

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

## Superintendent's Message

### Strategic Action Team's Work Critical to Proposal

On Monday, April 4, the Board of Education adopted a \$188.4 million budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

District voters will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed budget, along with several other propositions on May 17.

We are committed to providing the necessary resources to close the academic gaps that developed during the pandemic. This budget also addresses the social and emotional needs of our students as a priority. The Budget proposal maximizes the District's financial resources to meet the increasing needs of our students by using fund balance and federal stimulus funds to supplement the budget. The proposed tax levy increase is 3.37%, which does not exceed the tax cap and is well below the rate of inflation (7.9 %).

For more than a year now, a group of approximately 50 educators have been working together on the NSCSD Strategic Action Team (SAT). Their charge has been to develop a vision, mission and goals to ensure the long-term success of our diverse student population. The crucial concepts that have collectively been embraced by the group (improving graduation rates, ensuring reading proficiency and building emotional competencies) are all addressed in this budget proposal.

Our most important job is to ensure that all students and staff are safe and healthy so that students can truly learn and fulfill their individual potential. Therefore, we have created a comprehensive mental health and wellness network for our students.

*Continued on Page 5 "Focusing"*



## PROPOSED \$188,367,855 BUDGET PRIORITIES



**ELA / LITERACY:** The budget proposal would provide one instructional coach at each elementary school to support ELA and literacy for our youngest learners.



**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL:** The budget proposal includes 2 additional social workers to support our comprehensive mental health network.



**HEALTH & SAFETY:** The budget proposal allows for the continuation of expanded nursing staff, increased hall monitoring and the addition of a security guard.



**ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE:** Our English Language Learner population has increased significantly. The budget includes a staff increase and the expansion of the program to a third elementary school.



**MATH:** Under the leadership of the District's new math director, professional development will be provided for secondary math teachers in conjunction with local universities.



**ENERGY PERFORMANCE:** In response to rising energy costs, the District is proposing energy saving enhancements to our building systems. The proposal will have no local tax impact.

# VOTE

## May 17, 2022 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## DISTRICT EXPENDITURES: \$188,367,855

Program	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$141,045,428</b>	<b>\$146,087,367</b>	<b>\$5,041,939</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Regular Instruction	\$48,733,856	\$50,648,276	\$1,914,420	3.9%
Special School Program	\$24,328,155	\$25,269,407	\$941,252	3.9%
Student Services	\$12,086,622	\$12,824,764	\$738,142	6.1%
In-Service Training	\$613,109	\$696,683	\$83,574	13.6%
Legal	\$200,000	\$150,000	-\$50,000	-25.0%
Transportation	\$9,297,360	\$9,705,518	\$408,158	4.4%
Employee Benefits	\$45,786,326	\$46,792,719	\$1,006,393	2.2%

The Program/instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for **77.6% of the entire budget**.

Administrative	2021-2022 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,284,624</b>	<b>\$16,778,390</b>	<b>\$493,766</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
*Board of Education	\$189,228	\$163,315	-\$25,913	-13.7%
Central Administration	\$2,261,890	\$2,274,097	\$12,207	0.5%
Central Support	\$2,249,662	\$2,662,212	\$412,550	18.3%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$6,302,003	\$6,248,522	-\$53,481	0.8%
Employee Benefits	\$5,281,841	\$5,430,244	\$148,403	2.8%

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up **8.9% of the entire budget**.

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

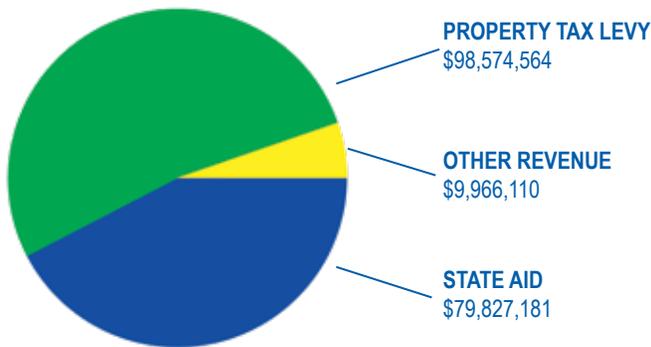
Capital	2021-2022 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,928,123</b>	<b>\$25,502,098</b>	<b>\$2,573,975</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$11,489,397	\$12,167,944	\$678,547	5.9%
Central Support	\$200,000	\$220,000	\$20,000	10.0%
Employee Benefits	\$4,434,996	\$4,575,607	\$140,611	3.2%
Debt service	\$6,803,730	\$8,538,547	\$1,734,817	25.5%

This year's Capital component includes a \$100,000 special capital project.

