



Frugal and efficient planning reflected in proposed budget

Keeping an eye on the future to help us stay prepared and positioned for success

How has the school district managed to keep costs down and eliminate excess spending?

Like any business, we are constantly striving to become more efficient. For example, last year we did a comprehensive review of our food service and athletic departments. After careful analysis, we implemented changes that resulted in the use of money and facilities more effectively. Due to the economic crisis, all departments were asked to cut 10% from their budgets. The only exceptions made were cuts that would create a health or safety concern. Recently, we upgraded the furnaces in most of our school buildings. Beginning this year, we implemented the districtwide half-mile and quarter-mile walker rules for students. These efforts have resulted in a substantial savings. The reduced number of students in our schools enabled us to cut four positions within the district. In addition, the Superintendent of Schools and the two Assistant Superintendents voluntarily gave up their pay raises for next year. As we continue to face the tough times ahead, we will continue to look for more efficient ways to use taxpayer money.

What happens if the budget does not pass?

The Board of Education has three choices - put the same budget up for another vote, put a revised budget up for vote or adopt the contingency budget. This year, we created a budget that is below the contingency budget because we are sensitive to the effects the economy is having on many people.

What is a contingency budget and how will it affect my taxes?

The State requires a school district to have a contingency budget prepared in case the community does not pass the proposed school budget. This will mean that certain equipment cannot be purchased and the community will not be able to use the school facilities without paying a fee. Since we created a budget that is already below the contingency budget, these cost reductions will have very little impact on your tax bill. The difference in the tax levy increase between the proposed budget and the contingency budget is only about 1%.

What happens when the Federal Stimulus money ends in two years?

If our economy does not improve and the state does not make substantial changes to the education laws and regulations, we will be facing significant cuts in programs and facilities. Compounding this issue is the fact that our state aid will not increase for the next two years. This is extremely significant since it will negatively affect us financially. As our expenses increase and our aid stays the same, a revenue shortfall will force us to either make major cuts in student programs or raise taxes significantly. Unlike private businesses, our structure and procedures are dictated by federal and state laws and regulations that we are mandated to follow. These strict rules determine what we can and cannot do. Unless the legal and regulatory structures in public education change, our options will be severely limited.

Will any elementary schools be closed this year?

No. Unless there are positive changes made in how our schools are financed and a sustainable increase in our student population occurs, we may have to consider this an option in the future. Therefore, we cannot ignore the possibility that at some point we may be forced to close one of our elementary schools. The Board of Education has commissioned a comprehensive demographic study from which we can gather the necessary information needed to make some difficult decisions concerning our elementary school structure. The study should be completed by the end of this summer.

We commend our communities for showing such enthusiastic support for their local schools.



Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 19
Polls are open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Patrick Michel
**Assistant Superintendent
 for Student Learning**
 Ms. Kathleen Pagano-Fuller
**Assistant Superintendent
 for Business & Support Services**
 Gladys P. Baxter

Board of Education
 Robert Stewart, *President*
 Alyce Van Etten, *Vice President*
 Jacob Billig
 Tara Buckstad-Russo
 Richard Feller
 Liza Glick
 Yvonne Housman
 Barbara O'Rourke
 Aria Shafai, *Student Representative*

Renata Gittler, *Editor, Photography & Layout*
 Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.



Central School District
237 Forestburgh Road
Monticello, NY 12701
www.monticelloschools.net



**Non-Profit
 Organization**
**U.S. Postage
 PAID**
**Permit No. 1301
 Newburgh, NY**

POSTAL CUSTOMER ECRWSS

The News from Monticello Central School District

2009 Budget Flyer 2

Monticello Central School District Budget Notice

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 budgeted amount	\$74,136,760	\$76,685,227	\$75,958,100
Increase/decrease for the 2008-09 school year		\$2,548,467	\$1,821,340
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		3.44%	2.46%
Change in the consumer price index		3.80%	
Resulting property tax levy for the 2008-09 school year		\$39,297,805	\$38,570,678
Administrative component	\$8,497,655	\$8,700,328	\$8,689,928
Program component	\$55,558,561	\$57,943,196	\$57,727,512
Capital component	\$10,080,544	\$10,041,703	\$9,540,660

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2009-10 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.¹ In addition to the mandated cuts including equipment and school bus purchases, the District will consider all areas of the budget to meet the necessary reductions, including: administration, instruction, athletics, extra-curricular and transportation services.
 **All budget calculations include Contract for Excellence funds.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR² Exemption Savings based on a hypothetical home within the School District with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

Budget Proposed for the 2009-10 School Year

Basic STAR Tax Savings

\$508

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2009-10 by the qualified voters of the Monticello Central School District, Sullivan County, New York, will be held in said district at the RJK Middle School, Duggan Elementary School, Chase Elementary School, Rock Hill Fire House and Forestburgh Town Hall on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the five locations, at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ Provide a statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law.

² The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



On the May 19 ballot, there will be seven candidates running for three Board of Education seats as follows:

TRUSTEE (3 years) Seat held by Robert Stewart: 1A - Robert STEWART 1B - Robert KUNIS

TRUSTEE (3 years) Seat held by Jacob Billig: 2A - Jacob BILLIG 2B - Robert BELLAMY 2C - Jo-Ann PEABODY

TRUSTEE (2 years, 42 days) Seat held by Eugene Nesin: 3A - Susan PURCELL 3B - Babette ROSS

There will also be a space for Write-in Candidates for each seat.

Questions about the budget should be directed to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patrick Michel at 794-7700, ext. 70910.