

WAPPINGERS

Central School District

• COLLABORATION • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP • CHALLENGE •

From The Superintendent and The Board of Education President

VOTE
 Tuesday, May 15, 2007
 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Budget Issue

Dear Community Members:

The Board of Education has adopted resolutions that will place three propositions before the voters of our community on May 15th...the proposed 2007-2008 budget, a proposition that seeks authorization to expend funds in conjunction with capital projects that would be completed as part of the State's EXCEL Aid program and a proposition to authorize vehicle purchases as part of the district's annual bus replacement program. This issue of *WCSD in Print* contains important information regarding all three of these propositions.

Proposed 2007-2008 Budget

The proposed 2007-2008 budget adopted by the Board Education represents a spending plan of \$165,829,939 and reflects a 5.48% increase over this year's Contingency Budget. This represents the smallest percentage increase in the last five years. The associated

tax levy percentage increase is 4.88% and it represents the smallest increase in the last six years. At the time that this issue of *WCSD in Print* was finalized, all of the data necessary to develop estimated tax rates was not available.

A Contingency Budget has also been adopted which could be implemented, as was the case this year, should the proposed budget be rejected. The Contingency Budget is only \$542,394 less than the budget being proposed with the difference representing the deletion of funding for equipment and student supplies as would be required by law. The tax levy increase associated with the adoption of a Contingency Budget would be 4.36% which represents a difference of only .52% less when compared to that of the proposed budget. A detailed presentation of the Contingency Budget as currently approved is on page 6.

One of the needs that has been addressed in the proposed budget is the continued student enrollment growth particularly at our two high schools. Over the last seven years District enrollment has grown, on average, 100 students per year and is projected to continue to do so at similar levels during the next five years. The proposed budget addresses this growth with the addition of 3.2 secondary teaching positions as well as the conversion of physical space at John Jay High School which would result in the addition of two new classrooms for planned student occupancy in September. In addition, due to projected space limitations at our Myers Corners Elementary School next year, a new sixth grade center will be established at the Evans Elementary School to accommodate this overflow. Funding for a sixth grade guidance counselor position which will serve the related needs of these students along with those sixth grade students at Van Wyck and

Myers Corners Schools has also been included in next year's proposed budget.

The proposed 2007-2008 budget also provides for the continuation and expansion of several proven initiatives as well as for the introduction of some exciting new programs to include an Early Intervention Program for students in our primary grades. Additional information regarding budgeted initiatives can be found on page 5.

EXCEL Aid Program

As a result of legislation enacted in conjunction with the 2006-2007 state aid package, our district is entitled to receive a one-time grant in aid of nearly \$4 million under a program entitled Expanding our Children's Education and Learning (EXCEL). This allocation combined with our current building aid entitlement would allow the district to complete approximately \$10.2 million worth of capital construction projects for an estimated total net local cost of \$260,000 which would be amortized over a 15-year period. This cost does not reflect any savings that might accrue to the district as a result of efficiencies realized through the bidding process, energy conservation or operational improvements.

In order for a project to be eligible for funding under the EXCEL program, it must meet specific criteria within one of five predetermined categories. The proposed projects within the scope of the EXCEL proposition have been deemed eligible and represent projects selected from the District's Five-Year Capital Plan as well as initiatives that will further address instructional space needs at both of our high schools. A detailed explanation of the EXCEL proposition is on page 4.

continued on page 2



this issue

Board Candidates	2,3
EXCEL Project	4
Initiatives	5
Budget Notice	6
Star Tax Savings	6
Contingency Budget	6
Propositions	7
2007 Valedictorians/Salutatorians	8

Bus Replacement Program

This year, as has been our annual practice, we are looking to update the district's bus fleet via the replacement of 21 vehicles of various capacities at an estimated net cost of \$1,577,125 which would be financed over a period of five years. Detailed information regarding this proposition is contained on page 7.

Summary

The adopted 2007-2008 budget represents our continuing efforts to diligently address the challenge of balancing our obligation

for fiscal stewardship with the attainment of district goals and the desire to provide quality programs and service to our school community.

We invite and encourage you to familiarize yourself with the propositions that will be on the May 15th ballot not only by reading this issue of *WCSD in Print* but also by attending scheduled public presentations, viewing presentations to be aired on Cablevision and consulting the district's webpage:

www.wappingersschools.org

for updated information. You may also share your thoughts with members of the Board of Education and the superintendent via e-mail: WCSD.Board@www.wappingersschools.org

We hope that you will cast an informed vote on May 15th.

