



COLTON-PIERREPONT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-2016 School Budget Report

Dear Colton-Pierrepont Resident,

The Board of Education has approved a budget for the 2015-16 school year. This budget cycle was difficult with the lack of state aid numbers until the last minute, and with our knowledge of changes in assessment in the Town of Colton. With our community and taxpayers in mind, we continue to focus on our mission: "The Colton-Pierrepont Central School Community proudly educates students to become responsible, respectful, and resourceful citizens thereby continuing a tradition of innovation and excellence."

State aid has not been keeping up with CPI or expenses over the years. Actually, we will receive slightly less state aid in this coming year than we did in 2008-09. With this lack of revenue, we are constantly taking advantage of any operational efficiencies and sharing of services to save money. We have made several staff reductions over recent years. Each time, the instructional impact was considered to be the most important deciding factor. We do believe that we are doing more with less.

For those of you in the Town of Colton, we know that you have received new assessment notifications with tax estimates. After reviewing some of them and using the information that we know currently, the estimates seemed fairly accurate. We know many things can change between now and September, so nothing is exact. Some of these estimates were multiple times the tax amount previously paid. Who wouldn't find frustration with sticker shock like that?

We were initially afraid that some taxpayers might think that the school was collecting more money or that the district somehow benefits from this levy redistribution. After conversations with many local taxpayers, it was impressive to see that most people have taken the time to understand the process and

know that no new taxes are collected and we have no influence on how the levy can be distributed. We hope that these informed voters will continue to support the school based on our educational and fiscal track record.

Our tax cap this year was calculated at 2.1%. We wanted to try to do better in a year when so many other variables were affecting your taxes. With some sharing of great ideas, we are able to present a budget with only a 1.8% tax levy increase. Last year's increase was less than 1%. As you can see, we are doing our best to keep tax increases well below the 3 or 4% increases of the past.

One of the first questions that any taxpayer wants to know about a school budget is "How does it affect me?" That can be a difficult question to answer in a normal year and an almost impossible question to answer when the tax base changes and the assessments are redistributed. We will do our best. We have provided a calculator on our website to help you estimate your taxes next year. It can even help you look up your past property assessment. To try this out, please visit www.cpcs.us and click on Taxpayer Resources on the right hand column. If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of the budget, please e-mail me at jkardash@cpcs.us or call me at 262-2100 and I would be happy to help.

The Board asks for your support in continuing to provide a high quality education for the children of our community. Please join us at the Annual Budget Hearing on Wednesday, May 13, at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria for a detailed review of the budget.

**2015-2016
BUDGET
HIGHLIGHTS**

**Proposed Budget
\$10,480,000**

**Budget Increase
1.95%**

**School Tax Levy
\$7,250,000**

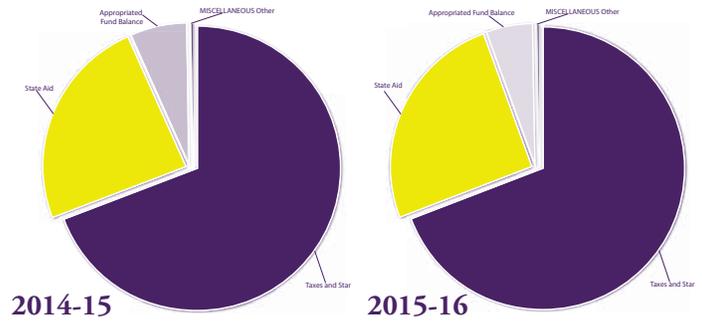
**Estimated School Tax
Levy Increase
1.8%**

