

# HOME PAGES

POCANTICO HILLS SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION BULLETIN

June 2010

## Dear Residents:

In response to the defeated May 18 school budget, the Pocantico Hills Board of Education has decided to re-submit a revised budget to the community on June 15, 2010, for your consideration. The revised budget is \$516,314 less than the defeated budget, and provides for a projected 10.34% reduction in taxes for the town of Greenburgh, and a 4.50% reduction in taxes for the town of Mt. Pleasant.

The draft 2010-2011 goals and the proposed school budget are available for review both in the school, and on the District's website at [www.pocanticohills.org](http://www.pocanticohills.org).

The 2010-2011 budget initiates an educational vision that will be implemented over the next three to five years. It is our plan to provide a rigorous framework for systemic planning, curriculum review, assessment, accreditation and continuous improvement through the use of student performance data. Our plan will also focus our efforts and the District's resources on increasing student achievement by integrating the research of a thinking curriculum (Habits of Mind), and through our membership in the Tri States Consortium.

Throughout the budget development process, a special e-mail address has been available to residents to pose questions to the administration about the proposed school

budget. I encourage any resident who may have a question about the proposed budget to please send an e-mail to: [budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org](mailto:budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org).

Should the proposed budget be defeated on June 15, 2010, the Board of Education will be required to adopt a contingent budget for the 2010-2011 school year.

If the District is required to operate under a contingency budget, the community would not be able use the District's facilities in the same way as it had under an approved school budget. Under a contingency budget, school facilities may be used only if approved by the Board of Education, and only if all identifiable costs associated with that use are collected by the District in full and in advance. These facilities would include the use of the school building, fields and the swimming pool.

The budget vote is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2010, in the school library from 7 a.m. through 9 p.m. Please contact the District Clerk Gina L. Downes about questions regarding voter registration for the school budget.

Sincerely,

**Jay Scotto-Friedman**

Interim Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

### Pocantico Hills Budget Overview

- Proposed Budget: \$25,457,451
- Current Budget: \$23,537,759
- Budget percent increase: 8.16%
- Projected tax rate **decrease** in the Town of Greenburgh 10.34%
- Projected tax rate **decrease** in the Town of Mt. Pleasant 4.50%

**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

**Tuesday, June 15**

**7 a.m. to 9 p.m. School Library**

**For questions on the 2010-2011 Budget, please e-mail us at [budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org](mailto:budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org).**

### Our proposed 2010-2011 School Budget Plan provides for the following educational and community services:

- Implementation of a multi-year educational vision
- Participation in the Tri States Consortium
- Initiation of a strategic plan to review curriculum in all content areas Pre K-8
- Replacement of older computers
- Foreign language study beginning in grade 2
- Instrumental music lessons beginning in grade 4
- After-School Program
- Summer Recreation Program
- Swimming Pool

# BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD ELECTION -

## Did You Know That...

- There will be an estimated \$5.5 million increase in the District's assessed valuation, and a resulting tax rate decrease for Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant residents despite an increase in the budget.
- Two thirds of the budget-to-budget increase provide for funds to pay for the construction project, and to address tax certiorari claims already filed against the school District.
- The increase in the cost of the Incarcerated Youth Program funded entirely by the State also contributes to the budget-to-budget increase.
- All Regular and Special Education programs have been maintained.
- The School District's draft goals for 2010-2011 are supported by the proposed budget and are attached to the budget document.
- Should the June 15, 2010 proposed budget be defeated, the Board of Education will be required to adopt a contingency budget.
- Under a contingency budget, school facilities may be used only if approved by the Board of Education, and only if all identifiable costs associated with that use are collected by the District in full and in advance. These facilities would include the use of the school building, fields and the swimming pool.
- The Pocantico Hills School Foundation will be donating the video conferencing equipment deleted from the proposed school budget.

## 2010-2011 Budget Highlights

Participation in the Tri States	
Consortium	\$ 10,000
Funding for ELO Program	\$ 19,800
Funding for the Bookmobile Program	\$ 3,000
Replacement of older computer equipment	\$ 68,000
Transfer to Tax Certiorari Reserve	\$ 450,000
Summer Camp	\$ 311,808
Swim Program	\$ 156,444
After-School Program	\$ 83,482
Field Trips	\$ 44,539
Instructional Supplies and Materials	\$ 111,841

## Projected 2010-2011 Revenues

	Budgeted Revenue 2009-2010	Budgeted Revenue 2010-2011	\$ Change
<b>State Aid</b>	937,523	818,624	(118,899)
<b>Incarcerated Youth</b>	2,766,322	3,153,150	386,828
<b>Other Revenues</b>	873,102	838,791	(34,311)
<b>Fund Balance Transfer</b>	832,672	590,000	(242,672)
<b>Total Tax Levy</b>	18,128,139	20,056,886	1,928,747
<b>Total Revenue</b>	23,537,758	25,457,451	1,919,693

