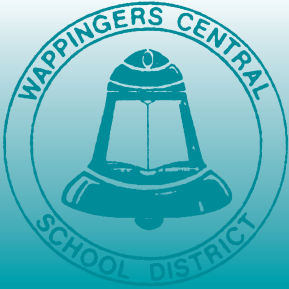


InPrint



May 2011 Volume 13.1

The Wappingers Central School District Newsletter



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2011-2012 Budget Issue

Message from BOE President and Superintendent

The state of the economy has affected all of us. The ever rising price of gasoline, groceries, clothing and just about all goods and services has been a hardship for every resident of our state and our country. School districts across the state have felt this impact more than ever as well. Our federal and state governments continue to press us with more and more mandates while stripping away funding at an alarming rate. Nevertheless, we have a responsibility to provide our students with an educational program that provides every student with an opportunity to be successful in our society. This has become a challenge of increasing proportions. The Board of Education has done an extraordinary job in preparing a budget that balances the educational requirements of our students, in our fragile fiscal environment, while limiting the tax burden on our taxpayers.

The Board of Education has done an extraordinary job in preparing a budget that balances the educational requirements of our students, in our fragile fiscal environment, while limiting the tax burden on our taxpayers.

During the past year we have been faced with diminished state and federal funding to support our school district. This current year the state has reduced our funding by \$6.1 million. Next year we will experience another \$2.2 million reduction in state aid. We shall also lose another \$5.3 million in federal funding as the Federal Stimulus initiative expires on June 30, 2011. Nevertheless, through very careful financial planning, we will be able to "weather this storm" more successfully than anyone would have imagined at the start of the budget preparation process this past October. Despite such significant decreases in state and federal funding, the budget that will be presented

to our residents on May 17, 2011 carries an increase of 2.49% and a tax levy of 4.86%. It is important to note that with the exception of a few changes, our programs have remained intact including course and program offerings, extra classroom activities and athletics. Our staffing cuts are minimal compared to last year and several will be through attrition due to a large number of retirements. We have added some services back such as the late bus at the junior and senior high schools and we shall provide some additional support to address disciplinary issues at our high schools. Moreover, funds are included in this budget to upgrade our computer technology program to continue to strengthen the alignment of technology with 21st century learning. The Board of Education has also approved plans to address our infrastructure needs, with no impact on the budget. A Performance Contract has been approved that will provide about \$11 million of

capital work to be paid from energy savings, i.e., no cost to the taxpayer. We have much more work beyond this project, but it is a start.

So, how is all of this possible? We have been steadfast in reducing expenditures. For example, we have increased the use of Requests for Proposals and methodically renegotiated contracts with vendors and suppliers that have resulted in major cost reductions for liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance, athletic trainer services, copy machines, to name a few. We have refinanced our debt at lower interest

continued on page 2

VOTE

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

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

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

2011-2012 Budget Issue

Message from BOE President and Superintendent

continued from page 1

rates, disconnected telephone lines no longer in use, and put procedures in place to better manage and reduce overtime costs and inventory control. We have also put procedures in place to optimize our state and federal aid and improve the management of our grants. The Board of Education wisely used the \$2.8 million in Federal Jobs Aid, granted mid-year, to reduce payroll costs in the budget. Our Audit Committee members have been diligent in meeting with our claims, internal and independent auditors. Their oversight has provided much guidance and assistance. We will continue to pursue many other initiatives to reduce our costs and continue to provide our students with the programs and services they require.

A word about our contingent budget: In the event that voters do not approve the budget, we would be required by law to enact an additional reduction of \$1,152,248. This would be very difficult since we have already "cut to the bone" this school year and we would be "going into the marrow" next school year. Nevertheless, we are required by law to make the reduction. Without an approved budget, we would make additional cuts as follows: student supplies, equipment, some BOCES services, intramurals and a portion of our athletics and extra-curricular activities. Inclusion of athletics and extra-curricular activities in the contingency budget is the same as was done last year with two exceptions. First, the reductions between the two are now proportionally equal. Second, more dollars than proposed last year have been left in the regular budget for "seed funds" to at least have some of these activities in place. Some have criticized the contingency budget stating that it should not

We have also put procedures in place to optimize our state and federal aid and improve the management of our grants.

include athletics. We have been hard-pressed to find other areas to cut. For example, we need to continue to offer the courses

our students need to meet graduation requirements, both core courses as well as electives requiring the completion of necessary sequences. We must also keep in place mandated academic intervention and special education services, to name a few.

In conclusion, despite the dismal financial predicament our school district and in fact, all school

districts struggle with, we continue to hold our WCSD together so that we may continue to provide our students with the educational opportunities they require and our community has come to expect. We have done this through sound financial planning and resource management that we must continue in order to keep our momentum. Keeping our momentum is especially important since we face the inevitable "property tax cap" that we will very likely need to navigate next year at this time.

The budget has been, and continues to be, presented throughout the district to the faculty, staff, parents, and taxpayers. These budget presentations are being done with the hope of providing as much information as possible so that on Tuesday, May 17th informed decisions may be made by our voters.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any information or clarification.

