information and follow the great things happenings in the North Syracuse School District is by visiting our website at [www.nscsd.org](http://www.nscsd.org). Other ways to connect with the District include:

	<b>Facebook</b> (@NSyracuseCSD) - We use our Facebook page to share news about students, staff, alumni success and lots of other good news. We also share lots of event photos and love to be tagged in your good news too!
	<b>Twitter</b> -The District has a Twitter page and many of our schools do as well. Feel free to follow us and share your good news with @NSyracuseCSD or find your child's school on Twitter!
	<b>YouTube</b> - Make sure you check out our latest videos on the District's YouTube Channel by going online to <a href="http://www.youtube.com/c/NorthSyracuseCentralSchoolDistrict">www.youtube.com/c/NorthSyracuseCentralSchoolDistrict</a> .
	<b>schooltool</b> - Did you know you have the ability to view your child's class schedule, attendance, report card, discipline history, test scores and more through schooltool? Log in at <a href="https://cns.schooltool.cnyric.org/SchoolToolWeb/">https://cns.schooltool.cnyric.org/SchoolToolWeb/</a> .
	<b>SchoolMessenger</b> - Don't miss an urgent message or weather delay/cancellation again! SchoolMessenger uses the parent/guardian information you have on file to send emails and text messages. Make sure your information is up-to-date!
	<b>Peachjar</b> - All schools have "Peachjars" for student flyers. With Peachjar, families never have to rely on students bringing information home in their backpacks...everything is kept in one online location and will stay there for future reference.
	<b>Tip411</b> - Do you have a tip that you'd like to submit to the District or one of our schools? Tip411 is a new system through which anonymous tips can be emailed or text messaged to the District and schools. Learn more at <a href="http://www.nscsd.org/tips">www.nscsd.org/tips</a> .





5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

# Please Vote!




## Tuesday, May 21, 2019

### 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### On the ballot:

- 2019-20 school budget proposition: \$166,760,407
- Vehicle purchase proposition: \$1,506,092
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$458,393
- Three seats on the Board of Education

### TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME \$66 ANNUAL INCREASE BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
			
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$4,210	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$24.46	\$581.19	\$24.46
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,446	\$2,446	\$2,446
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$66/5.50	\$66/5.50	\$66/5.50

*These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR.*

### Polling Places:

For residents living <b>SOUTH</b> of 481	For residents living <b>NORTH</b> of 481
<b>Administrative Office Building</b> 5355 West Taft Road North Syracuse, NY	<b>Cicero Elementary School</b> Route 31 Cicero, NY

Check your poll location at [www.nscsd.org/wheretovote](http://www.nscsd.org/wheretovote).

**Voter qualifications/requirements, registration information and absentee ballot details are listed inside on page 7.**

## Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 7 p.m.

Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building  
(5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse)

#### More budget information:

Copies of the budget can be reviewed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at the District Office, 5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse. More information is available at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget).

### VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM

On May 21, the North Syracuse Central School District will be asking voters to decide upon the purchase of several new vehicles.

Each year, all school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. In accordance with the District's bus replacement program, we are purchasing new vehicles in order to maintain the average age of our transportation fleet with a limited number of vehicles over 10 years old and to reduce the cost of repairs and avoid problems associated with rusting frames that prevent the vehicles from passing D.O.T. inspection.




The District is purchasing gasoline engines for the first time in 2019-20. Gas buses are less expensive to purchase and to operate primarily due to costs associated with meeting EPA regulations. They also do not exhaust black smoke and are more environmentally friendly.

The 2019-2020 vehicle proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,506,092:

- Ten 64 passenger gasoline engine school buses
- Two 42 passenger gasoline engine school buses with one to three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning
- One 48 passenger gasoline engine school bus with air conditioning

#### Vehicle Proposition

Tax increase for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR

Cicero	Clay	Salina
		
\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80