Yours truly,

Richard A. Powell
Superintendent of Schools

Anthony LoCicero
President, Board of Education

BOARD CANDIDATES								
(As they appear on the ballot)								
(Vote for 3 only by placing an ✕ or ✓ in the box under the candidate's name)								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Douglass BITTEKER	Aash SHRAVAH	Marilynn SHULTZ	Dorothy PURTILL	Ann FADGEN	Paul BODE	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in

Board of Education Candidates

(Editor's note: Each candidate was asked to submit an essay providing readers with his/her biographical information, reasons for running for office, and basic platform. The following are their responses.)

Douglass A. Bitteker

- Graduate of Colgate University
- 20 year resident of district
- Daughter graduated from John Jay in 2005, son a junior at John Jay
- Military service: retired Drill Sergeant, US Army
- Business career: retired lithographic consultant, former president of T.C. Peters Printing Group, Inc.
- Tutor in Math Help program, substitute teacher (7-12) since 1999
- Member of Academic Standards Committee for two years
- Regular attendee of district school board meetings for past several years
- A sound and meaningful education for our youth has become my passion.
- Support athletics as an integral part of education (I was instrumental in obtaining funds for a freshman football program in both high schools)

Aash Shravah

It's Time For a Change!

My name is Aash Shravah and I am running for the Wappingers Board of Education because I feel strongly that I will bring a fresh perspective currently

needed in our school system. The Board's responsibilities should be to provide safe transportation and a strong academic environment for our students and proper tools to our teachers to allow them to efficiently do their job. The Board has to be accountable and responsive to community members' and parental concerns. Financial burden is a major concern and should not fall on property tax alone - additional sources of revenue must be explored to minimize property tax and to eliminate waste of taxpayer money. Another source of urgent concern is that our junior high schools are on the State list for S.R.A.P. - Schools Requiring Academic Progress - this must change immediately.

I will bring a unique experience to the Board if elected. I recognize the needs of our students because not too long ago I myself was a student at John Jay. I bring with me my corporate business and management experience of over 13 years. If elected, I will be a bridge between the taxpayers and the District, between businesses and education and between students and administration. It is time for change and new ideas, and it is time to restore credibility to the Board of Education. By voting for me, you are taking the first step towards that change. As Max De Pree once said - "We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are." On May 15, vote for Aash Shravah to the Board of Education.

Marilynn Shultz

My name is Marilynn Shultz. I have lived in the Wappingers Central School District for 32 years. I have four children, all of whom attended our schools, and presently my grandchild is a student at John Jay High School.

As a taxpayer for 32 years, a parent of students in the District for 20 years, a former employee, and a long-time resident I understand the issues facing our district I am familiar with all fifteen school buildings and the various other departments necessary to operate our district effectively. I believe it is important to have someone on the board that knows our schools and has the experience of having been on the front lines. I have that experience. I will bring that knowledge and insight as well as a common sense approach to the budget process. As your school board member, I will work hard to improve student achievement and address the overcrowding in our schools. I will be diligent in making sure we provide our children with the best education possible while keeping a watchful eye on how and where your hard-earned tax dollars are spent.

On Tuesday May 15, we have an important decision to make about the future of our schools. Please vote for Marilynn Shultz for School Board.

Dorothy A. Purtil

My name is Dorothy A. Purtil. I have an Associate's Degree in Accounting from Berkeley College and a Paralegal Certificate from Mercy College. I worked in the legal department of IBM and The Bank of New York. I've lived in Wappingers Falls for the last fourteen years with my husband and five children. In September 2007, I will have 7th and 8th graders at Van Wyck Junior High and a 2nd and 5th graders at Fishkill Plains Elementary. My youngest will start kindergarten in September 2008. My children range from honors to special education, so I'm familiar with the many aspects of our District's education system.

I feel the Board needs someone who cares deeply for our children, and will use logic and common sense when making important decisions, while keeping in mind our pocketbooks. I have a vested interest in every decision made by the Board. I recently received an advisory opinion from the NYS Department of Open Government in regards to the District's violation of the freedom of information law. I believe the District needs to be open and honest with the community. I would like to give the Board a true parent's perspective.