Sincerely,

James Parla
Superintendent of Schools

Aziz Ahsan, Esq.
President, WCSD BOE

Congratulations Retirees

2010 Retirees:

Peter Jensen-Moulton, Technology; Ann Barnes, Elementary; June Bergholtz, Physical Education; Cecilia Collopy, Special Education; Ann Congedo, Elementary; Janet Forader, Elementary; Paul Ibsen, Social Studies; Henry Johnson, Science; Marilyn Johnston, Elementary; Ginger Langer, Elementary; Elizabeth MacNamee, English; Mark Markowitz, English; Karen Minervini-Whelan, Social Studies; Michael Mostachetti, Physical Education; Karen White, English

2010-11 Retirees:

Jeanette Sutherland, Grade 2; Kathleen Cornett, Science; Andrea Bialek, Elementary; David Bloom, Special Education; Eileen Bosch, Elementary; Philip Cameron, Science; Susan Dexter, Special Education; Wayne Federico, Elementary; John Hafner, Foreign Language; Sandra Hayes, Speech; Denise Herberger, Family & Consumer Science; Jill Jurina, Elementary; Ellen Korz, Special Education; Carol Mastrianni, Special Education; Kara McKenna, Special Education; James Mollooy, Social Studies; Olga Perlman, Art; Alissa Perreault, Science; Judith Roenick, School Psychologist; Barbara Rowan, Special Education; Sheila Salenger, Library Media Specialist; Barbara Searle, English; Catherine Seehase, Elementary; Laura Siko, Mathematics; Susan Stoller, School Social Worker; Johanna Valente, Foreign Language; Johanna Wermuth, Speech; Virginia Woych, Special Education; Cheryl Zmudzinski, Elementary; Zola Barone, Spare Bus Driver; Marilyn Ciancio, Hourly Bus Driver; Lynne D'Apice, Hourly Bus Driver; Lucinda Hayton, Spare Bus Driver; Robert Kirzoncic, Custodian/1st Shift; Carol Kortright - Conklin, School Courier; Rose Marie Lord, School Nurse; Jeanne Mitchell, Custodian/2nd Shift; Barbara Montross, Bus Driver/10 Month; Delos Rifenburgh, Custodian - In - Charge; Piercley Russell, Automotive Mechanic; Judy Sneyd, Bus Driver/12 Month; Gail Thompson, Bus Driver/10 Month; Andrew Whitson, Hourly Bus Driver; Thomas Rosato, Director of Facilities & Operations; Cheryl Hawks, Typist B; Charles Hill, Assistant Superintendent - Technology; Pamela Herbst, Typist B; Elizabeth McGinley, Senior Stenographer; Frank Annis, Elementary Principal; Margery Wadkins, Coordinator/English Language Arts 9-12; Sylvia Epstein, Elementary Principal; Carole Levy, Coordinator/Science & Technology

VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 • 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

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

Around The Schools: High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian

JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL

Suvadip Choudhury, Valedictorian



John Jay High School is most honored to present our valedictorian for the class of 2011, Suvadip Choudhury. We are extremely proud of Suvadip as this is a most prestigious honor, particularly in a large high school. Suvadip has demonstrated phenomenal leadership capabilities during his four years at John Jay High School.

In the area of academics, Suvadip has been self-reliant, having been in an accelerated mathematics and science program since grade 8. He is also a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and a National Merit Commended Student.

Suvadip is an excellent student leader, role model and a volunteer who is truly dedicated to his entire community. He has been involved in a myriad of school activities during his time at John Jay High School and has assumed a leadership role based on his outstanding skills and abilities. Suvadip has served in the following leadership roles: President of the National Honor Society, newspaper writer for the school newspaper, varsity tennis player, Sophomore Class President, Freshman Class Secretary, member of school math team, and a member of student congress. In addition, he has a strong sense of community volunteering at Wingate Nursing Home and the American Cancer Society and participating in school science fairs and the National Honor Society. He has also served as a tutor at the John Jay Learning Center and takes much pride in assisting others.

Suvadip has also received many awards including the Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award in 2010, the Marist College Medal in Science and Health in 2010, AP Scholar with Distinction in 2010, National Merit Commended Student in 2010, Exemplary Character and Citizenship Award in 2009, and the High Honor Roll from 2007-present.

Suvadip's personality and overall commitment has endeared him to staff and his fellow students at John Jay High School. We wish Suvadip much success as he plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, having not yet decided on his major.

Samantha Fay, Salutatorian



John Jay High School is most honored to present our salutatorian for the Class of 2011, Samantha Fay. This is a tremendous accomplishment, particularly in a large school. We are extremely proud of Samantha as she has had a most successful four years at John Jay High School.

Samantha has put forth much effort in the area of academics taking honors and advanced placement courses when possible. This effort has ensured her success in many areas including The National Honor Society and being selected as a National Merit Commended Student. Samantha has also excelled in the area of leadership where she has served as Secretary of the National Honor Society.

Samantha is an integral member of many of our school clubs, especially in our music programs. She is the founder of the John Jay Quintet, treasurer of the Symphonic Band and a member of the Proscenium Pit Orchestra. Samantha has also competed at the highest level of the NYSSMA competitions since 2008.

Samantha is very dedicated to her entire community. She has volunteered to take part in many musical events throughout the community as she is a most accomplished singer and oboe player. She serves as a tutor to assist many students academically in our district as well as providing oboe lessons to her fellow students.

Samantha is highly respected by members of the faculty, staff, fellow students and the administration at John Jay High School. We wish Samantha much success as she plans to attend the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam with a major in music education.

