

WAPPINGERS

Central School District

• COLLABORATION • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP • CHALLENGE •



this issue

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VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2009
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fishkill Elementary
 Fishkill Plains Elementary
 Gayhead Elementary
 Myers Corners Elementary
 Vassar Road Elementary
 Sheafe Road Elementary*

*Note: Polling location for Wappingers Junior High School voters is now Sheafe Road Elementary School.

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location or call 298-5000 ext. 145.

From The Superintendent and Board President 2009-2010 WCSD Budget

Dear Community Members:

The economic downturn has had far reaching consequences on all of us...in our personal lives...in our professional lives...and in all aspects of our everyday lives. It has created, more so than ever, the need to evaluate program offerings and to assess how services are delivered as we look for more economically efficient yet effective alternatives in, perhaps, a back to basics approach to education.

For the 2009-2010 school year, the Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget of \$178,623,391 that will be put before the voters on May 19th. It represents an increase of \$3,644,121 or 2.08% and would be the smallest budget-to-budget increase in the last 13 years. The associated tax levy increase of 2.72% would also be the lowest for the last 10 years.

A Contingency Budget has also been adopted which would be implemented, as was the case this year, should the proposed budget be rejected. The Contingency Budget is only \$401,455 (0.23%) less than the budget being proposed, with the difference representing the deletion of funding for select equipment items and student supplies as would be required by law. The tax levy increase associated with the adoption of a Contingency Budget would be 2.37%, which represents a decrease of only 0.35% when compared to that associated with the proposed budget.

The 2009-2010 Proposed Budget was arrived at as the result of a review process which began last December, during which time the Board of Education examined a number of proposed budget reduction measures and cost savings opportunities. In total, approximately \$4.4 million worth of budget reduction measures and cost savings opportunities are reflected in the proposed budget. A complete list of items included in both of these categories along with other pertinent information regarding the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget can be found on the District's webpage at www.wappingersschools.org

In developing the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget, it was necessary to not only consider the state of the current economy but also what related impacts the recession might have upon the District's financial resources in the development of future years' budgets. In this regard, we will need to heighten our focus on long-range planning in order to better prepare ourselves to address the affordability and sustainability of future budgets in our on-going efforts to strike that necessary balance between district goals, offerings, services and affordability.

The following are but a few of the issues that are at the core of concern in the development of our long-range planning efforts:

- As currently legislated, there will be no increase in Foundation Aid to be paid to school districts over

the next two years. Foundation Aid represents sixty-nine percent of the \$52 million in state aid that our district estimates to receive this year.

- There is uncertainty as to how New York State will adequately fund schools when the Federal Stimulus Package expires in two years.
- The stability of the value of the District's tax base.
- A health insurance subsidy for the 2009-2010 school year which "artificially" allowed for only a 2% increase in the District's employer's health insurance contribution cost for our largest employee group.
- Debt service...after this year, based upon currently scheduled debt, payments will be gradually increasing for the foreseeable future.
- We have received notification from both retirement systems that unless investment performance improves, municipalities should be prepared for significant increases in their employer contribution rates two years from now.
- Fund balance availability

We invite you to further familiarize yourself with the various budget materials by clicking the link "2009-2010 Proposed Budget" located at the top of the District's webpage. On that link, you will be able to view a streamed video of the April 21st public budget presentation which will also be re-broadcast on Cable Channel 21. The link also provides additional budget details to include the adopted Contingency Budget as well as information regarding the annual bus replacement proposition that will be on the May ballot.

Please feel free to share your thoughts with members of the Board of Education via e-mail at WCSD.Board@wappingersschools.org

We hope that you will cast an informed vote on May 19th.

Yours truly,

Richard A. Powell
 Superintendent of Schools

Douglass Bitteker
 President, WCSD Board of Education

2009-2010 Property Tax Report Card

	Budgeted 2008-2009	Budgeted 2009-2010	Percent Change
Total Spending	\$174,979,270	\$178,623,391	2.08%
Total School Tax Levy	\$112,739,148	\$115,809,564	2.72%
Public School Enrollment	12,481	12,482	
Consumer Price Index		3.80%	
Reserved Fund Balance	0	\$350,000	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$795,000	\$1,250,000	
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance	\$2,050,000	\$2,500,000	
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance as a % of the Total Budget	1.20%	1.50%	

Expanded Summer Camp Offerings from Continuing Ed

There are camps for students from 1st through 9th grades.