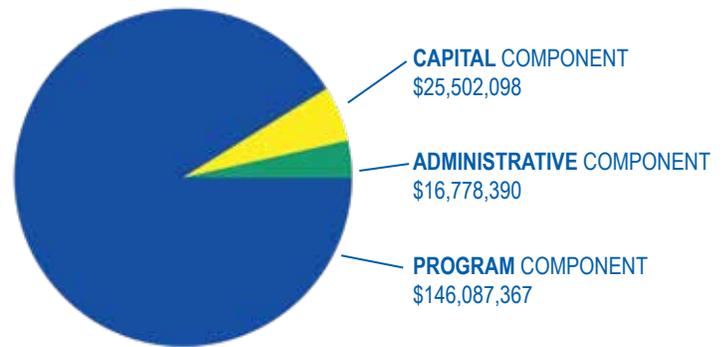
The Capital component accounts for **13.5% of the entire budget**.

Total Expenditures	2021-2022 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	<b>\$180,258,175</b>	<b>\$188,367,855</b>	<b>\$8,109,680</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

## REVENUES: SOURCE OF FUNDS



## EXPENDITURES: COSTS



## BUDGET EXPENDITURES

TOTAL BUDGET \$188,367,855

**PROGRAM COMPONENT:** \$146,087,367  
**PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET:** 77.6%

**CAPITAL COMPONENT:** \$25,502,098  
**PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET:** 13.5%

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT:** \$16,778,390  
**PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET:** 8.9%

The Program component includes costs associated with educating students. Expenses in this area include transportation, regular and special education costs, student services, training and employee benefits. As a people-based business, the NSCSD spends the majority of money on personnel.

The Capital component of the budget includes costs associated with the regular maintenance and upkeep of buildings and grounds, as well as special construction projects. Projects in the past few years have included security enhancements such as the creation of single point-of-entry to school buildings.

The Administrative portion of the budget is made up of costs associated with the Board of Education, District administration, support services and staff development. Board of Education members do not receive compensation for their service. This is the smallest portion of the budget.

## DISTRICT REVENUES: SOURCE OF FUNDS

	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
<b>STATE AID</b>				
General Aid	\$72,386,591	\$76,385,329	\$3,998,738	5.5%
Building Aid	\$3,030,833	\$3,441,852	\$411,019	13.6%
<b>Aid Total</b>	<b>\$75,417,424</b>	<b>\$79,827,181</b>	<b>\$4,409,757</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>				
PILOTS	\$475,616	\$575,610	\$ 99,994	21.0%
Sales tax	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	0.0%
Interest	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	100.0%
Rent	\$404,000	\$410,000	\$6,000	1.5%
Fund balance	\$5,000,000	\$5,250,000	\$250,000	5.0%
Medicaid	\$550,000	\$600,000	\$50,000	9.09%
Other	\$2,595,703	\$2,580,500	-\$15,203	-0.6%
<b>Other Revenues Total</b>	<b>\$9,475,319</b>	<b>\$9,966,110</b>	<b>\$490,791</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
<b>Property tax levy</b>	<b>\$95,365,432</b>	<b>\$98,574,564</b>	<b>\$3,209,132</b>	<b>3.37%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$180,258,175</b>	<b>\$188,367,855</b>	<b>\$8,109,680</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

## 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. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote. This year there are four 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-year terms (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025).

*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. If submitted, full, unedited bios are provided online at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget).*

[www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget)

for additional Board of Education Candidate Information



**Robert Crabtree** is seeking reelection to the Board of Education. He previously served on the Board from 2009-2015 and presently has been a member since 2019. From 2013-2015 he held the office of Vice President, served 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 36 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.

*Mr. Crabtree's bio is continued on the following page (Board).*



**Matthew Hermann** is seeking reelection for a second term on the Board of Education where he has served since July, 2019. He currently serves on the Board's Legislative Committee. Mr. Hermann has lived in the District for the past 55 years and currently resides in North Syracuse with his wife, Carol Guido. Matthew has three adult children, Jordan, Eric and Sean.