ROY C. KETCHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel Perfecto, Valedictorian



While at Roy C. Ketcham, Rachel Perfecto has served as president of the Rotary Interact Club and jazz ensemble and has also been a member of the Science Olympiad, math team, and chamber choir. Deeply involved with music, she plays in several community ensembles and has performed in the NYSSMA All-State Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Last year, her science project

on using fractals as a method of music analysis won a third place award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Rachel is looking forward to attending Yale University next fall to study music and applied mathematics.

Crystal Zoodsma, Salutatorian



First and foremost, Crystal Zoodsma is an artist, both in technical terms and in the way she interacts with her surroundings. Participating in many art shows, along with taking class through her high school and Mill Street Loft, her art has been displayed in many forums. Last year, she was both a gold and silver key winner in the

Scholastic Art Awards. She is also quite involved in the music program at Ketcham, playing both saxophone and clarinet in various ensembles. She loves books and interesting people, and their combination in conjunction with her job at Grinnell Library. Crystal is genuinely thrilled to be attending SUNY Geneseo this fall to study sociology and history.

Wappingers Central School District Budget Notice

The Annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2011-1012 by the qualified voters of the Wappingers Central School District, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York,

will be held at the following schools: Fishkill Elementary, Fishkill Plains Elementary, Gayhead Elementary, Myers Corners Elementary, Sheafe Road Elementary, Vassar

Road Elementary on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted 2010-2011 School Year	Budget Proposed 2011-2012 School Year	Contingency Budget 2011-2012 School Year*
Total Budget Amount	\$184,175,215	\$188,766,644	\$187,614,396
Increase/decrease for the 2011-2012 school year		\$ 4,591,429	\$ 3,439,181
Percentage increase (decrease)		2.49%	
Change in the consumer price index		1.60%	
Resulting estimated property tax levy		\$133,273,655	
Component Breakdown			
Administrative component	\$ 19,084,456	\$ 19,333,154	\$19,271,107
Program component	\$145,541,959	\$148,117,768	\$147,048,417
Capital component	\$ 19,548,800	\$ 21,315,722	\$21,294,872
Total	\$184,175,215	\$188,766,644	\$187,614,396

*Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2011-2012 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.

If the proposed budget is defeated the additional cuts would be made:

Equipment	\$102,074	Interscholastics.....	\$487,613	Intramurals.....	\$21,600
Student Supplies	\$303,914	Co-Curricular Activities.....	\$125,000	BOCES Services.....	\$112,047

Budget

VOTE: YES NO

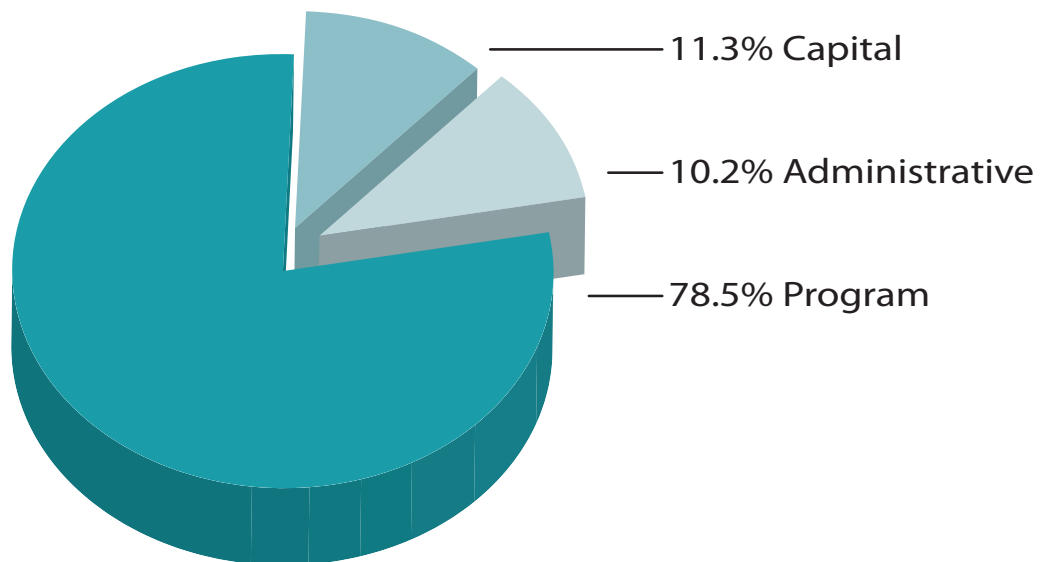
Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2011, in the amount of \$188,766,644 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

Proposition #1 - Bus Proposition

VOTE: YES NO

Shall the Board of Education of the Wappingers Central School District, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, New York ("District"), be authorized to purchase student transportation vehicles which a total estimated maximum sum of \$407,000, 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?

Budget Component Summary Chart



VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 • 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

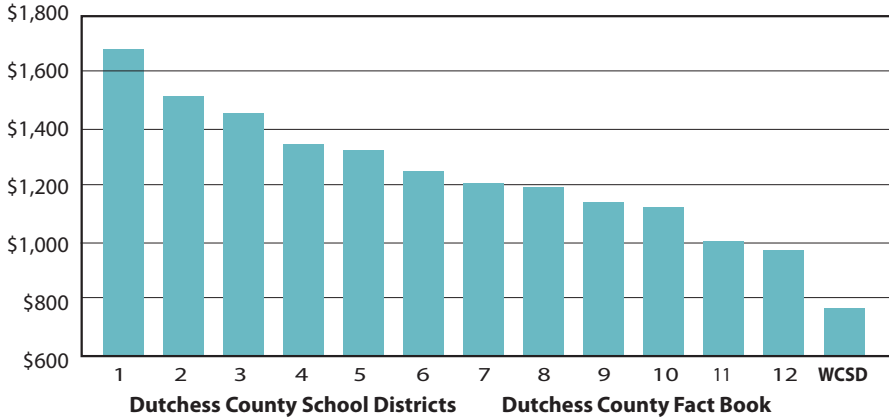
**Fishkill Elementary • Fishkill Plains Elementary • Gayhead Elementary
Myers Corners Elementary • Vassar Road Elementary • Sheafe Road Elementary**

