

Chappaqua Schools

PUBLISHED FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT BY THE CHAPPAQUA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Community Member:

The board of education is fully committed to excellence in education. In Chappaqua, we define excellence in numerous ways. We offer a rich and rigorous curriculum from kindergarten through twelfth grade. We hire highly qualified teachers and provide them with ongoing professional development opportunities. We invest in technology and integrate the use of technological tools into classroom instruction. We offer students extracurricular opportunities to participate in clubs, musical groups, and athletic teams. Our school buildings are well equipped and well maintained.

We have often noted that excellence in education is an expensive undertaking. Annual budget-to-budget increases have been as high as 12.9% (in 2003-04) during the past 10 years as the district hired new staff to meet the needs of increasing enrollment, built the Seven Bridges Middle School, added classrooms to Greeley and Roaring Brook, enhanced the educational program in numerous ways including the implementation of full-day kindergarten, and paid for rapidly escalating employee benefit costs. The school district budget has grown from \$57.7 million to \$107.3 million since 2000 – an increase of 86%. Budget increases have moderated in the last two years (5.12% in 2007-08 and 5.25% in 2008-09) as enrollment stabilized and fewer program initiatives and capital projects were undertaken.

Given the current economic climate and our concern about the sustainability of significant annual budget increases, the board asked the administration to explore what a budget increase of zero might look like. We stressed the importance of preserving the district's instructional excellence while lowering expenses through reductions, efficiencies, and other measures.

Superintendent David Fleishmann developed nine operating standards to guide the budget development process to:

- Ensure traditions of excellence in teaching and learning continue
- Maintain current class size ratios at elementary schools
- Come close to meeting current class size ratios at secondary schools
- Maintain existing structures (teams) at the middle school level
- Maximize efficiencies in scheduling personnel wherever possible and change schedules where appropriate
- Offer close to the same breadth and depth of course offerings and extracurricular activities at Greeley
- Ensure that district buildings continue to be clean and well-maintained
- Ensure that school and district offices function efficiently and effectively
- Ensure that we meet all legal mandates

2009-10 Proposed Budget \$107.3 million

Budget-to-budget increase 0%

Town of New Castle 0% tax increase

Town of Mt. Pleasant 2.56% tax increase

Continued on page 3

VOTE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Tuesday, May 19, 2009
7 a.m.-9 p.m. ★ Greeley Gym

School District Budget Notice

State Law requires that all residents receive this information in the following format.

Overall Budget Proposal

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2008-09 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2009-10 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2009-10 School Year *
Total budget amount	\$107,347,134	\$107,347,134	\$107,229,634
Increase (decrease) for the 2009-10 school year		\$ 0	(\$117,500)
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		0.00%	-0.11%
Change in the consumer price index		3.80%	
Resulting estimate property tax levy for the 2009-10 school year		\$95,909,088	\$95,791,588
Administrative Component	\$11,536,534	\$10,958,676	\$10,948,676
Program Component	\$78,256,896	\$78,838,598	\$78,741,098
Capital Component	\$17,553,704	\$17,549,860	\$17,539,860

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2009-10 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. The contingency budget would require \$117,500 in cuts from the proposed 2009-10 budget. Reductions would be made from supplies, equipment, field trips, and modified sports.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

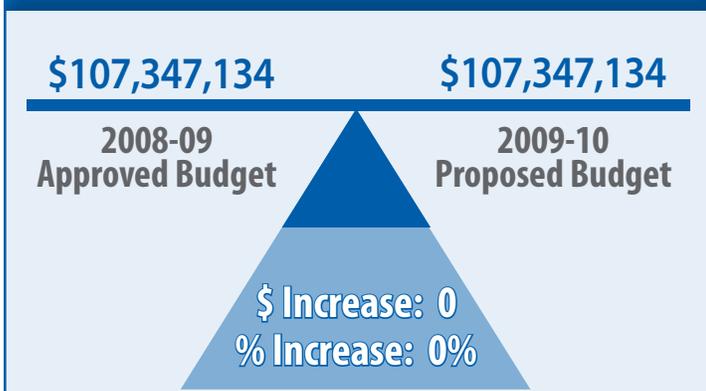
Estimated Basic STAR** Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2009-10 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$1,392

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2009-10 by the qualified voters of the Chappaqua Central School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Horace Greeley High School in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Horace Greeley High School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine ballot or machine.

