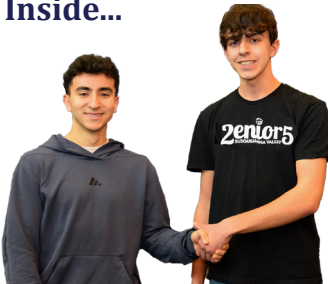


May 2025
Special Budget Edition



SABER VIEWS

Inside...



Top Sabers

Valedictorian Nasser Al-Khalidi and Salutatorian Andrew Waite lead a talented group of seniors in the top 10 of the Class of 2025.

Read about them all on page 6.



HS App Challenge Team

On page 7, learn how four SV High School students developed a wellness app that won "Best Overall" in the BT BOCES App Challenge.



Scholastic Art Gold Key Winner

Also on page 7, an SV High School sophomore received the highest honor at the Regional Scholastic Art Awards.

2025-26 Budget Snapshot

	TOTAL	CHANGE
Budget	\$ 47,216,087	\$ 3,414,147
Tax Levy	\$ 19,732,703	\$ 475,865
Tax-Levy Limit	\$ 19,732,703	\$ 475,865
Average Tax Rate*	\$24.46	\$ 0.59
Estimated increase in \$100,000 true value** home: \$59.00		

*Per \$1,000 assessed value

** Estimated using last year's equalization rate, assessed value, etc.

Candidates for SVCSD's School Board

There are two open seats on the SV Board of Education. These seats are currently held by Johanna Burkhardt and Suzanne Vimislik. Candidate petitions for those running were due in the district office as this newsletter went to print. Please visit the 2025-26 SVCSD Budget Info page on the district website for their candidates summaries and more school budget information.



Dear Susquehanna Valley Families,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones well and thriving. It's been another incredible year for our students and staff, and we couldn't be more proud of everything we've accomplished together. Our students have continued to excel in and out of the classroom—whether competing in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition, tackling tough cases in Mock Trial, musical performances both in and out of our buildings, or the stunning production of "Hometown - Teen Edition!" These experiences make us proud, and they remind us of the unique opportunities we offer our students that go beyond just academics.

As we look forward to the end of this school year, we are planning and preparing for an exciting year ahead. We've worked hard to develop a budget that balances the needs of our students and families, while also being mindful of the impact on our community. For the 2025-26 school year, we're looking at a modest tax levy increase of 2.47%, which translates to about a 2.05% increase for the average taxpayer. While state aid increases continue to be minimal, we've found ways to optimize spending and minimize the financial burden on our community.

We're thrilled to have completed Phase 1 of our capital project, which included upgrades to our athletic fields, the reconfiguration of the main office at Brookside Elementary to improve safety and accessibility, and the complete redesign of the High School and Brookside libraries, ensuring we meet the needs of our students in the 21st century. We are already making great progress with Phase 2 of the capital project, which includes redesign of the Middle School and Donnelly Elementary libraries, updates to the Donnelly kitchen, cafeteria, and music rooms, and air conditioning on the second story of the middle school!

We're especially excited about our Summer Enrichment Program, which is now being funded through our General Fund Budget, meaning we can continue to offer athletic camps and other programs at no cost to families. Additionally, the continued success of Universal Pre-Kindergarten funding will allow us to offer a rich experience to 72 of our youngest learners, laying a strong foundation for their future success.



Natalie Brubaker
Superintendent



Mary Haskell
Board President

As we enter Year 3 of our Strategic Plan, we want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. Your input and partnership have been invaluable as we work toward the shared goals of creating an exceptional experience for all of our students—one built on academic excellence and caring, connected relationships.

It's because of your support that we're able to offer a challenging curriculum, access to the latest technology, and participation in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including music, the arts, athletics, and so much more. We've also been able to expand access to programs like BOCES for special education, career and technical education, and New Visions programs for our highest-achieving students.

We couldn't do this without the dedication of our students, parents, faculty, and staff, and we are so grateful for the community we've built together. We truly believe that Susquehanna Valley is a "Great Place to Live and Learn," and we can't wait to see all the amazing things we'll accomplish in the year ahead. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Sincerely,

Natalie Brubaker
Superintendent of Schools

Mary Haskell
School Board President

DATES TO REMEMBER

Public Budget Hearing

5 p.m., May 6, 2025, SVCS Board Room

Budget Vote/School Board Election

12 - 8 p.m., May 20, 2025, SVHS Gym





Proposition #1: Approval of 2025-26 Spending Plan

When you enter the voting booth on Tuesday, May 20, 2025:

- You will be asked to look at a spending plan for the 2025-26 school year. This includes a \$100,000 Small Capital Project, which will focus on additional improvements to the main campus bus garage and removal of a fuel storage tank and fuel dispenser pump.



