

Wynantskill

Union Free School District

MAY 2011

THE 2011-2012 PROPOSED DISTRICT BUDGET

VOTE: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 • 12 to 9 p.m. • Gardner Dickinson School

School Budget Decreases -2.13%

The Wynantskill Union Free School District's Board of Education and Administration continue to work on balancing the district budget by streamlining expenses and maximizing revenues. This year presented additional challenges and difficulties to schools as the state's fiscal situation continues, leaving districts to face yet another significant cut in State Aid to education. We continue to face the challenges of our decreasing enrollment and made cuts again this year, in several areas, in order to bring in a budget that our community could support.

The district systematically reviewed all services and programs for children. We are still able to continue to offer a high quality educational program for our students such as Developmental and Intervention Services in Reading and Math and Honors English, Accelerated Math, Spanish and Art courses, which allow our students to earn High School credits while in Middle School. We continue to see great improvement in our students' overall achievement and we are delivering this high quality program at a lower cost per pupil than the average cost for similar and other schools statewide as presented in the School District Fiscal Accountability Report Card.

We would encourage you to take a moment to read this newsletter which provides both fiscal and program information. Additional information is posted from the budget workshops that were held this spring, on our website for your review at www.wynantskillufsd.org.

Thank you for your continued support of our school!

BUDGET SUMMARY

- Proposed Budget 2011-2012 \$ 7,822,689
- Budget Increase \$ -2.13%
- Proposed Tax Levy \$ 4,715,857
- **Estimated Tax Levy Percent Increase 2.00%**

Team Going to "Worlds"!

Gardner-Dickinson students did an excellent job during the Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Two teams earned first place in the "Full Circle" category in both divisions 1 and 2. The third team placed second in "Le Tour Guide" category in division 2 during the regional competition.



The two first place teams advanced to the state competition in Binghamton. After placing second at the State Competition, the grade 6-8 "Full Circle" team coached by Mrs. Keane and Mrs. Carbone advanced to the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition in Baltimore Maryland!

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BUDGET COMPARISON

	2010-2011 Adopted	2011-2012 Proposed
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$792,071	\$786,959
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	\$5,955,848	\$5,905,312
Teaching & Instruction Instructional Media Computer Services Guidance/Health Services Co-Curricular/Athletics Special Education Student Transportation Bus Repairs/Maintenance		
CAPITAL	\$1,244,093	\$1,130,418
Operation of Plant Maintenance of Plant Construction Principal/Interest Purchase of Buses		
BUDGET TOTAL	\$7,992,012	\$7,822,689

The proposed budget is below contingency.

FUTURE EXPENSE CHALLENGES:

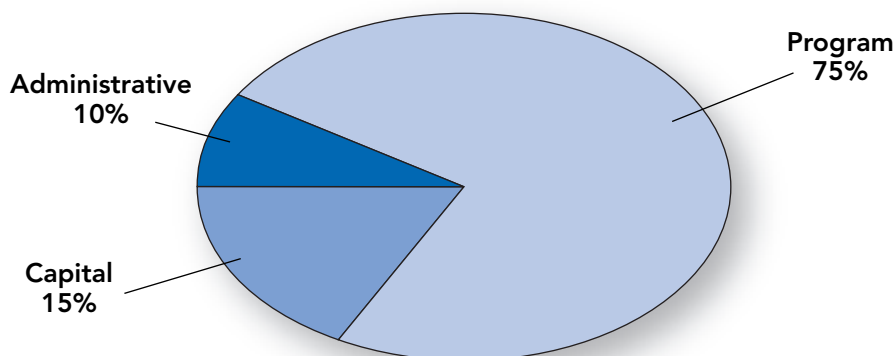
- How to preserve programs and services for our students
- Significant escalation in required expenses (Retirement and Health Insurance)
- NYS Board of Regents Reforms and Federal Race to the Top Initiatives



Hands on Learning!

Gardner-Dickinson fifth grade science students visited St. Peter's Hospital's 12th annual Journey Through The Body - A Hands-On Discovery Adventure of the Human Body.