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★	STAR Tax Savings	Budget Adopted 2011-2012 School Year	★
	Basic STAR tax savings	\$514.93	

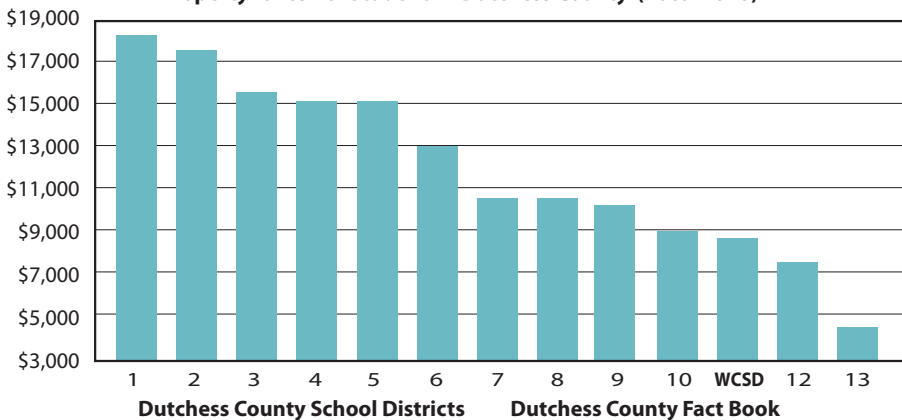
WCSD Administrative Costs Per Pupil Rank Last in County

Administrative Costs Per Student — Dutchess County (2009-2010)



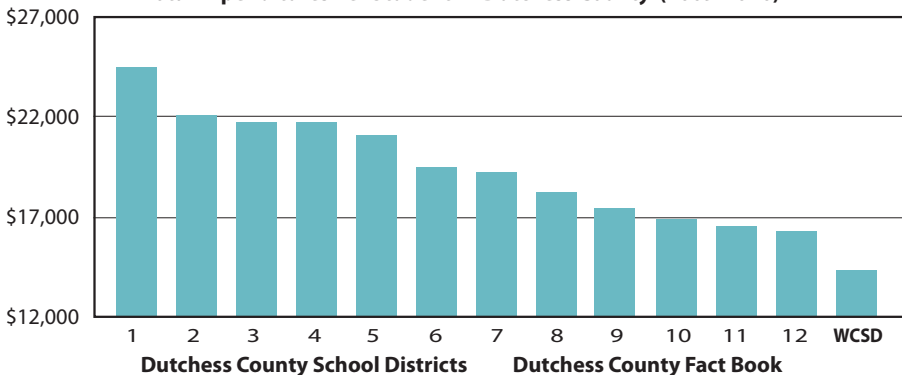
WCSD Property Taxes Per Pupil Ranks Among the Lowest in County

Property Taxes Per Student — Dutchess County (2009-2010)



WCSD Total Expenditures Per Pupil Ranks the Lowest in County

Total Expenditures Per Student — Dutchess County (2009-2010)



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 year's budget may not exceed the lesser of either: (1) 4%; or (2) the result obtained when multiplying the national consumer price index by 120%. For the 2011-2012 school year, a consumer price index of 1.60% equates to an authorized increase of 1.92%

Based upon the budget adopted by the Board of Education taking into account the types of expenditures that can legally be used to modify this formula, the contingency budget calculated for the 2011-2012 school year would be \$187,614,396. If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget items listed below would be eliminated. The difference to the average homeowner, based on current assessment information, would be approximately \$136 per year.

If the proposed budget is defeated, the budget will be reduced by the following:

- Interscholastics
- Intramurals
- Majority of Co-Curricular Activities
- BOCES services
- Student Supplies
- Equipment

If this newsletter was mailed to you, please check the address label for your polling location

BOARD CANDIDATES

(as they appear on the ballot)

VOTE FOR THREE BY PLACING A ✓ OR ✕ IN THE BOX UNDER CANDIDATE'S NAME.

1	2	3	4	5	6
John LUMIA	Norma DRUMMOND	LaVern SPENCER	Ved SHRAVAH	Mary MCGEARY	John MCMAHON

BOARD CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

1 John Lumia:

- Came to this country at age 10 from Sicily
- Attended High School at Mary Immaculate Seminary in Garrison NY 1956-61
- BA in Mathematics from Marist College in 1966
- Scholarship to St. John University where earned a MA in Mathematics in 1968
- Adjunct Professor at Marist from 1968-1974
- Adjunct Instructor of Mathematics for Marist College at Green Haven Prison
- Mathematics Instructor at RCK 1974-2006
- Adjunct Instructor at DCC from 1986-2006
- Volunteer for Meals on Wheels
- BOE member since 2008 and have served on the following Committees;
Facility/Policy/Personnel/
Bullying/Grade-Configuration

2 Norma Drummond:

Norma Drummond is the Westchester County Deputy Commissioner of Planning, administering over \$80 million in federal and state grants. She assists municipalities and non-profit agencies complete projects that have won national awards. She was an Adjunct Professor at Mercy College, and served on a number of boards including the Wappingers School Board, the East Fishkill Planning Board, and is currently Chair of the East Fishkill Zoning Board.

