

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District

Volume 34 No. 3

May 2018



Budget priorities align with

VISION 2020: BRIGHTER TOGETHER

On April 2, 2018 the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education adopted a \$163,200,980 budget proposal for the 2018-19 school year. The proposed budget will be voted on by district residents on May 15.

The budget proposal demonstrates the district's commitment to student success by providing enhanced opportunities that align with **Vision2020: Brighter Together**.

Vision2020 provides a road map to move the district forward in its mission of providing educational experiences and opportunities that inspire students to reach their individual potential as productive citizens. **Vision 2020** and our areas of focus remained the priority as decisions were made in terms of where to best allocate resources.

The work that the community has done over the last few years to develop our mission and vision has provided a focus. This budget allows this work to come to life.

★ *continued above*

2018 - 19

Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget

\$163,200,980

Tax Levy increase

\$2,505,330

Proposed school tax levy increase at tax cap = 2.94%

The proposed budget includes a net increase of six positions to support **Vision2020's** eight focus areas. This includes expanded course offerings at Cicero-North Syracuse High School, special needs inclusion, English Language Learners and an additional School Psychologist to address the social emotional needs of our students.

Additional electives at the high school will result in seniors taking advantage of opportunities to further determine their areas of interest that may lead to college and career choices, as well as increasing the level of rigor that colleges are seeking.

I want to thank our administration and Board of Education for their hard work on this year's proposal. I believe that **Vision2020: Brighter Together** is well supported here and that the taxpayers are being asked to support a fiscally-responsible proposal. Your consideration of this proposal is greatly appreciated.

Annette Speech

Annette Speech

Superintendent of Schools

Vote: Tuesday, May 15 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For residents living
SOUTH of 481

Administrative Office Building
5355 West Taft Road
North Syracuse, NY

For residents living
NORTH of 481

Cicero Elementary School
Route 31
Cicero, NY

North Syracuse Central School District Mission Statement

The students, residents and staff of the North Syracuse Central School District will work collaboratively to ensure a respectful and diversified learning environment.

Our collective focus is to provide educational experiences and opportunities that inspire students to reach their individual potential as productive citizens.



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

Program	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$124,843,058	\$128,717,383	\$3,874,325	3.1%
Regular Instruction	\$43,430,660	\$44,427,655	\$996,995	2.3%
Special School Program	\$19,532,361	\$21,279,522	\$1,747,161	8.9%
Student Services	\$9,158,171	\$9,680,211	\$522,040	5.7%
In-Service Training	\$416,504	\$417,212	\$708	0.2%
Legal	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	0.0%
Transportation	\$8,272,373	\$8,382,417	\$110,044	1.3%
Employee Benefits	\$ 43,932,989	\$44,430,366	\$497,377	1.1%

The Program/instructional component represents the largest portion and focal point of the budget, accounting for **78.87% of the entire budget**.

Administrative	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$12,035,450	\$12,093,164	\$57,714	0.5%
*Board of Education	\$154,698	\$164,420	\$9,722	6.3%
Central Administration	\$2,081,525	\$2,081,478	-\$47	0.0%
Central Support	\$1,822,212	\$1,896,593	\$74,381	4.1%
Supervision/Staff Development	\$4,860,247	\$4,832,734	-\$27,513	-0.6%
Census	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Employee Benefits	\$3,116,768	\$3,117,939	\$1,171	0.0%

The Administrative component includes Board of Education, administrative and professional development and makes up **7.41% of the entire budget**.

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

Capital	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Total	\$21,811,972	\$22,390,433	\$578,461	2.7%
Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$9,209,312	\$9,295,964	\$86,652	0.9%
Central Support	\$140,000	\$185,000	\$45,000	32.1%
Employee Benefits	\$3,133,555	\$3,124,296	-\$9,259	-0.3%
Debt service	\$9,329,105	\$9,785,173	\$456,068	4.9%

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.

