

2022-23 BUDGET

VOTE:
Tuesday, May 17
 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Goodrich Building
 91 Fiddlers Lane

ON THE BALLOT
**NORTH COLONIE
 CENTRAL SCHOOL
 DISTRICT BUDGET:**
 \$134.9 million budget
 for 2022-23 school year

**SCHOOL BOARD
 ELECTIONS**
 One five-year seat on
 the Board of Education
 (See pages 6 and 7)

VOTER ELIGIBILITY
 By law, all voters must be U.S. citizens, age 18 or older and residents of the North Colonie Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Voters must have a valid I.D.

At a Glance

PROPOSED BUDGET
\$134,869,647

ESTIMATED TAX RATE INCREASE
0.5%

TAX LEVY INCREASE
1.44%

2022-23 Proposed Budget Highlights

Mission focused high-quality, relevant, equitable education for all students

The 2022-23 budget is carefully crafted to stay true to the district's mission of providing a high-quality education for all students and its three pillars (see below), while monitoring the fiscal landscape both short and long-term.

Education is people-driven

In creating the budget, all supports important to providing high-quality education are considered. These include the district employees who provide a wide range of service — from transportation to food to clerical support. Superintendent D. Joseph Corr said, "We need to invest in the people who provide the service of education, and we continually look for how we can make wise and key investments in the people that serve our students."

The landscape

The district has received enhanced state aid along with a one-time federal funding stream to help with expenses related to COVID-19. "It's good that we have funding and that we can consider investments in our educational programming. We always want to keep an eye toward sustainability and that's tempered by inflation which is running at a very high rate," said Superintendent Corr.

Meet the needs of each student

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how inequities, from the digital divide to access to nutritional food, make a significant impact on learning.

"The value of in-person learning coupled with the importance of supporting social-emotional health became clear," said Superintendent Corr. When we look at the lessons from the pandemic, we know that technology is integral to learning, but now more than ever we know the relationships we build together are vitally important."

Moving forward, North Colonie is committed to developing innovations and programming that will narrow opportunity gaps whether academic or social-emotional.

"Every student comes to school with different needs and areas where they need support. We have to provide an experience that connects people, builds relationships, and provides meaningful learning."

See page 6 for a snapshot of the proposed budget.

THREE PILLARS



Academic excellence, identifying and addressing continuity of learning.



Equity, innovating to promote excellence and avoid opportunity gaps.



Social emotional health, ensuring student and staff safety and well-being.

Annual budget vote set for May 17, 2022

On Tuesday, May 17, North Colonie Central School District residents will vote on a proposed \$134,869,647 budget for the 2022-23 school year. The proposed plan would increase spending next year by \$9,892,580 (7.92%) and result in an estimated tax rate increase of 0.5%.

Continued growth in the taxable values due to new residential and commercial construction will keep the individual tax rate increase lower than the projected tax levy increase of 1.44%. The tax levy meets the district's allowable limit under the state's property tax cap law, meaning the district will need a simple majority vote (50% plus 1 vote) for budget approval.

In addition, voters will elect one candidate to fill one open seat on the Board of Education. (See pages 6 and 7). For more information visit northcolonie.org.

NC Experiencing Surge in Interest in Extracurriculars

Though many school districts experienced decreased participation rates as a result of the pandemic, Shaker Athletics experienced a surge in student interest.

Other extracurriculars such as clubs, art and music have also experienced increases.

“While academics are our first priority, we know there’s value in extracurriculars — perhaps now more than ever,” said Superintendent D. Joseph Corr. “We hear from students that the reason they come to school is because of an activity they are involved in outside of the classroom. Not only do these activities keep students rooted and engaged in school, they play an important role in socialization and relationships as well as conflict resolution. There’s a vital social-emotional component that’s key to helping students grow and succeed.”



