



# The Comet's Tale

## BUDGET EDITION

2023-2024

### In-Person Budget Vote and Election

Tuesday,  
May 16, 2023  
Noon to 8 p.m.

Sandy Creek District Office  
Board Room  
(Absentee Ballots by request)

### Budget Hearing

Thursday,  
May 4, 2023  
6 p.m.

Sandy Creek District Office  
Board Room

### Board Vacancy One (1) - Five (5) Year Term

Heidi Metott

See Candidate Profile at  
[www.sandycreekcsd.org/district/boe/surveys](http://www.sandycreekcsd.org/district/boe/surveys)

## Sandy Creek Art Students Learn Valuable Skills from Local Artist



Art students at Sandy Creek High School recently had the opportunity to visit the Everson Museum of Art.

During the trip, students in grades nine through 12 embarked on a

guided tour, sketched, explored some of their favorite exhibits, and had a chance to meet local artist Alison Altafi. Altafi spoke to students about her art-making process, how she became an artist, and how working through failure and anxiety brought her to where she is today.

"The purpose of the trip was to help students understand how artwork is chosen to be a part of a museum and/or gallery," said Brooke Morse, the high school art teacher at Sandy Creek. "They also learned about how life experiences influence the way we relate to art, and how artists learn from trial and error to become accomplished in their art form."

Upon reflecting on their trip, students cited the "Hoop Dreams: Basketball and Contemporary Art" exhibit as their favorite. In this exhibit, students were encouraged to interact with various basketball hoops attached to a large wall. Students were able to participate in a small game of basketball which resembled how basketball culture has influenced parks, communities, and personalities of all backgrounds while bringing people together.

## Students Go Head-to-Head in Battle of the Books Competition



Sandy Creek Central School District students in grades three through 12 recently put their reading skills to the test as they competed to be crowned Battle of the Books champion in their respective age groups.

Squaring off against their peers at the district level, the winners of each group earned a spot at the regional competition where they will compete against students from Oswego, Cayuga and Onondaga counties.

In the third and fourth grade division, the team of Cooper Hitchcock, Caroline Casler, Kendra Friot and Josh Wart advanced in their age group. Gabe Wall, Finn Connors and Claire Willson were members of the winning team at the fifth-grade level. In the middle school competition, the team comprised of Marilyn Dewhirst, Bella Hoffman and Cordelia Crast were victorious while Kylie-ann (Mathis) Blodgett, Maggie Wallace, Ryan Landphere and Leia Wall were crowned the winners for the high school competition.

"Our students really enjoy this event," said Rachel Allen, a librarian at Sandy Creek. "Some of them even start reading the books months before the competition starts. It makes me happy to see so many of our students have such a passion for reading!"



**Proposition #1:**

Shall the proposed budget of \$26,386,330 for the Sandy Creek Central School District, Oswego County, New York as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary tax thereof?

**Proposition #2:**

Pursuant to Education Law §259 the Board of Education of the Sandy Creek Central School District is authorized to levy and collect an annual tax, year after year, separate and apart from the annual school district budget, the additional amount of \$30,000 (above the current amount of \$149,000 for a total of \$179,000), which shall be paid to the Annie P. Ainsworth Memorial Library (\$25,000 for a total of \$150,000), and the Cogswell Free Library (\$5,000 for a total of \$29,000) for the support and maintenance of the libraries; with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote of the electors of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

*Comet Pride is Community Wide*

PROGRAM COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Curriculum, Administration &amp; Planning</b>	Includes all costs associated with staff development and costs directly associated with instruction	<b>\$679,055</b>	<b>\$742,626</b>
<b>Regular School</b>	All costs associated with Instruction, Library & Media, and Computer Technologies	<b>\$6,573,700</b>	<b>\$6,496,800</b>
<b>Special Education Programming</b>	All costs associated with the Education of Students with disabilities/handicapping conditions	<b>\$2,573,750</b>	<b>\$2,200,750</b>
<b>Special Schools</b>	All costs associated with BOCES Occupational Education and Summer School	<b>\$1,095,000</b>	<b>\$1,340,000</b>
<b>Student Services</b>	All costs associated with Guidance Services, Co-Curricular Activities, Interscholastic Sports, Transportation, School Food Service, and Census	<b>\$2,572,240</b>	<b>\$2,578,115</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	All employee benefit costs associated with above program component salaries	<b>\$5,508,766</b>	<b>\$6,038,941</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>		<b>\$19,002,511</b>	<b>\$19,397,232</b>