**Vote Tuesday, May 19
12:00-8:00 PM
School Auditorium
Lobby**

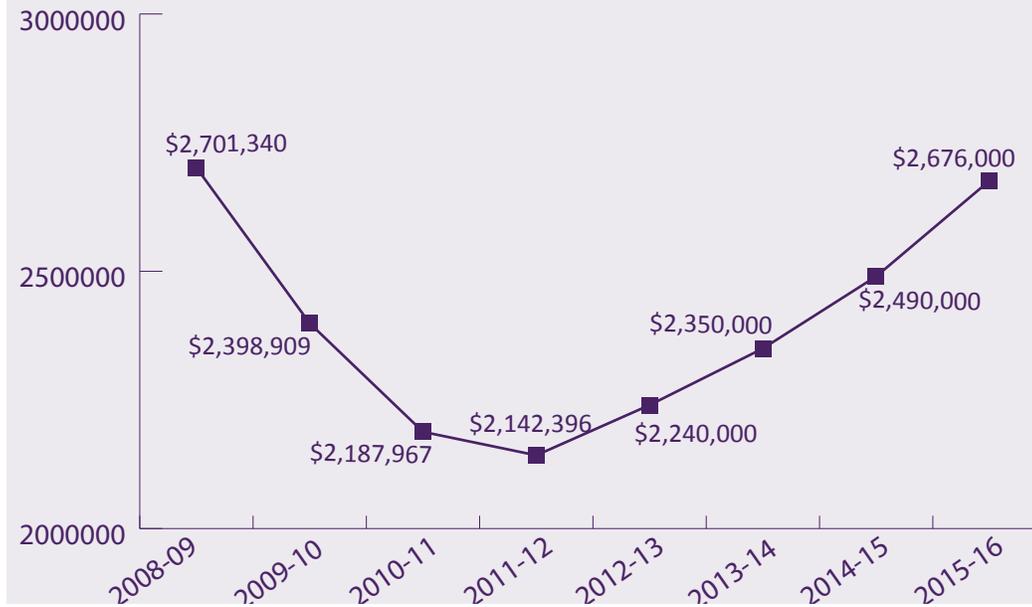


REVENUE COMPARISON

	2014-15	2015-16
Taxes & Star	\$ 7,120,000	\$ 7,250,000
State Aid	\$ 2,490,000	\$ 2,676,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 650,000	\$ 550,000
Miscellaneous/Other	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,000
Total Revenue	\$ 10,280,000	\$ 10,480,000



State Aid Comparison 2008-2016



State aid to Colton-Pierrepoint

School budget planning is complicated by the fact that the state Legislature annually changes one or more of the formulas by which state money ("state aid") is distributed to schools.

For example, a "Gap Elimination Adjustment" was imposed on all districts following the 2008 stock market crash. This was needed because the state simply did not have the funds to pay what under the law it owed school districts. Since 2011 this "adjustment" has been reduced annually.

As shown on the left, the overall increase in aid in 2015-16 is almost back to the level of state support the district received in 2008.

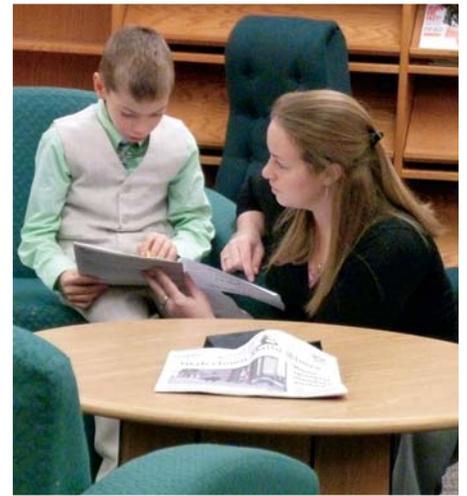
Tax Levy Management

We know that the one component of the revenue that we can control for our community is the tax levy. With this in mind, we are trying to keep any increases to a minimal. Despite our lack of state aid over the past few years and increases in many costs that we cannot control, the tax levy increase of 0.85% last year and proposed increase of 1.83% this year are a result of prioritizing expenses and staffing reductions over the past few years that hopefully have the least impact on instruction. CPCS still has one of the lowest tax on true rates in the county. We hope to continue that pattern.

Full Value Tax Rate 2004-2015



*A noticeable spike in rate can be seen in 2013-14 due to a tax certiorari settlement that significantly reduced the tax base.



Budget Presentation May 13, 2015, 6:00PM Cafeteria

Presentation of Board Candidates, Annual Report and the Proposed 2015-2016 Budget

Agenda

- I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Annual Meeting Notice
- III. Announcement of Election Officials and Board Candidates
- IV. Qualifications for Voting
- V. Financial Report/Questions
- VI. Review of 2015-16 Proposed Resolutions
- VII. Adjournment

Qualifications of Voters

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, a resident of the school district at least 30 days, and must not be prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law, for example, as a result of having been convicted of a felony or adjudged mentally incompetent.