North Colonie’s Mission-Focused Budgeting

- ☑ All students are provided the opportunity and necessary support to engage in relevant, challenging work which contributes to their academic and social growth and development.
- ☑ All staff, teachers, and administrators are part of a larger learning community working together to build collective capacity in order to provide a high-quality, relevant, equitable education for all.

North Colonie By the Numbers

284

acres of property are maintained by North Colonie staff

6,007

K-12 students districtwide

851,290

miles traveled by the Transportation Department in 2021-22 school year

2,400+

students perform in Band, Chorus, and Orchestra districtwide

Over 3/4

of district 4th graders are learning to play an instrument in Band or Orchestra

36+

languages spoken by district English Language Learners

108

backpacks distributed per week to help support disadvantaged families

24,000+

COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits distributed to families

3,649

COVID-19 PCR tests conducted at North Colonie’s Testing Clinic

41

new summer programming courses offered in 2021

Over \$15,000

raised in the 2021-22 United Way campaign that directly supported North Colonie CSD families

839,852

number of meals Food Service has served during the 2021-22 school year at no charge to our families

0

number of school days missed in 2021-22 due to the pandemic

INNOVATION SPACES

North Colonie Central School District's Innovation Spaces allow students to find passion, purpose and possibility

This past fall North Colonie opened its Innovation Spaces in Shaker Middle School and each elementary building.

“Building and creating these Innovation Spaces has been a long process that has included significant time, money and support from our community and staff. Our innovation lab teachers have infused these spaces with joy for our students and provide an equitable learning experience that connects people and is meaningful,” said Superintendent D. Joseph Corr.

The Plan

The Innovation Spaces were made possible after the community passed a bond project in 2016. District administrators began to consider how to create pathways that bridged the shift from a junior high school to a middle school. Another consideration was to introduce new skills, such as active listening, complex problem solving and emotional intelligence, to students before high school.

A North Colonie team visited schools across the northeast to begin to imagine what the district's Innovation Spaces could look like. Many of the spaces they saw lacked a specific purpose and dedicated staffing.

North Colonie's Innovation Spaces were designed to be the living embodiment

of the district's three pillars (see graphic, page 1). As the plan for the Innovation Spaces evolved, educators focused on standards developed by the International Society for Technology in Education, an organization that believes technology is the catalyst for creating an ecosystem where students drive their own learning.

The team later developed “Axioms,” or guiding principles or starting points that consistently drove the Innovation Spaces.

The result is Innovation Spaces in each of North Colonie's elementary schools as well six unique labs in Shaker Middle School including Humanities Center, Robotics and Coding, Simulations, Clean Technology, The Makerspace, Health and Wellness Center.

According to Deputy Superintendent Kathleen Skeals, stimulus funds helped to equip these labs with everything from equipment to supplies such as pipe cleaners. “We have also used the funding to employ the teachers full-time in the middle school labs. Since the stimulus funds are available to us through 2023, we will continue to use those funds to support this staffing as well as summer curriculum work.”



At Shaker Middle School, sixth graders have a six-week rotation in each lab. Seventh and eighth graders enjoy the labs during gap sessions and work on interdisciplinary projects.

Meanwhile, elementary school students in all grades and all abilities are actively engaging in activities that may look like play, but are carefully designed instruction that incorporates problem solving and collaboration. The students are given grade-appropriate activities and challenges. Special education teachers collaborate and help to modify the lessons and/or environment for their students.

District leaders hope to add two additional full-time elementary innovation teachers for the 2022-23 school year.

“This program is going to constantly evolve. The work being done in these classrooms is incredibly exciting — for our staff and our students. We know that it can only grow from here,” said Deputy Superintendent Skeals.

Visit northcolonie.org/academics/innovation for more information.

Proactive Shifts for Student Success

North Colonie is emphasizing proactive practices that meet the needs of all learners. These shifts are particularly important as we continue to deal with the effects of the pandemic.

» Academic Shifts

MOVING AWAY from factual recall, siloed academic work, traditional structures and paper and pencils. **SHIFTING TOWARD** critical thinking, collaboration, communication and environments that allow for greater personalization.