Flyers will be available in all school lobbies or go to the WCSD website and click on "Continuing Ed."

Or for more information call: 298-5000, ext. 137

Wappingers Central School District Budget Notice

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2009-2010 by 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 Sheafe Road Elementary* Schools in said district on Tuesday May 19, 2009, 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.

*Note: Polling location for Wappingers Junior High School voters is now Sheafe Road Elementary School.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted 2008-2009 School Year	Budget Proposed 2009-2010 School Year	Contingency Budget 2009-2010 School Year*
Total Budget Amount	\$174,979,270	\$178,623,391	\$178,221,936
Increase/decrease for the 2009-2010 school year		\$3,644,121	\$3,242,666
Percentage increase (decrease)		2.08%	1.85%
Change in the consumer price index		3.80%	
Resulting estimated property tax levy		\$115,809,564	\$115,408,109
Administrative component	\$18,486,874	\$18,469,503	\$18,357,807
Program component	\$136,975,468	\$140,744,547	\$140,563,613
Capital component	\$19,516,928	\$19,409,341	\$19,300,516

*statement of assumptions made in projecting a Contingency Budget for the 2009-2010 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.



STAR Tax Savings

Budget Adopted
2009-2010 School Year

\$591.42



Basic STAR tax savings

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 2009 - 2010 school year, a consumer price index of 3.8 % equates to a maximum authorized increase of 4.0%.

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 2009-2010 school year would be set at \$178,221,936. If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget items in the table below would be eliminated.

Itemized Budget Reduction Measures	
Equipment	\$359,455
Student Supplies	42,000
Total	\$401,455

Should the district be required to adopt a Contingency Budget it will not be able to purchase student and district equipment such as: 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.

2009-2010 Proposition Before Our Community

BUDGET

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, in the amount of \$178,623,391 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

BUS PROPOSITION #1

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase the following student transportation vehicles: sixteen 72-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$1,546,844; four 20-passenger school buses at an estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$150,000; and two four-door sedans at an estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$38,856; which a total estimated maximum sum of \$1,735,700, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by law, and for which obligations of the District may be issued?



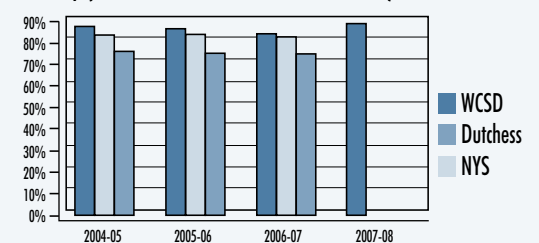
If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location or call 298-5000, ext. 145.

WCSD Has a Strong Educational Program

- 88% of Grades 3-8 students scored 3 or 4 on their NYS math assessment.
- 90%+ seniors graduate with a Regents diploma; 40% with Regents advanced designation.
- The average Regents exam passing rate is 86%.
- 6 of 22 awards at the 2009 Dutchess County Science Fair and all 3 of the top high school awards went to WCSD students.
- The Music Department was honored with the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) "Best Communities for Music Education in America" award.
- The high schools had 34 New York State Scholar/Athlete teams over the past calendar year.

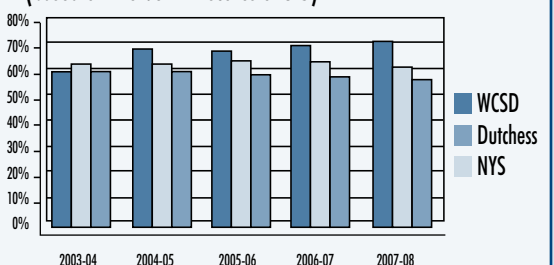
WCSD Regents Examination Scores

- Consistently exceed those of NYS and Dutchess County (based on the % with scores of 65+)



WCSD Advanced Placement Scores

- Consistently exceeds NYS and national scores (based on the % with scores of 3-5)



BOARD CANDIDATES

(as they appear on the ballot)

Vote for *only* three by placing a ✓ or ✕ in the box under candidate's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Anthony LOCICERO	Ann S. FADGEN	Aziz AHSAN	Lori JIAVA	Wendy MCNAMARA	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in

From Our Board Candidates:

On May 19, 2009, the voters will be asked to cast their vote to elect three trustees to the WCSD Board of Education. Five Board candidates are running for these three available seats. Each candidate was asked to write a brief statement. The candidates' statements appear in the order that they will appear on the May 19th ballot.

