

Junior/Senior High School Restructuring Plan

The restructuring of our current Junior High School (Grades 7-8) and Senior High School (Grades 9-12), into one Junior/Senior High School (Grades 7-12) is being instituted to provide our students with appropriate learning experiences, in an environment where teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff are encouraged to work collaboratively to improve student achievement.



To accomplish this, effective July 1, 2010, there will be one secondary principal of the Junior/Senior High School, Mr. Thomas Averill. The principal will be responsible for the administration and supervision of Grades 7-12. The main offices, guidance offices, and attendance offices will be realigned to reflect the change. As a result of this modification, the administration (non-teaching) services for students can be streamlined. There will no longer be separate main offices, guidance offices, dean's offices, and attendance offices.

A new position of assistant principal will be created, instead of hiring a new High School principal. By hiring a candidate from within the system for the position, there will be a cost savings for the District. Each of the assistant principals will be responsible for two grade levels. Within each assistant principal's office will be two guidance counselors and one typist. These offices will be referred to as Student Centers, one serving Grades 7-8, one serving Grades 9-10, and one serving Grades 11-12.

In addition to the Student Centers, a room will be designated for the Helping and Nurturing Diverse Students (HANDS) program. For two years, our District has invested in training staff of the Junior/Senior High

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Saugerties

Central School District

BUDGET 2010

Information About the 2010-2011 School Budget

This year, school districts across New York State are struggling to make ends meet in these difficult economic times. Along with significant cost increases in retirement and health insurance premiums (which are mandated and legally binding obligations), schools are also looking at drastic reductions in government funding.

In November 2009, it was discovered that the 2009-2010 school budget for Saugerties Central School District did not appropriately account for all expenditures, and that there were significant overstatements in State Aid and other revenues. The District's financial troubles were exacerbated by a lack of reserve funds, which were depleted to cover financial shortfalls of past budgets (2008-2009). These factors created a financial crisis.

At about the same time, Governor Paterson threatened to withhold State Aid payments to schools and did in fact delay several payments. As a result of the Governor's actions, the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Education, and a teacher participated in a class action suit against the State, which led to the release of these monies. The possibility of further delays in 2009-2010 State Aid payments still exists, as indicated in recent Comptroller Office cautionary announcements.

To address this situation, it was necessary to make drastic cuts in the budget. Despite the numerous reductions, the Proposed Budget still meets education mandates and maintains positive educational opportunities for students. Please be sure to read through the information presented in this newsletter carefully and contact a Board of Education member; Seth Turner, Superintendent of Saugerties Central School District; G. Michael Apostol, Assistant Superintendent; or Allen Olsen, School Business Official, if you have any questions.

Action Taken

The financial crisis faced by the District caused the Board of Education and administration to take decisive action. All spending in the District was curtailed, and only purchases deemed necessary (health/safety/requirement) were allowed. A hiring freeze for non-essential personnel was implemented, jobs were cut, and other jobs were reduced to part-time. At all times, a commitment was made to limit the impact of the financial crisis on the learning environment for students.

The following positions were eliminated during the 2009-2010 school year: three elementary teachers, one health teacher, one part-time math teacher, one guidance counselor, one typist, and three monitors. The following positions were not filled: two full-time teaching assistants, seven part-time teaching assistants, two custodial workers, one typist, three regular substitute teachers, one food service helper, and one part-time speech therapist. One teacher in each of the following tenure areas was reduced to part-time status: physical educa-



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday May 18

NEW! Extended Voting Hours
6 AM-9 PM

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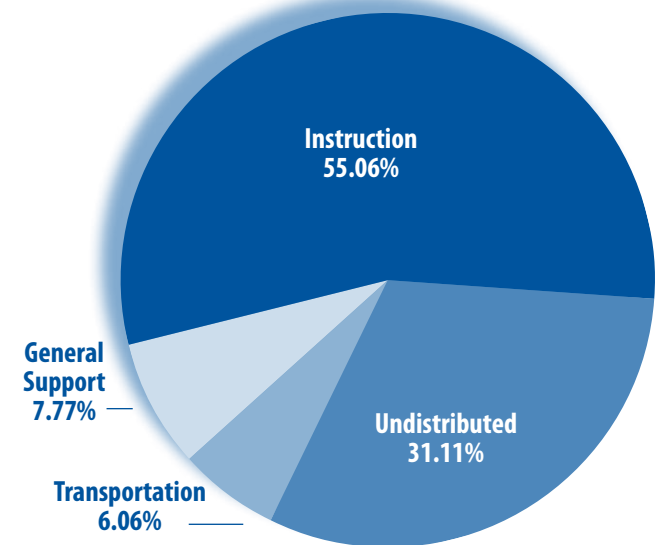
2010-2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