Ann Fadgen

I returned to Wappingers in 1984, arriving first with my family in 1955. I have volunteered in the Wappingers area for over 22 years. It has been my privilege to serve as a trustee for three terms. Since 1996, my volunteer focus has centered on our children's education. I have maintained 100% attendance, serving twice each as board president and vice president. At the same time, I achieved an associates degree from Dutchess Community College, and a B.S. in Organizational Leadership & Communication from Marist.

I am a member of the board's policy subcommittee. I also have served as legislative liaison, and delegate to the NYSSBA's annual meeting. I am the only Wappingers trustee to initiate legislation benefiting all NYS school districts.

I am working hard to change the basic funding mechanism for public schools, striving for an alternative to the real property tax. I recognize that the escalating burden on property owners cannot be sustained and must change.

I view our master plan as one means to raise academic achievement, with reduced class sizes, needed improvements to all schools, and additional capacity for enrollment growth.

Long-term success requires continuity of leadership and experience. What lies ahead of WCSD will require hard work and difficult decisions. I have proven my commitment over three terms. I hope for your support.

Paul Bode

Everyone has high expectations for an improved education system and far better value for our tax dollars. This is no easy feat. I hope you will support me as one of the best qualified candidates for the Board. I will concentrate on the three vital functions of a well-managed school district:

Safety: Bus stops, well maintained buildings and school grounds, and sanitary restrooms need higher priority in planning and scrutiny. We must achieve higher levels of safety for our students and staff.

Taxes: The cost continues to spiral upwards. We pay \$12,500 per student per year, generating property taxes that are now beyond taxpayers' ability to pay. We must slow the rate down, save taxpayers money, and still come up with innovative ways to improve education.

Education: With almost 2,000 kids requiring AIS, and 25% of our students not graduating by the end of 12th grade, EVERYONE has to realize its time to change the way school business is conducted.

It is imperative changes are made to how school business is conducted. By voting for me, you the parents and taxpayers, will have a voice in providing more effective leadership through the Board of Education.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 15, 2007
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fishkill Elementary
Fishkill Plains Elementary
Gayhead Elementary
Myers Corners Elementary
Vassar Road Elementary
Wappingers Junior High

If you are not sure where to vote,
please call 298-5000, ext 145

IMPORTANT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MEGAN'S LAW
"... From time to time local law enforcement officials will notify the District when an individual with a history of sex offenses against a child is being paroled or released into the community. Upon written request to the principal, notification will be provided by the principal to the community members who have made the request of the fact that such an individual has been paroled or released into the community. Requests for particulars about the individual being released will be referred, at the request of local law enforcement, to the hotline number or the website provided..." (1-800-262-3257) (www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/index/html)

WAPPINGERS SCHOOLS



Elementary Schools

Brinckerhoff
Evans
Fishkill
Fishkill Plains
Gayhead
Kinry Road
Myers Corners
Oak Grove
Sheafe Road
Vassar Road



Secondary Schools

Van Wyck JHS
Wappingers JHS

John Jay HS
Roy C. Ketcham HS
Orchard View Alternative HS

WCSD OFFICES

167 Myers Corners Road, Suite 200
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent
Richard A. Powell

Assistant Superintendent
Technology, Testing & Assessments
Charles Hill, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent
Administration
Cheryl Thomas, Ed.D.

Interim Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction
Christine Brady

Director of Administration
G. Thomas Stella

Director of Human Resources
Joanne Sereda

Business Manager
Michele Moloney

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President
Anthony LoCicero
Vice-President
Joseph Porpora

Stephanie D'Addario
Roger D'Aquino
Ann Fadgen
Joseph Incoronato
Deborah Kuter
Sebastian Rutigliano
Ved Shrivah

in print: **WCSD Newsletter**

Editor: G.Thomas Stella
Designer: Cherie Kocsis

Produced in cooperation with the Dutchess
County BOCES Public Information Service

Proposed EXCEL Project

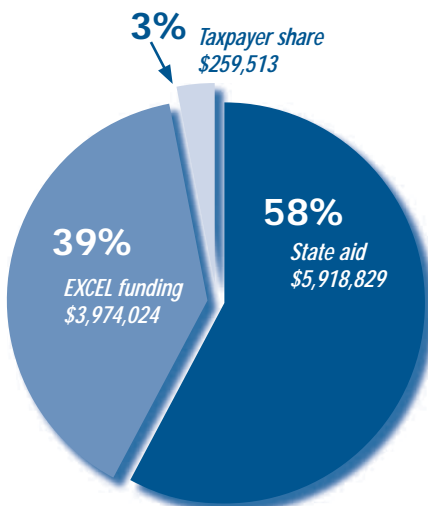
Wappingers Central School District has a unique opportunity to fund \$10,152,366 for district-wide improvements with minimal tax impact using state-provided EXCEL monies.