1 Anthony LoCicero

I am a sixteen-year resident of our community and have two children in our schools. I am finishing my second term on the Board of Education, having served one year as Vice President and two years as President.

I work for Westchester Medical Center. I have devoted thirty-two years to the health care profession, with fifteen years in management. I have extensive private sector management experience and have directed a division of a publicly traded corporation.

I have worked to improve the demeanor, professionalism and the accomplishments of the Board. We have achieved membership in the Tri-State Consortium and have received Middle States accreditation.

I bring experience to a Board whose majority will have two years or less experience.

I want to see the District continue to grow academically, be fiscally prudent and be prepared for fiscal and academic challenges. I will continue to fight for what is best for our children!

2 Ann S. Fadgen

I was privileged to serve three terms as a trustee, including two years each as president and vice president. I had a 100% attendance record, and I still attend virtually all public meetings of the Board.

I believe the success of this District begins with a focused, collaborative Board. The success of every individual student must be our goal.

If elected, I will work toward:

- Maintaining our excellent instructional programs and consistently increasing student achievement.
- Coordinating our lobbying efforts in Albany to modify existing laws that impact our ability to limit tax increases.
- Continuing strong oversight on District expenditures, procedures and practices, redirecting savings toward the classroom.
- Refocusing the Board's energies on rectifying our incongruous grade configurations and also address our aging school facilities.

I will bring my knowledge, passion, energy and experience to bear on our children's educational success. I welcome your thoughts, questions and concerns, and I hope for your support.

3 Aziz Ahsan

A local parent, taxpayer, and businessman, he has lived in the District since 1989. He is a Patent, Trademark, Internet and Intellectual Property Law attorney with an office in Fishkill. He received his BS and MS in Engineering and MBA from the University of Minnesota. He received a JD from William Mitchell College of Law.

For over 36 years he has been involved with various organizations, while living in Minnesota, Connecticut and New York. His numerous articles and opinions on a variety of issues have been published in local, regional, national and international publications.

Mr. Ahsan is a member of East Fishkill Planning Board, Mid-Hudson Children's Museum Board, and Community Foundation of Dutchess County Advisory Board. Mr. Ahsan's son graduated from John Jay, and is a junior at the University of Chicago. His daughter is a junior at John Jay, and his youngest child is in eighth grade at Van Wyck.

4 Lori Jiava

I am a life-long resident, who attended W.C.S.D. & D.C.C. I owned and operated a family business for 17 years and have been selling real estate for the past 5. Having school aged children and being involved with the PTA and school programs, I see how important it is for the children to remain OUR FOCUS!

I am running for several reasons. I want to ensure that our children's best interests are always on the forefront...that we do not lose sight of what they need to succeed. I feel that our District can make cuts that will not affect the children directly. I want to make sure that there is accountability behind all of these cuts. We need a fresh pair of eyes and a new voice to be heard. I want WCSD to step into a new light and reach goals that we once thought were unattainable. Please visit me at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=78603905924> for more information.

5 Wendy McNamara

Hi, my name is Wendy McNamara. I live in the Wicoppee section of East Fishkill with my husband, Michael and our three sons. I currently serve as Public Information Officer for the Poughkeepsie Public Library District. I served for eight years on the East Fishkill Recreation Board and was able to project manage and design new playgrounds at the Hopewell, Wicoppee, Leetown and Brettview Recreation Areas and the Route 52 Complex.

I am currently finishing my 3-year term as President of the Van Wyck PTO. I have also served as an Assistant Director for the Taconic Region PTA and President of the Fishkill Elementary School PTA (2002-2004). I have served on the WCSD Master Plan, Transitional Space, and Superintendent Search Committees.

I believe I need to get behind the Board table to affect positive changes in this district. Please support my candidacy on Tuesday, May 19th by pulling Lever 5.