Board of Education Seats

There are two seats for a four-year term each up for vote. There are two people running for the school board. The term will be from July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2019.

Absentee Ballots

Qualified voters who are unable to personally appear at the polling place because of a permanent illness or physical disability are entitled to receive an absentee ballot. Others that are unable to personally appear at the polling place for reasons listed in Number 4 below may receive an absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot application, please call the Superintendent's Office at 315-262-2100.

Applicants requesting absentee ballot applications must provide the following information:

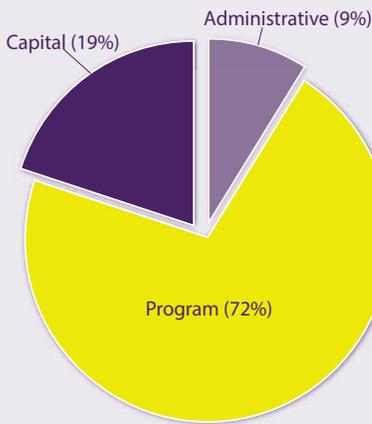
1. Name and resident address, including street and number, and any town and rural delivery route, if any.
2. On the day of the election he/she will be a qualified voter, is over eighteen years old, is a U.S. citizen and has resided in the district for at least 30 days preceding the date of the vote.
3. Whether he/she is registered in the district.
4. That he/she will be unable personally to appear to vote because he/she is or will be:
 - a. A patient in a hospital, or unable due to illness or physical disability;
 - b. Out of town because of his/her duties, occupation, business or studies;
 - c. On vacation outside the district;
 - d. Or, in jail.

Applications must be received in the Superintendent's Office at least seven days prior to election (by May 12, 2015) for ballot mailing. The Ballot must be received at the Office of the District Clerk, Colton-Pierrepont Central School, 4921 State Highway 56, Colton, NY 13625, prior to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

2015-16 THREE PART BUDGET

Proposed Budget Expenditures

Total Budget \$10,480,000



72%
of budget
Program Component
\$7,570,000

Program costs include the salaries and benefits of all teachers and staff delivering pupil services (health, guidance, library and athletics). Also included are textbooks, instructional materials, equipment, extracurricular activities, BOCES program costs, and all costs of the transportation program except bus purchases.

19%
of budget
Capital Component
\$1,970,000

Capital costs include the salaries and benefits of maintenance and custodial staff, plus debt service, bus purchases, utilities, fire insurance, tax certiorari, and other court-ordered expenses.

9%
of budget
Administrative Component
\$940,000

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of administrators and supervisors, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also included are school board costs, curriculum development, staff development, tax collection, legal and auditing costs, central printing, central data processing, general insurance, BOCES administrative costs, research, planning, and evaluation.

Where does the money come from for our students to travel?

Exposing our students to a variety of experiences and cultures has been a priority. There are great advantages to being a small school, but variety and diversity are not among them. We are attempting to supplement this with as many opportunities that we can. The great part of this strategy is that both of our annual Washington D.C. trips and all of our COLTS Day adventures are paid for by a Rural Schools grant. The European tour that our foreign language club organizes was paid for entirely by the participants and by fundraising. The senior trip is always funded by the money that each class has raised over the course of 6 years. So we have done our best to find ways to provide cultural diversity to our students without burdening the taxpayers.



What positions have been reduced in the recent years?

SINCE 2008 WE HAVE REDUCED:

- Principal (from 2 to 1)
- Business Administrator
- Superintendent of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation
- Food Service Manager
- Bus Driver
- Dishwasher
- Secretary
- Teacher Assistant
- 2 Elementary Teachers
- Special Education Teacher
- Social Studies Teacher
- Math Teacher