Norma and her husband have lived in East Fishkill over 22 years. Their son graduated from John Jay HS, their twin daughters are seniors, and their youngest, a 5th grader in Fishkill Plains.

3 LaVern Spencer:

- Married mother of (4) WCSD students
- Town of Wappinger resident since 2002
- WCSD PTA member since 2002
- Myers Corners PTA vice president 2010-2011
- Myers/WJHS/RCK chairperson since 2006
- WJHS PTA council representative 2010-2011
- RCK acting council representative 2010-2011
- Myers Corners room mom 2007-2010
- Myers Corners welcome desk attendant 2008-2009
- WCSD substitute teaching assistant
- President/Founder Pink Ladies Coalition (*Not for Profit Community Organization*)
- Licensed real estate salesperson
- Former owner of "LaRue's" salon

Goals for School Board!

- Increased transparency and accessibility
- Enhanced student preparation for each transition
- Use our tax money more efficiently
- Engage community stakeholders in decision making

4 Ved Shraah:

After Serving on the Wappingers Board of Education for 15 years with numerous accomplishments, I am offering my candidacy to provide the much needed Experience, Expertise and Vision to the Board of Education.

My goals :

- Children should not be the victims of the financial mistakes made by politicians.
- Reduce property tax burden on taxpayers and seniors with limited income.
- Raise funds for schools from political donors who donate millions to politicians.
- Help teachers to succeed in their mission.
- Respect for district employees who contribute enormously to the character and education of our children.

VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 • 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

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or call 298-5000, ext. 145.

7	8	9
Write-in	Write-in	Write-in



5 Mary McGeary:

I've lived in the Wappingers district for 20 years. My husband and I have two children, attending RCK. I have served the community on a variety of committees.

I'm presently the Chairperson of the district's audit committee and the only non-union endorsed member on the BOE. A trustee must keep all stake holders in mind! I'm willing to continue to put forth the time and commitment required to implement necessary changes needed to achieve our academic and fiduciary responsibilities.

The BOE NEEDS to be professional, courteous, hardworking, and set high standards for excellence and student achievement. We should expect nothing less as parents, community members and taxpayers.

Please Vote McGeary, line 5 on May 17th.

6 John McMahon:

I am a 12 year resident of Hopewell Junction and have been married for 23 years to my wife Donna. I have two sons, John a junior at Binghamton University and Robert, a senior at John Jay High School. I've served on numerous committees at John Jay before serving these past three years as a WCSD trustee.

I have been chairman of the facilities and operations committee for three years and am very proud of the energy performance contract I helped spearhead for the district. This will result in over ten million dollars of improvements without any cost to the taxpayers.

If you are unable to vote in person, you can vote by absentee ballot. Applications are available on line or in the office of the District Clerk. Please call 298-5000, ext. 145 or 124.

Voting by Optical Scan

The Budget Vote and Board of Education Election that will be held on May 17, 2011 marks the introduction of the new Optical Scan technology for voters in the Wappingers Central School District.

With the new technology, voters will continue to sign the Poll Register as before, at which time they will also receive their ballot, along with a "privacy sleeve" to cover the ballot while moving about the room.

Once the voter has the Ballot and privacy sleeve in hand, he or she will move on to one of the privacy booths where a marker pen will be available. The voter uses the marker pen to fill in the oval next to the selection the voter wishes to make in voting on the budget and for the candidates(s) for Board of Education. Be sure to mark completely inside the oval and do not make any extra marks on the Ballot.

Be careful to note: the Propositions on the Budget will be on one side of the ballot and the Proposition for election of Board members will be on the reverse. **BE SURE TO LOOK AT BOTH SIDES OF THE BALLOT!**

Once marked, bring the Ballot, covered by the privacy sleeve to maintain confidentiality, to either one of the two optical scanners and feed the ballot gently into the appropriate slot. The LED panel on the right-hand side of the machine will indicate when the Ballot has been successfully cast. Do not leave the machine until the message indicates a successful vote. If you need assistance, trained personnel will be available to help.

For a demonstration of voting by optical scan technology, you can visit the Dutchess County Board of Elections' website at <http://www.dutchesselections.com/>.

**WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE
MAY 17, 2011
BUDGET AND ELECTION VOTE**

BUDGET

YES NO

Shall a budget for Wappingers Central School District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2011, in the amount of \$188,766,644 be adopted, and the necessary taxes to meet such expenditures be levied and collected?

PROPOSITION #1 – BUS PROPOSITION

YES NO

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BOARD CANDIDATES
(VOTE FOR 3 ONLY – PLACE AN X OR ✓ IN THE BOX UNDER THE CANDIDATES NAME)

1	2	3	4	5	6	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN
John Lumia	Norma Drummond	LaVern Spencer	Ved Shrivah	Mary McGeary	John McMahon			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

After you have marked your ballot, fold it and enclose it in the envelope. SIGN THE BACK OF THE OATH ENVELOPE. This ballot is void if you enclose any paper or article in the folded ballot or deface or tear the ballot or make any erasure thereon.