EXCEL aid is part of a \$2.6 billion statewide Expanding our Children's Education and Learning (EXCEL) package proposed by the state legislature and approved by the governor as part of the 2006 state budget.

This one-time initiative was established specifically to provide additional funding to school districts across the state for certain types of school construction projects. These projects must meet certain criteria and fall within one of these improvement categories: education technology, health and safety, accessibility, physical capacity/school expansion or energy (conservation) construction.

EXCEL aid can be combined with building aid.

The amount of EXCEL funding each district gets is determined by the number of students it serves. Wappingers' grant allocation is \$3,974,024.



Details of the Plan

John Jay High School

- Expand educational space, resulting in 4 new classrooms
- Renovate locker rooms
- Replace hallway lockers
- Renovate student and faculty restrooms

Roy C. Ketcham High School

- Develop 4 new ground level classrooms
- Renovate locker rooms
- Reconstruct gym floor
- Upgrade electrical service
- Provide new electrical service
- Replace folding doors in gym
- Renovate restrooms for ADA compliance
- Replace wall padding and base in gym
- Upgrade PA and fire alarm systems
- Upgrade auditorium lighting

Brinckerhoff Elementary School

- Replace 44 year old boilers

Evans Elementary School

- Replace 54 year old gym windows

Gayhead Elementary School

- Replace 42 year old boilers

Kinry Road Elementary School

- Replace 40 year old unit ventilators

Myers Corners Elementary School

- Replace 40 year old boilers

Oak Grove Elementary School

- Replace 17 year old roof
- Replace 44 year old boilers

Sheafe Road Elementary School

- Replace 43 year old boiler

Vassar Road Elementary School

- Replace 50 year old boiler valves and pumps

Estimated Project Costs

Total project cost	\$10,152,366
Less State Aid	- \$5,918,829
Less EXCEL monies	- \$3,974,024
Taxpayer share	\$259,513

- Includes all new construction, renovations, building system upgrades, site work, incidentals such as furniture and equipment, professional fees, contingencies, and associated financing costs
- Estimated costs do not include savings that may be realized as a result of energy efficiencies gained by these upgrades, **OR** by the bidding process
- By law, the district cannot exceed this amount once it has been approved by voters
- If the project is approved, the tax impact would begin to take effect in the 2008-2009 school year

Estimated Tax Impact

Once the estimated building aid and EXCEL funding are subtracted from the total amount of the project cost, what is left is the local or taxpayer share. This amounts to \$259,513. The estimated homestead tax for the EXCEL referendum is:

**\$1.30 per year for 15 years
for a home assessed at \$250,000**

**\$2.60 per year for 15 years
for a home assessed at \$500,000**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How is EXCEL aid different from the building aid we already receive toward our construction projects?

EXCEL aid is a separate aid category apart from the 58.3% building aid the district currently receives. In fact, EXCEL funds may be combined with regular state building aid to almost completely cover the project cost. With voter approval, the district could use these two forms of state aid to finance \$10,152,366 worth of capital improvements at minimal cost to the taxpayer. *Note that there will be minimal borrowing costs until receipt of EXCEL aid.*

Why is voter approval needed if there is such a minimal local tax impact?

The receipt and application of EXCEL funds does not change the district's requirements to obtain voter approval to borrow money. Even if this project were to be fully funded using EXCEL monies and state aid, voters would still have to approve the project plan.

Will the district lose EXCEL funding if voters do not approve the referendum?

Without voter approval the district cannot access EXCEL aid. The state has not indicated how long this EXCEL aid will be available. The state is encouraging school districts to access the EXCEL aid as soon as possible.

Should the proposition be defeated can EXCEL aid be put back up for a revote?

Yes. The district can put the EXCEL proposition back up for a revote. However, as stated above, the state has not indicated how long the EXCEL aid will be available and is encouraging all school districts across the state to access the EXCEL aid as soon as possible.

If the project is approved, how will the district minimize disruption of instructional time?