## 2010-2011 PROPOSED - SCHOOL BUDGET

Categories	Budget 2009-2010	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	Increase or Decrease
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	12,108	13,728	1,620
DISTRICT CLERK	8,600	8,600	-
DISTRICT MEETING	9,780	6,072	(3,708)
Total Board of Education	30,488	28,400	(2,088)
<b>CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION</b>			
CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	252,043	319,672	67,629
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	329,311	364,472	35,161
AUDITING SERVICE	55,500	59,900	4,400
TREASURER	28,567	29,842	1,275
LEGAL SERVICES	276,871	283,061	6,190
PUBLIC INFORMATION	48,977	49,103	126
Total Central Administration	991,268	1,106,050	114,782
<b>CENTRAL SERVICES</b>			
OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE	1,238,058	1,273,501	35,443
CENTRAL PRINTING and MAILING	46,262	45,424	(838)
Total Central Services	1,284,320	1,318,925	34,605
<b>SPECIAL ITEMS</b>			
INSURANCE	47,254	61,359	14,105
JUDGEMENTS AND CLAIMS	-	450,000	450,000
CONTRACTUAL EXPENSES	85,230	98,012	12,782
METROPOLITAN COMMUTER TAX	-	29,816	29,816
BOCES ADMIN. CHARGE	48,159	47,020	(1,139)
Total Special items	180,642	686,207	505,565
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
SUPERVISION	128,559	75,710	(52,849)
INSERVICE TRAINING	47,702	41,990	(5,712)
TEACHING-REGULAR SCHOOL	9,232,790	9,332,103	99,313
SPECIAL EDUCATION	4,218,434	4,145,907	(72,527)
ACADEMIC INTERVENTION	169,904	125,462	(44,442)
SCHOOL LIBRARY and AV	124,470	133,032	8,562
COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION	668,107	605,778	(62,329)
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES	363,004	373,119	10,115
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	46,805	49,097	2,292
Total Instruction	14,999,775	14,882,198	(117,577)
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
DISTRICT	765,910	839,130	73,220
CONTRACT	536,009	484,026	(51,983)
Total Transportation	1,301,918	1,323,156	21,238
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>			
COMMUNITY RECREATION	146,306	156,444	10,138
SUMMER DAY CAMP	292,527	311,808	19,281
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	65,597	83,482	17,885
Total Community Service	504,429	551,734	47,305
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>			
EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	150,395	157,181	6,786
TEACHER RETIREMENT	352,372	555,196	202,824
SOCIAL SECURITY	564,303	579,931	15,628
WORKERS COMP	48,153	58,605	10,452
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND	118,777	120,991	2,214
MEDICAL INSURANCE	1,499,998	1,577,728	77,730
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	8,000	45,000	37,000
DISABILITY INSURANCE	2,500	2,500	-
LIFE INSURANCE and ANNUITY	12,774	10,878	(1,896)
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	2,100	2,258	158
Total Employee Benefits	2,759,371	3,110,268	350,897
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>			
BOND PRINCIPAL	805,998	1,270,000	464,002
BOND INTEREST	584,550	1,075,513	490,963
Total Debt Service	1,390,548	2,345,513	954,965
<b>TRANSFERS</b>			
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	95,000	105,000	10,000
	<b>23,537,760</b>	<b>25,457,451</b>	<b>1,919,691</b>

Members of the Board serve without compensation. This code covers expenses incurred by the Board in the performance of its duties inclusive of the annual district election and District Clerk's office.

These categories cover day-to-day management of the school district that is the responsibility of the Superintendent and Central Administration. Included are costs for district-wide administration, contract matters and legal services, district publications and general business functions.

Expenses in this category reflect custodial, maintenance and operational costs for district buildings. Also included are expenses for district-wide postage.

Expenses in this category reflect various types of insurance such as liability and student accident insurance; school dues and our share of BOCES administrative costs. The increase in this category primarily reflects the District's efforts to proactively address tax certiorari claims filed against the District.

This category reflects the majority of the school district's costs for operation of our regular and special education programs, athletics, co-curricular, health services, library, computer instruction program, psychological services and attendance.

District Policy states that no student shall walk more than one-quarter mile to a bus stop or school of attendance, and extra consideration is given to children in grades PreK-2. The district provides monitors on large buses for grades PreK-8 and to special education schools as determined by a student's Individual Education Plan.

These expenses are associated with the community pool program, summer day camp, after-school program and census.

Expenses in this category reflect mandated or contractually required costs for employee benefits.

Expenses in this category reflect the repayment of funds borrowed for tax certiorari claims, and for the purpose of new school buses and for building reconstruction.

Expenses in this category reflect the district's subsidy for the school lunch program, capital projects, and the district's costs for extended special education programs.