» Social Emotional Shifts

Education and development of the whole child including developing healthy identities, managing emotions, feeling and showing empathy, creating and maintaining relationships, and making responsible and caring decisions.

MOVING AWAY from support based on personnel and reactive practices. **SHIFTING TOWARD** district and building-based mental health and behavioral support teams, health and wellness spaces for students beyond counseling offices, and counseling appointments outside school hours.

» Equity Shifts

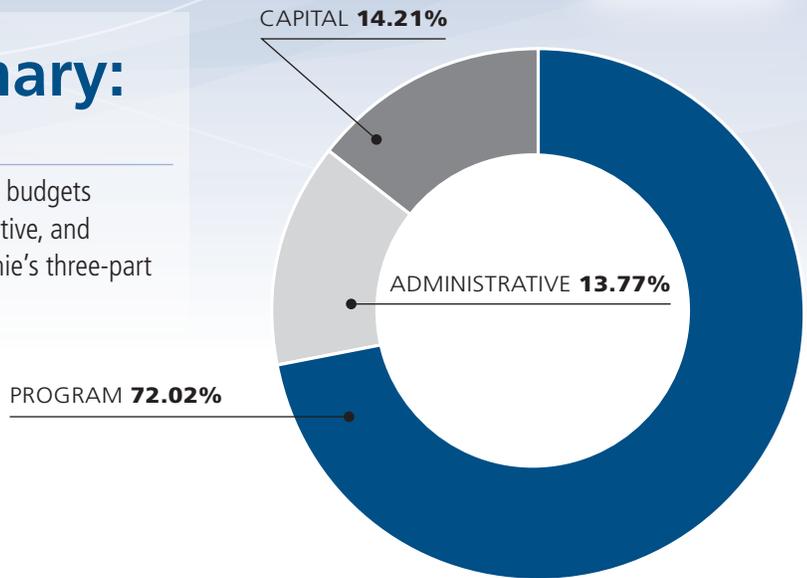
Equity is the foundation upon which we build all of our work from academics to student and staff safety and well-being.

MOVING AWAY from a reactive stance and **SHIFTING TOWARD** actively creating a culture of belonging through culture teams, student circles and surveys, and building-based work that addresses the needs of all students.

2022-23 Budget Summary:

A line-by-line look at expenditures

New York state law requires all school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories (program, administrative, and capital) and compare them to last year's amounts. North Colonie's three-part budget is as follows:



Program

2022-23	\$97,133,745	72.02%
2021-22	\$91,636,005	73.32%

Includes salaries and benefits for all teachers and staff who deliver pupil services (guidance, health, library/media, etc.), textbooks and equipment, co-curricular activities, athletics, and transportation costs (except bus purchases).

Administrative

2022-23	\$18,567,338	13.77%
2021-22	\$17,339,567	13.87%

Includes salaries and benefits of administrators, supervisors, and administrative clerical staff, public information and printing, curriculum and staff development, school board costs, tax collection, and some legal costs.

Capital

2022-23	\$19,168,564	14.21%
2021-22	\$16,001,495	12.81%

Includes salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, debt service on buildings, school bus purchases, utilities, general insurance and tax certiorari and court-ordered costs.

PROGRAM	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed
K-12 Instruction	\$37,894,122	\$39,423,962
Special Education & Pupil Support Services	\$12,131,634	\$12,669,519
Counseling, Psychology, Social Worker Services	\$3,484,598	\$3,758,763
Library & Instructional Technology	\$3,004,762	\$3,357,006
Health Services	\$1,294,209	\$1,778,217
Sports & Co-Curricular Activities	\$1,471,904	\$1,484,463
Summer School Programs	\$464,600	\$361,055
Interfund Transfers	\$475,000	\$325,000
Transportation	\$5,190,183	\$5,377,734
Employee Benefits – Instructional	\$26,224,993	\$28,598,026
SUBTOTAL	\$91,636,005	\$97,133,745