** The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

2009-10 Proposed Budget



The Tax Rate

Estimated Projected Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value

	Rate	% Increase
Town of New Castle	\$93.32	0%
Town of Mt. Pleasant	\$1,133.17	2.56%

Dear Community Member ■ *Continued from page 1*

The board of education began discussing the administration's proposed budget on January 27th. That proposed budget demonstrated how a zero percent increase could be achieved and how the student experience might change as a result. Presentations and discussions continued at public meetings in February, March, and April. Hundreds of community members have shared their thoughts with the board at meetings and through email.

At its April 21st meeting, the board of education unanimously adopted a proposed budget totaling \$107,347,134 for the 2009-10 school year. This budget reflects a zero increase from the prior year. Board members individually expressed their belief that the budget continues to provide the highest quality of teaching and learning in Chappaqua.

Given declining revenues from sources other than property taxes (sales tax, income from investments, state aid), the zero budget increase did not translate into a zero property tax increase. However, the board has determined to appropriate \$2.4 million of surplus funds to offset the tax levy thereby resulting in a projected tax rate increase of 0% in New Castle and 2.56% in Mt. Pleasant. The difference in tax rates is due to different assessment methodologies as well as changes in the total taxable assessments between the municipalities. It should be noted that Mt. Pleasant had a projected tax rate decrease last year of -3.89% compared to an increase for New Castle of 4.59%.

State law requires that the board of education identify a contingency budget amount. Should the budget proposal before the voters on May 19th be defeated, the board may choose to propose another budget to be voted upon on June 16 or the board may determine to adopt the contingency budget directly. The board of education has identified a contingency budget in the amount of \$107,229,634, which is a 0.1% reduction from the proposed budget.

We invite you to learn more about the proposed budget. A detailed budget summary book may be viewed online at www.ccsd.ws or picked up at the Education Center or any school building. A budget information page on the website contains meeting presentation materials and budget FAQs. Streaming video of budget meetings may be viewed at www.ncctv.org.

We thank you for your continued support of public education in Chappaqua. We urge you to go to the polls on Tuesday May 19th in the Horace Greeley High School gymnasium from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. to vote on the school and library budgets and to elect a member of the school board and a member of the library board.

Sincerely,

THE CHAPPAQUA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jay Shapiro, *President*

Jeffrey Mester, *Vice President*

Janet Benton

Gregg Bresner

Susan Habermann

Budget Questions & Answers

...continued from page 5

In the area of music: band, orchestra, chorus, as well as general music will continue to be offered to all students but will be scheduled differently. Instead of being a pull-out program where the remaining students have a tutorial period, music will be scheduled every other day as a distinct class period. As a result, students may choose either band, orchestra, or chorus. The district continues to look at how to expand chorus opportunities for students who elect to take instrumental music.

Q. What will the high school program look like next year for students?

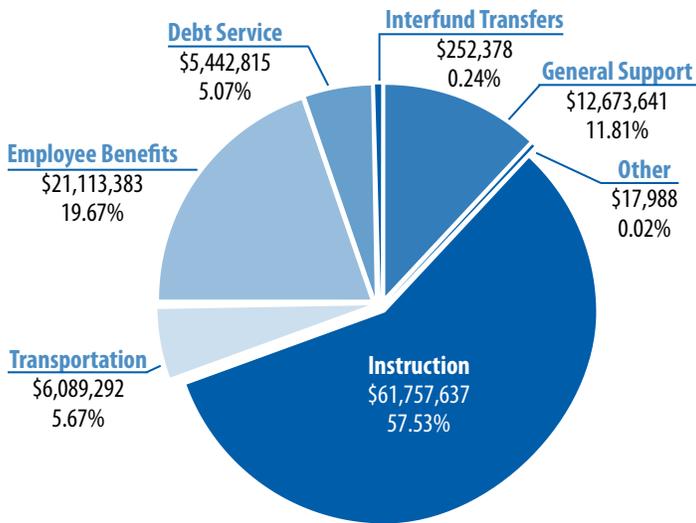
All Greeley students will continue to have a wide array of academic course offerings and extracurricular activities. The reduction of 5.6 teaching positions ties directly to the decrease in enrollment projected for Greeley in 2009-10 (67) and 2010-11 (30). There may be a small increase in average class size in English, math, and social studies of less than one student. Guidance counselor case loads will increase by approximately 10 students. All elective courses offered in 2008-09 will be offered in 2009-10 and students will have the same opportunity to enroll in their desired courses. For example, the same percentage of students who were able to take two sciences this year will be able to take two sciences next year. The new Chinese studies program, which has been very popular, will be expanded next year to three sections in response to student registration requests.

