

The
News
from

Monticello

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Vote

Tuesday
May 20

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

Voting Locations

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
Chase Elementary School,
Wurtsboro

Bethel

School Election District #2
Duggan Elementary School,
White Lake

Thompson (Remainder of the district)

School Election District #1
RJK Middle School

Absentee Ballots & Voting Information

If you are unable to
vote in person or if you
have any questions
about the voting
process, call District
Clerk Mary Ryan
Buchholz at 794-7700,
ext. 70501.

Absentee ballots must
reach the district clerk's
office no later than
5 p.m. on May 20.

New school budget reflects state of the economy

The following letter is from Monticello's Superintendent of Schools to the district's community members.

We are very pleased to inform you that through the hard work of community members on our Citizens' Advisory Budget Committee (CABC), our Board of Education and our teachers and administrators, we were able to create a very fiscally responsible school budget. This year, our budget increase will be the lowest in 10 years. We are also proposing a tax levy increase of 5.72%. We strived to do this because we are extremely sensitive to the fact that many households in our district are financially strained due to high fuel costs and the shaky economy.

We could not have accomplished this without

Proposed Budget Increase Lowest in 10 Years

the hard work of our Board of Education members who not only pushed for this low number, but took their personal time to visit our political representatives to ask for our fair share of State and Federal aid. BOE Vice President Alyce Van Etten along with BOE members Liza Glick, and Richard Feller (who is also our Area 9 State Representative) recently joined me and our Assistant Superintendent for Business, Gladys Baxter, on a trip to Albany to push for more funding for our district. I am pleased to report that we achieved the positive results we were looking for.

We are also very lucky to be represented by Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and Senator John Bonacic, who both fought a winning battle to



restore the State aid that had been cut under the Governor's proposed budget. We used the extra money we received to further reduce our tax levy and place our district in a stronger fiscal position. Assemblywoman Gunther took her support one step further and gave us a \$150,000 grant which we further used to lower the tax levy and to improve student programs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Interdisciplinary learning helping students see the big picture



Monticello High School 10th graders Malik Bridges and Frankie Fello create oil paintings in Jay Brooks' art class as part of an interdisciplinary lesson. This lesson partners their English Language Arts, social studies and studio art classes enabling them to learn and understand the timeline between WWI and WWII. The project has these Fine Art Academy students depicting a local scene from that era. In their ELA class, they're reading different books about the 1920's and 30's and in social studies class, they're studying about the World Wars.

Sullivan County Boys & Girls Club receives charter and 50K

It's now official, the Sullivan County Boys & Girls Club has achieved all the qualifications for its charter.

In addition to the technical, behind the scenes requirements necessary to gain charter status, enrollment in the Club had to reach the 100 member mark – which it did earlier this year.

As part of the celebration, Congressman Maurice Hinchey joined local politicians and school representatives to present the Club's Executive Director Bill Fioravanti with a check for \$50,000 from the Office of Justice Programs.

"I am truly impressed by the great things that the Boys & Girls Clubs do to help keep kids off the street and help them grow to become responsible citizens," said Hinchey. "I com-



Congressman Maurice Hinchey presented the Boys & Girls Club with a \$50,000 check and its official charter certificate. Fallsburg Schools Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz, Monticello Schools Superintendent Dr. Patrick Michel, Club Program Leader Debbie Abreu, Sullivan County Legislator Leni Binder, Sullivan County BOCES Superintendent Dr. Martin Handler and Club Executive Director Bill Fioravanti attended the milestone event.

mend the people of Sullivan County for their resolve and hard work."

The Club was originally given \$50,000 by the Sullivan County Legislature to help them get started. Legislators Leni Binder and Ron Hiatt were proud to see the program they vigorously supported reach its new status.

"Prevention is a lot less expensive than cure," stated Binder as she congratulated Club officials for their commitment to Sullivan County. Hiatt made specific note of the cooperation of the school superintendents who

were determined to see the programs come to fruition, Dr. Patrick Michel from Monticello Schools and Dr. Ivan Katz from Fallsburg Schools.