CAPITAL COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Special Item</b>	Refunds of Real Property Taxes – Prior years	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Operation of Plant</b>	All costs associated with operating district buildings, including cleaning, utilities costs, and BOCES capital charges	<b>\$1,225,134</b>	<b>\$1,366,925</b>
<b>Maintenance of Plant</b>	All costs associated with maintaining district buildings and property	<b>\$669,540</b>	<b>\$661,500</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	Includes the purchase of (1) 30 passenger and (2) 66 passenger buses for 22-23; and (1) 66 passenger, (1) 60 passenger wheelchair, and (1) 30 passenger wheelchair buses for 23-24	<b>\$382,371</b>	<b>\$520,789</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	Includes the principal and interest costs for the past capital project and fiscal agent fees	<b>\$1,833,575</b>	<b>\$2,036,126</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	All employee benefit costs associated with above capital component salaries	<b>\$622,848</b>	<b>\$709,234</b>
<b>Interfund Transfer</b>	Interfund transfer to the Capital fund for 22/23 doors, door hardware and gym equipment and 23/24 modifications to doors, frames, and hardware to improve safety and security	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>		<b>\$4,838,468</b>	<b>\$5,399,574</b>

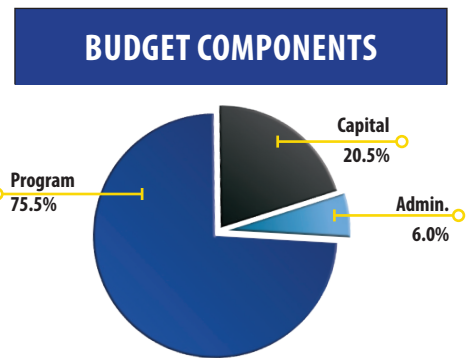
The Sandy Creek Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinator is Shelley Fitzpatrick (124 Salisbury Street, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 | 315-387-3445).





ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Board of Education</b>	All costs associated with the Board of Education, District Clerk and Elections	<b>\$80,800</b>	<b>\$84,050</b>
<b>Central Administration</b>	All costs associated with the Superintendent's Office	<b>\$197,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Regular School Supervision</b>	All costs associated with the Supervision of Curriculum, Principals, Supervision of Handicap, and Computer Instruction	<b>\$149,155</b>	<b>\$167,774</b>
<b>Finance</b>	All costs associated with the Business Office, Auditing, District Treasurer, Tax Collection, and Liability Insurance	<b>\$335,249</b>	<b>\$342,270</b>
<b>BOCES Administrative Costs</b>	BOCES administrative and capital budgets, printing and planning	<b>\$352,625</b>	<b>\$393,582</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	All employee benefit costs associated with above administrative component salaries	<b>\$327,430</b>	<b>\$401,848</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>\$1,442,259</b>	<b>\$1,589,524</b>

BUDGET COMPONENTS	2022-2023	2023-2024	% OF TOTAL BUDGET
<b>Program</b>	<b>\$19,002,511</b>	<b>\$19,397,232</b>	<b>73.5%</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>\$4,838,468</b>	<b>\$5,399,574</b>	<b>20.5%</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	<b>\$1,442,259</b>	<b>\$1,589,524</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$25,283,238</b>	<b>\$26,386,330</b>	<b>100%</b>



PROJECTED REVENUES	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>Other Tax Items</b> Collected Interest and Penalties on Real Property Taxes and Pilots (Payments in lieu of taxes)	<b>\$45,970</b>	<b>\$33,568</b>
<b>Uses of Money and Property</b> Interest Earnings and Commissions	<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>\$29,250</b>
<b>Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss</b> Sales of Surplus and Lost Item reimbursements	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Refund of Prior Year's Expenditures-BOCES and Other Sources</b> BOCES contracted services expenses from prior year	<b>\$165,000</b>	<b>\$255,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b> Other unclassified revenues, gifts and donations	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>State and Federal Aid</b> NYS Education Aid, Federal Medicaid Reimbursement	<b>\$17,089,703</b>	<b>\$18,321,280</b>
<b>Interfund Transfers and Uses of Reserves</b> Transfers from the Debt Service Fund and other employee benefits reserves	<b>\$107,074</b>	<b>\$271,536</b>
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance</b> Fund balance for use in the upcoming year	<b>\$798,894</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>
<b>Estimated Tax Levy</b> Estimated amount of Tax Levy	<b>\$7,038,347</b>	<b>\$7,275,696</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES</b>	<b>\$25,283,238</b>	<b>\$26,386,330</b>