Q. Does the zero growth budget affect special education services?

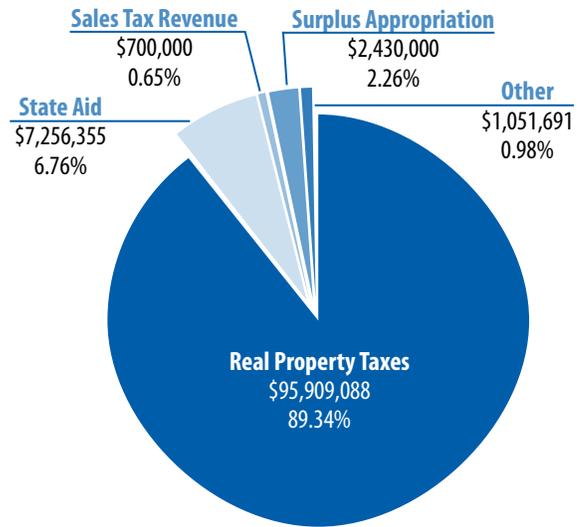
No. Special Education services are determined by the Committee on Special Education based on individual student need, not on available funding. All students with an IEP or a 504 plan will continue to receive the appropriate agreed upon services.

Budget Information

2009-10 General Fund Expenditures



2009-10 General Fund Revenues



Budget Summary

		2008-09 Approved Budget	2009-10 Proposed Budget	% Change
General Support	Board of Education	\$62,257	\$58,881	-5.42%
	Central Administration	\$359,528	\$366,347	1.90%
	Finance/Audit/Legal	\$1,357,091	\$1,262,615	-6.96%
	Human Resources/Public Information	\$437,946	\$433,280	-1.07%
	Operations & Maintenance	\$8,967,937	\$9,121,518	1.71%
	Special Items	\$1,422,000	\$1,431,000	0.63%
	Total	\$12,606,759	\$12,673,641	0.53%
Instruction	Supervision	\$5,673,448	\$5,585,420	-1.55%
	Regular School	\$36,016,353	\$36,617,561	1.67%
	Special Schools	\$290,000	\$259,000	-10.69%
	Special Education	\$10,219,077	\$10,560,901	3.34%
	Instructional Media	\$3,920,748	\$3,427,275	-12.59%
	Pupil Services	\$3,050,439	\$3,913,579	28.30%
	Pupil Activities	\$1,495,373	\$1,393,901	-6.79%
Total	\$60,665,438	\$61,757,637	1.80%	
Transportation		\$5,908,424	\$6,089,292	3.06%
Undistributed	Employee Benefits	\$22,128,982	\$21,113,383	-4.59%
	Debt Service	\$5,464,534	\$5,442,815	-0.40%
	Community Services	\$22,322	\$17,988	-19.42%
	Interfund Transfers	\$550,675	\$252,378	-54.17%
Total	\$28,166,513	\$26,826,564	-4.76%	
General Fund Appropriations		\$107,347,134	\$107,347,134	0.00%

Budget Questions & Answers

Q. How does the 2009-10 budget compare to last year's budget?

The 2009-10 budget includes district-wide spending reductions that offset contractual and other cost increases, resulting in a zero increase budget.

17.2 professional staff positions have been eliminated; 12.8 of these are no longer needed due to declines and grade level shifts in enrollment and support service case loads. Changes in program account for the remaining positions. Salaries for administrative staff are frozen at 2008-09 levels for next year per a new contract agreement approved by the board on April 21. Other personnel reductions include nine teaching assistants, six part-time teacher aides, nine clerical positions and four custodial positions. These reductions will be offset by reorganized workloads and scheduling efficiencies.