Work will be scheduled during the summer months and when school is not in session. For that portion of the project that needs to be scheduled during school time, the district will make every effort to minimize disruption of instructional time.

Curriculum Initiatives in 2007-2008 Budget

Early Intervention Program

In the Wappingers Central School District, we realize the importance of providing a solid foundation of learning for our young children. This program will update how we teach the young learner and focus on the supports needed for each child to meet with success. We understand that if any student begins to fall behind in his/her learning at a young age, it is much harder to catch up.

The proposed 2007-2008 budget includes the following aspects of an Early Intervention Program (K-2).

- Two specially trained early intervention teachers will be hired to teach reading skills to their fellow teachers and students in the early grades.
- Elementary principals will receive training in current effective early childhood teaching techniques.
- Best teaching practices based on data will be studied and used in our classrooms.
- Our kindergarten courses will be revised and kindergarten best practices and curriculum will be updated.
- The Early Intervention Program will include reading skills at the kindergarten level, tutoring of students on a one-to-one basis for ten-week periods of time and small group instruction as needed.
- For a period of one week this summer the WCSD kindergarten teachers will have an exciting opportunity to work together to research, study and discuss current best teaching practices and develop updated areas of study. They will be involved in creating activities that help our students master the skills needed for success in English Language Arts, math, science and social studies at the kindergarten level.

Putnam/Northern Westchester Integrated Social Studies and English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum

The Putnam/Northern Westchester Integrated Social Studies and English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum is a user-friendly, web-based elementary curriculum developed by teachers throughout the region. It is updated annually so that all information is current. The content of the curriculum is based on the New York State Social Studies Learning Standards and Core Curriculum, while incorporating the New York State ELA Learning Standards at the same time. The curriculum spans grades one through five and contains complete lesson plans for teachers, handouts for students, and technology links for colorful, exciting and interactive content and resources.

Following several sessions of teacher training and informal piloting of the program during the 2006-07 school year, we look forward to implementing and more formally evaluating it during 2007-08 in all of our elementary schools. With complete access to all of the resources in grades one through five for the entire year at only \$2,300, this is a very cost-effective and dynamic way of supporting our Social Studies and ELA programs.

For more information and a look at some sample lessons, go to http://pnwbooces.org/cesar/Curriculumcenter/SSELAJSample1e_Lessons/sample.htm.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES

The Academic Intervention Services (AIS) is a program for students who are failing or are "at risk" of failing in school. A committee of teachers, parents and administrators has been working this year to plan improvements to the program so that more children will be successful in school. These planned improvements include using only certified and highly qualified personnel, and providing help in any area that impacts student success – such as academic achievement or social/emotional/physical development. Examples of services that could be provided are speech, physical therapy, counseling, and academic support. AIS teachers will be sending reports home to parents at least once every quarter so that the home and school can work together to improve student achievement.

There are two basic ways AIS can be provided to students. In-class interventions can vary from simply re-focusing students whose attention wanders or helping students organize notebooks and write down homework assignments, to working with small groups within the classroom. Pull-out interventions can be used to work with individual students or small groups outside the classroom to reinforce or re-teach classroom lessons. They can also be used to pre-teach small groups of students who need extra time to learn, giving them the confidence to participate when the subject is later introduced in the classroom. Speech teachers, guidance counselors, and social workers also use the pull-out approach to provide AIS services that help students adjust to school and build their confidence.

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Enriching, challenging, fun! These are the words most commonly used to describe the FIRST LEGO League (FLL). The FLL is a program in which students, guided by adult mentors and their own imaginations, solve real-world problems by applying math, science and technology.

Open to students aged 9-14, the FLL combines a hands-on interactive robotics program with a sports-like atmosphere. Teams consist of up to ten players with the focus on team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking. Each September a new "Challenge" is presented to FLL teams around the world. Over the course of eight weeks students strategize, design, build, program, test and refine a fully autonomous robot capable of meeting the "Challenge". The students also search the web, talk to engineers, visit the library and develop compelling presentations.

The WCSD plans to begin participating in this international program during the 2007-2008 school year. This would be done through enrolling in the New York Lower Hudson Division and entering local tournaments. One team each from Van Wyck Junior High School and Wappingers Junior High School will represent the District.

Based on the potential this offers, WCSD eagerly anticipates its debut in the First Lego League.