Mr. Hermann is employed by OCM BOCES as a Senior Network Administrator. He is part of IaaS Group to maintain cloud services for school districts.

Matthew graduated from Cicero High School, and went to Onondaga Community College where he earned an Associates Degrees in Administration of Justice and Computer Engineering. He also holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Computer/Electronic Engineering from SUNY Polytechnic.



**Nicole Planty** is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. She is a life-long resident of the North Syracuse Central School District, currently living in Cicero with her husband Josh and their two children, Kane and Olivia. Kane is a student at Lakeshore Road Elementary School and Olivia is a student at Gillette Road Middle School.

Nicole currently works as a cosmetology instructor with high school juniors and seniors at East Syracuse Minoa High School and is the owner of a salon in North Syracuse. She graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School and attended SUNY Oswego for teacher preparation and the University of Phoenix for educational leadership.

**Amanda Sugrue** is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education.

Although this candidate's information was not received prior to the deadline for inclusion in this publication, it will be provided on the District's budget website at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget) once it is received.

## Focusing on Future (Continued)



(Continued from front cover)

In addition to our excellent staff of mental health professionals, we offer students on-site services available through Onondaga County.

In response to the increasing energy costs, we are asking the District voters to consider an energy performance contract whereby specific energy improvements would be made to District buildings at no cost to the local taxpayer. 85.3% of the project's cost would be covered by state aid, with the remainder being paid out of the District's fund balance.

I invite you to learn more on our budget website at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget) and to join us at our May 3 Public Hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel D. Bowles'.

Daniel D. Bowles

North Syracuse Central School District Superintendent of Schools



## Funds Targeted Toward Greatest Needs

For the past two years, schools have been working through the many challenges associated with the pandemic. This year's budget proposal clearly defines the District's commitment to providing the resources necessary to close the academic gaps and overcome social-emotional impacts.

With improved literacy being critical to closing academic gaps, in the area of English Language Arts / Literacy, the District will be implementing a new K-4 textbook series and piloting a grade 5-8 program.

With our English Language Learner (ELL) population increasing, the proposal includes new staff in this area and the expansion of the program to a third elementary school. Through this program, the District now supports students of more than 20 native languages and that diversity offers tremendous cultural learning experiences for all students.

The proposal includes the addition of school social workers at two schools, bringing the total number of mental health professionals to more than 60 staff at 11 schools. Superintendent of Schools Daniel Bowles discussed the additions proposed to address the social emotional needs of students. "We know that many of our students have struggled academically over the past two years," Bowles said. "Our budget proposal prioritizes helping students *and* staff recover in all areas."

## Capital Outlay Project



*This year's capital outlay project funding will allow the District to make much needed improvements to Roxboro Road Elementary School's front entrance way to address visitor traffic-flow concerns.*

Each year, the North Syracuse Central School District is authorized by New York State and our voters to support a small capital project with operating budget funds. This year's project will include alterations to Roxboro Road Elementary School to enhance visitor management and if feasible, to address the growing need for additional support spaces.

## Board (continued)

**Robert Crabtree (continued)**

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.



## PROPOSITION #2 VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM



### The Wheels on the Bus Go Round & Round!

Each year, District buses safely transport thousands of students to school and home, and back and forth to extra-curricular activities and events. All school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. In accordance with the District's bus replacement program, the proposal includes the purchase of new vehicles to ensure that the average age of most buses is ten years or less. Maintaining an updated fleet of vehicles helps reduce the cost of repairs and avoid problems associated with rusting frames that prevent the vehicles from passing necessary inspections.

The 2022-2023 vehicle proposition includes the following at a total cost not to exceed \$1,890,381:

- Ten 65-passenger gasoline engine school buses;
- Two 42-passenger gasoline engine school buses with three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning;
- Five Maintenance and Operations Department vehicles.

This year's **Vehicle Proposition** would result in an annual tax increase of approximately \$2.61 for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR.

## \*PROPOSITION #3 JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHILLER PROJECT



**\*No tax impact!**

Due to the failure and obsolescence of a critical component of the building's air conditioning system, it has been determined that the chiller system at North Syracuse Junior High School needs to be replaced.