EXPENSES:



- 2011-2012 reflects a budget to budget decrease of -2.13%
- A decrease of 1.75 staff positions to reflect decreasing student enrollment in Special Education
- Cuts in purchase of materials, supplies and equipment
- Wage freezes for Administrators
- Debt Service decrease due to management and funding of the Renovation Project

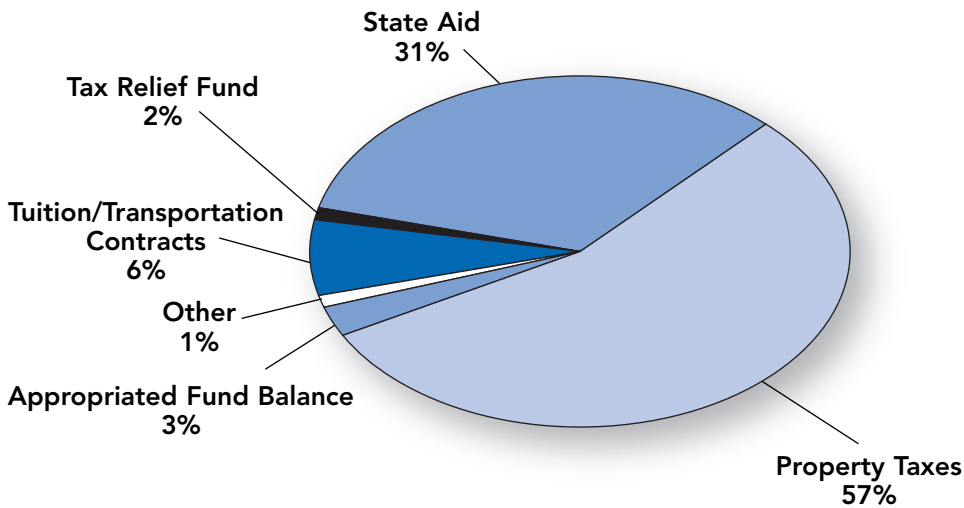
REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2010-2011	2011-2012
Property Taxes	\$ 4,623,632	\$ 4,715,857
Appropriated Fund Balance	200,000	150,000
Tax Relief Fund	92,000	46,000
State Aid	2,511,380	2,350,019
Day School Tuition	200,000	195,000
Transportation Contracts	275,000	282,179
Health Services/DOR Billing	70,000	73,744
Other Unclassified	20,000	9,890
Total Reveunes	7,992,012	7,822,689

FUTURE REVENUE CHALLENGES:

- Decreasing enrollment in Wynantskill UFSD which affects State Aid
- On-going economic difficulties on both state and federal levels
- Property tax initiatives

REVENUES:



- Tax levy increase of 2.00%
- Second year of significant State Aid cuts
- Decreased non-resident student tuition fees and interest income
- Efficient use of shared services through BOCES offsetting some revenue losses



Using 21st Century Technology

Gardner-Dickinson's students are hard at work learning math and making it fun at the same time by using SMART board technology. The school's math series EnVisions has wonderful interactive tutorials for each skill area of math. The program is a visual and interactive way to engage all students in the learning process. Many tools are also used such as graphing, dice, spinners and base ten blocks to name a few. The students can watch from their seats as well as touch the tools and manipulate them on the smart board. The smart boards are also used in math for simple note taking, as well as some of our on-site educational interactive software such as, Gizmos and Eduwands.

Student Highlights

We are very proud of our students and continue our commitment to improving achievement by delivering a high quality educational program. 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



Using the Library Media Center to Enhance Study

With the help of Library Media Specialist Mrs. Fecura, Mrs. Hancock's 6th Grade Spanish students are using the Library Media Center's resources to research the Kuna Indians from Panama. Mrs. Fecura helps to secure borrowed materials for the Gardner-Dickinson Library so that students can further their study. Using computers, students are able to hear the language that the Kuna Indian speak.



Getting Physical

Elementary students celebrate the arrival of spring and have fun dancing to the Bunny Hop, the Chicken Dance, and Cotton Eye Joe.



Students at Gardner-Dickinson excel in Art!

