



Monthly Bulletin

May 2010

Dr. Patrick Michel
Superintendent of Schools

www.monticelloschools.net

From the desk of the Superintendent: Keeping focused on what's important

In 24 years as an educator, I have never been involved in a more difficult process than creating the budget for the 2010-2011 school year. Many of us experienced the economic hardships of the 1980s and 1990s when cuts to jobs in education and student programs were abundant. Even in those tough times, we were told that the reductions were only temporary and that much of what was taken away would be restored in the future. This time, New York State is not giving us that same level of reassurance. The state is faced with unprecedented shortfalls in its budget. When this happens, counties, towns, villages and school districts also experience shortfalls. In our case, the state has cut millions of dollars in aid. This has significantly impacted our decision-making process this year and for years to come.

The members of our Board of Education should be complimented for their hard work and dedication. Some very difficult decisions had to be made in order to create a reasonable budget that preserves student programs and respects the burden on our taxpaying citizens. The proposed budget shows the public we are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to get through these tough economic times while still ensuring our children the quality education they need to be successful in the global economy. We can no longer expect our children to be educated in the same manner as we were and we cannot disregard the future because of the present challenges.

The new level of academic rigor that is being demanded by the federal government and supported by the State Education Department is much higher than when we were in school. Students at the elementary level will be the first to take national exams in math and English. These exams will be based on international standards. It is our obligation to prepare our students to be successful on these exams and to support and create programs that will enable them to compete and succeed. Our students are capable of great things. We have already seen considerable success and we need to continue to build on that success so that all our children will be ready to face the world as it is and shall be.

We are proud that the community has supported us throughout this very painful budget formation process and we will continue to work together as we move forward. As always, my door is open. Please feel free to stop by or call if you have any questions or concerns.

The School Budget Vote will be held on Tuesday, May 18

All polling locations are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Board of Education meetings: Thursday, May 6 & Tuesday, May 18

Meet the Board of Education Candidates, Monday, May 10, 6:30 p.m. in the RJK Middle School library
Presented by the Monticello Teachers Association

QuickCLIPS

A public budget hearing will be held on Thursday, May 6 at 7 p.m. in the RJK Middle School cafeteria.

Absentee Ballot Information

Absentee ballots are available at the office of the District Clerk, Mary Ryan Buchholz. For full details about the absentee ballot process, call 794-7700, ext. 70501. Absentee ballots must be filed in the office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 18.

Polling Locations for May 18 Vote

Forestburgh
School Election District #5
Forestburgh Town Hall

Thompson

(Rock Hill Area) School Election District #4
Rock Hill Fire Department

Mamakating

School Election District #3
Emma C. Chase School, Wurtsboro

Bethel

School Election District #2
Cornelius Duggan School, White Lake

Thompson

(Remainder of the District)
School Election District #1
Robert J. Kaiser Middle School

If you're not sure where to vote, call 794-7700, ext. 70501.

Important Calendar Additions

- Monday, May 10 - Full-day Conference - NO SCHOOL for students
- Tuesday, June 1 - NO SCHOOL - Snow Day give back (if there are no other snow days)
- Friday, June 25 - Full-day Conference - NO SCHOOL for students

Other May Dates To Note

- Friday, May 14 - Half-day Conference - EARLY DISMISSAL for students
- Friday, May 28 & Monday, May 31 - NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Extended Weekend

Voter Registration Information

District residents who wish to register to vote may do so, by appointment, 9 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. daily, except weekends and holidays, at the office of the District Clerk in the Administration Building, 237 Forestburgh Road in Monticello. Registration must take place at least five (5) days preceding the budget vote and Board of Education election which is Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Voter Registration at District Schools

Residents can also register to vote with the main office secretary at each district school beginning May 3. Registration hours will be the same as the daily schedule of each school. *Please bring valid identification and current proof of residency with your present address listed.*

Voter Qualifications - Who May Vote?

In order to be legally qualified to vote in the annual school district budget vote and Board of Education election, a person must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- Eighteen years of age or older
- A resident within the Monticello School District for a period of at least 30 days immediately preceding the vote (*this must be your primary, permanent residence*)
- Registered to vote (*The registration of voters is valid for a period of four years. If the resident has not voted within that period, they must re-register. All new residents must register to vote. Residents of the district who are registered to vote in a general election are eligible to vote at school district meetings and elections without further special school district registration.*)

Monticello School District residents will go to the polls on May 18 to vote on a proposed \$75,985,992 budget for the 2010-11 school year.

The proposed budget represents a decrease of -0.9 percent from this year's operating budget and a reduction of \$3.4 million from the rollover budget. The proposed spending plan includes a projected tax levy increase of 6 percent. Final tax rate impact is determined in August when the Board of Education approves the tax warrant. On May 18, residents will also vote to elect candidates for three seats on the Board of Education held by incumbents Richard Feller, Yvonne Housman and Barbara O'Rourke.