Three Part Budget

The legislation that requires New York State school districts to have a public budget vote includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three sections: Administration, Program, and Capital.

| | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | INCREASE/(DECREASE) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Administration | 7.19% \$3,785,842 | 5.14% \$2,835,562 | (\$950,280) |
| Program | 80.82% \$42,547,945 | 84.31% \$46,487,378 | \$3,939,433 |
| Capital | 11.99% \$6,312,783 | 10.55% \$5,817,342 | (\$495,441) |
| TOTAL | \$52,646,570 | \$55,140,282 | \$2,493,712 |
| 2010-2011 Proposed Budget: \$55,140,282 | | | |

How the Money Will Be Spent



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Information About the 2010-2011

tion, special education, business, English, social studies, and library media specialist.

In addition to reductions of personnel, other cost saving measures were implemented. This included the elimination of funding for two counselors from the Family and Child Educational Treatment Service (FACETS) program and the elimination of the In-School Suspension program at the Junior/Senior High School. Late buses at the elementary schools were reduced to running only three days each week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). The schedules for the Spring Sports were reduced to include only league schedules and one additional game/competition. Funds were limited for field trip expenses and professional development for staff. Strategies for reducing energy costs were initiated in each building.

Going Forward

In total, the Proposed Budget for the 2010-2011 school year is 4.7 percent above the 2009-2010 budget, and will result in a 21.1 percent increase (based on projections provided by the State) in the tax levy.

This increase is representative of the projected loss of funding from New York State, the higher costs of health insurance, mandated contributions to retirement systems, and contractual obligations. In an effort to contain costs, while providing students with a comprehensive education, the Board of Education approved a series of actions.

For the 2010-2011 school year, the following positions are eliminated: six elementary teachers, one special education teacher, one music teacher, one art teacher, one social studies teacher, one English teacher, one science teacher, one business teacher, one part-time media specialist, 23 stipend positions (lead teachers and coordinators), one principal, and one typist. One administrator is also reduced to part-time. It is noteworthy that seven positions are being eliminated through attrition, as the positions are able to be abolished in areas where an individual has chosen to retire.

Although a principal position is eliminated in the budget, an assistant principal will be hired internally. This action allows for the main offices, guidance offices, and attendance offices of the Junior/Senior High School to be streamlined, while provid-