Students in Mrs. Mitchell's accelerated art class are using real life artists as their inspiration for their next work of art. Watching the documentary "Wasteland" which is based on an artist (Vik Muniz) who visited the largest landfill in the world and then made works of art out of garbage, students are using recyclable materials and garbage to make their own works of art. Students in accelerated art earn a high school credit in art while still in middle school! Art is one of the three options of accelerated studies at Wynantskill. Students can also choose accelerated Math or Spanish to further their academic advancement.



Building Character

In a comprehensive K-5 curriculum, Guidance Counselor Mrs. Murphy teaches students many useful programs such as empathy training to teach children how to recognize others' feelings, impulse control, anger management and problem solving skills.

Planning for the Future

While the district is continuing to balance budgets, maximize aid, maintain program all while making cuts in our budget where we can, the district is proactively looking ahead toward the future. During the summer of 2010, the district formed an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of parents, community members, staff and others to engage the community in an organized process to identify potential options for addressing the critical issues and challenges that the district faces now and over the next 2-5 years.

These challenges include:

- Enrollment Decreases
- Decrease in State Aid, Tuition and Interest
- Increasing Operating Costs
- Unfunded State and Federal Mandates
- Need to properly maintain, protect and preserve district asset and facilities

The committee was charged with examining the nature and causes of the key challenges our district faces and to explore a variety of options for the district moving forward. These issues were discussed during regular community forums and worked through with the Ad Hoc committee. The Ad Hoc committee then made recommendations to the Board of Education based on their findings. The Board of Education and Administration will use the studies done by the Ad Hoc committee to continue its work in order to determine what is best for the Wynantskill UFSD moving forward. More on the committee's work can be found on the district website at www.wynantskillufsd.org under "Planning for the Future".

BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE

One Board of Education seat is open this year and we have included the candidates' biographical information for your review and consideration.

Matthew Hug:

I am a husband and father of two children in the school district and an alumni of the Gardner Dickinson School. Since leaving G.D. I have obtained my B.A., M.A. and J.D. degrees and in 2005, after clerking for an appeals court, I opened a law practice in Wynantskill and moved to the Rensselaer Technology Park in 2007. I have argued cases involving many different issues of the law, before every level of state courts including the New York

State Court of Appeals. I have been a member of Kiwanis, the North Greenbush Business and Professional Association, the St. Jude the Apostle School Board and am a deputy Town Attorney in the Town of North Greenbush. I look forward to serving the school district as a board member and take this solemn duty to ensure that our children receive the best possible education that can be provided so as to ready them for success in our rapidly changing world.

SAMPLE BALLOT

PROPOSITION #1:

Shall the District be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$7,822, 689 for the 2011-2012 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?

PROPOSITION #2:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase one bus, at a maximum estimated cost of \$77,000; and that such sum, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be paid from the current appropriation.

(Replacing an eleven year old bus)

BOE Election — Last Incumbents:
Helen Casale

One candidate for one (1) seat:
Matthew Hug

BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

12:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Gardner-Dickinson School

- ▶ Proposed District Budget Vote for 2011-2012
- ▶ Bus Purchase
- ▶ One Board of Education Seat

Voter Qualifications:

To be qualified to vote on May 17, 2011 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

Absentee Ballots:

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polls on May 17 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the district office at 283-4679 by 3 p.m. on May 10th. All ballots must be received at the District Office by 5 p.m. May 17th.

www.wynantskillufsd.org

Wynantskill Union Free School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal 2011-2012

	Budget Adopted for the 2011 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2012 School Year	Contingent Budget for the 2012 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$7,992,012	\$7,822,689	\$8,013,473
Increase/decrease for the 2012 school year		(\$169,323)	\$ 190,784
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		-2.13%	3%
Change in the consumer price index		1.92%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2012 school year		\$4,715,857	\$4,906,641
Administrative component	\$792,071	\$786,959	\$786,959
Program component	\$5,955,848	\$5,905,312	\$6,096,096
Capital component	\$1,244,093	\$1,130,418	\$1,130,418
* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2012 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. ¹			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR² Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2012 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$586

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2011-2012 by the qualified voters of the Wynantskill Union Free School District, Rensselaer County, New York, will be held at Gardner-Dickinson School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the Gardner-Dickinson School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

¹ Provide a statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law.

² The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Produced by Questar III Communications Service

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Superintendent
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