ALL BUDGET INITIATIVES

New & Enhanced Initiatives

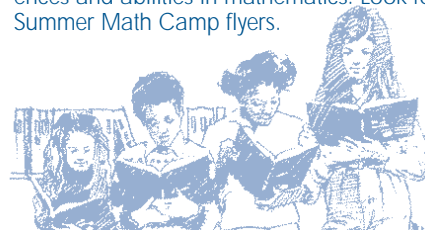
- Primary Grade Early Intervention Program
- Restructuring of AIS Program
- Elementary ELA Coordinator
- Math/Science Enrichment
- Kindergarten Summer Institute
- Boy's Freshman Football
- Girl's Varsity Golf & Lacrosse
- Increase Substitute Teacher Per Diem Rate
- Increase Substitute Bus Driver Per Diem Rate

On-going District Initiatives

- Tri-State Accreditation
- Thinking Maps Training
- Smart Board Classrooms
- Wireless Laptop Labs
- Transitional Space Improvements
- Student/Teacher Ratio Primary Grades

Summer Math Camp

Contained in the 2007-2008 budget is funding for Summer Math Camp, an elementary enrichment program for students in grades three and four. The goal of this program is to give students opportunities to work on applied skills and strategies that will strengthen their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, while at the same time letting students have fun with mathematics. During camp, students complete exciting activities and projects involving real-world math applications. Certified teachers, assisted by high school Honor Society student volunteers, inspire and engage students by using a variety of computer software, internet activities, manipulatives, and math content-specific read-aloud books. Summer Math Camp will be held at each elementary school and is free for all students in grades three and four who want to challenge and extend their experiences and abilities in mathematics. Look for Summer Math Camp flyers.



Wappingers Central School District Budget Notice

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2007-2008 by the qualified voters of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, will be held at Fishkill Elementary, Fishkill Plains Elementary, Gayhead Elementary, Myers Corners Elementary, Vassar Road Elementary, and Wappingers Junior High schools in said district on May 15, 2007 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted 2006-2007 School Year	Budget Proposed 2007-2008 School Year	Contingency Budget 2007-2008 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$157,219,577	\$165,829,939	\$165,287,545
Increase/decrease for the 2007-2008 school year		\$8,610,362	\$8,067,968
Percentage increase (decrease)		5.48%	5.13%
Change in the consumer price index		3.2%	
Resulting estimated property tax levy		\$108,041,265	\$107,498,871
Administrative component	\$16,410,252	\$17,311,106	\$17,241,746
Program component	\$123,015,285	\$129,710,886	\$129,393,463
Capital component	\$17,794,040	\$18,807,947	\$18,652,336

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2007-2008 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.

CONTINGENCY BUDGET

A Contingency Budget is prepared and adopted by the Board when the voters have rejected the proposed budget. The Board of Education may present a proposed budget to the community only twice.

The total spending authorization imposed under a Contingency Budget is limited by formula. The increase over the previous year's budget may not exceed the lesser of either: (1) 4%; or (2) the result obtained when multiplying the national average consumer price index by 120%. For the 2007-2008 school year, a consumer price index of 3.2% equates to a maximum authorized increase of 3.84%.

Based upon the budget adopted by the Board of Education and taking into account the types of expenditures that can legally be used to modify this formula, the Contingency Budget calculated for the 2007-2008 school year would be set at \$165,287,545. The Contingency Budget assumes a pupil population increase of 96 students, a .77% student increase over 2006-2007. If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget items in the table below would be eliminated.

Should the District be required to adopt a Contingency Budget for the second year in a row, the District will once again NOT be able to purchase needed student and District equipment such as:

- Student desks and chairs
- Student musical instruments
- Graphing calculators
- Sports and physical education equipment
- Computers and audio-visual equipment
- Custodial and grounds equipment
- Vehicles and plows to maintain our schools

