

Marlboro

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Budget 2011 NEWSLETTER

District Adopts Budget with 1.08% Increase in Spending

While preserving educational programming, the Marlboro Central School District's Board of Education has adopted a Proposed Budget that is \$358,503 BELOW the maximum State Allowable Contingency Budget level. The \$49,963,039 proposal represents a 1.08% increase over last year's budget and will result in an anticipated tax levy increase of 3.97%. Residents will be asked to vote on this budget, as well as elect members to the Board of Education, on May 17, 2011.

Nearly five months of discussion, planning, and research were devoted to finding creative ways to preserve student programs while dealing with \$1.9 million in fixed cost increases (legally binding contract obligations, State-mandated pension contributions, costs of fuel, etc.) and an elimination of \$180,115 in State Aid that was shifted from the State level onto the local taxpayer.

To simply "roll over" the current year's budget, including the entirety of the fixed cost increases, would have produced a 3.9% budget-

to-budget increase, but a tax levy of 7.97%. Given the fiscal challenges our community is facing, such an increase was simply unacceptable.

The Board also examined making budget reductions to meet the level of a Contingency Budget, which is the budget amount automatically allowable by New York State if communities do not approve the proposed budget. This contingency option had a budget-to-budget increase of 1.8%. Even though several budget reductions were included, the Contingency Budget scenario would have

allowed a tax levy increase of 5.22%, which the Board felt was still too high.

Working Together for Solutions

Without the ability to find additional revenues to offset costs, cooperation was needed to find economic relief from within, starting with District staff. Central administration volunteered to forgo raises for a 0% salary increase for the 2011-2012 school year. Throughout the District, other units renegotiated contracts and offered multi-year economic relief, resulting in a total savings of \$438,400.

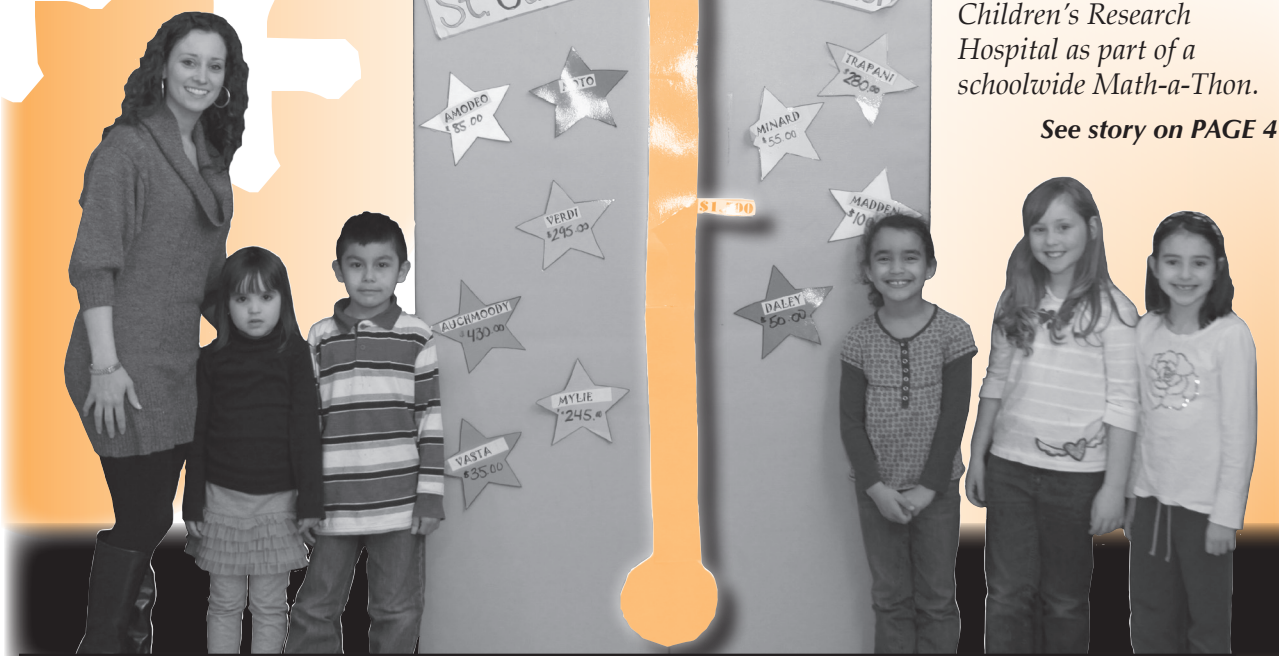
Other expenditure reductions were also made across budget lines, including those for equipment, supplies, and materials. Action plans to reduce overhead costs through everyday conservation measures, including a decreased dependence on utilities, were developed. Maintenance contracts and auditing services were competitively quoted to produce better pricing. With careful planning, District officials were also able to refinance the remaining debt on the Middle School project, which will save \$82,000 over time.