**Sandy Creek Central  
School District**

P.O. Box 248  
124 Salisbury St.  
Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 7  
Zip Code 13145

**Phone:** 315-387-3445

**Fax:** 315-387-2196

**District Office:** Ext. 1510

**Business Office:** Ext. 1510

**Elementary:** Ext. 1110

**Middle School/High School:** Ext. 1910

**Transportation:** Ext. 3330

**Nurses' Office:** Ext. 1501

Elementary- Ext. 1503

HS - Ext. 1505

## Postal Patron

### Sandy Creek Central School District

2022-23 Board of Education  
John Shelmidine, *President*  
Joseph Hathway, *Vice-President*  
Heidi Metott  
Andrea Harris  
Michele Warner  
Kevin Halsey  
John Macklen

**Superintendent:**  
Kevin F. Seymour

**Business Administrator/  
District Clerk:**  
Shelley H. Fitzpatrick

**Director of Curriculum,  
Instruction & Data**  
Amy Howard-McCormack

**Principals:**  
**Elementary:**  
Timothy Filiatrault  
**Middle School/High School:**  
Steven Newcombe

## A Message From Sandy Creek:

With spring upon us, we are excited for the increase in temperature, the decrease in snow, and the ability to engage in all the activities that come with warmer weather. This time of year is similar for all of us as we are getting outside to prepare lawns and fields, and clean up from the winter. At this time of year, we begin to plan for the summer and the following school year by looking at schedules and staff to meet the ever-changing needs of our students here at Sandy Creek.

Throughout this school year, we have maintained our efforts of meeting the needs of the students while looking toward future endeavors. We have highlighted some of those fundamental instructional practices that all students require, while putting a critical lens on the social-emotional learning of our students. Our efforts across the district have and will continue to focus on what is best for your students. We are to the point that using COVID-19 as an excuse is no longer valid. Our energy is now on a solution-focused approach to provide support across the district.

In preparing for the 2023-2024 school year, you will be voting on an expenditure plan on May 16, 2023. The Board of Education and the administration have worked to develop a fiscally responsible budget that takes our current situation and future projections into account. Financially, the district is in a stable position where it can maintain staff and current systems that provide a clean and structurally sound environment. To continue to give students what they need and deserve, it is vital that we create fiscally responsible plans. As we all know, there are continuous increases in the cost of salaries, insurance, and the materials necessary to run the campus. The cost of most operational necessities has increased over the last couple years, so we need to plan for those increases. As a result, we will be asking for a modest 3.37% tax increase for the 2023-2024 school year. Conservatively, that would

equal, at most, a \$16 increase in the tax on true (average) for a \$100,000 home. The Consumer Price Index that the state compares to our tax levy is 8%, which we know is much lower than the increase in the price of many items you regularly purchase.

At this point, we are still able to provide many extra opportunities due to the stimulus funds that have been provided. However, these opportunities, such as the elementary and middle school summer-school programs, the after-school program, and the staff hired to meet mental health needs of our students will be impacted once the funds run out. Our goal is to maintain the current status of programming across the district, but we need to plan financially for the future to ensure we can meet this goal.

On a different note, as the district moves forward this summer, we are hoping to finalize a majority of the capital improvement project that has taken place over the last several years. During the summer of 2023, many floors will be replaced, significant work will be done in the Middle/High School stair towers, much of the sidewalk encompassing the entire building will be replaced, and the parking lots will be milled and paved. We are excited to get this work completed to improve the safety of the district and update necessary parts as well.

We thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, faculty, and programming. We are consistently working together to create fiscally responsible plans that are forward thinking as society continues to evolve.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Seymour**  
*Superintendent of Schools*