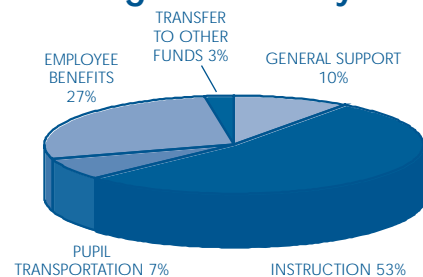
ITEMIZED BUDGET REDUCTION MEASURES

Equipment	501,144
Student Supplies	41,250
Total	\$542,394

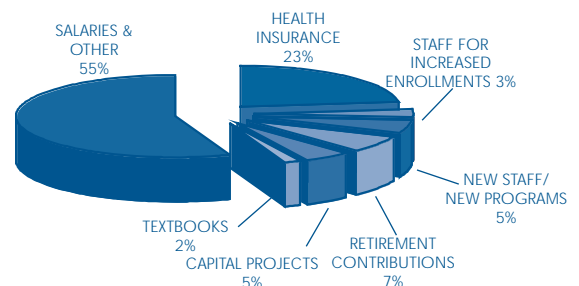
STAR Tax Savings

	Budget Adopted 2006-2007 School Year	Budget Proposed 2007-2008 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$600.00	\$628.00
School tax increase/decrease	\$70.00	\$51.00
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$530.00	\$577.00

Budget Summary



Areas Contributing to Budget Increase



2007-2008 Propositions Before Our Community

2007-2008 BUDGET

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007, in the amount of \$165,829,939 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

FACILITIES ENHANCEMENTS IN THE BUDGET

Roy C. Ketcham High School	
Widen Driveway for Third Lane.....	\$46,000
Oak Grove Elementary School	
Air Conditioned Computer Server Room.....	\$8,750
Fishkill Plains Elementary	
Athletic Field Development.....	\$85,000
Sheafe Road Elementary	
Air Conditioned Computer Server Room.....	\$8,750
Remove and Replace Library Carpet.....	\$10,000
Total.....	
\$18,750	
Evans Elementary School	
Resurface Entrance Ramp.....	\$3,000
Replace Restroom Mirrors.....	2,000
Total.....	
\$5,000	
John Jay High School	
Conversion of Trans Room.....	\$70,000
Paving of Nick's Way.....	\$84,912
Parking and Access.....	\$45,286
Fence and Gate Around Dumpsters.....	1,500
Outdoor Restrooms.....	\$36,000
Total.....	
\$237,698	
GRAND TOTAL	\$401,198

2007-2008 SCHOOL BUS REPLACEMENT PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase new buses and other transport vehicles, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,577,125, and that the maximum estimated cost of \$1,577,125, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

The Wappingers Central School District currently transports an average of 14,064 children to 91 schools on a daily basis. Our vehicles travel approximately 3,702,000 miles annually. The current fleet consists of 168 full-size buses and 77 smaller vehicles.

REQUESTED REPLACEMENTS

16	66 Passenger Buses.....	\$1,366,497
2	8 Passenger Vans.....	\$86,564
2	Wheelchair Vans.....	\$111,514
1	Passenger Vehicle.....	\$12,550
Total Cost.....		\$1,577,125



2007-2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to construct additions and reconstruct various school district facilities, including original equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site improvements, and other incidental costs and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$10,152,366, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary after application of State EXCEL Aid, and other applicable State Aid, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX REPORT CARD FIGURES: 2007-2008 OPERATING BUDGET

Total General Fund:	\$165,829,939
Percent Increase:	5.48%
Estimated Tax Levy:	\$108,041,265
Percent Increase:	4.88%
Enrollment Growth:	96
Percent Change:	.77%
Percent Increase in CPI:	3.20%

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

ACADEMICS

- Annually, at least 90% of WCSD students pass the 5 Regent exams required for graduation
- WCSD students take 40% more Advanced Placement (AP) courses today than four years ago
- Over 30% of all high school students take at least one honors or advanced placement course each year
- Over the last five years, WCSD students have scored above both state and national averages on AP exams
- Last year, 165 WCSD students earned recognition as AP Scholars
- Annually, approximately 200 eighth grade students take high school math and science Regents courses
- WCSD students' SAT scores consistently surpass both national and state averages
- For the last three years, both high schools have been recognized by *Newsweek's Challenge Index*

GRADUATES

- Approximately 90% of last year's high school graduates planned to go on to 2 or 4 year colleges
- Last year, 90% of our high school graduates earned a Regents Diploma with 40% earning an Advanced Regents Diploma

AWARDS

- Our Business Department recognized by NYS as "2006 Department of the Year"
- Four National Merit Scholarship finalists and one semi-finalist
- English teacher receives "English Educator of Excellence Award" from NYS English Council
- Twenty-five athletic teams recognized as "NYS Scholar Athlete Teams"
- "2006 Best of New York Award" bestowed by Center for Digital Government for development of elementary report card system
- RCK student named "National Female Soccer Player of the Year"

GET MORE BUDGET INFORMATION

www.wappingersschools.org

Visit the district's web page to view the entire 2007-2008 budget document and links to staff members who can help answer your questions about the Board of Education's proposed 2007-2008 budget.