2015-16 APPROPRIATIONS		2014-15 BUDGET	2015-16 BUDGET	INCREASE/ DECREASE
Board of Education		\$ 20,200	\$ 22,500	11.39%
Central Administration		\$ 175,000	\$ 180,500	3.14%
Financial and Legal				
	Business Admin	\$ 34,500	\$ 35,500	2.90%
	Auditing	\$ 14,000	\$ 18,000	28.57%
	Treasurer	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	6.25%
	Tax Collection	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%
	Purchasing/Legal/BOCES/Fiscal Agent	\$ 40,500	\$ 37,500	-7.41%
	Public Info	\$ 13,500	\$ 14,500	7.41%
TOTAL		\$ 121,000	\$ 125,000	3.31%
Plant Operation & Maintenance				
Plant Operation & Maintenance		\$ 768,000	\$ 751,000	-2.21%
Special Items		\$ 184,000	\$ 199,000	8.15%
Pupil Transportation		\$ 579,500	\$ 609,000	5.09%
Instructional				
	Curric. Development & Supervision	\$ 41,000	\$ 43,000	4.88%
	Supervision	\$ 186,000	\$ 186,000	0.00%
	Research, Planning, & Evaluation	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	0.00%
	In-Service Training	\$ 19,500	\$ 20,500	5.13%
	Regular Teaching (etc)	\$ 2,416,000	\$ 2,498,000	3.39%
	Programs for Disabled	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 1,453,000	13.07%
	Teaching - Special School	\$ 14,500	\$ 15,000	3.45%
	Library & Audiovisual	\$ 175,000	\$ 178,000	1.71%
	Computer Assisted Instruction	\$ 146,500	\$ 146,000	-0.34%
	Attend/Health/Guidance, Screening/Psychology	\$ 137,500	\$ 141,000	2.55%
	Athletics and Co-curricular	\$ 164,500	\$ 169,000	2.74%
TOTAL		\$ 4,595,000	\$ 4,859,000	5.75%
Debt Service				
Debt Service		\$ 938,000	\$ 937,000	-0.11%
Census		\$ -	\$ 2,000	N/A
Employee Benefits				
	State Retirement	\$ 155,000	\$ 145,000	-6.45%
	Teacher Retirement	\$ 545,000	\$ 445,000	-18.35%
	Social Security	\$ 310,000	\$ 320,000	3.23%
	Workmen's Comp	\$ 51,000	\$ 58,000	13.73%
	Hospital & Medical	\$ 1,823,300	\$ 1,802,000	-1.17%
	Transfer to School Lunch	\$ -	\$ 15,000	N/A
	Transfer to Special Aid	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	-33.33%
TOTAL		\$ 2,899,300	\$ 2,795,000	-3.60%
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 10,280,000	\$ 10,480,000	1.95%

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2014-15 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2015-16 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 10,280,000	\$ 10,480,000	\$ 10,374,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2015-16 School Year		\$ 200,000	\$ 94,00
Percentage Increase/Decrease In Proposed Budget		1.95%	0.91%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.62%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount			
	\$ 7,120,000	\$ 7,250,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable			
	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **			
	-	-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy			
	-	-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A+B+C-D)			
	\$ 7,140,000	\$ 7,275,000	\$ 7,140,000
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit			
	\$ 482,172	\$ 480,041	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions			
	\$ 6,638,279	\$ 6,796,329	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E-B-F+D)			
	\$ 6,637,828	\$ 6,769,959	
I. Difference: (G-H); (Negative Value Requires 60% Voter Approval –See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **			
	\$ 451	\$ 26,370	
Administrative Component			
	\$ 920,000	\$ 940,000	\$ 940,000
Program Component			
	\$ 7,400,000	\$ 7,570,000	\$ 7,570,000
Capital Component			
	\$ 1,960,000	\$ 1,970,000	\$ 1,864,000
*If the proposed budget is defeated, the school will not be able to replace a 12 year old bus. This could impact student safety.			
		Under the Budget Proposed for the 2015-16 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹		\$ 442.78	
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2015-2016 by the qualified voters of the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York, will be held at the school in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 between the hours of 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM, prevailing time in the auditorium lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.			
¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.			

23

The number of art students who had their work selected to appear in various, highly competitive regional art shows this year

26

The number of music students who were selected to perform in prestigious county and state music festivals

8

The number of college-credit earning courses offered at Colton-Pierrepont High School, this includes Advanced Placement courses

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

MICHAEL DUMAS

My name is Michael Dumas and I have been a resident of Colton for 17 years. I have been married to my wife Pam for 24 years, and we have three wonderful children, Cameron, Katie and Mark.



