

# HOMEPAGES

POCANTICO HILLS SCHOOL - COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

APRIL 2005

## Pocantico Hills Budget Overview

### The Facts and Figures:

- Proposed budget: **\$18,703,149**
- Current budget: **\$17,075,022**
- Percent Increase: **9.54%**
- Portion of increase related to state mandates and operating expenses: **7.43%**
- Portion of increase related to investments for students and teachers: **2.11%**

### Our proposed 2005-2006 Budget continues the following student and community services:

- Small class sizes
- Foreign Language study beginning in grade 2
- Instrumental music lessons beginning in grade 4
- Gifted and Talented Program
- After-School Program
- Summer Recreation Program

### Our proposed 2005-2006 School Budget includes these new student and school services:

- Improved technology in the classroom and library including *Smartboards* for instructional use, upgraded computers, and increased on-line access for student research: **\$135,000**
- Technology integration services to ensure that new hardware and software are integrated into the classroom quickly: **\$75,000**
- Staffing to maintain small class size: **\$35,000**
- Library books and materials: **\$45,000**
- Teacher collaboration and training to continue District-wide enhancements to ELA and begin District-wide review of Math curriculum: **\$13,500**
- Math Curriculum review and textbooks: **\$75,000**
- National Accreditation for our early childhood education programs: **\$5,000**
- Facilities review and long term planning: **\$20,000**

### Did You Know . . .

- By purchasing technology services from Southern Westchester BOCES, our district will receive additional state revenue the following year.

## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Pocantico Hills Central School Board unanimously adopted the proposed 2005-2006 school budget on April 11, 2005. Last October, the Board approved a new strategic framework to guide school development for the next three to five years. Since the adoption of this framework, much work has been completed to gather data, evaluate, and develop specific recommendations to lay the necessary foundation to achieve these goals.

The proposed 2005-2006 plan represents a unique partnership with our new superintendent and principal, Dr. Tom Elliott, teachers, parents, and

community members. As a result of this partnership and work, the proposed 2005-2006 budget includes several of the necessary investments to achieve our stated goals over the next three to five years. In many ways, the 2005-2006 annual budget represents a fiscal plan for the future growth of our school and students. The plan also continues to balance our commitment to the community to remain fiscally responsible while maintaining the high quality of education and unique services offered at Pocantico.

Here are some important highlights of the proposed 2005-2006 budget to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision for our students when voting on May 17th.

**Total School Budget Increase:** The total proposed 2005-2006 school budget equals \$18,703,149 representing an increase of 9.54% vs. the 2004-2005 school budget. We are estimating revenues of \$3,580,883. As a result, the total anticipated tax levy increase for 2005-2006 equals 10.38%.

“...the proposed 2005-2006 budget includes several of the necessary investments to achieve our stated goals over the next three to five years.”

**Mandatory Increases and Operating Expenses:**

7.43% of the total increase is a result of state mandated increases, contractual and debt obligations and operating expense increases for fuel, transportation, insurance, and utilities.

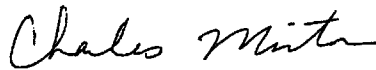
**Investment in Our Teachers and Students:**

The 2005-2006 proposed budget includes several critical investments to achieve our goals for student excellence, staff effectiveness, student support, home and community partnerships, and fiscal responsibility. Key investments are included for improved technology for our students and teachers, continued instruction and curriculum development in English Language Arts, continuing development and collaboration opportunities for our teachers, library books and materials, and the first District wide curriculum and instruction review of the Math program in 14 years. A national accreditation study for our unique early childhood programs, and resources to begin a review of our facilities are also included. These investments represent 2.11% of the total proposed budget increase and provide a critical but well paced start to achieve the goals outlined in our strategic framework.

**Additional Voting Considerations:** In addition to the proposed 2005-2006 budget, eligible residents of Pocantico will be asked to elect two Board members and vote on a proposition to purchase a sixty six passenger school bus. This proposition is consistent with the replacement bus schedule reviewed and approved by the Board annually.

We encourage you to learn more about the proposed 2005-2006 Pocantico Hills school budget. In addition to the overview provided in this brochure, a detailed budget is available at the school office. We invite you to attend a public hearing on the budget on Wednesday evening, April 27th at 8pm in the school library. School Board members and our Superintendent/Principal will be available to answer any questions you might have. As always, we value your continued support of our school, teachers and students and thank you for your consideration when voting on May 17th.