## 2010-2011 Summary of Proposed Tax Rates

	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>% Budget Increase</b>	<b>Estimated Greenburgh Tax Rate Decrease</b>	<b>Estimated Mt. Pleasant Tax Rate Decrease</b>
<b>Budget</b>	25,457,451	8.16%	-10.34%	-4.50%

**REMEMBER  
TO VOTE!**  
Tuesday, June 15  
7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
School Library

*Note: 2009-2010 equalization rate used in calculation of projected 2010-2011 tax rate*

## 2010-2011 Proposed Tax GREENBURGH

Assumes the Same Assessed Value in both years

<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Fair Market Value</b>	<b>2009-2010 Annual Taxes</b>	<b>2010-2011 Projected Annual Taxes</b>	<b>2010-2011 Annual Decrease</b>	<b>2010-2011 Monthly Decrease</b>
2,950	100,000	842	755	(87)	(7)
7,375	250,000	2,106	1,888	(218)	(18)
14,750	500,000	4,212	3,776	(435)	(36)
22,125	750,000	6,317	5,664	(653)	(54)
29,500	1,000,000	8,423	7,552	(871)	(73)

## 2010-2011 Projected Tax MT. PLEASANT

Assumes the Same Assessed Value in both years

<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Fair Market Value</b>	<b>2009-2010 Annual Taxes</b>	<b>2010-2011 Projected Annual Taxes</b>	<b>2010-2011 Annual Decrease</b>	<b>2010-2011 Monthly Decrease</b>
1,310	100,000	791	755	(36)	(3)
3,275	250,000	1,977	1,888	(89)	(7)
6,550	500,000	3,954	3,776	(178)	(15)
9,825	750,000	5,931	5,664	(267)	(22)
13,100	1,000,000	7,908	7,552	(356)	(30)

If you would like more information about this year's budget or the upcoming vote, please email us at [budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org](mailto:budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org).

## 2010-2011 School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for for the 2009-10 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2010-11 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2010-11 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount	\$23,537,758	\$25,457,451	\$25,218,890
Increase/decrease for the 2010-11 school year		\$1,919,693	\$1,681,132
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		8.16%	7.14%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		-0.40%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2010-11 school year		\$20,056,886	\$ 19,902,532
Administrative component	\$1,816,160	\$1,864,402	\$1,864,402
Program component	\$18,760,308	\$19,130,896	\$18,892,335
Capital component	\$2,961,290	\$4,462,154	\$4,462,154

\* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2010-11 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.

The contingency budget reported above has been prepared in accordance with the State formula. Under a contingency budget, funds are provided for ordinary contingent expenses, which include new debt expenses for the reconstruction project, and for tax certiorari claims filed against the District. Should the budget be defeated, it will need to be reduced by \$238,561. Specific reductions have not yet been approved by the Board of Education. Under a contingency budget school facilities may be used only if approved by the Board of Education, and only if all identifiable costs associated with that use are collected by the District in full and in advance. These facilities would include the use of the school building, fields, and the swimming pool. The contingency budget above is provided for illustrative purposes, and it is subject to change pending discussion by the Board of Education.

### Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR\*\* Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2010-11 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$730

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2010-2011 by the qualified voters of the Pocantico Hills School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Pocantico Hills School in said district on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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



**LEARNING  
ACHIEVEMENT  
GROWTH  
DIRECTION**



POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL  
599 Bedford Road  
Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 10591

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**Board of Education**

- Mrs. Katherine Yu, *President*
- Mr. David Wilens, *Vice President*
- Mr. Robert W. Balog, *Trustee*
- Mr. John Conrad, *Trustee*
- Mr. Maurice Curran, *Trustee*

**District Administration**

- Mr. Jay Scotto-Friedman  
*Interim Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent*
- Mr. Stanley Steele, *Principal*
- Mrs. Nadine McDermott  
*Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

**IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES**

**June 7, 2010**

**Budget Hearing**

8 p.m. School Cafeteria

**June 10, 2010**

**Last day to register to vote**

Voters may register to vote at any time up to June 10 at the District office, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**June 15, 2010**

**Budget Vote 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

School Library

**Applications for Absentee Ballots may be applied for at:**

The office of the School District Clerk, 599 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, NY; or by calling: 914-631-2440 ext. 103.

**Completed applications** for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk prior to 5 p.m. on June 8, 2010, if the ballot is to be mailed; by June 14, 2010, if picked up in person.

**Absentee ballots must be received by** the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the vote – June 15, 2010.

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

**PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE**

Shall the Board of Education of this school district be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the 2010-2011 Annual Budget in the amount of \$25,457,451 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

**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 June 15, 2010;
- Residents of the School District at least 30 days prior to June 15, 2010;
- Voters registered with the District or County 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, N.Y.
- Please note that the last day to register to vote on this budget is June 10, 2010.