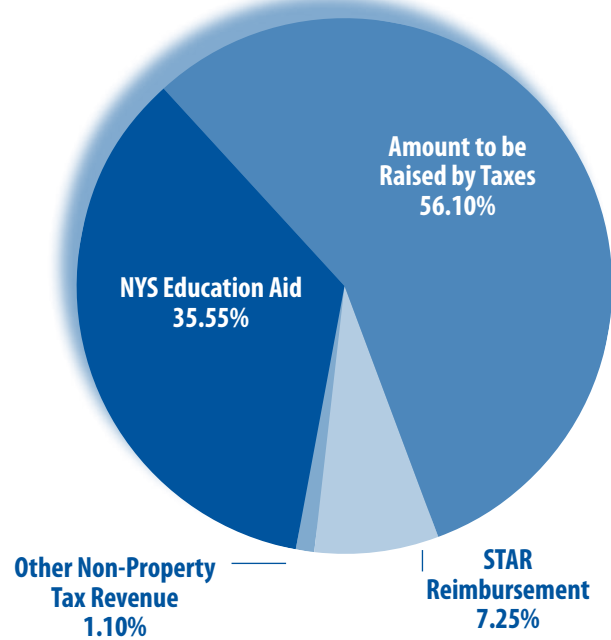
Expenditure Summary

| | ADOPTED BUDGET 2009-2010 | PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011 | \$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| GENERAL SUPPORT | | | |
| Board of Education | \$31,980 | \$33,678 | \$1,698 |
| Central Administration | 224,225 | 230,795 | 6,570 |
| Finance | 385,510 | 397,150 | 11,640 |
| Staff | 182,910 | 204,606 | 21,696 |
| Central Services | 2,647,105 | 2,757,706 | 110,601 |
| Special Items | 642,370 | 661,132 | 18,762 |
| Total | \$4,114,100 | \$4,285,067 | \$170,967 |
| INSTRUCTION | | | |
| Administration & Improvement | \$1,476,010 | \$1,269,134 | (\$206,876) |
| Instruction - Teaching | 25,009,270 | 25,775,467 | 766,197 |
| Instructional Media | 1,355,625 | 1,266,992 | (88,633) |
| Pupil Services & Activities | 2,282,200 | 2,049,317 | (232,883) |
| Total | \$30,123,105 | \$30,360,910 | \$237,805 |
| PUPIL TRANSPORTATION | | | |
| District Transportation | \$158,805 | \$261,786 | \$102,981 |
| Contract Transportation | 3,081,260 | 3,077,565 | (3,695) |
| Total | \$3,240,065 | \$3,339,351 | \$99,286 |
| UNDISTRIBUTED | | | |
| Employee Benefits | \$12,024,800 | \$13,955,051 | \$1,930,251 |
| Debt Service | 3,060,500 | 3,099,903 | 39,403 |
| Interfund Transfers | 84,000 | 100,000 | 16,000 |
| Total | \$15,169,300 | \$17,154,954 | \$1,985,654 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$52,646,570 | \$55,140,282 | \$2,493,712 |

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

New! Extended Voting Hours
Tuesday May 18 6 AM-9 PM

Where the Money Comes From



School Budget

ing sufficient administrative oversight for the 1,500 students in the building. The restructuring of the administrative (non-teaching) functions of the Junior/Senior High School is described in greater detail on page 1. Also included in the budget is the proposed hiring of a custodial worker position, and a teacher of technology.

A number of other measures were taken to reduce expenditures, including the continuation of the late buses at the elementary schools running only three days a week. Also, there will be a reduction of custodial overtime and substitute custodians. Many BOCES services are also cut, including Regular Academic Summer School, Principal Center, Standards Based Professional Development, School Improvement Elementary, School Improvement Secondary, Professional Development, Content Specialists, Content Specialist/Professional Development, Staff Development Base Service, and Science 21.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Junior/Senior High School Restructuring Plan

School in this supportive approach to student discipline. Mediations, crisis management, de-escalation of aggressive behavior, counseling, student discipline, and other services can be coordinated through this office. This student-centered approach does not require additional funding, only a redesign of some physical space, schedules, and a commitment to helping students in need.

The plan also calls for an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for every student at the Junior/Senior High School. This not only provides each student with an individualized focused plan, but also makes adjusting staffing in response to changes in student population easier to accommodate. Student needs will be the driving force in all staffing decisions. The ability to modify the educational system to meet the needs of the students, as defined in their ILPs, can lead to increased offerings of advanced courses, remedial courses, integrated classes, or other models of instruction as appropriate.

Revenue Summary

| | ADOPTED BUDGET 2009-2010 | PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011 | \$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE) |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total Miscellaneous Revenues/Federal Aid | \$1,396,200 | \$608,000 | (\$788,200) |
| Total State Aid Revenues w/o STAR | 22,023,360 | 19,600,825 | (2,422,535) |
| Total Revenue Other Than Property Tax/STAR | \$23,419,560 | \$20,208,825 | (\$3,210,735) |
| Appropriated Fund Balance | 250,000 | 0 | (250,000) |
| Interfund Transfer | 125,000 | 0 | (125,000) |
| Amount To Be Raised by Property Tax | 24,993,980 | 30,931,457 | 5,937,477 |
| STAR Reimbursement (estimated) | 3,858,030 | 4,000,000 | 141,970 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$52,646,570 | \$55,140,282 | \$2,493,712 |

Facts & Figures About the Proposed Budget

What is Saugerties’ budget per pupil?

Historically, Saugerties has had the lowest per pupil cost of any Ulster County School District. According to the 2009-2010 Mid-Hudson School Study Council, Saugerties Central Schools had a cost per pupil of \$16,836, compared to the Ulster County average of \$20,261.