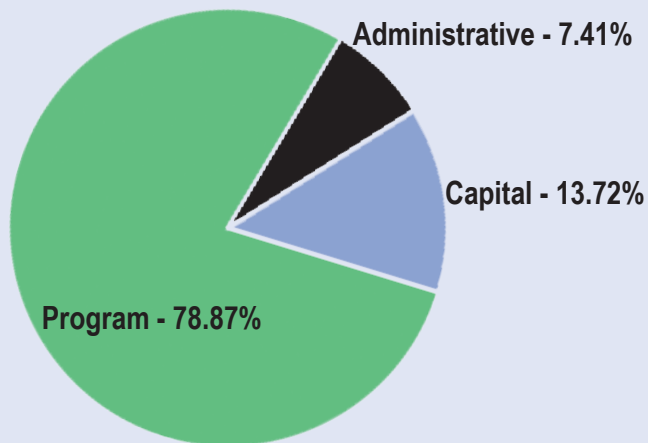
This component accounts for **13.72% of the entire budget**.

Total Expenditures	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
	\$158,690,480	\$163,200,980	\$4,510,500	2.8%

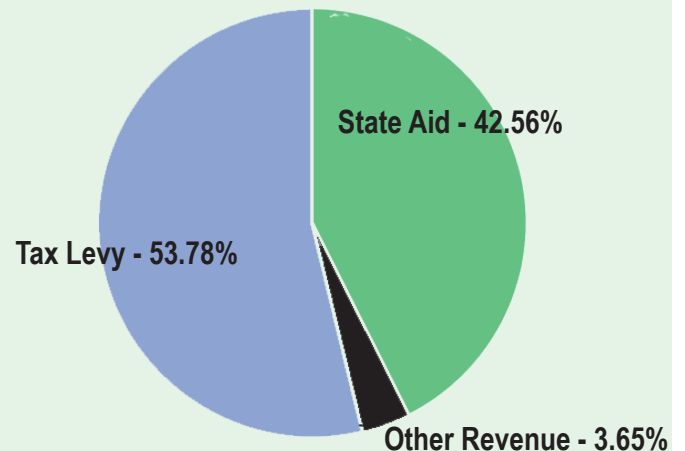
District Revenues

	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Proposed	Dollar Change	Percent Change
General Aid	\$61,560,489	\$63,443,162	\$1,882,673	3.1%
Building Aid	\$5,351,628	\$6,016,398	\$664,770	12.4%
Total State Aid	\$66,912,117	\$69,459,560	\$2,547,443	3.8%
PILOTS	\$518,640	\$219,470	-\$299,170	-57.7%
County sales tax	\$350,000	\$300,000	-\$50,000	-14.3%
Interest	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$40,000	66.7%
Rent	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	0.0%
Fund balance	\$2,700,876	\$2,400,000	-\$300,876	-11.1%
Other	\$2,476,610	\$2,544,383	\$67,773	2.7%
Total Other Revenues	\$6,506,126	\$5,963,853	-\$542,273	-8.3%
Property tax levy	\$85,272,237	\$87,777,567	\$2,505,330	2.9%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$158,690,480	\$163,200,980	\$4,510,500	2.8%

District Expenditures



District Revenues



Third annual survey revised to align with *Vision2020: Brighter Together*

For the third 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.

Participants may have noticed that some survey questions were worded slightly differently from last year. In order to more closely align questions to *Vision2020: Brighter Together*, district groups met and analyzed the questions in relation to focus areas.

Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach spoke about the changes saying, "For the past few years, we've been asking the

community for their feedback about how we are doing working towards our shared vision and goals. We needed to adjust this year's survey slightly so that we can get a better understanding of our work in relation to *Vision2020*. We are in the process of comparing this year's results to the previous two years," she continued.

While feedback once again this year demonstrates the majority of respondents' satisfaction in all categories, there have been slight declines in the percentages and the district is exploring that feedback. Thank you to everyone that completed the survey.

Once completed, all survey results will be available online at www.nscsd.org/survey.

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 30th. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote.

This year there are five candidates running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms. There is an additional vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of a Board member. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three (3) year terms (from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021) and the candidate receiving the fourth highest number of votes will be elected for a one (1) year term (from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) to fill the unexpired term.

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 on the following page.

North Syracuse Central School District

Board of Education

Michael Shusda, President
Michael A. Mirizio, Vice President
Paul Farfaglia
George Harrington
Michael Leone
Erin McDonald
Mary Scanlon
Patrick Svoboda
Connie Gibson, District Clerk

Superintendent of Schools

Annette Speech

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.



Find us on Facebook!

www.nscsd.org/Facebook



Follow us on Twitter!

www.twitter.com/@NSyracuseCSD

Has your contact information changed?