Proposition #2: School Bus Purchase

- You will be asked to consider a bus purchase proposition, to vote on a measure authorizing the district to purchase three (3) 72-passenger buses, including incidental equipment, expenses, and preliminary costs at an aggregated maximum estimated cost of \$652,000 to be repaid over five (5) years through bonds.

Cost of Vehicle Acquisition:

If the voters approve the bus purchase proposition, the total amount of the borrowing, including interest, is estimated to be \$735,130 over five (5) years at 4.25% interest. State transportation aid will cover 90.0% of the cost of the buses, or \$661,617, over five years. As part of the district's ongoing bus replacement plan, it is not anticipated the purchase will increase the tax levy.

Board of Education Election

- You will be asked to fill two seats on the Board of Education. These seats are currently held by Johanna Burkhardt and Suzanne Vimislik.

A History of SV CSD Budgets

Year	Budget (in millions)	Increase/Decrease (%)	Tax-Levy Change (%)	Rate of Inflation
2015-16	\$36.9	1.01%	1.74%	1.62%
2016-17	\$37.3	0.96%	- 0.18%	- 0.18%
2017-18	\$38.6	3.50%	*1.46%	1.26%
2018-19	\$38.0	- 1.52%	1.29%	2.13%
2019-20	\$39.0	2.74%	**2.94%	2.44%
2020-21	\$39.7	1.77%	1.00%	1.81%
2021-22	\$40.8	2.66%	***3.56%	1.23%
2022-23	\$41.1	0.88%	1.88%	4.70%
2023-24	\$43.3	5.24%	2.50%	8.00%
2024-25	\$43.8	1.17%	2.46%	4.12%
2025-26	\$47.2	7.79%	2.47%	2.95%

Expiration of a PILOT Agreement

When a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement expires, the property re-enters the Tax Roll, causing an artificial inflation of the Levy. This portion of the Levy is paid solely by that particular business. The table on the right details the impact of the expiration of these PILOTS.

PILOT Agreement	Total Levy	PILOT Portion
*Impress USA, Inc.	1.46%	0.66%
**Samson, LLC	2.94%	0.25%
*** Current Corporate Owner (formerly Maines)	3.56%	2.59%



SV CSD PROPOSED 2025-26 Budget

2025-26 Budget Proposal by Component

Program Component	2024-25	2025 26 (Proposed)	Change (\$)
Instruction / Includes pupil services, teacher salaries, Director of Special Services, BOCES Career & Technical Education and Special Education, textbooks, in-services training, programs for students with disabilities, occupational studies, and special education costs.	\$14,493,890	\$14,978,563	\$484,673
Instructional Media / School library expenses, computer-assisted instruction, Director of Technology/Chief Information Officer, and BOCES network-support services.	\$ 1,997,862	\$ 1,986,593	(\$ 11,269)
Pupil Services / Attendance expenses, guidance expenses, health services, psychological/social work services, co-curricular activities, athletics, Director of Athletics, and interfund transfers.	\$ 2,293,550	\$ 2,448,514	\$154,964
Pupil Transportation / Bus drivers' salaries, Transportation Supervisor, contractual expenses related to advertising, repairs, conferences, materials and supplies, BOCES transportation, and maintenance of bus garage.	\$ 1,540,651	\$ 1,749,410	\$208,759
Employee Benefits / Social Security, Workers Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and Retirement, Health and Dental Insurance.	\$10,947,256	\$11,409,827	\$462,571
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$31,273,209	\$32,572,907	\$1,299,698

Administrative Component	2024-25	2025 26 (Proposed)	Change (\$)
Board of Education / Includes NYSSBA membership, publications, meeting supplies, District Clerk salary, election supplies and services.	\$ 52,400	\$ 46,100	(\$6,300)
Central Administration / Salaries for Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and secretaries, service contracts, publications, office supplies, negotiation expenses, clerical substitutes, and conferences.	\$ 472,955	\$ 486,434	\$ 13,479
Finance / Business office staff salaries, contractual expenses, publications, materials and supplies, auditing expenses, fixed-asset appraisal, tax collection expenses, BOCES Central Business Office operations.	\$ 569,718	\$ 636,485	\$ 66,767
Personnel & Legal Services / School Attorney, litigation and negotiation expenses, BOCES Teacher Registry/Recruitment, and BOCES Health & Safety.	\$ 200,896	\$ 211,587	\$ 10,691
Contractual Items / Postage-meter expense and rental, copier, all daily mailing costs, public information expenses, printing of newsletter and district calendar, liability and property insurance for district, assessments on school property base administrative charges to BOCES.	\$ 964,755	\$1,015,016	\$ 50,261
Curriculum Development & Supervision / Stipends for curriculum development, contractual expenses, materials and supplies, professional learning, staff orientation, BOCES School Curriculum-Development Improvement services, administrative functions, salaries for Principals and Assistant Principals, and secretarial staff salaries	\$ 999,800	\$1,089,106	\$ 89,306
Employee Benefits / Social Security, Workers Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and Retirement, Health and Dental Insurance.	\$1,082,623	\$1,218,043	\$135,420
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$4,343,147	\$4,702,771	\$359,624