In Dr. Michel's comments, he noted how the Club's after-school program has had a distinct positive impact on the in-school behavior of his middle school students. He also emphasized that if there isn't a safe place for kids to go after school, there is plenty of trouble they can find on the street, including local gangs who are forever recruiting naive young children for their ranks. ■■



Kathy Kreiter from the Dispute Resolution Center and Carolyn Massey from The Recovery Center were in attendance to show their support.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Letter from the Superintendent: working together through tough times

Building strong bonds with the community

When I arrived here three years ago, many people felt that our school system was in crisis - that their children were not safe and were not receiving an education that would prepare them for success in college or the workplace. We have worked extremely hard to change that by redesigning our schools and creating deeper connections with our community. As a result of our partnership with community-based organizations such as the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club, many positive opportunities for our children have been created, at no cost to the taxpayer.

Strengthening our commitment

This spirit of cost containment and innovation has also been applied to every aspect of our organization. Our schools are safe. We are pleased to report that the new academy structure and increased focus on our accelerated programs are having a significant impact on positive student success. With higher student achievement, our

middle school has been taken off the State list for math. As of this year, Monticello High School and Rutherford Elementary School have each met all the State standards. We know the reason we are seeing these very positive changes is because we have united together, combined our efforts, and are successfully guiding our schools in the right direction. To add to that community spirit, we are also excited about the prospect of creating a football program next year.

Keeping our promises

We are doing our part to keep costs low and we remain dedicated to producing a quality education program for our children. We recognize there is a great deal of work yet to be done and that only with your support can we continue to grow and flourish.

As always, if you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

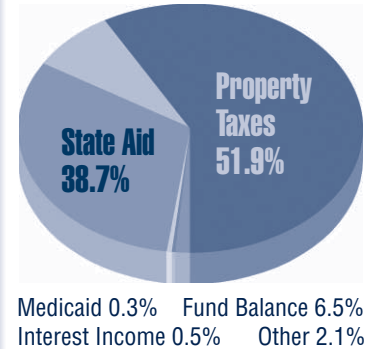
Sincerely,
Dr. Patrick Michel

The budget at a glance

Revenues

	Adopted 2007-08	Proposed 2008-09
Charges for Services	\$90,000	\$115,000
Other	1,035,000	1,345,000
Interest Income	400,000	375,000
Medicaid	275,000	250,000
State Aid	26,714,716	28,560,798
Fund Balance	5,033,133	4,820,745
Property Taxes	36,264,867	38,340,217
TOTALS	\$69,812,716	\$73,806,760

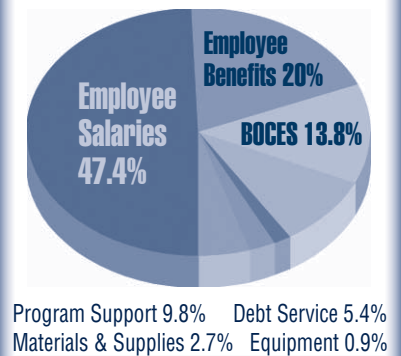
2008-09 Revenue Breakdown



Expenses

	Adopted 2007-08	Proposed 2008-09
Employee Salaries	\$31,937,119	\$35,014,527
Benefits	13,609,392	14,746,526
BOCES	9,695,401	10,219,599
Program Support	8,029,838	7,128,212
Equipment	818,613	691,487
Materials & Supplies	1,760,503	2,017,174
Debt Service	3,961,850	3,989,235
TOTALS	\$69,812,716	\$73,806,760

2008-09 Expense Breakdown



Budget Summary

New York State law requires all school districts to present their budgets divided into three expenditure categories - administrative, program and capital - and compare them to last year's amount. Monticello's three-part budget breaks down as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE	2007-08	2008-09
Amount	8,589,545	8,280,800
% of total	12.31%	11.22%
PROGRAM	2007-08	2008-09
Amount	51,593,128	55,678,773
% of total	73.90%	75.44%
CAPITAL	2007-08	2008-09
Amount	9,630,043	9,847,187
% of total	13.79%	13.34%

Monticello School District residents will go the polls on May 20 to vote on a proposed \$73,806,760 budget for the 2008-09 school year. The plan, which represents an increase of 5.72% over the current budget, is the lowest budget increase in 10 years. If the budget is not approved by voters, the Board of Education has the option to put the same budget up for another vote, put a revised budget up for vote or adopt the contingency budget. Because district officials and the Board of Education were very cautious with spending and created a budget below the contingency budget, the difference in the proposed tax levy increase between the proposed budget and the contingency budget is only about 1%. Also on the ballot will be a proposition to purchase three replacement school buses at a cost of \$330,000, which is 65% reimbursable through State aid (which means we'll get \$214,500 back).