The District was also able to reduce half the cost of an administrator after being awarded a competitive "Investing in Innovation" grant from the American Federation of Teachers. The money from this grant, which must be used to support teacher development and evaluation, will help fund half the cost of the salary for the District's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Continued on PAGE 3

Read more about our students on PAGE 4

Marlboro Elementary School Math-a-Thon!



Marlboro Elementary School students Emmie Mae Cabrera, Alexis Camacho, Sianna Gatto, Abby Schaffer, and Madylan Marino, shown with first grade teacher Rebecca Auchmoody, all helped raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital as part of a schoolwide Math-a-Thon.

See story on PAGE 4



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Vice-President

Lawrence Cavazza

Trustees

Kenneth T. Brooks

Dennis C. Flynn

James P. Sullivan

Dean M. Tamburri

Budget Hearing

TUESDAY, MAY 10 • 7:30 PM
Marlboro Intermediate School Cafeteria

Budget Vote

TUESDAY, MAY 17 • 6 AM to 9 PM
Marlboro Elementary School



Tax Relief Programs Help Reduce Burden on Disabled & Senior Citizens

A motion to enact the Disability and Senior Citizen School Tax Exemption, as described in the New York State Real Property Tax Law (which gives districts the option of granting qualified senior citizens and residents with disabilities special tax relief), was once again unanimously approved by the District's Board of Education.

Relief at the highest levels permitted by law will be provided for the 2011-2012 school year. This is accomplished by exempting a portion of the assessed value of seniors' residential property. The level of assessment exemption is determined by income level and is based upon a sliding scale, providing up to 50 percent reduction in assessed value. To participate in the exemption program, the disabled and seniors must meet certain qualifications, and an application must be submitted with the local assessor's office and renewed annually.

STAR Exemption Program Continues

The School Tax Relief (STAR) Program that was passed by the Legislature in 1997 to provide Basic and Enhanced school tax relief for owner-occupied, primary residences is continued under the New York State budget but has been revised to also reflect income levels of owners. Owner-occupied, primary residences where the owners' total income is less than \$500,000 are eligible for STAR.

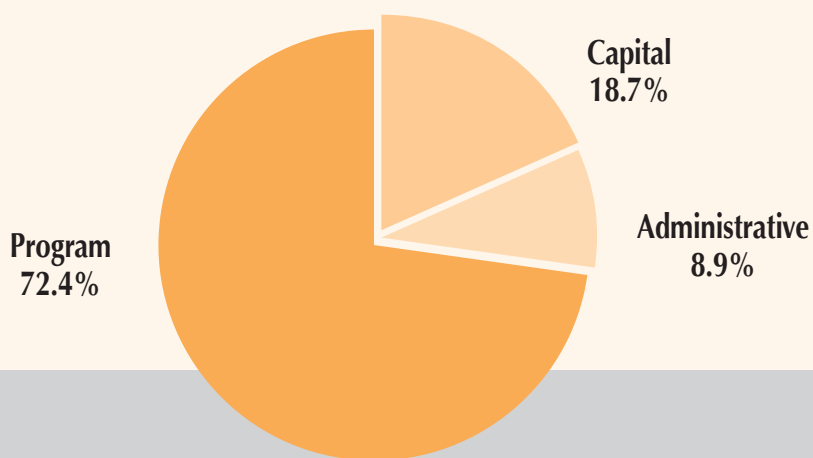
The Basic STAR exemption is offered to all property owners on their owner-occupied primary residences, and is provided in the form of an actual reduction in the homeowner's property tax bill. Owners aged 65 or older who meet income criteria are eligible for even greater tax savings through the Enhanced STAR exemption. Seniors must apply for Enhanced STAR each year. Contact your local assessor for more information.