With voter approval, the District can take full advantage of available state aid to replace this failing unit through a capital project. The total cost of the project is \$1.4 million. The District's fund balance will be used to cover the local share of the project cost. Therefore, there will be no increase in the local tax levy for this proposition.

*Pictured to the left: An updated chiller system was recently installed at a school in the Central Square School District. If approved, Proposition #3 will allow a similar system to be installed at North Syracuse Junior High School.*

## \*PROPOSITION #4 ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT



Across the country, energy costs have risen dramatically. The North Syracuse Central School District recently participated in a NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grant program to assess measures that will significantly reduce energy usage.

For proposition #4, the District is asking for voter support for a \$7.5 million initiative to convert outdated lighting systems to LED (light-emitting diode) and make energy saving enhancements to antiquated building systems. The total cost of this project will be paid for with state aid and funds from the District's fund balance. There will be no increase in the local tax levy for this proposition and the savings for years to come will pay for the enhancements.

*Pictured to the left: We may not be able to stop the wheel from spinning, but with your support of this project, we can certainly slow it down. The District is asking for voter support as it works to reduce energy demand and in the process, improve the quality of lighting and comfort in classrooms.*

## Budget Proposal Includes Option to Unify Communications With ParentSquare System

Beginning in July, the North Syracuse Central School District will switch to a new communication platform called ParentSquare.

ParentSquare is a unified app for school communication so parents and guardians can receive all announcements from the District, their children's schools and teachers in one place, with options to specify how and when parents/guardians are notified.

PLEASE NOTE: ParentSquare does not replace the phone calls, e-mails and text messages that have been sent to families in the past. ParentSquare enhances that communication by allowing parents to log into their ParentSquare account online or download the ParentSquare App so they can see all messages sent in one centralized location. This will help us eliminate the issue of missing messages that may be caught up in e-mail spam filters.

By unifying multiple tools into one communications app and service, ParentSquare provides a seamless experience for parents and staff. Parents will be able to keep track of news, activities and events from all their children's schools in one place.

The District hopes that ParentSquare's intuitive, two-way platform will foster greater communication and family involvement. With ParentSquare, parents can enjoy photos posted by teachers, fill out forms and permission slips, sign up for parent-teacher conferences and much more. School staff and parents can engage in both one-to-one and group messaging with real-time language translation.

Want to learn more about ParentSquare? Please visit the District's Communication Office website at [www.nscsd.org/communication](http://www.nscsd.org/communication).



## Voter Information

### Voter Qualifications

In order to vote in the May 17, 2022 election, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older and meet the following qualifications:

- A resident of the 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.



### Registration Information

If you are not registered to vote, you must pre-register by May 12, 2022 to vote in the May 17, 2022 election.

#### When and Where Can I register to vote?

- ✓ Until May 12, 2022 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
- ✓ The District will hold an evening voter registration on May 3, 2022 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

### Absentee Ballots

To apply for an absentee ballot, please check the District website at [www.nscsd.org/budget](http://www.nscsd.org/budget) or contact Jilian Herrera, District Clerk, by email at [jherrera@nscsd.org](mailto:jherrera@nscsd.org) or phone at (315) 218-2131.

### Polling Locations

Residents who live SOUTH of Rt. 481– Vote at the Administrative Office Bldg.  
Residents who live NORTH of Rt. 481 – Vote at Cicero Elementary School



5355 West Taft Road  
North Syracuse, NY 13212

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SYRACUSE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 4

# NORTH SYRACUSE CSD RESIDENT ECR WSS

DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH



# VOTE

## May 17, 2022

## On the Ballot:

- ✓ \$188,367,855 Budget Proposition
- ✓ \$1,890,381 Vehicle Proposition
- ✓ \$489,304 Salina Library Proposition
- ✓ Three Board of Education Seats
- ✓ Energy Performance Contract Proposition\*
- ✓ New Chillers at NSJH Proposition\*

**Learn More!**  
**Public Hearing**  
**May 3, 2022 at 6 PM**  
**Administrative Office**  
**Building (5355 W. Taft Rd.**  
**North Syracuse)**

**\*No tax impact!**  
On Energy/Chillers Propositions

## Where Do I Vote?

Residents who live SOUTH of Rt. 481 – Vote at the Administrative Office Bldg.  
Residents who live NORTH of Rt. 481 – Vote at Cicero Elementary School



**NSCSD.org/budget**