Sincerely,

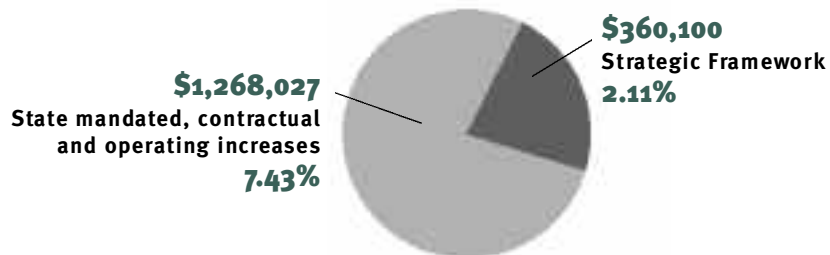


**CHARLES S. MINTON, SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SUMMARY AND COMPARISON**

	2004-2005 BUDGET	2005-2006 PROPOSED BUDGET	CHANGE (%)
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	\$17,075,022	\$18,703,149	9.54%
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>	\$3,343,276	\$3,580,883	7.11%
<b>DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE</b>	\$340,000	\$340,000	0.00%
<b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b>	\$13,391,746	\$14,782,266	10.38%

**TOTAL BUDGET INCREASE**  
**\$1,628,127**  
**9.54%**





## As Our District Succeeds . . . So Do Our Students

- Parents and teachers demonstrate strong commitment to high academic achievement.
- Students and faculty embrace Library and Language Arts program improvements.
- Large numbers of students achieve Honor and High Honor Role status.
- Students continue to score above State standards in New York State tests.
- Highly Gifted Students participate in challenging school experiences.
- Mentor program offers positive role models for students.
- DARE program successfully educates children about drug and alcohol abuse.
- Jump Rope for Heart and Community Service encourage students community awareness.
- Middle school athletic teams for boy and girls compete at high levels.
- Middle School production of "Annie" Jr. brings Broadway to Pocantico.
- Eighth-grade Art Show showcases talents.
- Pocantico students excel in All-County Band and Chorus.
- Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture continues partnership with students.
- PTA sponsors programs to supplement grade level curriculum.
- Foundation continues Library Campaign and supports student achievement.
- Senior Citizens and Community members enjoy student concerts.
- Pocantico Web site continues to receive National recognition.
- Open forums, neighborhood meetings, and community e-mail improve communication.



### HOW THE PROPOSED BUDGET ALIGNS WITH OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Technology Upgrades	Teacher Collaboration and Development	Library Materials and Space	National accreditation for early childhood	Facilities Review
---------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--	-------------------

**STRATEGIC GOAL**

**Academic Excellence**

**Student Support**

**Staff Effectiveness**

**Fiscal Responsibility**

**Home and Community Partnerships**

X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X		
X	X		X	X
X	X	X		X
X	X			

# Some Notes on the Vote

**This year there are three decisions for voters to make:**

1. The vote on the budget
2. The purchase of a school bus
3. The election of two Board of Education members

**This is what you will see in the voting booth:**

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 1**

*Shall the Board of Education of this school district be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the proposed 2005-2006 annual budget in the amount of \$18,703,149 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?*

**This is what you will see in the voting booth:**

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 2**

*Shall the proposition set forth in the notice of this meeting authorizing the purchase of one 66 passenger school bus, at a maximum estimated cost not to exceed \$84,000 shall be raised by a tax levy to be collected in annual installments, with District obligations to be issued in anticipation thereof, be approved?*

**In addition, voters will be asked to decide on:**

The election of two (2) Board of Education members which will take place at the same time as the vote on the school budget. Two Board of Education members are each to be elected for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2005 and terminating on June 30, 2008.

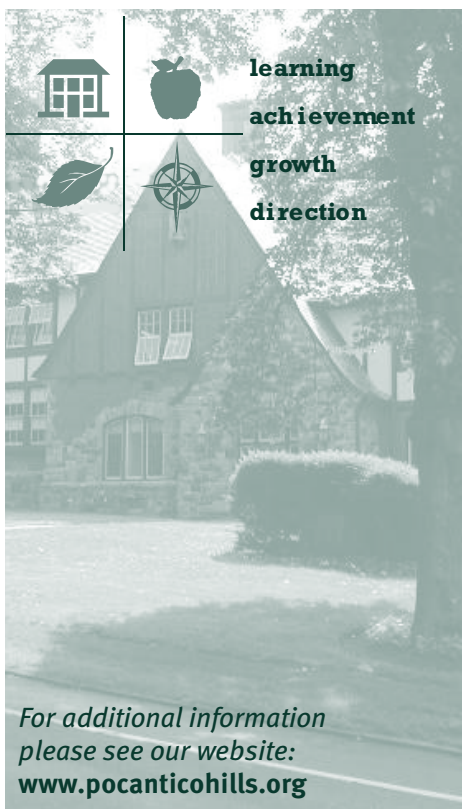
**Who Can Vote?**

Members of the community may participate in the school election if they are:

- United States citizens, 18 years or over as of May 17th, 2005;
- Residents of the School District at least 30 days prior to May 17th, 2005;
- Voters registered with District or Board of Elections.

**Voter Registration.**

Residents may register to vote daily during regular school hours in the Main Office of the school located at 599 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, NY.



POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

599 Bedford Road  
Pocantico Hills  
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Board of Education**

**Charles S. Minton,  
President**

**Nancy Rogers Golodetz,  
Vice President**

**Robert W. Balog,  
Trustee**

**Kenneth C. Marshall,  
Trustee**

**Carol A. Wilson,  
Trustee**

**Dr. Thomas C. Elliott,  
Superintendent/Principal**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
White Plains, NY  
Permit #912033