High School Athletics

**Hall of Fame 2010-2011
John Jay Sports Information**

League Champions

Girls Soccer; Girls Tennis; Boys Soccer

Section Champs

Girls Soccer

Individual All League Champions

Spring: 35; **Fall:** 36; **Winter:** 24

Individual All Section Champions

Alex McKeon, Baseball; Darren Gomez, Soccer; Tyler Poggiogalle, Soccer; C.J. Pourakis, Soccer; Samatha McGuire, Soccer; Geena Kooner, Soccer; Dorothy Tai, Tennis; Kristen Turi, Tennis; Jade Dennet, Field Hockey; Daniella Bernasconi, Field Hockey; Krista Kellogg, Field Hockey; Bobby Henderson, Football; Dale White, Wrestling; Luke Minasi, Wrestling; Mike Turi, Cross Country; Brittney Gullo, Basketball

Individual All County Qualifiers

Track: Allie Bernasconi, Daniella Bernasconi, Michelle Granuzzo, Lauren Crawford, Nicolette Webber,

Cross Country: Mike Turi

Baseball: Alex McKeon, Jeff Schult, Nick Boyd, Travis Loggia

Roy C. Ketcham Sports Information

Individual All League Champions

Wrestling: Mark Settembrino, Brad Marvin, Dave Simpfenderfer, James Evans

Individual All County Qualifiers

Wrestling: Mark Settembrino, Brad Marvin, Dave Simpfenderfer, James Evans

Section Champs and Grand Champs

Cheerleading; League Champs; Boys Bowling

WAPPINGERS

Gymnastics: Section Champs

Lacrosse (girls): League Champs

WCSD Festival and Award Recipients

FESTIVALS

NYSSMA All-State Festival: 9 Students

NYSSMA Area All-State Festival: 56 Students

DCMEA Junior High All-County Festival: 54 Students

DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival: 51 Students

DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival: 51 Students

DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival: 51 Students

DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival: 51 Students

AWARDS

Exemplary Media Awards:

36 Students

2011 Hudson Valley Scholastic Art Awards:

30 Gold Key Awards

53 Silver Key Awards

NYSATA Portfolio Project: 4 Students

WCSD Continuing Education

Wappingers Community School

Jeffrey Behnke, Coordinator 298-5000, ext. 130

Kathy Theiller, Secretary 298-5000 ext. 137,

Driver Education

**Two Summer Sessions – First Session Starts – June 27, 2011
Second Session Starts – July 25, 2011**

This 48 hours of instruction leads to a NYS driver education certificate (MV285). This certificate, in most cases, assures students a reduction in their auto insurance for three years which practically covers the cost of the program. Students are also then eligible to receive their senior license at 17. Applications are now available on the Wappingers website. The cost is \$395 and is open to WCSD students. Students must be 16 years of age by the start of the first class and have a valid learner's permit. Applications are processed on a first-registered, first-served basis. You must pre-register for these sessions. Deadlines for acceptance of applications are listed on the website.

**Look for Driver Education Summer Class Schedule
On the Wappingers website NOW**

**Go to www.wappingersschools.org and click on the Continuing Ed link.
For more information call 298-5000, ext. 137.**

Summer Camps

Offered through Wappingers Continuing Education

Art Camp

June 27 - July 1

Indian Culture and Language

June 27 – July 1

Band Camp 6th/7th

Dates TBD

Hands-On-Science

June 27 - July 1

Tae Kwan Do

July 11 – July 15

Drama Camp

Dates TBD

July 5 – 8

Tae Kwan Do

Mondays beginning

Band Camp 8th/9th

Dates TBD

Spanish Camp

June 27 – July 1

June 20th

**For additional camps, specific times, locations, costs and grade levels,
go to www.wappingersschools.org and click on Continuing Education**

WAPPINGERS SCHOOLS

Elementary Schools

Brinckerhoff.....	897-6800
Evans.....	298-5240
Fishkill.....	897-6780
Fishkill Plains.....	227-1770
Gayhead.....	227-1756
Kinry Road.....	463-7322
Myers Corners.....	298-5260
Oak Grove.....	298-5280
Sheafe Road.....	298-5290
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
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2011 Student Accolades and Kudos

**Wappingers District listed in Hudson Valley Magazine
as being among the top high schools**

Two WJHS students were selected as Regional Finalists in the state sponsored PTA program "Reflections". Their videos were shown at the NYS PTA Conference held in Albany.

Eleven fifth-grade students from Evans participated in the annual Wappingers Central School District 2011 Battle of the Books Competition.

Evans was a winning recipient of the We the People grant.

Roy C. Ketcham's Literary Magazine, Odyssey, received the highest award in October, a Gold Award, from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. In addition, it also received a rating of "Excellent" by the National Council of Teachers of English in January.

RCK Gold Scholastic Award (Scholastic Art and Writing Awards): Meghan Lynch (tenth grade).

Robert Verkuil: First place WCSD Science Fair; First place Dutchess County Science Fair and will compete in Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

The RCK Environment Club had two teams at the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon this year, and one of our teams finished First place in Dutchess County, and fourth overall, and eligible to compete at the state level.

The WorldQuest team won the regional competitions. They headed to Nationals in Washington, D.C.

Science Olympiad team finished fourth in the regional competition this February and advanced to the state competition. Several students earned medals at the regional competition.

Broadcast Arts students presented their public service announcements on Cyberbullying to Congresswoman Nan Hayworth, Mayor Alexander, Supervisor Colsey, and BOE President Ashan. The PSA's will potentially air on Cablevision.

The Advanced Photo classes of RCK have had photos in the Town of Wappingers selected for permanent exhibit at the Town Hall.

