

Colton-Pierrepont

NEWSNOTES &



2026-27 BUDGET EDITION



BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
12 to 8 p.m.

Colton-Pierrepont Central School
Auditorium Lobby
4921 NY-56, Colton

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

**PROPOSED
BUDGET**

\$14,712,610

**BUDGET
CHANGE**

\$687,300

**TAX LEVY
CHANGE**

**\$157,167
(1.78%)**

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

- Budget 2026-27
- Board of Education Election
- Hepburn Library Proposition



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Annual budget vote set for May 19

Dear Colton-Pierrepoint Residents,

As we move through our annual budget planning season, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support our school district receives from this community. The achievements of our students and staff are built directly upon the foundation you provide.

Navigating the Financial Landscape

Like many rural districts across New York, we are currently navigating a period of economic uncertainty. Fluctuations in state aid and the rising costs of essentials—such as utilities, gasoline, and health insurance—require us to be more diligent than ever. While we cannot predict the future of state funding, we are taking proactive steps to prepare for it.

Our Commitment to Stability

To ensure long-term fiscal health, we are adopting a mindful spending strategy today that protects the programs of tomorrow. For the upcoming cycle, the district remains within the allowable state tax cap with a modest proposed increase of 1.78%. This fiscal discipline allows us to stay true to our mission: raising respectful, responsible, and resourceful citizens. We are uniquely positioned to support our students' entire journey—welcoming them into our community as “Foals” and guiding them until they are ready for life after high school. Today, we are proud to offer 14 dual-enrollment courses, allowing our students to earn significant college credit before graduation and giving them a head start on their future success.

Capital Project Update

As the school year draws to a close, I am proud to announce the successful completion of our 2023 Capital Improvements Project. This project was completed on time and within the voter-approved budget, maximizing state aid to minimize local tax impact.



Key enhancements include:

- **Modern Classrooms:** New flooring, lighting, and finishes in the elementary wing.
- **Enhanced Security:** An expanded main office featuring a secure visitor screening vestibule and improved site visibility.
- **Student Support:** A new guidance suite providing private spaces for counselors and our school psychologist to work with students.
- **Tech & Innovation:** A reconstructed technology shop with a modern dust collection system and upgraded equipment as well as handicap accessibility to the classroom instructional space.
- **Efficiency & Wellness:** New hot water boilers, LED lighting, and facility-wide HVAC upgrades for better indoor air quality.

From a financial perspective, careful planning and oversight allowed us to complete the project without exceeding the voter approved budget. The District was able to maximize available state aid and cost saving measures to minimize the local tax impact. As we move forward, we thank our residents, staff and students for their support and patience throughout construction. The successful completion of this project reflects a strong partnership and shared commitment to the future of our school.

It Takes a Village

The heart of our school isn't just the building; it's the people inside it. We truly have the best staff around. From the bus drivers who are the first to greet our students in the morning, to the custodians who keep our environment safe and clean, the food service workers who feed our children, and the teachers and support staff who inspire and mentor them - every member of our team has a hand in the achievements of our students. We could not be prouder of the dedication they show every single day.

Our small size is our strength. It allows us to know every student by name and tailor an experience that larger districts simply cannot replicate. Thank you for being a partner in this journey and for your support of our students and our school.

Warm regards,
Jennifer McKinley
Superintendent of Schools
Colton-Pierrepoint Central School District



2026-27 BUDGET

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

Three-part Budget Summary

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

\$1,597,433

Administrative costs include the salaries and benefits of administrators and supervisors, plus the salaries and benefits of clerical staff. Also included in this figure 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.

CAPITAL COMPONENT

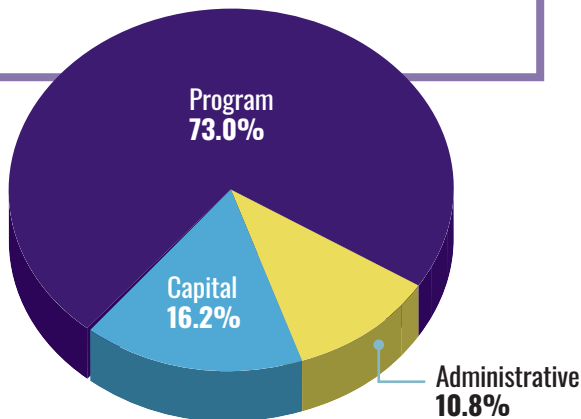
\$2,380,463

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.