Capital Component	2024-25	2025 26 Proposed)	Change (\$)
Central Services / Includes operation of plant, salaries of custodial staff, building & grounds staff and Director of Facilities, equipment, School Resources Officers, contractual expenses, utilities, BOCES natural gas & electric consortium, excavating, structural inspections, water & lead testing, septic tank service, roof repairs, and custodial materials and supplies.	\$3,076,847	\$3,156,076	\$ 79,229
Debt Services / Principal payments on capital projects, interest and payments for bus purchases.	\$3,844,018	\$5,502,197	\$1,618,179
Employee Benefits / Social Security, Workers Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, and Retirement, Health and Dental Insurance.	\$1,124,719	\$1,182,136	\$ 57,417
Transfers / Transfers to the Capital Fund for Capital Outlay Project; improvements to bus garage, removal of a fuel storage tank and fuel dispenser pump.	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	-
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$8,185,584	\$9,940,409	\$1,754,825

2025-26 Proposed Budget Summary			
COMPONENT	2024-25	2025 25	CHANGE IN DOLLARS
Program	\$31,273,209	\$32,572,907	\$1,299,698
Administrative	\$ 4,343,147	\$ 4,702,771	\$ 359,624
Capital	\$ 8,185,584	\$ 9,940,409	\$1,754,825
Totals	\$43,801,940	\$47,216,087	\$3,414,147

Estimated Revenues	2024-25	2025 26	Change (\$)
State Aid	\$22,240,779	\$24,415,319	\$2,174,540
Tax Levy	\$19,256,838	\$19,732,703	\$ 475,865
Other Revenue	\$ 933,901	\$ 1,351,049	\$ 417,148
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 500,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000
Appropriated Reserves	\$ 870,422	\$ 967,016	\$ 96,594
TOTAL	\$43,801,940	\$47,216,087	\$3,414,147

Expenditures	2024-25	2025 26	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Salaries	\$16,191,884	\$16,697,827	\$505,943	3.12%
Benefits	\$13,154,598	\$13,810,006	\$655,408	4.98%
Equipment	\$ 342,108	\$ 362,370	\$ 20,262	5.92%
Utilities	\$ 605,850	\$ 605,850	0	0.00%
Contractual	\$ 2,342,496	\$ 2,256,592	(\$85,904)	-3.67%
Material & Supplies	\$ 906,361	\$ 890,458	(\$15,903)	-1.75%
BOCES Services	\$ 6,239,625	\$ 6,955,687	\$716,062	11.48%
Debt Service	\$ 3,884,018	\$ 5,502,197	\$1,618,179	41.66%
Interfund Transfers	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,100	\$100	0.07%
TOTAL	\$43,801,940	\$47,216,087	\$3,414,147	7.79%



CLASS OF 2025 TOP SABERS!

Susquehanna Valley High School's Class of 2025 Sabers are multi-talented seniors who have explored a variety of interests to find their perfect paths into the world! While we are proud of all of our Sabers, we wanted to highlight these seniors who rank in the top 10 of their class, led by Valedictorian Nasser Al-Khalidi and Salutatorian Andrew Waite.



Nasser Al-Khalidi/Valedictorian

Nasser is captain of the soccer team, co-president of Mathletes, and secretary to the National Honor Society and the Class of 2025. He is an active member of Model UN and volunteers his time at local hospitals and pharmacies. Enrolled in New Visions

Health Careers Academy, Nasser plans to attend college and major in biology with the goal of becoming a doctor.

Andrew Waite/Salutatorian

Recently achieving Eagle Scout rank, Andrew has also excelled in music as leader of the saxophone section and participated in varsity soccer and track. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Mathletes, and serves as Class Treasurer. Andrew plans to study Software Engineering and Physics.



company project. Myles plans to major in Marketing Management at Binghamton University.



Julia LaMantia

Julie has been a key member of the school's orchestra, participating in many musical performances. She intends to pursue a degree in music, with aspirations of becoming a professional musician and sharing her love of music with others.

Norah Schneider

Passionate about history, politics and law, Norah is involved in Model UN and Mock Trial. She intends to pursue a career in politics or law, while balancing her extracurricular activities with a strong commitment to community involvement.