Robert Wood received the New York State Art Teachers Association Region 7's Secondary Teacher of The Year Award.

Eleven students in Photography received Exemplary Media Arts Awards in Westchester County and two Photography students received a

A RCK student satisfactorily completed study in the School of Orchestral Studies of the New York State Summer School of the Arts at Skidmore College and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

A RCK senior (harp player) was a recipient of the Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards and named the Youth with Exceptional Promise in the Arts.

A fifth grade student at Gayhead Elementary School earned first place recognition in the National NFL PPK (punt, pass, kick) competition at the Regional Competition at Giants Stadium.

Eighty Kinry students participated in the All District Music Festival and thirty-one students participated in the All County Music Festival.

Math Club at John Jay High School won first Place at the DUSO (Dutchess/Ulster/Sullivan/Orange) Math League Championship Competition.

Seventy-five students from Vassar Elementary School participated in the K - 4 Vassar/Kinry Science Fair.

Vassar Elementary School raised over \$550.00 in a "Hats on Day" for the March of Dimes.

A twelfth grade RCK student was recognized with a Regional Gold Key in the Scholastic Writing Awards of 2011 competition presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Two seventh grade students at WJHS had their poetry published in the Poughkeepsie Journal.

The WCSD ELA Department was recognized by the national Endowment for the Arts in honor of their outstanding contribution to education.

A staff member and students from RCK won the Gold Medalist distinction from Columbia University Press Association for the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia for their work on the Odyssey Literary Magazine.

- ★ Last year 8279 Regents exams were administered in the district. The combined passing rate for these exams was 90%.
- ★ 90% of last June's graduates planned to go on to a 2 or 4 years college.
- ★ 92% of last June's graduates received a Regents Diploma while 44% of those received a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- ★ District AP scores consistently exceed those of the state and of the nation.
- ★ In 2010 our districts college bound seniors surpassed the NYS average for SAT scores.

Gold and Silver Key award for the NY State Scholastics awards.

Silver Scholastic Award (Scholastic Art and Writing Awards): : Kelly Doherty (11th grade).

Forty students won Gold and Silver awards in the regional Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition.

Emmanuel Ofori ,RCK senior is a national American Visions Award Winner - the highest award in the competition. His work will be on exhibit in NYC in May.

In January twenty-four students from RCK's DECA competed at the regional competition. Eighteen won trophies! Two RCK students inducted into the DECA Honor Society. A RCK student earned Outstanding DECA Member of the Year. One student is attending Nationals.

Two students selected as 2010-11 National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholars (Finalists).

United Way of Orange and Dutchess Counties

United Way of Orange and Dutchess Counties unveiled the winning logos chosen from 165 design entries from Orange and Dutchess students for its Touch-A-Truck (TAT)/Aviation Expo event. The logos were presented at a press conference April 12 at the Orange County Airport in Montgomery, site of the fundraiser to be held May 14. Third place winner Henry Litsky of Wappingers Falls, a 4th grade student at Fishkill Plains Elementary School is congratulated by United Way of Dutchess County Young Leaders United and Touch-A-Truck Co-Chair Omer Gil, an attorney at Iseman, Cunningham, Riester & Hyde. Gil presented Henry with two tickets to Splash Down Beach Water Park as a special prize.

TAT logo design third place winner Henry Litsky



Happenings in the Gymnasium

This year, students at Evans Elementary School have been very active. Many children in grades 4, 5 and 6 have participated in a wide variety of intramural programs (football, basketball, hip-hop, soccer, volleyball, and recreational games). The 2nd and 3rd graders have participated in Eagles Sport Club.

Each year, two students are chosen from the 6th grade to represent Evans at the S.E.Z. Awards. The award is based on scholarship, athletic ability and good citizenship. This year's winners are Matthew Ball and Raylene Williams.

Evans recently completed a Jump Rope For Heart event. The students were able to raise \$1572.00 to help in the fight against heart disease.

Evans children are also participating in the Athlete of the Week program. Each month, several students are chosen to honor them for their sportsmanship, effort and ability in their physical education class. The children receive a pencil and ribbon for their award.

Ketcham Girls Bring Fashionable Twist to Mentoring at Myers

If Kate Middleton needed any help with her bridal gown when she got married to England's Prince William last week, she would have made a quick trip across the pond and visited the talented fashion designers here in the States. At Myers Comers Elementary School, to be precise. Members of the sixth grade fashion club at the school held their final meeting of the year recently and they spent their time designing wedding gowns for Middleton with the help of the high school girls who have been their mentors all year.

On the first Wednesday of every month for most of the school year, a group of young women in Susanne Shand's fashion and interior design classes at Ketcham High School had traveled to Myers to work with the girls in the fashion club, talking about everything from the flow of material to what life is like in the upper grades.

The idea to bring girls from the two schools together was first raised by Myers principal Sydnie Vasquez, who formerly worked at Ketcham as an assistant principal. It is a great little bridge that Sydnie wanted to make," said Shand.

Excerpt from Southern Dutchess News

The Fishkill Plains Environmental Club

The Fishkill Plains Environmental Club has been meeting each week to learn about organic gardening, and the students are getting their first organic vegetable garden ready for planting. With the help of Greenway Environmental Services, the fourth and fifth graders have measured the garden, dug up the existing plants to sell, made a presentation to the PTA for funding, and planted seeds in the classroom that will go into the garden. The students have also learned why it is important for each of us to reduce our carbon footprint and how growing our own food helps.

