



# Skaneateles Central School District

*Excellence in Education*

## **2017-18 Budget Q and A**

The following questions and supporting answers are provided in addition to those found in this year's *Shareholder Report* to help better inform the community of our budgeting process and needs as you head to the voting booth on May 16 to vote on four (4) propositions and two (2) Board of Education seats. This document will continue to be updated until May 16, so ***please do not hesitate to contact us if you have additional questions or feel that we could be clearer in our responses.***

***Q1: Are we voting on Project 2021 on May 16?***

***A1:*** No. The vote for project 2021 will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. For information on this project, please see the information posted at <http://www.skanschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=933>

***Q2: Does the district provide funding to the Skaneateles Library through the budget we are voting on?***

***A2:*** No. NYS Education Law §259 requires that the district collect the taxes for the library in accordance with the amount noted in a separate line on your tax bill. No funding from the district is provided to the library. As the library is a wholly independent organization, the library budget and building are managed by the Skaneateles Library Board, not the SCS Board of Education.

***Q3: I am a little confused by Proposition III regarding establishing a reserve to replace the turf. Are we replacing the turf at this time?***

***A3:*** No. Based on rules of state aid reimbursement, we do not anticipate replacing the turf until the 2023-24 school year. While the warranty will be expired by then, our grounds team feels that they can properly maintain the field until that time. The reserve funds will allow us to partially offset the local taxpayer share of the replacement at that time.

***Q4: I noticed the district is asking to set up a capital reserve for construction. Can you tell me what the purpose of this reserve is?***

***A4:*** Capital reserves are established for one reason only – to help offset the local share of future building projects. While we have one reserve already established for this purpose (to be applied to Project 2021), we have met the maximum allowable funding of that reserve and need to establish another in order to continue this practice. For more information on the district's *Reserve and Bequest Management Plan*, please see the document posted at <http://www.skanschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=928>

***Q5: While reviewing this year's Shareholders Report, I noticed some large changes in costs in certain areas such as Central Printing. Can you explain what is covered by the increased costs?***

***A5:*** Many of the larger cost shifts including those seen in Central Printing are the result of changes to budget coding. The business office team has been working on this process over the last year so as to make our budget reporting more accurate and in line with state-required reports coding. As a result, increases in some of the areas are offset by decreases in other areas.

***Q6: Why does the district continue to spend more money if there are fewer students being educated?***

***A6:*** There are three (3) components to this answer:

1. *Inconsistent Enrollment Trends* – while our enrollment is declining, it is not declining as much as we anticipated when we did our enrollment study in January, 2015 nor is it declining in any consistent pattern. This makes planning for any significant decreases very difficult. While we continue to search for areas of efficiency and savings, we are being very cautious so as not to disadvantage our students and *their* learning needs in doing so. It is for this reason that we are also maintaining our current facility use plan and not closing a building.
2. *Changing Learning Needs* – to meet the changing demands of the workplace and our communities; to prepare our students to be ready and able to develop/contribute to the solutions to increasingly complex global problems, we have a responsibility to provide different learning experiences with differing levels of support to meet the needs and maximize the potential of *all* students.
3. *Changing Requirements* – with the continued changing of learning standards and the associated curriculum and assessments, we need to continue to provide for training and learning opportunities for our staff to ensure that our students' learning experiences are the very best.

***Q7: Who do I contact if I have specific questions about the information that I have received in the mail or that I have reviewed on the district website?***

***A7:*** Please contact Mr. Butler, district Business Official, or Mr. Slentz, district Superintendent, at 291–2221. Questions can also be sent to us by email at [jbutler@skanschools.org](mailto:jbutler@skanschools.org) and/or [kslentz@skanschools.org](mailto:kslentz@skanschools.org).