ADMINISTRATIVE	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed
Board of Education	\$74,400	\$77,820
Central Administration	\$4,563,244	\$4,818,461
Information Technology	\$2,066,392	\$2,205,606
Insurance	\$141,415	\$146,185
School Administration	\$6,053,451	\$6,633,896
Employee Benefits – Administration	\$4,440,665	\$4,685,370
SUBTOTAL	\$17,339,567	\$18,567,338

CAPITAL	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed
Debt Service	\$6,142,631	\$8,459,352
Property Services	\$147,000	\$147,000
Bus Purchase	\$684,000	\$1,046,704
Operations & Maintenance	\$7,222,969	\$7,580,657
Employee Benefits – Capital	\$1,804,895	\$1,934,851
SUBTOTAL	\$16,001,495	\$19,168,564
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$124,977,067	\$134,869,647

For every dollar spent:

Classroom Instruction & Support Services= **72 cents**

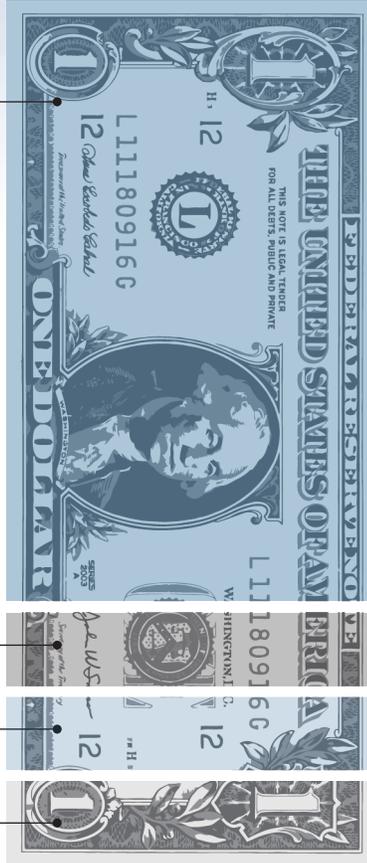
School & Central Administration= **11 cents**

Building & Grounds= **5 cents**

Transportation= **5 cents**

Debt Service= **6 cents**

Extracurricular & Interscholastic Athletics= **1 cent**



Questions & Answers

Q: What is the difference between tax levy and tax rate?

A: The tax levy is the total amount of taxes that a school district raises from property owners within the district in order to balance its budget. The district determines what the levy will be after accounting for all other sources of revenue, including state aid. The tax rate is used to calculate what each property owner will pay in school taxes.

Q: If the tax levy is increasing by 1.44%, why is the tax rate only going up by an estimated 0.5%?

A: Growth in taxable property values due to new development and higher home values spreads the tax levy over a larger tax base. Preliminary information shows an estimated increase of 1.15% in the district's tax base; therefore the tax rate is estimated to increase by 0.5%.

Where the money comes from...

A line-by-line look at Revenues

REVENUES	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed
Real Property Tax + STAR	\$89,438,564	\$90,727,887
Payment in Lieu of Taxes & Penalties	\$212,320	\$333,226
State Aid	\$25,694,140	\$34,384,474
Annexation Aid	\$285,659	\$0
BOCES Aid	\$1,400,543	\$1,421,474
Textbook, Software, Hardware & Library Aid	\$591,381	\$609,386
Student Fees & Tuition	\$1,401,260	\$1,377,700
Charges to Other Districts for Services	\$963,200	\$1,010,000
Interest and Earnings	\$5,000	\$12,500
Rental of Facilities	\$292,000	\$300,000
Refund of Prior Year's Expenses	\$290,000	\$290,000
All Other Revenues	\$123,000	\$123,000
Medicaid Assistance	\$150,000	\$150,000
Fund Balance	\$4,130,000	\$4,130,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$124,977,067	\$134,869,647

Estimated Property Tax Rate

Year	Tax Rate per \$1,000 of TAXABLE Value
2021-22	\$26.45 Actual
2022-23	\$26.59 Estimated
If your house has a taxable value of:	Your estimated tax increase will be:
\$170,000	\$23.80
\$350,000	\$49.00
\$500,000	\$70.00

Tax rates for next year are estimates only. The district will set final tax rates in August based on final assessment figures provided by the Town of Colonie Assessor and equalization rates provided by the State Office of Real Property Services. To learn more about the Tax Levy Cap, visit northcolonie.org and click on Budget and Taxes.