My time on the CPCS school board has been a stimulating experience. I have learned what it takes to operate such an institution and who it takes to operate one. Colton-Pierrepoint Central School is very fortunate to have all of the right pieces in place. The school board, administrative staff, teaching staff and support staff work in unison to create an enviable working and learning atmosphere in our school. Our number one priority should be, and is, our children.

Through out-of-the-box thinking and innovative application, CPCS has ascended to the forefront in educational technology in our area. CPCS students have at their fingertips (literally) that technology to expand their horizons in ways never seen or imagined before. I would like to continue to experience the growth of Colton-Pierrepoint Central School by seeking re-election this spring at the annual budget vote. Thank you for your support!

CHRISTINA SMITH

Christina Smith is an Instructional Technologist for SUNY Canton. She earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Education and Business Administration from Plymouth State University. A few years later she was a pioneer in obtaining a M.Ed. in Instructional Technology in 1998 from Lesley University, one of the first schools to offer such a program. She later relocated to the North Country in 2007 from Boston.

Her first year in Colton was spent as a CPCS Teaching Assistant when she realized what an exceptional school her children Madeline (now grade 8) and Max (now grade 5) will attend through High School. As a TA she worked with both teachers and students to integrate technology into curriculums at all levels and subjects. Christina then worked for the Model Schools program at BOCES, where she spent 4 years training and teaching teachers instructional technologies and teaching computer science.



From her experiences Christina is still amazed at CPCS - the student-faculty ratio, hand-crafted educational experience, student focused attitude of teachers and administration, and the overall educational experience. Christina considers it an honor to have the opportunity to represent the citizens of Colton and Pierrepoint as a representative of the Colton-Pierrepoint Central School Board.

What is the Board of Education?

The Colton-Pierrepoint School District Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the school district. It is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the education of the community's children.

The board adopts school district policy, curriculum, programs of study and approves the hiring of all personnel, as well as establishing the conditions of employment. In addition, the board has the responsibility of maintaining facilities, establishing an annual budget, and setting a tax levy.

The school board adopts a proposed operating budget each year at a public meeting. Eligible residents then have the opportunity to vote upon the proposal.

The C-P Board of Education is comprised of seven school district residents who are elected by voters to four-year terms in an annual election. Board members are not compensated for their work. At its annual organizational meeting in July, the board elects a president and vice-president and appoints committees for the new school year.

The committees meet to review specific operational functions and to make recommendations to the entire board as necessary.



2014-15 BOARD OF EDUCATION

SHARON ANDREWS	2015	30 Years of Service
JEFFERY ANGLEBERGER	2018	13 Years of Service
MICHAEL DUMAS, President	2015	4 Years of Service
SCOTT BAXTER, V. President	2017	6 Years of Service
TRACY HOOSE	2016	3 Years of Service
SHELLI PRESPARE-WESTON	2016	15 Years of Service
CINDY MCLEAN	2018	1 Year of Service

PROPOSITIONS

“RESOLVED: That the proposed budget of expenditures of the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$10,480,000 with a tax levy increase of \$130,000 or 1.83 % for a total tax levy of \$7,250,000 which does not exceed the maximum allowable tax levy and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law.”

“RESOLVED: To elect two members to the Board of Education for a four-year term each commencing July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2019.”

“RESOLVED: That pursuant to Education Law, Section 259, the Board of Education of the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$5,000 (in addition to the current annual appropriation of \$20,000 for a total of \$25,000 annually), which shall be paid to the Hepburn Library of Colton for the support and maintenance of the library; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District.”



Colton-Pierrepont CSD
4921 State Hwy 56
Colton, NY 13625

PLEASE VOTE!

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

12:00–8:00 PM

School Auditorium Lobby

Budget Public Hearing

May 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Cafeteria

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, a resident of the school district at least 30 days, and must not be prohibited from voting under the provisions of section 5-106 of the Election Law, for example, as a result of having been convicted of a felony or adjudged mentally incompetent.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 19 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, stop in at the district office or call the district clerk at (315) 262-2100. Applications must be received in the Superintendent's Office at least seven days prior to election (by May 12, 2015) for ballot mailing. All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

This publication provides a summary of the proposed 2015-2016 budget. If you'd like more details, please call Joseph Kardash, Superintendent of Schools, at 262-2100.

*Produced in cooperation with the
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