

Proposed Budget -- Facts 2005/06

Proposed Budget 2005/06	\$62,899,922
Current Budget 2004/05	\$57,902,930
Budget-to-Budget Increase	\$4,996,992

Projected tax rate increase = 7.44%

(75% of this increase is due to mandated expenses over which the district has no control.)

BUDGET GOAL: Present a **fiscally responsible** budget that addresses **program needs** with a particular emphasis on maintaining the positive momentum of current programs with increases primarily limited to those needed to accommodate increasing enrollments and special education mandates.

MAJOR CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING THE BUDGET:

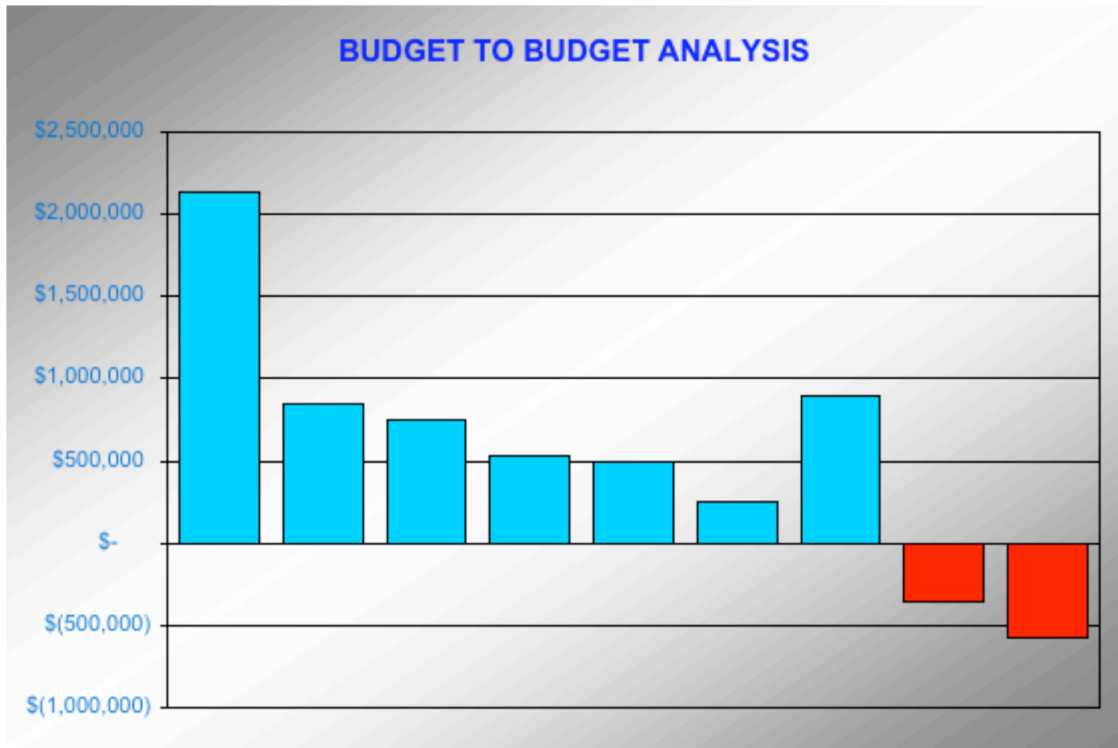
- Increases in State-mandated retirement system expenses (increase of \$851,123).
- A slight increase in State aid.
- Continuing increases in health insurance costs (increase of \$497,561).
- Increases in the costs associated with continued enrollment growth.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED? If the budget is defeated, it can be brought to the vote one additional time. If it is then defeated, the district would be required to cut \$2,739,608. The district would need to reduce the equivalent of 25 full-time positions and 6 part-time positions as well as to make substantial reductions in funds for instructional equipment, computer technology, student supplies and funding for certain extracurricular and athletic programs.

MAIN FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO 7.44% TAX RATE INCREASE

	Dollar Increase/Decrease	Percent of Dollar Inc/Dec	Tax Rate Impact
CONTRACTUAL	\$2,133,172	42.69%	3.18%
RETIREMENT SYSTEM	851,123	17.03%	1.27%
PROPOSED NEW STAFF	751,011	15.03%	1.12%
TRANSPORTATION	536,541	10.73%	0.80%
HEALTH INSURANCE	497,561	9.96%	0.75%
SOCIAL SECURITY	251,552	5.03%	0.37%
ALL OTHER	897,786	17.97%	1.34%
TRANSFER/CAPITAL FUND	-350,000	-7.00%	-0.52%
DEBT SERVICE	-571,754	-11.44%	-0.85%
	\$4,996,992	100.00%	7.44%

Revised 4/5/05



THE BUDGET INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED NEW PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

At PRIMROSE – 3.6 new teaching positions are included to reduce class size and accommodate increased enrollment. (1.0 Special Education; 1.0 Grade 2; 1.0 additional position, if needed; .6 Special Areas)

At SIS – 3.0 new teaching positions are included. (1.0 Special Education; 2.0 Regular Classroom)

At SMS – 1.0 new Special Education teacher is included.

At SHS – 1.7 new teaching positions (.7 Science; .4 Social Studies; .4 Special Education; .2 Foreign Language) and 1.0 guidance counselor are included.

DISTRICT-WIDE – 1.0 nursing position and 1.0 Buildings & Grounds Maintenance Mechanic

WHAT IF NEW STAFFING IS CUT FROM THE PROPOSED BUDGET?

If no new staffing were included in the budget, the increase would be reduced by \$751,011 and the tax rate increase would be reduced by \$1.47. This would translate into a savings of \$88.20 to the average homeowner.

This would result in:

- higher class sizes (K-12).
- an inability to meet legal requirements to provide all special education requirements.

WHAT HAS THE DISTRICT DONE TO CONTROL OR REDUCE COSTS?

The District continues its ongoing efforts to stabilize, control or reduce costs. The following are a few of the many initiatives the District has undertaken in this area.

- Worked with its building principals to constrain new hiring without negatively impacting existing academic programs.
- Reviewed high cost out-of-district special education placements and, where appropriate, returned these students to high quality in-district placements.
- Continued to look for ways to reduce energy consumption and, therefore, to control/stabilize its energy-related expenses. Examples of these are the building management system to control electrical usage that was installed at SIS and energy-efficient lighting upgrade programs that were completed over the last few years at SIS, SMS and SHS.
- Stabilized workers' compensation insurance premiums by collaborating in a self-insured consortium of school districts.
- Collaborated with other school districts to pool purchasing power to receive lower telephone line charges.

WHERE CAN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BE FOUND?

Additional information is available via the district's website at: www.somers.k12.ny.us

- The Public Budget Document will be available at the District Clerk's office and at the main office of each school during the week of May 2nd.
- A special Budget Edition of *Trunkline* will be mailed to all homes during the week of May 9th.
- Any further questions can be directed to:

Dr. Joanne Marien, <i>Superintendent of Schools</i>	248-7872
Mr. Kenneth Crowley, <i>Assistant Superintendent for Business</i>	248-7880
Mrs. Kathy Mason, <i>Assistant Superintendent for Instruction</i>	248-5531