

Sullivan West Central School District

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Stephen A. Walker
Superintendent of Schools



May 26, 2020

Dear Sullivan West Bulldogs:

On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, faculty, staff and students of our School District, I am pleased to share with you details regarding the proposed 2020-2021 School District budget. Our proposed budget aligns with our vision for creating an outstanding educational experience for the children of our community by adding to the elective course opportunities at the High School, increasing our technology infrastructure, creating a new structure for our 7th and 8th Grade students, and providing for ongoing, high-quality professional development for our faculty and staff. We are very proud that we are able to include these key components in our budget while remaining within the New York State mandated tax cap.

We recognize that this is an unprecedented and uncertain time for our communities, and for our School District as well. The 2020-2021 budget includes a 1.98% tax levy increase, which is the lowest in Sullivan West in the past three years. It also includes the reduction of seven full-time staff positions, while still allowing for the growth of our instructional program for students.

The 2020-2021 budget also includes the use of reserve funds to provide for the removal and replacement of the floor in the Elementary School's 1994 Gym, which is necessary due to health and safety concerns associated with the current rubber flooring system. The State Education Department requires voter approval before removal and replacement of the gym floor can move forward.

Our priority is to balance our vision for educational excellence with the resources available to fund our schools, and I join the Board of Education in recommending this budget to you.

There are three seats on the Board of Education which are available, and all three seats are uncontested. Kathleen Meckle, Jennifer Nystrom and Trevor Peachey are running to continue their service on the Board of Education.

The School District's budget vote will take place [on Tuesday, June 9](#), via absentee ballot. Please check your mail and our District's Facebook page, as well as our District's website at www.swcsd.org for more information on the budget, and the voting process for this year. We have created a video to summarize the proposed budget, and it is accessible on our District's website, as well as on our Facebook page.

Thank you for your consideration of the 2020-2021 proposed School District budget, and for your ongoing support of our schools and students.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen A. Walker
Superintendent of Schools

“...enriching the lives of all students”