WCSD ON THE AIR

Tune in Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

TOP SENIORS, CLASS OF 2007

John Jay High School

Joshua Price, Valedictorian

Joshua is an AP Scholar with Distinction and has received 5's on all of the AP exams that he has taken. He is a winner of the Certificat de Reussite in French for 2004 and 2006, and the recipient of the 2006 National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Award for Writing. He has attended the Summer Institute for the Gifted at Vassar College from 2002-2004. Through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Josh has earned two one-course scholarships to Vassar College. Joshua is a member of the National Honor Society, the copy editor of the school newspaper, and treasurer of the Young Democrats Club. He is also a six-year member of the Varsity Golf team and an English and math tutor. Joshua is extremely active and involved within his Synagogue. He is a religious studies teacher, and a leader whenever called upon to speak at services. Josh will study political science and philosophy at Yale University this fall.



Lauren Keller, Salutatorian

Lauren is currently in symphonic band, marching band and orchestra. She played the flute in the pit orchestra for Proscenium's productions of Peter Pan and Little Women. She has been an active member and literary editor of Elysium and is a Girl Scout. Lauren is a member of National Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, and Math Team. She is John Jay's only 2007 National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Lauren has worked at a local art camp and has had her artwork shown at the Mill Street Loft and at Vassar College. She is active in her church where she has served as the webmaster for the past four years. Lauren is considering a career in graphic design and will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology.



**Congratulations
& Best Wishes!**

TRI-STATE VISIT: Thanks To All

On April 25, 26, 27 2007 our district was visited by the prestigious Tri-State Consortium. We have learned much and gained much from this rigorous experience. Our heartiest gratitude and congratulations to all who worked so diligently in making this experience such a great success.

Roy C. Ketcham High School

Lana Verkuil, Valedictorian

Lana Verkuil is the daughter of Roger and Lillian Verkuil. She has played on the varsity tennis team for the past two years. She is a member of National Honor Society, the Math Team, is the treasurer of Ketcham's Amnesty International and has been a member of the high school orchestra. She has played the piano for thirteen years and has been a NYSSMA level six pianist for many years. Lana plays the piano in a high school quintet and takes piano lessons at Vassar College through a scholarship from the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. Lana attends science courses at Columbia University through their Science Honors Program. She has participated in several science fairs throughout her high school career, winning First Place and eight special awards in the Dutchess County Fair in her freshman year and Honorable Mention and seven special awards in her sophomore year. Lana has volunteered at a local assisted living center for four years and has volunteered at the Red Barn Animal Shelter. She was also involved in a community musical production. She attended the Center for Talented Youth Summer Camp at Johns Hopkins University and the Congressional Student Leadership Conference at Georgetown University for Medicine and Healthcare. She also participated in the Harvard Summer School Program. A National Merit Scholarship winner, Lana will study cognitive science and medicine at Yale University.



Kabeer Aziz, Salutatorian

Kabeer Aziz has grown up in various regions, but feels he has found his calling here at Roy C. Ketcham High School. With interests in academics, sports, music, and myriad other areas, Kabeer is heavily involved in both the school and the community. As a former editor of the RCK newspaper and the standing vice president for the RCK chapter of Amnesty International, Kabeer feels compelled to excel, and lead individuals as they try to convey their ideas and convictions to the school and the world. Kabeer is a co-captain of RCK's Varsity Tennis Team and hopes to help lead the team to a long elusive league championship. In addition, Kabeer feels strongly about his culture and heritage. Of Indian descent, he is intensely engaged in the local Indian youth group, which puts on various cultural shows and events to benefit the local community. Although currently undecided on college, Kabeer looks to pursue a degree in business. With academic interests ranging from English to economics to calculus, he hopes his diverse interests will help foster success. He feels confident about his future and knows his experiences and lessons in life will enable him to reach his goals.



• COLLABORATION • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP • CHALLENGE •

WAPPINGERS

Central School District

167 Myers Corners Road, Suite 200
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEWBURGH, NY
PERMIT NO. 934

VOTE
Tuesday, May 15, 2007
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.