The Wappingers PTA Council Presents: Meet the Candidates Night

WHAT: Meet the Board of Education Candidates
WHEN: Friday, May 8 - 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Roy C. Ketcham High School Auditorium

(Sponsored by the Wappingers PTA Council, moderated by the League of Women Voters)

WCSD Named a "Best Community for Music Education"

On April 16, 2009, WCSD was notified that it had been selected as a 2009 Best Community for Music Education designee. This selection was announced by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM).

This national selection was made after detailed information was submitted for review. School districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria, as well as public support of their music programs. The districts named as recipients demonstrate an "unwavering commitment to provide music

education for their students. The potential of music to help children reach their full development is understood by the districts represented," according to Mary Leuhrsen, Executive Director of the NAMM Foundation.

Mary Bish, WCSD's Coordinator for Fine and Performing Arts states, "This honor is a true reflection that in Wappingers, the entire community values the music program and believes that all students deserve the benefits of an education that includes and values music. The community is designated for this recognition, and we are very proud to have been selected."

Congratulations 2009 Retirees

Thank you for your many years of service!

2008 retirees that were not included in the May 2008 issue: Thomas DeRito, Social Studies Teacher; Robert Gonyea, Special Education Teacher; Robert Isler, Technology

2009 retirees (submitted through 4/21/09): Linda Adams, Science Teacher; Deborah Dvorkin, Grade 1 Teacher; Jo-Ann Fury, Technology Integration Teacher; Leanne Hasset, Social Studies Teacher; Joan Kavanagh, Grade 1 Teacher; Philip Levitch, Special Education Teacher; Susan Lewis, Library Media Specialist; Roni Maschas, Special Education Teacher; Ellen Metzger-O'Shea, Art Teacher; Bernadette Murphy, Mathematics Teacher; Sherrill Murray-Lazarus, Secondary Principal; Cheryl Musante, Secondary Principal; Robert Pribeck, Library Media Specialist; Susan Stillerman, Bridge Teacher

Look for a special retiree celebration in the Back to School 2009-2010 issue.

John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham Top Seniors, Class of 2009

JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL



Jessica Chung, Valedictorian

Jessica possesses all the academic and personal skills needed to successfully achieve great things and become a positive influence in society. She is a dedicated, hardworking, respectful, and open-minded young woman. She keeps everything in her life very well balanced through above average volunteer commitments, extra-curricular activities and an extraordinary academic work ethic. Throughout her high school career she has maintained an A+ average while taking many Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Her many accomplishments and activities are prolific. She has been inducted into the National Honor and Math Honor Societies and is an AP Scholar with Honors. She won the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, the Girl Scout Gold Award, and first place in the WCSD Science Fair. In addition to being the former president of the French Club, Jessica is the president and founder of John Jay's first ever Dance Team. Athletically she has been a member of our Tennis Team for the last four years and musically Jessica has performed in many concerts including the NYSSMA solo and ensemble festival. She has even challenged herself with rigorous summer programs such as the Vassar College Summer Scholars Program. Jessica is very ambitious and extremely grounded and is sure to be an amazing contributor to the University of Pennsylvania, where she will be pursuing communications and public speaking.



Cynthia Cohen, Salutatorian

Cynthia is an outstanding student who has compiled an excellent academic record. She has achieved while taking many Honors and Advanced Placement. Her devotion to academics has been well-rewarded. She has been inducted into the National and Mathematics and Spanish Honor Societies. She is a National Merit Scholar, Commended Student, and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Cynthia has demonstrated a sincere love for learning and appreciates her good rapport with her classmates and faculty members. Her activities are voluminous and include National Honor Society secretary, yearbook copy staff, article writer for the school newspaper, and a member of the Choir Club, just to name a few. Last summer, she participated in the Lead America's Congressional student Leadership Conference for Medicine and Healthcare at Georgetown University. Cynthia is a musician and ballet teacher. She has performed in many concerts on her own or through NYSSMA. In addition to teaching young aspiring dancers, she has tutored biology. Cynthia takes great pride in her spirit of volunteerism. She is truly a remarkable individual who is able to juggle excellence in school, work, and community service and still maintain a healthy sense of self. Cynthia has set high standards for herself and will be attending Cornell University, majoring in biomedical engineering.