A Snapshot of North Colonie's Proposed Budget:

- ✓ Maintains and enhances programs and services in alignment with our three pillars of academic excellence, social-emotional well-being, and equity.
- ✓ Establishes funding to facilitate a full return to in-person schooling and post-pandemic recovery.
- ✓ Provides staffing and resources to address enrollment growth, operations, and programs affiliated with the opening of Shaker Middle School.
- ✓ Creates a plan for the staffing and operation of the Innovation Spaces at the new Shaker Middle School to ensure hands-on, engaging 21st century learning experiences for all students.
- ✓ Maintains fiscal sustainability through reduced use of fund balance and prudent management of federal grant funding.
- ✓ Minimizes the tax impact by achieving a tax rate at or near 0.5%.

Board of Education Candidates

On May 17, North Colonie residents will elect one candidate to a five-year term, without compensation, to the Board of Education. The open seat of Paula D'Orazio has three candidates running.

The candidates are listed in the order that they will appear on the ballot. The order is drawn at random. For more details about the BOE candidates, visit northcolonie.org.



Mary Alber

Mary Alber has spent nine years working with North Colonie families and advocating for students as a mother and leader in PTA and Girl Scouts. She is in her second year as president of the North Colonie PTA Council and is president of the SHS Parent Teachers Association. She previously held the position of President of the Special Education PTA (SEPTA). She has served as a representative on the Board of Education Budget Committee for the past two years. She has experience teaching high school students as well as adult learners. She currently works as information technology specialist at the Teachers'

Retirement System. She holds a bachelor's degree from Baruch College and a master's degree from the University of Phoenix.

"As a caregiver and community member my roots in education and community service are deep. I have always stayed true to my goals of sharing knowledge and fostering positive change while serving the community. My education and love for our community as well as my experiences in parenthood and in my career have led me to seek a position on the Board of Education. Most recently, as president of the PTA Council I collaborated with district administrators, PTA leaders, and the United Way to bring the community support fund to life during the pandemic. I recently rechartered the high school PTSA to ensure there are more opportunities for parents, students and administrators to collaborate. As a SEPTA leader I connected families to local service providers in our area. I look forward to the opportunity to continue advocating for equity for all children and families in our school community. I strive to be a voice that asks thoughtful questions while setting expectations and accountability among school leaders to continually seek communication and feedback from those impacted by their decisions."

See Board of Education candidates page 7.



Coach ZaQuan Irby

Shaker High School has earned the Program of Excellence distinction for the 2022-2025 period from the National High School Strength Coaches Association for its strength and conditioning program. Congratulations Coach ZaQuan Irby!

Board of Education Candidates continued



Donna Watson

Donna Watson works for the Troy City School District as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. She is a member of the North Colonie CSD Professional Development Planning Committee, is a Sports Booster Parent Volunteer and PTA member, and was a 2021 Shaker Freshman Football team parent. She is a former Girl Scout leader and former volunteer coach for the Latham Circle Soccer Recreation League. She earned her bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees from the University at Albany. She also completed a Certificate of Advanced Educational Leadership at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Professional Studies.