PROGRAM COMPONENT

\$10,734,714

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

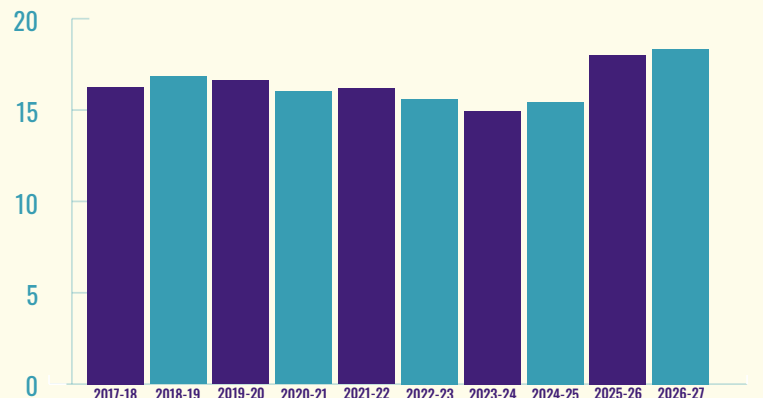


Expenditures	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	\$ Change
General Support (Board of Education, Superintendent, Business Office, BOCES Administration, Insurance)	\$1,005,441	\$1,007,344	-\$1,903
Operations and Maintenance	\$825,162	\$922,408	\$97,246
Instructional Supervision (Building Administration & Professional Development)	\$250,293	\$262,950	\$12,657
General Education	\$2,986,775	\$3,041,354	\$54,579
Special Education	\$1,860,256	\$2,278,534	\$418,278
Student Services (Drivers Education, Library, Counseling, Technology)	\$900,709	\$884,787	-\$15,922
Athletics and Extracurriculars	\$263,563	\$235,885	-\$27,678
Transportation	\$1,025,642	\$935,174	-\$90,468
Personnel Benefits	\$3,785,110	\$4,056,374	\$271,264
Debt Service	\$994,359	\$962,800	-\$31,559
Interfund Transfers	\$128,000	\$125,000	-\$3,000
Total	\$14,025,310	\$14,712,610	\$687,300

DISTRICT REVENUES

Revenue	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	% of Total
Projected State Aid	\$4,569,466	\$4,550,240	33%
Proposed tax levy	\$8,818,807	\$8,975,974	65%
Miscellaneous	\$240,956	\$290,544	2%
Total	\$13,629,229	\$13,816,758	100%
Gap to fill with Fund Balance & Reserves		\$895,852	

FULL VALUE TAX RATE 2017-27





2026-27 BUDGET

On the ballot

PROPOSITION 1:

The proposed budget of expenditures of the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$14,712,610 with a tax levy increase of \$157,167 or 1.78% for a total tax levy of \$8,975,974 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.

PROPOSITION 2:

To elect three (3) members to the Board, two (2) for a four-year term commencing July 1, 2026 and expiring on June 30, 2030, and one (1) for a 1-year term commencing on May 20, 2026, and expiring on June 30, 2027.

PROPOSITION 3:

RESOLVED, that the annual sum collected by the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District as required by New York State Education and Municipal laws for the 2026-2027 operating budget of the Colton Hepburn Library, as determined by the Library Board of Trustees, be increased by \$5,000.00 to the total sum of \$35,000.00 annually.



Where the Money Is Spent

For every dollar Colton-Pierrepont spends...

About **46 cents** goes directly to classroom instruction.

About **28 cents** is spent on employee benefits.

About **7 cents** goes to operating school facilities.

About **6 cents** goes to transporting students to and from school and school-related activities.

About **6 cents** goes to debt service.

About **3 cents** supports special items, like BOCES.

About **2 cents** goes to financial/legal services and interfund transfers.

About **2 cents** goes to the administration of our school's programs and services and the Board of Education.





2026-27 BUDGET

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$14,025,310	\$14,712,610	\$14,437,610
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$687,300	\$412,300
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.90%	2.94%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$8,818,807	\$8,975,974	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$8,818,807	\$8,975,974	\$8,818,807
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$688,768	\$625,753	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$8,130,039	\$8,350,221	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$8,130,039	\$8,350,221	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$0	
Administrative Component	\$1,576,191	\$1,597,433	\$1,597,433
Program Component	\$9,977,594	\$10,734,714	\$10,734,714
Capital Component	\$2,471,525	\$2,380,463	\$2,105,463

* Should the proposed budget be defeated, the district may do a revote on June 16, 2026 or adopt a contingency budget pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law that only includes expenditures considered essential to maintain an education program, preserve property, and assure the health and safety of students and staff.

** Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$452.00
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¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 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, 2026** between the hours of **12:00pm and 8:00pm**, prevailing time in the Auditorium Lobby, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.



Capital Outlay Project

Each year, the Board of Education allocates \$100,000 in the budget for capital outlay projects, allowing the district to address facility needs in a timely and cost-effective manner without waiting for a large-scale capital project. These expenditures are eligible for New York State Building Aid at the District's current rate of 47.0 percent, providing

an estimated return of 47 cents for every local dollar spent in the following year.

As part of this ongoing effort, the 2026-27 budget initiates the first phase of a planned floor replacement program, building on the work completed through the district's recent \$12 million capital project. Many existing floors are nearing

the end of their useful life and require increased time and resources to maintain, particularly for waxing. This outlay will focus on the main floor of the original building and science wing, transitioning to modern, low-maintenance flooring that eliminates the need for waxing and supports improved indoor air quality.





COLTON-PIERREPONT BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

Voters will elect three (3) members to the Board of Education, two (2) for a four-year term commencing July 1, 2026 and expiring on June 30, 2030, and one (1) for a 1-year term commencing on May 20, 2026, and expiring on June 30, 2027.