The North Syracuse Central School District needs to get in touch with you in an emergency situation. Please let us know if you have a change to the following:



Home phone number



Cell phone number



Mailing address or Email address



Work telephone

Contact your child(ren)'s school and let them know that you have had a change of contact information.

The North Syracuse Central School District uses the SchoolMessenger InfoCenter to help parents/guardians and staff manage automated messages. YOU can manage the way you receive phone calls, text messages and emails from the district.

Find out more about district alerts, visit our website at www.nscsd.org and click the "Departments" tab then "Public Information" and browse to the "SchoolMessenger" page.

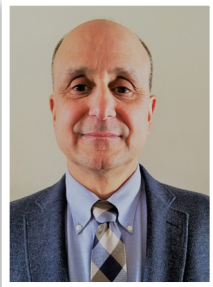


Michael Donofrio is seeking a third term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. Mr. Donofrio became a member of the Board in July of 2013 and currently serves on their Legislative committee and Special Education subcommittee.

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 Bachelors of Science 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. ★



Paul Farfaglia is seeking a second term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education.

He has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for 29 years, currently residing in the district in Liverpool with his wife Rosemary and daughter Courtney, a 2006 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Mr. Farfaglia works as a teacher/program coordinator for the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District. He graduated from Canastota High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology with an education minor from Le Moyne College and a master's degree in biology from SUNY Oswego.

Mr. Farfaglia is also a proud donor to North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars. ★



George Harrington is seeking a fourth term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. He served on the Board from July of 2008 through June of 2011 and again since July of 2012. Harrington currently serves on the Board's Budget subcommittee.

He is a lifetime resident of the North Syracuse Central School District, where he currently resides with his wife Denise. Harrington's three children — Sara, George and Laura, all graduated from North Syracuse Central School District schools.

Mr. Harrington is a territory sales manager for Ryerson, working with current customers and developing new ones.

Mr. Harrington graduated from North Syracuse High School. He previously served as a member of various parent teacher groups and booster clubs. He is a member of the Central New York and New York State School Boards Associations and is a director on the North Syracuse Cemetery Association. He also serves as coordinator for the North Syracuse area Relay for Life. ★

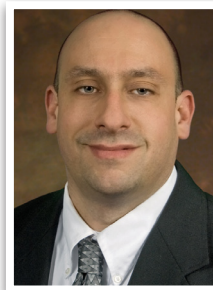


Terri E. Krueger is seeking her first term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education.

She has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past seven years, currently with her husband, Howard. Terri has three children — Alexandria, Vanessa and Brittany. Ms. Krueger is a senior financial advisor with HighPoint Advisors, LLC, specializing in retirement and estate planning.

Terri graduated from the New Hartford Central School District and attended Mohawk Valley Community College and Utica College of Syracuse University. She earned certification as a Chartered Financial Consultant from the American College of Financial Services and is New York State registered in securities.

Ms. Krueger is a Cicero Youth Board member and a North Syracuse Dollars for Scholars committee member. She serves on the VERA House Elder Justice Committee, is Vice President of Plank Road Chamber of Commerce, a capital committee member for Rescue Mission Alliance and a therapy dog handler for PAWS of CNY, Inc. She formerly served as a court appointed children's special advocate for Onondaga County and was treasurer for Greater North Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. ★



Michael Leone is seeking a second term on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education. He has served on various committees since becoming a board member in 2015.

Michael has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for the past 18 years with his wife Renee. They have three children, two of whom graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School and one who is a 7th grade student in the district.

Mr. Leone is employed at Lockheed Martin as a chief engineer. He graduated from Niagara Catholic High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in physics from SUNY Buffalo and a Ph.D. in physics from SUNY Buffalo.

Mr. Leone has volunteered for the community by coaching 3rd and 4th grade students in the C-NS Optimist Basketball league. ★

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.

Nationally-Recognized Artists

Three Cicero-North Syracuse High School students were recognized in the **National Scholastic Art Awards** program. Ripley Hoffman, grade 12, received a **National Gold Medal** for the drawing "Double Portrait" and a **National Silver Medal** for the painting "Bird". Maxine Cooper, grade 10, received a **National Silver Medal** for the print making piece "Ri0t". Alexis Pyke, grade 12, received a **National Gold Medal** for the photograph "Don't Touch Those". The students' works are pictured below from left to right, top to bottom in order of mention. The three talented students will be recognized at the National Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony on June 7th at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



Exceptional Athletes

Several Varsity athletic teams from Cicero-North Syracuse High School earned Section III Championships during the 2016-2017 school year. Thus far during the 2017-2018 school year, Section III Championships have been won by Boys' Volleyball, Girls' Cheerleading and Football.