Equipment and supply budgets throughout the district have been frozen or reduced. Savings in specific areas include \$266,542 in the building per pupil allocation, \$339,601 in deferred technology purchases, and \$245,375 in operations and maintenance. The budget summary book (available on the district website www.ccsd.ws or in any district building) contains complete, line-by-line spending information.

Q. With the expected decrease in revenues other than taxes, how was the estimated zero percent (0%) tax increase achieved?

By state law, a school district is allowed to maintain a fund balance of up to 4% of the current budget. Districts may also establish reserve funds for specific purposes such as tax certiorari claims and future benefits obligations. In the current 2008-2009 school year, savings have been realized from lower than budgeted and anticipated expenses. As the district's fund balance is already at its legal limit and the various reserve funds are deemed to be appropriately funded, the board has opted to return the additional savings of \$2.4 million to the taxpayer.

Q. What will the elementary program look like next year for students?

The elementary experience for students in grades K-4 will be essentially the same as it is this year. The average class sizes will remain unchanged in all three schools. Two fewer teachers will be needed for grades 1 – 4 due to enrollment shifts. However, two contingency teaching positions and two contingency teacher aides have been added to the budget due to higher than expected kindergarten registration numbers.

Elementary students will continue to have a rich exploratory program. Students attend physical education twice a week; general music, library, and art once a week. Art classes will now be 45 minutes in length, rather than 55-60 minutes.

Instruction in instrumental music will continue for fourth grade students.

Some staffing shifts will occur in special education and academic intervention services resulting in more efficient utilization of staff. The level of services for students will be comparable to what we have now, and all special education students will receive the services specified in their individualized education plans.

Q. What will the middle school program look like next year for students?

Teams, the defining structure of the middle school philosophy, will remain as they are. The class size averages at the middle school will also be constant. One fifth grade teaching position will be reduced due to an enrollment decrease.

The changes at the middle school level will be primarily in the exploratory areas. Course time in technology, family and consumer science, and health will be slightly reduced to provide increased time for a literacy period focusing on reading and writing in all grades and for foreign language instruction every day (instead of every other day) in the fifth grade. Students enter middle school with a strong foundation in reading and writing from their work in elementary school but need more time in middle school to build their volume of reading and engage more deeply in a variety of texts. Next year fifth graders will receive one period of reading and one period of writing per day. A new literacy period for grades 6 to 8 will meet every other day. Fifth graders currently take foreign language every other day. Next year they will receive language instruction every day, allowing them to better immerse themselves in this new subject area. Foreign language teachers have begun to redesign their fifth grade program to emphasize spoken language in a more relaxed classroom environment.

All students will continue to take courses in health, family and consumer science, and technology. However, they will receive one-quarter to one-half year less of each of these classes over a four-year period. Teachers in these subjects are working to reorganize their curriculum to fit the scheduling change. For example, today's students come to technology with a strong foundation in computer basics so the curriculum is being shifted accordingly. Time spent on power tools is being reduced while time for robotics is being increased. Family and consumer science teachers are discussing moving the sewing units to afterschool programs and enhancing their instruction of nutrition. Health teachers will continue to instruct important units on growth and development, substance abuse prevention, mental health, and sexuality.

Continued on page 3

VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 • 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Greeley Gym

CHAPPAQUA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT May 19, 2009

YES	NO	YES	NO
SCHOOL BUDGET RESOLUTION		LIBRARY BUDGET RESOLUTION	
RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of Chappaqua Central School District be and hereby is authorized to expend the sum of \$107,347,134 set forth in the School District Budget for the School Year 2009-2010, and that the necessary tax be levied therefor.		RESOLVED: That there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$2,746,762 for the Chappaqua Central School District Public Library for the School Year 2009-2010, and that the necessary tax be levied therefor.	
TO elect ONE Member of THE BOARD OF EDUCATION For a Term of Three Years (Vote for ONE)		TO elect ONE Trustee SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY For a Term of Five Years (Vote for ONE)	
1A Alyson Gardner Kiesel		2A Leo Sheer	
		2B Khusro Elley	
SAMPLE		2C David Shields	
		2D Werner Renberg	
		BALLOT	

NEWS & VIEWS Chappaqua Schools

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Jeffrey Mester, Vice President
Janet Benton, Board Member
Gregg Bresner, Board Member
Susan Habermann, Board Member

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. David Fleishman

District Clerk

Theresa Markley

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