CANDIDATES

■ Catherine Perrigo

Hello! My name is Catherine (Andrews) Perrigo. I am a proud graduate of Colton-Pierrepont Central School, along with my 5 sisters and 2 brothers - all CPCS grads! After graduation, I pursued my Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh ("Pitt"). During this time, I had the opportunity to travel across the country and around the world. Those experiences were incredibly valuable and, ironically, made me realize how lucky I was to have grown up in Colton and that my favorite place on this Earth is my hometown. Ultimately, this led me to move back and build my life and raise my family here.

I work for Kinney Drugs Pharmacy, where I have spent 15 years serving our community as a pharmacist. I have since transitioned to a pharmacist position with Health Direct, based out of Gouverneur, where I continue my commitment to caring for others and supporting community health.

My husband and I are also small business owners in South Colton, where we own and operate The Red Pine Cone restaurant as well as Higley Outfitters, a canoe and kayak rental business. Through these experiences, I have developed a strong passion for supporting local growth and bringing positive change to the community we love.

Service to community has always been a core value in my life. My parents instilled in me a strong belief in volunteerism and giving back. They both

served decades in the Colton Fire Department and Rescue Squad, and my mother proudly served on the Colton-Pierrepont Central School Board of Education for 30 years - an example that has deeply shaped my commitment to service.

My husband and I chose to raise our family here in Colton, and we are proud to be raising our three children, ages 9, 7, and 3, who attend the same school that helped shape who I am today.

I remain actively involved in our community and youth programs. I volunteer with Buddy Basketball, the Colton Youth Summer Soccer program, serve on the CPCS Wellness Committee, and co-coach Girls on the Run. On Sundays, I host a women's pickup soccer league, with the goal of promoting female athletics, confidence, and community connection in Colton.

My journey - from student to pharmacist, business owner, volunteer, and parent - has given me a deep appreciation for the role strong schools play in shaping both individual lives and the strength of our community. I am committed to supporting educational excellence, expanding opportunities for all students, and helping ensure that Colton-Pierrepont remains a place where families choose to live, learn, and thrive for generations to come.



■ Alex Bonno

I have lived in the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District for 32 years and am a graduate of Colton School. I earned an associate degree in Electrical Engineering from SUNY Canton.

I am currently employed by National Grid, where I serve as a Design Supervisor overseeing the design departments in the Potsdam and Watertown offices. My work involves leadership, planning, and managing complex projects.

My wife, Andrea, and I have two children in the district - Grayson, who is in second grade, and Brooks, who attends Pre-Kindergarten.

I am actively involved in our school district and community. I currently serve on the Colton-Pierrepont Board of Education and volunteer with several youth programs, including Buddy Basketball, youth summer soccer, and coaching fourth and fifth grade travel basketball.



■ Cindy McLean

I have been a resident of the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District for 30 years. My husband, Mike, and I are the proud parents of two children - one who graduated in 2024 and another who is currently in ninth grade.

I am a retired professor from Clarkson University's Occupational Therapy program. I currently work as a substitute at Miss Becca's Little Explorers and provide per diem occupational therapy services through Health Services of Northern New York.

I earned a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern Indiana and a Master of Science in Wellness Promotion from the

California College of Health Sciences. I have served on the Colton-Pierrepont Central School District Board of Education since 2014, including as Board President, and have also served on the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES Board since 2018. My involvement includes serving on district hiring committees and the Portrait of a Graduate Committee, as well as volunteering at school book fairs and events. In the community, I coordinate a biannual free clothing drive held at CPCS.





Colton-Pierrepont

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Colton, New York 13625

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Cindy McLean, *President*

Chad VanBrocklin, *Vice President*

Alex Bonno

Lorraine Gowing

Karen Peck

Catherine Perrigo

Angela Villeneuve-Bronson

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This newsletter is produced in cooperation with Capital Region BOCES Engagement & Development Services.

2026-27 BUDGET

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
12 to 8 p.m.

Colton-Pierrepont Central School
Auditorium Lobby
4921 NY-56, Colton

 **\$14,712,610** budget
proposal for 2026-27

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

- Budget 2026-27
- Board of Education Election
- Hepburn Library Proposition

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- 18 years or older
- A district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Personal identification/proof of residency is required (e.g., driver's license or utility bill, both with name and current address).

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND EARLY VOTING

Absentee ballot voting is available, and the new Early Mail Voter Act, allows for early voting via mail with no reasons needed. You must fill out an application to vote by early voting or absentee ballot. There are separate applications to vote by early voting or absentee ballot, but the application process and deadlines are the same for both.

- For an application or more information, call the Superintendent's Office at 315-262-2100.
- If you would like your ballot mailed to you, the application must be submitted at least seven days prior to the vote — by May 12.
- If you plan to pick up the absentee ballot in person, applications will be accepted until May 18.
- Absentee ballots must be returned to the District Clerk prior to 5 p.m. on May 19.