“As the proud mother of three North Colonie School District graduates and a current freshman at Shaker High School, I have

been actively involved in our schools for the last 17 years. In that time, I have had the distinct honor of meeting so many families, just like ours, who moved to North Colonie because of the outstanding academic reputation of its schools. Those schools have undoubtedly helped to shape and successfully prepare our children for the demands of post secondary education and the workforce. I am running for a seat on the North Colonie School District Board of Education because I believe I have much to contribute given my educational background and decades of experience working in schools as both a leader and teacher. I am keenly aware of the need to balance sound educational programming with fiscal responsibility and transparency, while keeping students at the heart of all decisions. I hope to ensure that parents and the community have a real voice in the educational process and that teachers and leaders have the tools they need to meet the ever changing needs of all of the students and families.”



Marcy Thompson

Marcy Thompson grew up and lived in South Colonie for more than 30 years and has lived in the North Colonie district for about two years. A former elementary school teacher and graduate of the College of Saint Rose, she currently works in human resources at the state government level. She is a member of Grace Fellowship and often participates in service projects and fundraisers around the community.

“I believe that much of the change we seek in our schools and communities begins at the local school board level, and I am highly motivated to serve as a passionate advocate for the parents and students of our district. Our school boards are entrusted with choosing curriculum and textbooks, allocating

tax dollar resources, and creating policy. Those decisions impact us all in some way. My background in education and my innate ability to listen to our community causes me to see the importance of a student-focused academic approach which honors the dignity of each boy and girl and provides the best chance for success. Equipped with a holistic understanding of the purpose of the school board and the issues affecting our families, I bring a fresh perspective, strong passion for serving, and the ability to identify unique opportunities for improvement and stability. I will use my knowledge and experience to build a positive bridge of communication between our community and my fellow school board members. Working together, we can ensure that the impressionable minds of our youth are responsibly guided toward the future. You are an important part of this process because your voice matters. I hope to see you on May 17!”

North Colonie **Kids Care**

While the North Colonie CSD has many clubs and service organizations, it also has individual students who are quietly doing what they can to bring about positive change in this world. To highlight these students and recognize them as the role models they are, North Colonie features one student a month with a presentation at a Board of Education meeting, followed by a profile of the student and their activities.

Visit northcolonie.org/north-colonie-kids-care.



Board of Education

Linda Harrison, *President*
 Paula D'Orazio, *Vice President*
 Matthew Cannon Pennie Grinnell
 Nicholas Comproski Mary Nardolillo
 Michelle Dischiavo Sandy Pangburn
 Samuel Johnson Jane Dawson, *Clerk*

D. Joseph Corr, *Superintendent of Schools*
 Kathleen Skeals, *Deputy Superintendent*

Editor: Heidi Weber, *Communications Specialist*,
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 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

North Colonie CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

91 Fiddlers Lane, Latham, NY 12110

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 Albany, NY

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ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified voters who will be out of town or unable to vote in person due to illness, disability, duties related to the primary care of ill or disabled individuals, being admitted to and a patient in the hospital, or the risk of transmission of COVID-19, can vote by absentee ballot. You must complete an application to receive a ballot. Applications must be received by the District Clerk by May 10, 2022, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or May 16, 2022, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. To request an absentee ballot, contact Jane Dawson, district clerk, at 518-785-8591 ext. 3126 or email DistrictClerk@ncolonie.org.

Required School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$124,977,067	\$134,869,647	\$132,840,970
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$9,892,580	\$7,863,903
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		7.92%	6.29%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$89,438,564	\$90,727,887	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$89,438,564	\$90,727,887	\$89,438,564
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$644,399	\$952,457	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$88,794,165	\$91,694,080	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$88,794,165	\$89,775,430	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$1,918,650	
Administrative Component	\$17,339,567	\$18,567,338	\$18,479,838
Program Component	\$91,636,005	\$97,133,745	\$96,300,772
Capital Component	\$16,001,495	\$19,168,564	\$18,060,360

* It is anticipated that a contingent budget would require \$2,028,677 in reductions including the elimination of most equipment and capital expenditures.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Not Applicable	NA

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$484

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the North Colonie Central School District, Albany County, New York, will be held at the Goodrich School (District Office) in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the Goodrich School (District Office), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

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