



New budget to build on this year's success

Cautious spending during tough economic times

What is the amount of the proposed Monticello School District budget this year?

The amount we are proposing for the new budget to educate our children is \$73,806,760. This budget is based on suggestions from the community, in conjunction with the Board of Education. The proposed budget will equate to a 5.72% increase. **This is the lowest budget increase in 10 years.**

What is the tax levy?

There are two major components that support our budget: first, money we receive from the State in the form of aid; second, is through property taxes (that is the amount we pay). This year, the proposed budget has the levy increasing by 5.72%.

How does this tax levy increase impact my property tax bill?

On the back of this flyer, we have included a chart to help estimate what impact the tax levy will have on you. Please note, we are using last year's assessment and equalization rates, but they may change. Without this data, we are unable to calculate the tax reduction and savings you will get from the STAR program.

The economy is not doing well and fuel prices are very high. Have you taken this into account when you developed the budget?

We are dealing with high fuel costs and inflation - just like every household in our district. When we developed the budget with the community, we took all of this into consideration. Because of economic concerns, we created a budget that has the lowest increase in 10 years. We wish there could be no increase at all, but we cannot do that unless we cut important programs from our students.

Are we still a Contract for Excellence school district?

Yes we are. The Governor and Legislature did give us an increase in State aid, but there were strings attached. Since we have three schools that are in need of improvement, we are required to use the bulk of the increased State aid on new and improved programs. We will need to write a complete proposal for the State and submit it to them by this summer. If they agree to it, it will be signed and become our Contract for Excellence.



**Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 20**

When is the budget hearing?

The public budget hearing will be Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. in the RJK Middle School cafeteria.

When do I vote on the budget?

The budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20. All voting locations are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you have any questions about the budget or the process, please call Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patrick Michel at 794-7700, ext. 70910 or e-mail him at pmichel@k12mcsd.net.

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%

Simply put...

Home assessed at \$100,000	If you paid the following in 2007/08	A "Yes" vote will mean your estimated 2008/09 tax may be	Estimated annual dollar difference	The difference to your monthly cost as a taxpayer may be
Bethel	\$2,544	\$2,624	\$79.70	\$6.64
Fallsburg	\$2,544	\$2,624	\$79.70	\$6.64
Forestburgh (\$20,000)	\$3,101	\$3,198	\$96.83	\$8.07
Mamakating	\$2,755	\$2,841	\$86.13	\$7.17
Thompson	\$1,722	\$1,776	\$53.71	\$4.48

NOTE: The estimated rates are based on tentative assessment numbers and 2007/08 equalization rates. 2008/09 figures are not available at this time. Amounts do not reflect STAR reduction.



Project Excel Preschool is holding open enrollment for its 2008 summer and fall classes. Applications are available at 22 St. John Street in Monticello, or by calling 794-4020.

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