Outstanding Academics

Gillette Road Middle School's Computer Coding Club received one of New York State School Boards Association's **"Be the Change for Kids" Innovation Awards** along with a \$5,000 grant for the program. Pictured above left: Shannon Knapp, an instructional technology coach for technology integration in the North Syracuse Central School District, works with a Gillette Road Middle School student as part of the school's coding club. Cicero-North Syracuse (C-NS) High School seniors James Harte and Kelly Strong (pictured above right with C-NS High School Executive Principal William LaClair) were named **Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Program**.

The North Syracuse Central School District was named to the 8th Annual **AP District Honor Roll** for expanding opportunity and improving performance for Advanced Placement students.

Nationally-Recognized Musicians

The Cicero-North Syracuse High School Marching Band won the USBands A Class **National Championship** and will be performing in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Information for Voters

Voter Qualifications: In order to vote in the May 15, 2018 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 14, 2018, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2018 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2018 will require the voter to personally appear at the Office of the District Clerk to receive an absentee ballot.

Registration Information: If you are not registered to vote, you must pre-register by May 10, 2018 to vote in the May 15, 2018 election.

When and Where

- ✓ Until May 10, 2018 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 1, 2018 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

Safety and security enhancements

When developing its 2018-2019 budget proposal, the district included \$100,000 to enhance security in schools district-wide. This funding is consistent with special security initiatives also included in previous years' annual budgets.

The district currently employs eight security guards and three school resource officers (SRO) at secondary buildings. The intent of the SRO program is to bring police closer to our students and staff so they can develop meaningful relationships allowing us to proactively handle situations that may develop within schools.

Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach said, "We are fortunate to have excellent relationships with law enforcement including the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, Cicero Police, North Syracuse Police and the New York State Troopers. As a large suburban school district, multiple agencies respond to incidents very rapidly."

Part of the district's proactive approach is to maintain a school environment that is welcoming to the community and supportive of students and staff.

Some safety measures currently taking place in the district:

- All buildings are locked during school hours and visitors must access the building through a single point of entry.
- Significant investments have been made in access control and camera surveillance systems.

- Visitors are processed through the Raptor System, requiring them to present identification and wear a sticker identifying them as a visitor.
- Incident management training (pictured below) was conducted for district administrators and staff in July of 2017.

In addition to measures already in place, the district's 2018-2019 budget proposal includes:

- Additional security cameras installed across the district.
- Additional staff training to build upon safety and security trainings that have already taken place. "Active shooter" training is planned for all district staff as part of September 2018 staff development training prior to the start of the school year.
- School building entrances have been, and continue to be remodeled with security in mind.





5355 West Taft Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212

Please Vote!

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

On the ballot:

- 2018-19 school budget proposition: \$163,200,980
- Vehicle purchase proposition: \$1,472,440
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$445,474
- Four seats on the Board of Education

Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 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 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.

TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME \$70 ANNUAL INCREASE BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$4,290	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$24.36	\$567.95	\$24.36
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,436	\$2,436	\$2,436
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$70/5.83	\$70/5.83	\$70/5.83

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR

Polling Places:

For residents living
SOUTH of 481

Administrative Office Building
5355 West Taft Road
North Syracuse, NY

For residents living
NORTH of 481

Cicero Elementary School
Route 31
Cicero, NY

Check your poll location at www.nscsd.org/where to vote.

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

VEHICLE PURCHASE REFERENDUM

On May 15, 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.

Replacement of buses normally occurs after 10 years when it is no longer cost-effective to meet those standards.

The 2018-19 vehicle proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,472,440:

- 12 new 65-passenger diesel school buses;
- one new 42-passenger diesel school bus with one to three wheelchair positions, hydraulic lift and air conditioning;
- one new 48-passenger bus with air conditioning and
- one new delivery truck.



Vehicle Proposition

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



\$1.82



\$1.82



\$1.82