Jacob Bailey

Enrolled in the New Visions Health Careers Academy, Jacob is co-president of Mathletes and a member of the National Honor Society. He plays golf and boys volleyball. Jacob intends to major in exercise science at college, with the ultimate goal of becoming a physical therapist.

Nicolla Bronikowski

Vice president of Student Council, co-president of Mathletes, and treasurer of NHS, Nicolla is also on the tennis and flag football teams. She is part of New Visions Health Careers Academy and plans to attend a four-year college and major in biology.



Lillian Short

Lily is another student who enjoys the rigorous coursework and hands-on experience in the New Visions Health Careers Academy. Lily's passion for helping others and her academic drive position her as a future leader in the medical community.

Alexandria Stewart

President of Peer Leaders, Alex is also actively involved in Student Council and Saber Stage. She is committed to music, participating in a wide range of ensembles and musical activities. Alex plans to pursue a career in chemical engineering.



Myles Clement

Myles balances school with building his own brand as a photographer/videographer for high school sports. Enrolled in the New Visions Business Academy, he served as marketing lead for that class'



Madelyn Strnatka

A dedicated Class of 2025 leader, Maddie is a brilliant and diligent student with a passion for science. She intends to study Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with aspirations of pursuing a career in cosmetic science.

CELEBRATING SABER PRIDE!



Regional Gold Key Artist!

Congratulations to High School tenth grader Asher Valentine... His photograph "Reflection Bulb" received the highest honor, a Gold Key award, at the 2025 Regional Scholastic Art Awards in Elmira! As a Gold Key winner, Asher's piece has advanced for national adjudication.

Coding Team's App Wins "Best Overall!"

The SV Computer Coding team of Marshall Clement, Zachary Fedorwich, Baron Keller, and Samuel Olsen won "Best Overall App" in the Broome-Tioga BOCES Regional App Challenge on March 27!

Together, Zach (programmer), Sam (designer/graphic artist), Marshall (information analyst), and Baron (media-management specialist) developed and built their app, "WellHatch," from the ground up in two months. Designed to help people stay motivated along their fitness journey, WellHatch gives users a companion to grow alongside them, representing their personal growth. Users have a choice of four "pets" - a frog, bird, dinosaur, or snake - and grow them by answering questions about mental, physical or nutritional health and completing daily self-set goals. The team looks forward to polishing the App for possible entry in the Congressional App Challenge!



Donnelly Food Service Team crowned "Kitchen of the Month!"

SV CSD School Lunch Supervisor Sandy Travis, Donnelly Elementary Cook Manager Adrienne Weaver, and Food Service Helpers Dustin Bailey, Amy Chen and Joanne Huntley were presented with the BOCES "Kitchen of the Month" Award for January!

Cubby's Return!

The first question seniors asked last year during their Senior Walk at Brookside Elementary was "Where's Cubby?"

The beloved school mascot was given a new lease on life by Teacher Aide Ashley Prindle! She spent many months painstakingly patching, repairing, and painting Cubby, with supplies funded by donations from Brookside teachers. Cubby 2.0 was unveiled during a school-wide assembly on March 28!





**Susquehanna Valley
School District**
P.O. Box 200
Conklin, NY 13748
607-775-0170
www.svsabers.org

We're on Facebook!

**Visit our page at
Susquehanna
Valley CSD**

Board of Education

Mary Haskell, President
Suzanne Vimislik, Vice President
Annie Bensley
Joanna Burkhardt
Kelly Howe
Ryan Remza
Timothy Strnatka

Superintendent of Schools

Natalie Brubaker
607-775-9100

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Catherine Kacyvenski
607-775-9146

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YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Timeline:

Public Hearing:

**MAY 6 / 5 p.m.
SV District Board Room**

**School Budget Vote, School Board
Election & Annual Meeting:**

**MAY 20 / 12 - 8 p.m.
SV High School Gym**

**Questions concerning
the School Budget?**

**Please contact the
Office of the Superintendent
607-775-9100**

Voter Requirements:

Include ID, Proof of Residency & Proof of Age

A district voter must be:

- A citizen of the U.S.
- 18 years of age or older
- A resident of the Susquehanna Valley CSD for a period of 30 days preceding the next meeting at which a vote is offered.

Acceptable forms of proof include:

- driver's license
- non-driver identification card
- tax or utility bill
- birth certificate

Absentee Ballots:

To request an application for an absentee ballot, qualified voters should call Patty Kucinsky, Secretary to the Superintendent, at 607-775-9100. Once a request is received, an application form will be mailed.

To receive absentee ballot information by mail, the application must be requested no later than Tuesday, May 13, 2025. All completed absentee ballots must be received by the school district clerk at the district office by 12 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Learn more about the proposed SVCSD proposed budget at www.svsabers.org