Your Local Assessors

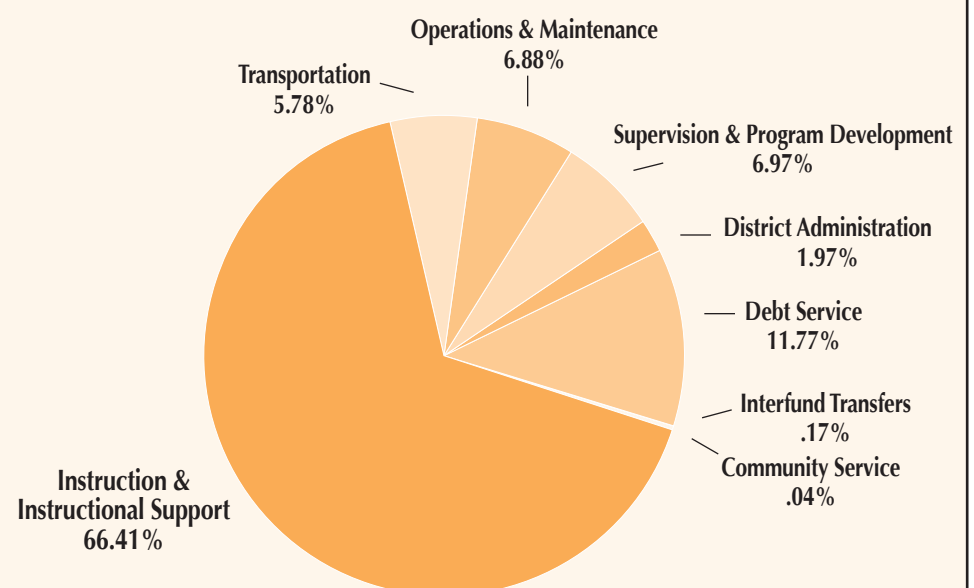
Town of Marlborough	(845) 795-5049
Town of Plattekill	(845) 883-7331
Town of Newburgh	(845) 564-4550

PROGRAM BUDGET

PROGRAM BUDGET	2010-2011	2011-2012	Increase
Administrative Component	\$4,378,621	\$4,468,594	\$89,973
Program Component	\$35,908,556	\$36,168,970	\$260,414
Capital Component	\$9,142,258	\$9,325,475	\$183,217
Total	\$49,429,435	\$49,963,039	\$533,604



2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET



Instruction & Instructional Support.....\$33,182,425

Regular School • Special Education • Special Schools: Occupational Education, Home & Career, Business • Modified Enrichment Program • Library • Computer • Guidance • Health • Psychologists • Athletics & Co-Curricular • Legal Services • Central Printing • Central Data Processing • In-Service

Transportation\$2,887,545

Transportation Director • Transportation for In District • Career & Technical • Non-Public • Special Education • Athletics • Field Trips • Music Competitions • Co-Curricular Competitions

Operations & Maintenance\$3,438,866

Staff & Benefits • Maintenance Contracts • Fuel, Gas, Electric, Telephone, Water & Sewer • Building Repairs & Maintenance • Vehicle Maintenance • Supplies: Custodial, Electrical, Plumbing, Grounds, Maintenance, & Carpentry • BOCES: Risk Management • Equipment • Community Use of Facilities

Supervision & Program Development\$3,482,095

Curriculum Office • Curriculum Writing • Curriculum Mapping • Staff Development • Membership Dues • Principals' Office Staff • Special Education Office Staff • Office Expenses: Maintenance Contractors, Supplies, Membership Fees & Travel • Event Chaperones • In-Service Training

District Administration\$986,499

Board of Education • Superintendent's Office • Business Office • District Clerk • Tax Collection • Insurance & Auditing Services • Legal Services • Personnel • Records Management • Budget Vote • Public Information • Central Printing • Mailing & Data Processing • BOCES Administration

Debt Service\$5,881,609

Tax Certiorari Bond • Elementary, Middle, and High School Bonds

Interfund Transfers.....\$85,000

Special Education Summer School • School Lunch

Community Service\$19,000

Sarah Hull Hallock Library

BUDGET TOTAL\$49,963,039

ESTIMATED TAX CHANGE FOR 2011-2012

The following are anticipated Town of Marlborough tax changes compared to 2010-2011 taxes for a regular taxpayer, based on anticipated revenues and available assessment information.

True Value	Regular Taxpayer	Basic STAR	Enhanced STAR
\$150,000	\$188	\$141	\$94
\$200,000	\$251	\$204	\$157
\$250,000	\$314	\$267	\$219
\$300,000	\$377	\$329	\$282

Budget Vote

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Marlboro Elementary School
6 AM to 9 PM

Budget Increase: 1.08%

Continued from Page 1

"No area was left untouched," says Superintendent Raymond Castellani. "Our top priority is maintaining student programming and student success, so we looked first in those areas that would have the least impact on student life."

While these savings and reductions provided meaningful relief, the level was still short of what was necessary. The difficult decision was made to re-examine staffing levels and identify position cuts that would have the least impact on students. On top of the 21 positions that were cut in the past two years, an additional 15 positions are eliminated under the Proposed Budget. With 36 fewer employees, yet no relief from voluminous State mandates, the corresponding responsibilities from these eliminations will need to be realigned with current staff.

Staffing Budget Impact

- .5 Administrator
- 5 Paraprofessional
- 2 Clerical
- 1 Non-Unit
- 6.5 Teacher

15.0 Total



Other Budget Impacts

- Use of Lead Teacher Model Reduced
- Printing of District Calendar Eliminated
- Backup Stipends Reduced
- Summer Curriculum Writing Eliminated
- Paper & Miscellaneous Supplies Reduced
- Professional Development Reduced
- Weekend Building Coverage Reduced
- BOCES Programs/Reach Program Reduced
- Coordinators Reduced
- Clubs at the Middle & High School Reduced
- Athletics Reduced

The Result

The economic relief offered by District staff, combined with other expenditure reductions and realignments, reduces the total budget by \$1,396,491. **The end result is a proposal that is \$358,503 BELOW the maximum State Allowable Contingency Budget level, but has a minimum impact on the level of programs and services to students.** Field trips and planetarium visits were preserved. Clubs and sports had some reductions, but were saved overall.

What's Next?

The fiscal challenges for funding education have become increasingly complex and will continue to be challenging until legislative reform and mandate relief are provided. Until then, current legislation, contractual obligations, and mandates essentially guarantee that schools will see annual increases in their fixed costs—increases that are not aligned with the community's ability to pay for them. It is anticipated that next year will bring legislation that will cap the revenues from school taxes to a 2% increase (unless

overridden by a 60% supermajority of voters), yet does nothing to provide relief for the increasing costs that are beyond local control. Our elected leaders need to hear from us that a tax cap without mandate reform is unacceptable. The change needs to come from Albany.

Since the Budget is Already Less than the State Allowable Contingency Budget, Why Are We Voting?

Under normal circumstances, a Contingency Budget is less than the budget voters are asked to approve; however, due to the dire economic realities our community is facing and the loss of State Aid, the Board chose to adopt a budget that is already \$358,503 BELOW the State-allowable Contingency Budget level.

Although the Board has already adopted a spending level less than what is allowed, voter approval is still needed to retain local control over what the budget can be spent on. Contingency guidelines restrict certain expenditures. All legal contractual obligations (salaries, insurances, debt payments, etc.) are preserved, but items such as equipment purchases, free public use of buildings, and non-essential building maintenance (except if posing a health and safety risk) are forbidden by law under a Contingency Budget.

With this in mind, if the proposed budget is defeated, the District has two options. It can decide to place another proposition (either the same proposition or a modified one) before the community one additional time, or it can decide to remove the non-allowable spending and automatically adopt a budget less than the one defeated by the community.

"No area was left untouched."

— Superintendent Ray Castellani

ABOUT VOTING

Are You Qualified to Vote?

In order to be eligible to vote you must be:

- 18 years of age or older.
- A citizen of the United States.
- A resident of the Marlboro Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available for residents who are unable to vote at the polls on Tuesday, May 17. For more information, please contact the District Clerk at the Administrative Offices, 1510 Route 9W, Suite 201, Marlboro.

2011-2012 Proposed Budget Available

Copies of the 2011-2012 proposed budget are available at all of the District's buildings, as well as at the Marlboro Free Library and the Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library in Milton. Stop by one of the following school offices to obtain a copy:

- Marlboro Elementary School
- Middle Hope Elementary School
- Milton Elementary School
- Marlboro Intermediate School
- Middle School
- High School
- Administrative Offices

Sample Ballot

BUDGET PROPOSITION

"RESOLVED that the Board of Education be and is authorized to expend the sum of \$49,963,039 to meet the estimated expenditures for the 2011-2012 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefor."

YES

NO

TRUSTEE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION (Three (3) 3-Year Positions) (One (1) 1-Year Position) Vote for Four (4)

Stephen E. Jennison

Dennis C. Flynn

Christopher J. O'Brien

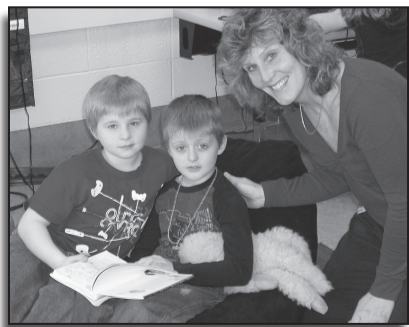
JoAnn Reed

Dean M. Tamburri

Trustee Write-In

Academic Role Models Enhance Literacy Learning at Middle Hope Elementary School

Middle Hope Elementary School students are especially excited to “hit the books” this year, thanks to some special reading partners from Marlboro High School. Ask a Middle Hope student if reading is “cool” and the answer will likely be a resounding, “Yes!” That’s because High School students are visiting the youngsters each week, showing them that reading isn’t just for studying, it is a fun and engaging pastime.



Students Joseph Plew and Ian Lavery enjoy reading alongside teacher Anne Casey.

The District-wide collaboration helps older students see the value of volunteering their time, and is an example of a partnership that enhances academic programs without costing any money.

Spearheaded by Anne Casey, a High School English teacher, and her daughter, Marion Casey, a second grade teacher at Middle Hope Elementary School, the partnership is one of many. Other collaborations include High School students who help with the Chess Club, as well as French and Spanish language lessons.

“We are lucky to draw upon the talented community of learners here in Marlboro,” says Principal Patricia Walsh. “We hope our students will one day return to Middle Hope to benefit younger students, just as the students of today are doing.”

Students “Break the Cycle” at Marlboro High School

Creating a positive, supportive learning environment is an ongoing focus at Marlboro High School. A recent assembly called “Breaking the Cycle” aided in this goal.

“This program was created to counter school violence by addressing its most

common roots, including bullying, peer pressure, gossip, racism, and other forms of intolerance,” noted guidance counselor Marcy Scaturro, whose department organized the event.

This assembly was well received. Sophomore Endrah Dumas stated, “The assembly on forgiveness really touched

Ernesto Rosado, Endrah Dumas, and Matthew Tamburri were among the freshman and sophomore students who said “Breaking the Cycle” conveyed a powerful message.

me.” A freshman, Ernesto Rosado, expressed, “Forgiveness comes in many ways. The assembly speaker, Mr. Hashim Garret, taught me that to move on in life, you must learn how to forgive someone. I forgave a person in my life who had done me wrong, and now I feel stronger than ever.” Matthew Tamburri, a sophomore, stated, “Mr. Garret showed us that forgiveness is not an attitude of the weak, but is an attribute of the strong.”

School Principal RoseAnne Collins-Judon ended the assembly by reciting the poem, “What is Success?” widely attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson. The aptly chosen poem closes with the words, “To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded.”

P.A.C.K. Week Builds School Spirit at Intermediate School

Students at Marlboro Intermediate School are focusing on improving their daily nutrition, thanks to their recent participation

in the national initiative P.A.C.K. (Pack Assorted Colors for Kids) Week. Each year, the event is coordinated by school nurse teacher Linda Bambici. The initiative urges students to eat more fruits and vegetables by embracing the rainbow. To ensure the broadest range of nutrients, all colors are important – purple, white, red, yellow, orange, and green. To arouse interest in the project, students were encouraged to color coordinate their outfits with the fruits or veggies in their lunchbox.

The initiative not only improved students’ nutrition, it also boosted school morale. Faculty and staff joined in on the fun, which included challenges and games during student lunch periods.

“We had high participation, and it was great to see students so enthusiastic about eating healthfully,” states Mrs. Bambici.



Ariana Brown, Meghan Marinaccio, Teige Napoli, Victoria Bownan, Alyssa DeLessio and school nurse teacher Linda Bambici celebrate P.A.C.K. Week at Marlboro Intermediate School.

Middle School Internet TV Station Premieres Districtwide

Middle School students are leading the way in student communications, thanks to the premiere of a Districtwide video news station this October.

Each morning, a group of about 20 students gather in the Middle School’s newly constructed “green room.” Formerly an old storage closet, the space was transformed with a little paint and a lot of hard work by club advisors Kassia Messina and John Marallo, and Principal Debra Clinton.

Morning announcements, including sports schedules, lunch menus, and after-school activities, are recorded daily and broadcast via the Internet, enabling parents and friends to watch online anytime. Students take turns playing the



Erin Flynn controls the camera angle while fellow sixth grade students Emily Beck and Joseph Canosa practice for a morning video broadcast.

role of videographer and on-air news anchors.

“Everyone who wants to be a part of it is included in the production,” emphasizes Ms. Messina.

“No one is turned away.” Public speaking skills, computer skills, and technical editing techniques are just a few of the areas in which students gain hands-on experience.

Students who want to learn more can enroll in an eighth grade elective, a “Multimedia” class that takes a more in-depth approach to media studies.

“We have a large group of students interested in this project, including many sixth grade students, so we are looking forward to expanding and building upon this station for years to come,” comments Principal Clinton.

Junior Achievement Fosters Business Savvy at Milton Elementary School

Students at Milton Elementary School are learning about the value of the free enterprise system from some special community volunteers through Junior Achievement, a nationwide education program that matches schools with local business people.

On a recent Friday afternoon in Brian Beck’s first grade classroom, students eagerly raised their hands for Mr. Beck—Mr. Beck, Sr. that is—a volunteer (and Brian’s father) who takes time out of his daily schedule with the dairy industry to work with students. The first grade curriculum covers families, relating the needs, wants, and interdependence of families to local businesses. On this day, students



Junior Achievement volunteer Mr. Beck explains map symbols to Hudson Taylor, Anthony Cuzzo, Colin Sutton, Audrey Werba, and Michael Murphy.

learned to interpret map symbols and identify different local businesses on a map.

Principal Patricia Walsh sees the benefit for her students as the curriculum progresses through each grade level and becomes more in-depth each year. “Our students have benefited from the Junior Achievement curriculum for the past five years, and we are tremendously grateful for the community volunteers who donate their time to make this program possible,” she says. “Junior Achievement offers students a glimpse into the world of business and imparts lessons on financial literacy, two very important topics.”

St. Jude’s Math-a-thon Multiplies Giving at Marlboro Elementary School

Students at Marlboro Elementary School recently spent time multiplying their good works by participating in a Math-a-thon to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, a pediatric cancer research and treatment facility. First grade teacher Rebecca Auchmoody reports that students raised over \$8,000 at this year’s event!

Similar to a charity “Walk-a-

Thon,” the Math-a-thon required students to use brainpower, rather than muscles, to propel their fundraising. To participate, students asked parents and friends for financial pledges, which they redeemed by solving math problems. The Math-a-thon is designed to supplement existing math curriculum, while also teaching students the importance of helping others.

“The Math-a-thon helps students to understand they can truly do something to make a difference,” says Ms. Auchmoody. “It also helps to unite us as a school community.”

More than 138 students and their families took part in this fundraiser, along with school staff and members of the local business community.