On the May 20 ballot: Monticello Board of Education candidates

Three of the nine seats on Monticello Schools' Board of Education are up for election. The following are the six candidates who will appear on the ballot.



Alyce Van Etten, current BOE vice president, resident of the Village of Monticello

Alyce was elected to Monticello's BOE in 1993 and is a past president. She is a delegate and past vice president of the Sullivan County School Boards Association, has served as a legislative liaison and Monticello's voting delegate for the NYS School Boards Association, and she is trained in the fiscal responsibility of school board members. She received the Mid-Hudson School Study Council Award for Outstanding Service, is a member of the RJK Restructuring Committee, serves on the Administrative Leadership Team, is a CRMC Hospital Auxiliary member, and was active with the PTA, youth soccer, Little League and Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop. She is married to her husband, Jan, has three children, Eli, Jack and Grace, and a granddaughter Molly.



Liza Glick, current BOE member, resident of Glen Wild

Liza has served on Monticello's BOE since September 2006. Currently, she is appointed to the State Legislative Network and the Federal Relations Network. She has been a member of the NYS School Boards Association for two years, is a Council Chair for the NYS Ski Racing Association, and is involved in AYSO Soccer and Monticello Little League. She has served on the Board of Directors for Nana's House Child Care Center in Rock Hill since 2001, is a past president of the Cooke/Rutherford PTA and has served on several Monticello School District committees. She works as an officer of Arthur Glick Leasing, Ltd. She has been married to her husband, Todd, for 15 years, and has two children, Skylar and Camryn.



Vincent Gilmore, resident of the Village of Monticello

Vincent has served as a community representative on the Monticello Schools' 2007 and 2008 Citizens' Advisory Budget Committees (CABC) and is involved in the school community. Presently, he is the vice president of the Sullivan County Million Man March Community Action Group. He is a past member of the Town of Thompson Conservation Advisory Committee and past member of the Village of Monticello Human Rights Commission. He holds an Associates Degree in Recreation Leadership. He is a partner in the Produce Centers Corporation, and does work in the courier and trucking industries. He is married to his wife, Bernadette, and has three children, Valerie, Thomas and Brandi.



Marta Mangual, resident of the Village of Monticello

Marta is a member of the Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA). She is part of the Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) program in the RJK Middle School and the Brigade of Community Action. She is the vice president of the Monticello Little League, chairwoman for the Boy Scouts' Annual Spaghetti Dinner, and a Migrant Educator for the Oneonta Migrant Education Outreach Program. She was honored as the Boys & Girls Clubs' MVP (Most Valuable Parent) for December and is employed as the Bilingual Program Coordinator for the EPIC Parent Center. She attended college for two years. She is married to her husband, Gregory, and has two children, Julio and Jesus.



Barbara O'Rourke, resident of Forestburgh

Barbara is actively involved in the school community. She is a Parent Advocate on the Committee for Special Education and is the first person to serve as president of the newly formed Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA). She is a volunteer chaperone for the 2008 RJK 8th grade trip, is a past member of the Cooke/Rutherford PTA, a past participant in the Autism Support Group of Sullivan County and has been involved with the AYSO Youth Soccer League. She graduated from Monticello High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Writing Arts from SUNY at Oswego. She is married to her husband, William, and has three children, Kathleen, David and Sean.



Pedro Torres, resident of the Village of Monticello

Pedro is currently a Medicaid Service Coordinator employed by the Family Empowerment Council of Orange and Sullivan Counties where he provides support and assistance to individuals with disabilities that allows them to live independently in the community. He is also the Senior Pastor at the Lighthouse Church of God and the Monticello District Bishop who supervises 13 churches in eight counties. He is a parent volunteer for Little League and works with the Sullivan County Latino Service Provider Coalition. He holds a Bachelors from Jacksonville Theological Seminary and is currently working on his Masters in Christian Counseling. He is married to his wife, Miriam, and has three children, Paola, Mairyn and Joey.

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

Vivian Gambino Liff

Liza Glick

Yvonne Housman

Eugene Nesin

Taylor Fasce, *Student Representative*

Renata Gittler, Editor & Layout

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