ROY C. KETCHAM HIGH SCHOOL



Zachary Kahn, Valedictorian

Zachary Kahn was born and raised in the town of Poughkeepsie and has been attending Wappingers' Schools for more than half his life. A mathematical enthusiast, Zachary was keen to join the RCK Math Team as soon as he could, quickly accumulating numerous honors at the school, regional, and state levels. As president for the past two years, Zachary has helped to lead the Math Team to one of its most successful seasons in years. Never ignoring the more applied side of analysis, Zachary also quickly found a spot for himself as a member of the school's Science Olympiad and has always proven himself a diligent master of the sciences. In the most recent regional competition, Zachary placed in the top five of his events, including first place in a Physics lab assignment. Despite his heavy emphasis on math and science, Zachary is also mindful of other fields of interest, participating on the Academic World Quest Team and placing second in the region, helping to form and debate in the school's *Agora*, and winning first place in a regional Hudson Valley writing competition. In addition, he can often be found in the school's Learning Center, tutoring any in need of help. Zachary has not yet made a final college decision, but expects to pursue a promising career in mathematics.



Kevin Ly, Salutatorian

Kevin Ly, a graduating senior from Roy C. Ketcham High School, attributes his success to the variety of people he has met in his high school career. He has led both the Roy C. Ketcham Cross Country and Science Olympiad teams; the latter of which advanced to the state level competition, a first in Ketcham history. He has also participated in the school's Math Team, Academic Worldquest Club, and takes the time to help his classmates and schoolmates in the RCK Tutoring/Learning Center. Delving into the unknown to find his artistic side, Kevin joined Masque and Mime and starred in two musical productions; "Urinetown: The Musical" and "Once on This Island." As a member of the National Honor Society, he worked in the "Taste of Ketcham" and starred as a candidate for "Mr. Ketcham" as a comedian telling math and science jokes. In his spare time, he enjoys video games, running, and engaging in physics debates with his girlfriend. Kevin will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (R.P.I.) in Troy, New York in the fall. Kevin is interested in pursuing the study of chemical engineering.

GRADUATION DATES:

John Jay High School Friday, June 26
Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.
Roy C. Ketcham High School Saturday, June 27
Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 11:00 a.m.

Elementary Schools

- Brinckerhoff897-6800
- Evans298-5240
- Fishkill897-6780
- Fishkill Plains227-1770
- Gayhead227-1756
- Kinry Road463-7322
- Myers Corners298-5260
- Oak Grove298-5280
- Sheafe Road298-5290
- Vassar Road.....463-7860

Secondary Schools

- Van Wyck JHS 227-1700
- Wappingers JHS..... 298-5200
- John Jay HS 897-6700
- Roy C. Ketcham HS ... 298-5100
- Orchard View
- Alternative HS 298-5000

WCSD OFFICES 298-5000

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

ADMINISTRATION

- Superintendent
Richard A. Powell
- Deputy Superintendent
Technology, Testing & Assessments
Charles Hill, D.A.
- Assistant Superintendent
School Administration
Cheryl Thomas, Ph.D.
- Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum & Instruction
Judith Belfield
- Director/District Administration
G. Thomas Stella
- Director/Special Education & Student Services
Johanna Hudak
- Business Manager
Michele Moloney
- Director/Human Resources
Joanne Sereda

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John McMahon
Joseph Porpora

in print: WCSD Newsletter

Editor: G. Thomas Stella
 Designer: Diane Sommer
 Produced in cooperation with the
 Dutchess BOCES Public Information Service

RELAY FOR LIFE

Join the Dutchess County American Cancer Society's 8th Annual
Relay for Life - Friday June 19th at 6 p.m.
Fishkill All Sport (Fishkill, NY)
Saving Lives is just a Few Steps Away!
 For information contact Gail Buckle at 896-5087

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/index.htm)

Watch Cablevision 21 WCSD ON THE AIR

Airs Every Monday Evening
7:00-7:30 p.m.

Budget Video Aired on
April 27, May 4, 11 & 18

**Roy C. Ketcham High School
 2009 Summer Camps**
Baseball, Basketball and Field Hockey Camps

INFO: Visit the District and RCK website
 CONTACT: Mr. Patrick Mealy at 298-5100, ext. 138
 or email patrick.mealy@wappingersschools.org

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WAPPINGERS
 Central School District

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



THE
59TH ANNUAL

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
MESIER PARK - WAPPINGERS FALLS
 SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10-4 RAIN DATE SUNDAY, MAY 17, 10-4
 PRESENTED BY THE WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 FINE & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT