

Wynantskill

Union Free School District

MAY 2010

THE 2010-2011 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

VOTE: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 • 12 to 9 p.m. • Gardner Dickinson School

The Wynantskill School District has held public Budget Workshops and a Budget Hearing, which are posted on our district website for your review at www.wynantskillufsd.org. We are bringing a budget that carries a 0% increase this year.

In order to accomplish that, we needed to make difficult decisions that included making cuts in various areas, including personnel. The district's student enrollment is declining and the cuts reflect that. Even with the cuts, we are able to keep our average class sizes about the same. We are always looking to improve the quality of our instructional program and to support the programs and services that provide the most benefit to our students. We continue to find ways to re-allocate our precious resources to provide better services for our students.

We work to balance our budgets by streamlining expenses and maximizing revenues. We continue to be very mindful of building yearly budgets within a broad context of multi-year budget development. The district has also set up strong fiscal accountability standards and conducted and updated the long term fiscal plans for the district.

While it is always challenging to accomplish this, the challenges are significantly increasing, due to the current fiscal climate in New York State and the country. However, we are committed to continuing to improve our students' achievement by delivering a high quality educational program while maintaining fiscal accountability to our community.

Please take a moment to review this Budget Newsletter and we thank you for your ongoing support of our community school!

BUDGET SUMMARY

- Proposed Budget 2010-2011 \$ 7,992,012
- Budget Increase \$ 0
- Proposed Tax Levy \$ 4,623,632
- Estimated Tax Levy Percent Increase 3.45%



6th Grade Puppet Shows

6th Grade students in Mrs. Horacek's class recently completed a unit on Ancient India. Students performed puppet shows using their own original skits and scripts based on research they did on Ancient India. Puppets were made out of various materials and one group even added music to the performance. A fun way to learn about history!

A look
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BUDGET COMPARISON

	2009-2010 Adopted	2010-2011 Proposed
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$747,711	\$792,071
Board of Education: Clerk, Legal, Census, Treasurer, Tax Collection Superintendent: Business Administration, Purchasing, Payroll, Insurance, BOCES Administration Principal: Supervision, Staff Development & Training, Curriculum Auditing Services: External, Internal & Claims		
PROGRAM	\$5,904,051	\$5,955,848
Teaching & Instruction Instructional Media Computer Services Guidance/Health Services Co-Curricular/Athletics Special Education Student Transportation Bus Repairs/Maintenance		
CAPITAL	\$1,340,250	\$1,244,093
Operation of Plant Maintenance of Plant Construction Principal/Interest Purchase of Buses		
BUDGET TOTAL	\$7,992,012	\$7,992,012

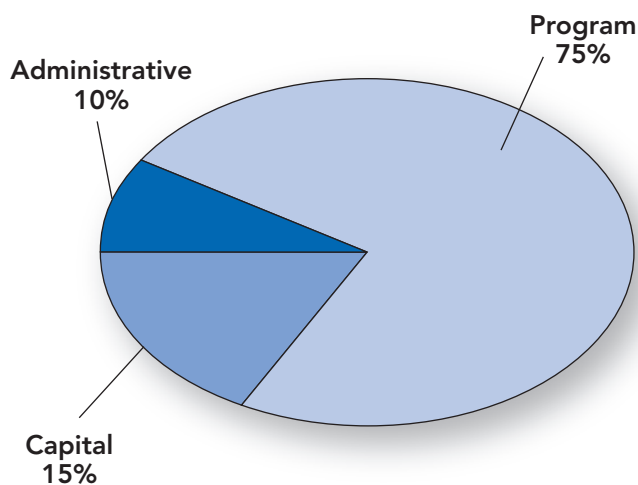
The 2010-2011 Proposed Budget reflects a budget to budget increase of 0%. The district continues to face the implications of decreasing student enrollment and as such, needed to make staffing cuts that reflect that fact. Two K-6 Teaching positions were eliminated and reductions in Special Area Teaching positions were made as well.

While we are experiencing decreases in our K-6 enrollment, we are also seeing increases in our High School enrollment. The Wynantskill School District is responsible for the education of all of its students and the increased numbers of HS students, along with the increased tuition charges, is more of a challenge to our budget this year.

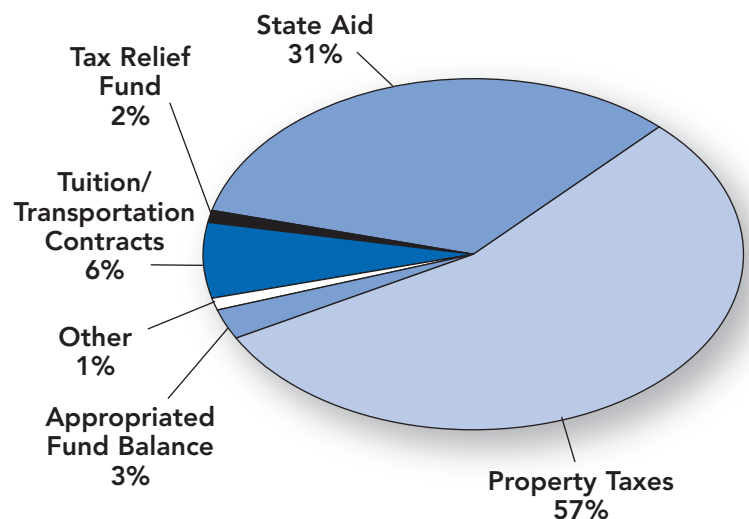
Full evaluations of each and every department were conducted and cuts were made across areas such as: Materials & Supplies, Equipment, Debt Service, Conference/Staff Development/Travel, Utilities and Bus Repairs, in order to bring a 0% budget increase this year.

The proposed budget is at contingency.
 The estimated tax levy increase is 3.45%.

Expenses:



Revenues:





Students in Kindergarten Enjoying a Circus Unit in PE Class with Help from Middle School Students

The shift from traditional practice to standards-based practice in Physical Education helps promote skills, knowledge and attitude to help children lead active, healthy and productive lives as adults.



Odyssey of the Mind Success

Gardner-Dickinson students did an excellent job during the Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Teams placed first in "Discovered Treasures" and

fourth in the "Food Court" during the regional Competition. Our "Discovered Treasures" team went on to state competition where they competed in Binghamton against schools from all over the state and placed third!

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Two Board of Education seats are open this year and we have included the candidates' biographical information for your review and consideration.

Andrea Paone:

I am honored to be running for my 3rd term as Board member for the Wynantskill Union Free School District. For those of you who don't know me, I have lived in Wynantskill for the past 22 years. My husband Tom and I have two children, Katie who graduated from Gardner Dickinson last year and is just completing her freshman year at Troy High School, and Annie who is just finishing 7th grade at Gardner Dickinson. We also own a local family business, Oasis Family Fun Park.

I joined the Board when the financial outlook for the school was very dim. We were in a deficit situation, and massive cuts were necessary to get back on firm financial footing. Being a CPA and Director of Finance for Northeast Health, I thought I might be able to lend that expertise to the Board and the District. Over the years, through the hard work of Administration and staff as well as Board guidance, the Wynantskill School District has come back to not only a healthy financial position, but more importantly providing an ever improving education for our children. Our school has gone from close to not meeting State standards, to significantly surpassing State standards in some areas. This is a major accomplishment, and one that the Board is very proud of. In addition, much needed improvements to the infrastructure of our school (with no associated increase in tax rates), will not only provide the children a much more comfortable and safe environment in which to learn, but will also ensure our school is still going strong well into the future.

With all the changes at the State level - increasing mandates, and decreasing funding - in order to continuously improve education and stay financially viable in the process, all schools including ours will need to think "out of the box". We will need to do things differently in order to succeed for our children. The Board is embarking on a plan for the future of our school this year, which will involve significant input from our community through a series of "town meetings", as well as committee participation. I am running for a 3rd term because I strongly feel consistent leadership will help with this process, and I am excited about the future of the Wynantskill School District.

Andrew Lanese

Greetings to my fellow neighbors of Wynantskill. My name is Andrew C. Lanese and I am running for a seat on the Board of Education for the Wynantskill UFSD. My family has lived in Wynantskill for more than 90 years, as one of the early farm families on Whiteview Road. I have been a nearly lifelong resident myself, growing up in the halls of Gardner-Dickinson School. I currently am an employee of New York State's Office of State Comptroller, working my way up the ranks for 9 plus years. My wife Joyce and I are proud that we are able to raise our two children in such a great community.

As a father of two beautiful children Anthony and Angela, 7 and 4 years old respectively, I feel that it is especially important for our young minds to develop essential learning habits, critical thinking, leadership skills, and the means to be successful in life, starting from an early age. I feel that the small school setting that our great district provides is key to this success. With the relatively small class sizes, our school can provide each student with the attention that they need to nurture their growing minds in their key learning years.

This excellence does come at a price. With our neighboring districts proposing the closure of entire buildings and lay-off proposals of up to possibly 50 staff members, we need to remember that fiscal responsibility is key to continue providing the great services of our district. While the current administration has been diligent in trying to keep additional tax levies to a minimum, we need to continue to be creative in finding new ways to save on spending, to maintain an excellent level of service for our children and families, without increased burden on our tax payers. With the current economic conditions as they are, now is a crucial time for our district and I would be proud to be part of the team that weathers this storm, moving into better times successfully for our children and our community. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about me and my goals for our great district. It is with gratitude that I ask for your support in my bid for a seat on the Board of Education for the Wynantskill UFSD.

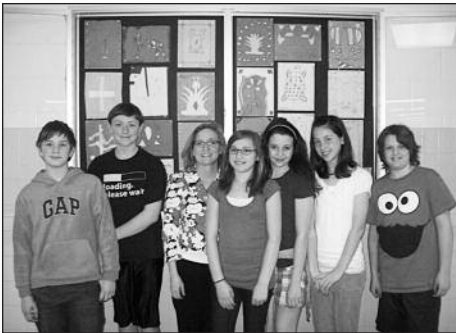
Student Highlights

We are a rapidly improving/high achieving school district and are very proud of our students' achievement over the past few years. We continue our commitment to improving achievement by delivering a high quality educational program for our students. Please enjoy some of the examples of our students accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter. There are also many more photos and articles on our district website at www.wynantskillufsd.org



Students in Fourth Grade Working on Math with Mrs. Gilooly and Mrs. Morrow

We have added many new and exciting math manipulatives, software, and hardware to our expanding math program. One example of this is the implementation of the EduGame Interactive Classroom System that allows the teachers to hold review activities, classroom polls, and other fun games using hand held remotes. The students stay engaged and jump out of their seats with excitement!



Spanish Students Learn about Kuna Indians

Mrs. Hancock's sixth grade Spanish students learned about the Kuna Indians for a culminating activity for FACS class. The Kunas live on the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama. They create a craft called a Mola. With Library Media Specialist Linda Fecura-Bunks's help, students did research on these people and their craft. Each 6th grade student created one.



Students Involved in Morning Announcements

Morning announcements in Gardner Dickinson involve the entire school. It is a great way to stay informed about upcoming events, accomplishments, celebrations and even the weather. A group of Sixth Grade students are involved in the production including operating the equipment, researching the information being reported on and broadcasting. It is a great way to start the day!

REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2009-2010	2010-2011
Property Taxes	\$ 4,469,632	\$ 4,623,632
Appropriated Fund Balance	180,000	200,000
Tax Relief Fund	46,000	92,000
State Aid	1,999,040	1,784,129
Building Aid	628,429	628,429
Day School Tuition	300,000	220,000
Transportation Contracts	270,392	275,000
Health Services	35,000	50,000
Interest	10,000	5,000
BOCES Aid	33,519	98,822
Other Unclassified	20,000	15,000

Our school district, along with all other school districts, is receiving much less State Aid than it did this past year, due to the current economic crisis. This, coupled with other decreasing revenues, such as Interest and Non Resident Tuition fees, present the district with very challenging problems. School districts are publicly funded entities and rely almost exclusively on State Aid and taxes levied on property owners. When State Aid is decreased, it has a direct impact on the local tax levy.

We are seeing however, that through the district's efficient use of shared services through BOCES, we are receiving more aid this year which is offsetting some of the other revenue losses. The Board also is using additional "Tax Relief" funds, set aside a number of years ago, in order to further reduce the increase in the tax levy.



Band Students Perform At The 5th Annual Arts Festival

Our Art and Music Programs at Gardner Dickinson have expanded over the past few years and include many opportunities to showcase our students' accomplishments. Most of our students participate in Band/and or Chorus and many have qualified to attend annual competitions. We just held our 5th annual arts festival at the school which was expanded to include all students K-8.

Our Arts in Education program has also grown thanks to the PTO which contributes each year to help fund the additional opportunities we have been able to offer.

Thanks PTO!!

SAMPLE BALLOT

PROPOSITION #1:

Shall the District be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$7,992,012 for the 2010-2011 school year to be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property within the district, after deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by law?

BOE Election — Last Incumbents:

Andrea Paone Kelly Hoffman

Two candidates for two (2) seats:

Andrea Paone Andrew Lanese

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

12:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Gardner-Dickinson School

- ▶ Proposed District Budget Vote for 2010-2011
- ▶ Two Board of Education Seats

All Absentee Ballots must be received in the Business Office by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2010

Voter Qualifications:

To be qualified to vote on May 18, 2010 you must be:

- ▶ A citizen of the United States
- ▶ Eighteen years of age or older
- ▶ A legal resident of the school district for 30 days preceding the date of the vote

www.wynantskillufsd.org

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Board of Education
Andrea Paone, *President*
Ann Marsh, *Vice President*
Helen Casale
Christina Curran
Kelly Hoffman

Superintendent
Christine Hamill

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Wynantskill
Union Free School District

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