What are the estimated 2010-2011 tax rates and how does passing the School Budget affect homeowners?

The rates are based on the preliminary assessment rolls for the three towns comprising the Saugerties Central School District.

| Town | Tax Rate | Equalization Rate |
|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Saugerties | \$16.37853 | 1.00 |
| Ulster | \$21.98460 | .745 |
| Woodstock | \$17.99839 | .91 |

Estimated School Tax Bill For 2010–2011*

| True Value | Regular Taxpayer | Basic w/STAR | Enhanced w/STAR |
|------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| \$70,000 | \$1,146.50 | \$526.26 | \$0.00 |
| \$100,000 | \$1,637.85 | \$1,017.61 | \$395.31 |
| \$175,000* | \$2,866.24 | \$2,246.00 | \$1,623.70 |
| \$250,000 | \$4,094.63 | \$3,474.39 | \$2,852.09 |
| \$300,000 | \$4,913.56 | \$4,293.32 | \$3,671.02 |

*approximate average school district assessment/Township of Saugerties

The estimated tax bills are for a property in Saugerties with an assessed value as listed in column one. (Since the tentative equalization rate for Saugerties is 1.00, the assessed value will equal the true value.)

How does the STAR program work?

In 2009 the Middle Class STAR, which came in the form of a rebate check sent directly to the taxpayer, was eliminated and has not been restored in the currently proposed New York State budget. However, the School Tax Relief (STAR) program that was passed by the Legislature in 1997 to provide Basic and En-

hanced school tax relief for owner-occupied, primary residences will continue. The Basic STAR exemption is offered to all property owners on their owner-occupied primary residences, and is provided in the form of an actual reduction in the homeowner’s property tax bill. Owners who are age 65 or older who meet income criteria are eligible for even greater tax savings through the Enhanced STAR exemption. Seniors must apply for Enhanced STAR each year. Contact your local assessor for more information.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated, the District has two options. It can decide to place another proposition (either the same proposition or a modified one) before the community one additional time, or it can decide to automatically adopt a Contingency Budget. If the second proposition does not receive community approval, however, a Contingency Budget is mandated. Under a Contingency Budget, an additional 23 teaching positions and 30 part-time assistants would be cut and/or reduced. These reductions would limit course offerings across the curriculum in the elementary schools, science, English, math, social studies, foreign language, art, music, home and careers, business, physical education, response to intervention, as well as cuts in the athletic program, extracurricular activities, and the GED program. In addition to making \$2.5 million of reductions to reach the current State calculation for contingency level, New York State dictates what types of items the budget can include. All legal contractual obligations (salaries, insurances, debt payments, etc.) are preserved under a Contingency Budget, but items such as equipment purchases, free public use of buildings, and non-essential building maintenance (except if posing a health and safety risk) would be eliminated.

How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

You can stop by the District Offices in the Hildebrandt Building or any of the six schools for a copy of the complete Budget document. Please contact Superintendent Seth Turner at (845) 247-6551, or School Business Official Allen Olsen at (845) 247-6520, if you have specific questions.

Voting Information

Who May Vote?

In order to vote you must be:

- ★ Registered to vote
- ★ A citizen of the United States
- ★ 18 years of age or older
- ★ A resident of Saugerties Central School District for at least 30 days, immediately before the election

When And Where Is The Vote?

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, from 6 AM to 9 PM. Polls are open in each of the Saugerties Central School District’s Elementary Schools (Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, Cahill, and Riccardi) by School District voting areas.

Where Can I Get An Absentee Ballot?

Absentee ballot applications are available for pick-up at the Hildebrandt Building on weekdays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. A voter can request an absentee ballot be mailed to them, however the request for mailing must be made before May 11. The completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Hildebrandt Building in a sealed envelope no later than 11:30 AM on May 18.

How Do I Register?

If you are already registered to vote in the general governmental elections in November, then you are registered to vote in the school district vote. If you are not registered, you may do so by obtaining a registration form available at the following locations:

- ★ Ulster County Board of Elections, 284 Wall Street, Kingston (phone: 334-5470)
- ★ Ulster County Motor Vehicle Bureau, 240 Fair Street, Kingston (phone: 340-3700)
- ★ any United States Post Office

Where Do I Vote?