Club members asked the cafeteria staff which vegetables the students at Fishkill Plains enjoyed the most, then decided to plant broccoli, lettuce and carrots. The lettuce and broccoli seedlings are currently being tended to daily in the classroom by members of the group. The carrots were planted in April when the seedlings are transplanted to the garden. In June the crops will be harvested and weighed, and the entire school will be invited to eat the organic vegetables. The club wants to also plant tomatoes, celery and potatoes, which will then be harvested in September.

The students are learning so much about organic gardening. Each week they are excited to come and dig in the soil. Carefully they are watching their seedlings!

Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart at Kinry Road

Kinry Road students raised a total of \$3,735.28 for the American Heart Association in March. Students learned about social responsibility and helping others by collecting donations and participating in either Jump Rope for Heart or Hoops for Heart. During physical education classes, students learned how to maintain a healthy heart by making positive choices such as: eating a balanced diet, exercising 60 minutes per day, and not smoking. We are very proud of our students and their effort.

First-Grade Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday at Gayhead Elementary School

First grade students from Mrs. Seipp's and Mrs. Dodge's classes celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd. In Mrs. Seipp's class, she read the story, "Green Eggs and Ham", and then the students made them with the help of Mrs. Walsh. The students wrote a rhyme about green eggs and ham. They also made a graph of the results of the survey question, "Did you like green eggs and ham?" Most of the children did!



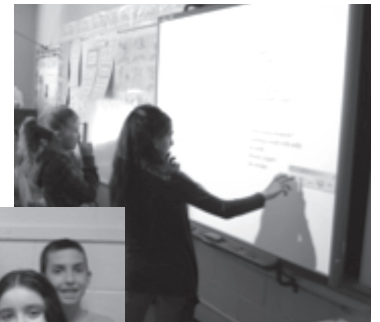
"Vassar Road Grandparents Breakfast"



The PTA sponsored our grandparents breakfast which was held on October 27 and 28. It was another beautiful day, with great food from local merchants. About 450 grandparents participated and fun was had by all.

Gayhead Students Studying the Food Pyramid

Students in Mrs. Muñoz, Mrs. Tarantino & Mrs. Lombardo's Class enjoyed a science lesson about the Food Pyramid using the Smartboard. The students used supermarket fliers to identify and cut out pictures of foods that belong in the different groups. They used the Smartboard to clarify which foods belong in each group. They then pasted them onto a paper pyramid.

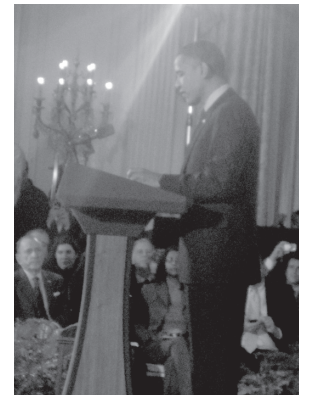


Left: Students at the SmartBoard:
Lisa Conrad, Bridget Lappin

Right: Students with the Food
Pyramid: Richard Bolding,
Paul Portman, Robert Ehrhard,
Julianne Ronner, Zoe Peritz

Oak Grove Teacher Goes to Washington D.C.

A staff member from Oak Grove was invited to a reception at the White House and recognized for the creative way she motivated and engaged her students in science. Along with her principal she attended the awards ceremony for the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology in Washington, DC.



Left to right: Mayra Montrose the Program Manager for the National Medal of Science at NSF, Oak Grove's 5th Grade Teacher Ms. Caitlin McCabe with Principal Mrs. Angelina Alvarez-Rooney. Far right: President Barack Obama.

**Get More
Budget
Information**
www.wappingersschools.org

Relay For Life Fundraising Walk

Join the Dutchess County American Cancer Society's 10th Annual *Relay for Life* event on Friday June 17th from 3pm-midnight at All Sport Fishkill. This is an event that will receive 60% of the monies raised for our Dutchess County ACS. These monies will go towards local support groups, the ACS call center website, *Reach to Recovery* and other programs which benefit cancer patients, caregivers and their families. Several Wappingers schools are participating. Won't you join them? Together we can all make a difference!
Contact Gail Buckle at 896-5087 for additional information.

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)



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KEMER, 2011

**The 61st Annual
Festival
of the Arts**
Mesier Park, Wappingers Falls
Saturday, May 14, 10 - 4 Rain date: Sunday May 15, 10-4
Presented by The Wappingers Central School District
Fine & Performing Arts Department

Roy C. Ketcham High School 2011 Summer Sports Camps
Gymnastics: June 27 - July 1 • July 4 - July 8 • July 11 - July 15 • July 18 - July 22
Cheerleading at WJHS: July 11 - July 14 • July 18 - July 21
Boys' Basketball: July 25 - July 29 • August 1 - August 5
Girls' Basketball: August 8 - August 12
Boys' & Girls' Soccer: June 27 - July 1
Baseball: June 27 - July 1 • July 11 - July 15 • July 18 - July 22
Field Hockey: June 27 - July 1

John Jay High School 2011 Summer Sports Camps
Volleyball: July 11 - July 15 **Field Hockey:** July 18 - July 21
Girls Basketball: July 25 - July 29 **Boys' Soccer:** August 29 - September 1

GRADUATION DATES:
John Jay High School
Friday, June 24 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.
Roy C. Ketcham High School
Saturday, June 25 — Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 11:00 a.m.