



HIGHLIGHTS

PROPOSED 2009-2010 BUDGET

Budget:	\$69,262,846
Tax levy increase:	2.9%
Budget to Budget Increase	.54%

This increase is below the State's 4% maximum that an Austerity Budget can be if a budget is not approved.

Board Budget Workshops:

Hilltop Building
Tuesdays, 7:30 PM
April 7 (Workshop)
April 21 (Adoption)
May 5 (Hearing)

VOTE May 19

HARD TIMES CALL FOR DIFFICULT DECISIONS *Focus on Efficiencies, Consolidations and Maintenance of Programs*

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: *Every year it becomes more difficult to balance the educational needs of our students with our fiscal responsibility to community taxpayers. The country's financial crisis has made this year particularly challenging. Our sensitivity to the country's economic downturn required difficult decisions to be made after in-depth districtwide needs' assessments. In concert with the Board we used efficiencies, and staffing consolidations to develop and reduce the budget. Hard choices were made between our wants and needs. In addition, we have to part with some of our very valued colleagues, all in order to maintain all programs to ensure that students continue to receive a rigorous education. The budget required difficult decisions and I believe we have met the challenge. Valencia F. Douglas, Ed.D.*

Please review the budget highlights below. The budget presentation and the complete budget are on the District's website, www.nyackschools.com. We welcome your questions at meetings or via e mail (info@nyackschools.com) and encourage you to cast an informed vote on May 19.

■ BUDGET CHANGES:

Eliminated positions:

- Supervisor for ESL
- Director of Technology
- Director of Physical Education, Health, Wellness and Athletics (restructured)
- MS Supervisor of Student Affairs (replaced with a .5 Dean)
- 1 ESL teacher
- 1 elementary Spanish teacher
- Elementary level Lead Teachers
- Teaching Assistants (7 – 14 depending on discussions with the bargaining unit to mitigate impact)
- 1 clerical position in the Facilities Office & 1 part time HS clerical position

Further Reductions:

- Salaries of the Superintendent and the Central Office Administrators are frozen for next year
- Reduction in Athletics' costs
- Elimination of Middle and High Schools' inactive and/or low membership co-curricular clubs
- Reduction in materials & supplies at each building (10% schools, 15% Administration)

Additional Staff: Despite the economic situation the District continues to move forward with two elementary math teachers and a Middle School math consultant.

■ UNFUNDED STATE & FEDERAL MANDATES IMPACT THE BUDGET

- **Auditing Guidelines:** Internal and Claims' Auditors must be hired.
- **No Child Left Behind Legislation:** Costs are about 1.7% of the budget to fulfill requirements for new tests, test scoring (substitutes) and data collection.
- **Data Warehouse:** Extensive data analysis and data maintenance is needed to meet Federal and State reporting requirements and maintenance of a system.
- **Labor Contract Compliance:** Contracts must be negotiated within the law's strict regulations.
- **Staff Cancer Screenings:** Time off for employee screenings is estimated to be \$90,000 – an additional \$23,000 for substitute coverage.
- **Graphing Calculators:** The State now requires districts to provide them to secondary students.
- **Non-Reimbursed Costs:** In areas of Special Education, health/safety, and more stringent reporting requirements for Medicaid-eligible student services.

(continued)

■ ONGOING COST SAVINGS: Lowering the Local Tax Burden

- **Joint Insurance Pools** for shared costs of various insurance claims
- **Cooperative Bidding** with other districts, i.e. energy, paper products
- **Contracted Services** - i.e. custodial, transportation
- **Rental Income from the old HS and Hilltop** is in excess of \$800,000 annually
- **Pursuit of Outside Funding Sources** – grants, e-rate for technology, reimbursements
- **Technology Initiatives**
- **Fund Balance** Money saved each year has been returned to offset the tax levy.

■ ALSO ON THE BALLOT...Excel Aid Roof Replacement Project

EXCEL Capital Project Aid to Replace Partial Roofs* at Liberty and Valley Cottage Schools. EXCEL Aid is being offered for an unknown period of time. In order to take advantage of it the District must use it or possibly lose it. With the addition of State Building Aid the roofs will have practically no tax impact for the community. * The other parts of the roofs were done in 2003

What is EXCEL Aid?

EXCEL (*Expanding Our Childrens' Education and Learning*) is a State allotment of funds to be used for certain types of capital improvements, such as health and safety. Nyack's amount is \$918,117, and voter authorization is required to use the funding.

How does the funding work?

If EXCEL aid is used alone, only one roof will be able to be replaced (Valley Cottage Elementary). By increasing the project to include another roof at Liberty Elementary school (\$553,224) the entire project will become eligible for State Building Aid. This brings the project total to \$1,471,341. Of this amount, the District will receive the EXCEL aid in one year and the remainder of \$553,224 will be paid to the District over a 15 year period through the State Building Aid.

How much will this cost taxpayers?

Except for short-term borrowing costs to start the project, there will be no impact on the proposed budget. Upon receipt of the EXCEL funding, we will repay \$918,117 plus interest. The remaining balance will be repaid over 5 years, with the first payment in 2010-2011. Taxpayers will feel no impact on their tax bill, since costs will be offset by declining payments on existing debt, as well as the receipt of State Building Aid.

V O T I N G F A C T S

POLLS OPEN MAY 19: 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Polls are at DePew Manor, and Hilltop, Upper Nyack and Valley Cottage Schools.

REGISTRATION: Persons registered with the County Board of Elections or having voted in the school or general election in the last four years may vote without registering. **TO REGISTER** a person must be a citizen, at least 18 years of age and have resided in the District for a minimum of 30 days.

Registration may be done in person until Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Administration Building, District Clerk Office, 13 A Dickinson Avenue, in Nyack from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. General registration (for all school, local and national votes) is also done through the Board of Elections in New City (638-5172). There it may be done up to and through the day of the vote.

BOARD CANDIDATES: The Petition deadline to appear on the ballot is Monday, April 20. 42 valid signatures are needed for a petition to be accepted. Two at-large trustee positions will appear on the May ballot currently held by Claudette Clarke and Michael Lagana. They are for three year terms, beginning July 1, 2009. Candidates in Nyack are elected at-large, meaning a person does not run for a particular seat, rather, candidates receiving the most votes fill the positions open. **MAY 11, PTA SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES' FORUM, 7:30 PM, HIGH SCHOOL**

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: A registered voter who cannot get to the polls, or will not be present in the county on voting day, may file for an absentee ballot. Applications and ballots may be obtained from the District Clerk. Ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on the day of the vote.

For further budget or voting details or to arrange a group meeting to discuss the budget contact the Public Information office, 353-7013, and check the District website, www.nyackschools.com. All Board meetings are recorded and podcast on the website.