District A: Grant D. Morse Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 6, 9, 15 and 16, and contains that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the New York State Thruway, north of Route 212 and east of the west boundary of the town of Saugerties located between Palenville and Zena.

District B: Mt. Marion Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 5 and 10 of the town of Saugerties and those parts of 3, 6 and 7 of the town of Woodstock. It is within that geographical area south of Route 212, west of Esopus Creek, north of the southern boundary of the town of Saugerties, with the exception of that area of the town of Saugerties located in the Kingston Consolidated School District and east of the school district boundary near the area of Plochmann Lane in the town of Woodstock.

District C: Cahill Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 14 of the town of Saugerties and is within that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the Hudson River, east of the New York State Thruway and north of the area commonly referred to as Barclay Heights.

District D: Riccardi Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 8, 11, 12 and 13 located in the town of Saugerties and parts of 7, 9 and 12 located in the town of Ulster. Geographically, it is bounded on the north by the south boundary of Election District 3, on the east by the Hudson River, on the west by Esopus Creek and on the south by the Whittier development in the town of Ulster.

Overall Budget Proposal

| | Budget Adopted for 2009-2010 School Year | Budget Proposed for 2010-2011 School Year | Contingency Budget for 2010-2011 ¹ |
|--|--|---|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount | \$52,646,570 | \$55,140,282 | \$52,685,973 |
| Increase for 2010-2011 school year | | \$2,493,712 | \$39,403 |
| % Increase in Each Proposed Budget | | 4.73% | 0.07% |
| Resulting Estimated Property Tax Levy for 2010 | | \$34,931,457 | \$32,476,720 |
| % Increase in Each Estimated Tax Levy | | 21.07% | 12.56% |
| Change in the Consumer Price Index | | (0.40%) | |
| Administrative Component | \$3,785,842 | \$2,835,562 | \$2,802,351 |
| Program Component | \$42,547,945 | \$46,487,378 | \$44,139,598 |
| Capital Component | \$6,312,783 | \$5,817,342 | \$5,744,024 |

¹Statement of assumptions made in projecting budget for the 2010-2011 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.

Contingency Budget

If the voters do not approve the Proposed Budget on May 18, the District can put it (the Proposed Budget) or a revised version of the Budget before the voters for a revote only one more time (on June 15), or the Board of Education can adopt a Contingency Budget, in which the amount of the Budget is then determined by law. If the Proposed Budget or a revised Budget does not pass on the second vote, the District MUST adopt a Contingency Budget. According to current law, the Contingency Budget cannot increase over the 2009-2010 Budget, after adjustments for debt and non-recurring items are made. The current Proposed Budget is a 4.73% increase over the 2009-2010 Budget, which means that a further reduction of about \$2.5 million would be needed to reach the mandated Contingency Budget level. This would be accomplished by making the following reductions:

When a district has adopted a Contingency Budget, all equipment MUST be removed from the Budget. Also, an additional 23 teaching positions and 30 part-time assistants would be cut and/or reduced. These reductions would limit course offerings across the curriculum in the elementary schools, science, English, math, social studies, foreign language, art, music, home and careers, business, physical education, response to intervention, as well as cuts in the athletic program, extracurricular activities, and the GED program.

The Budget vote for the fiscal year 2010-2011 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at the four elementary schools (Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, Cahill, and Riccardi) on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 between the hours of 6 AM and 9 PM, prevailing time in Saugerties Central Schools, at which time the polls will be opened for voting.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR² tax savings:

Budget Proposed
2010-2011

\$620.24

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

Sample Ballot

The wording on the proposition will appear as shown in this example and you will have a choice of either YES or NO:

Proposition 1
2010-2011 Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2010-2011 school year in the total amount of \$55,140,282 (the budget), and levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

There are three (3) three-year seats available on the Board of Education. The three candidates with the most votes will fill the vacancies and their terms shall be effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. The following six candidates are running for election to the Board of Education:

- ★ Timothy Scott

★ Robert Davies

★ Mark Thompson
- ★ George Heidcamp

★ Michael MacIsaac

★ James Steinhilber

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

New! Extended Voting Hours

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