



◇ 2007—2008 ◇

BUDGET NEWSLETTER

GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Scholarship, Character, Community—Cultivating the Future"

May 2007

A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY...

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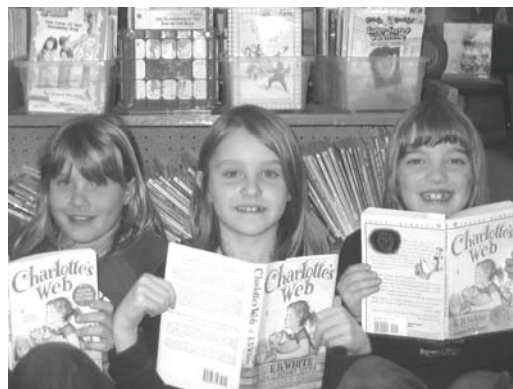
It is that time of year when school districts across New York State finalize their proposed budgets for the coming school year that they will bring forward for public vote. With new leadership at the state level, it has been an atypical year on the state aid front, and one that is favorable to Greenwich Central School. Enhanced state aid, combined with fiscal restraint at the District level has enabled a proposed budget that meets the needs of all students in a manner that is highly accountable to our supportive taxpayers.

The proposed budget for the 2007-2008 school year represents a budget-to-budget expenditure increase of 4.2%, resulting in an estimated tax levy increase of 3.84%, an increment on par with the cost of living index. This has been achieved despite anticipated increases in such areas as fuel costs, and special education services for students with disabilities, among others.

This newsletter is designed to provide budget information to members of the Greenwich Central School community. We are most appreciative of the history of strong community support for the education of our students. It is our intent to continue to earn that support and to extend and enhance the district tradition of excellent, cost-effective education. Accordingly, the proposed budget includes the addition of evening community hours at the High School Library Media Center, a multi-district collaborative Chinese language class and Girls' Junior Varsity Lacrosse.



If you have questions about the budget, please feel welcome to contact Mr. Wesley Clark, School Business Administrator, or Mr. John McGuire, Superintendent of Schools, at 692-9542. Please participate in the budget process by casting your vote on May 15th. ■



NOTES...

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2007-2008 by qualified voters of the Greenwich Central School District will be held at the Primary Building, Greenwich, NY, on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time at which the polls will be open for voting. A copy of the detailed budget is available at the Superintendent's Office in the Middle Grade building. ■

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2007–2008 GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NEWSLETTER

EXPENDITURES—HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?

Budget Category	Current 2006-2007 Budget	Proposed 2007-2008 Budget	Difference
General Support	\$2,221,307	\$2,270,952	\$ 49,645
Instruction	6,809,312	6,987,257	177,945
Mandated Special Education	2,099,431	2,317,364	217,933
Pupil Services	673,082	720,474	47,392
Transportation	594,214	636,386	42,172
Community Service	30,330	30,200	-130
Benefits	3,986,180	4,051,620	65,440
Debt Service	1,741,723	1,899,839	158,116
Interfund Transfer	15,000	18,000	3,000
TOTAL	\$18,170,579	\$18,932,092	\$ 761,513

Overall, our budget is increasing by \$761,513. Mandated costs that the District does not control account significantly for this increase. You are most likely experiencing the same increases in your personal finances due to the escalating cost of health care, utilities and fuel. This budget also includes recommendations for efficiencies and a realignment of spending to maintain academic programs, curriculum design, professional learning and the close monitoring of individual student achievement. ■

HOMEOWNER IMPACT:

The budget adopted by the Board of Education represents an estimated tax levy increase of 3.84% on true value. Any attempt to determine tax rates in May **must be regarded as strictly an estimate**. The following items are required for determining the actual tax rates:

Assessed Valuation by Town: This information is not officially available from town assessors until July 1st.

Equalization Rates: These rates are established by the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services and may change each year. In the past, changes have been experienced as late as mid - August.

Operating Fund Balance: The actual dollar figure is available after June 30th each year when the books are closed.

State Aid: This information is not available until the New York State Budget is finalized. Projections are based upon reasonable expectations. ■

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GCS DISCOUNTS TAXES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Board of Education discounts school taxes for the District's senior citizen, low-income homeowners. The law gives school districts, at their own discretion, the option to grant discounted exemptions for property taxpayers ages 65 or older. ■

ANNUAL INCOME EXEMPTION

\$0 - \$14,000.....	50%
\$14,001 - \$15,000.....	45%
\$15,001 - \$16,000.....	40%
\$16,001 - \$17,000.....	35%
\$17,001 - \$17,900.....	30%
\$17,901 - \$18,800.....	25%
\$18,801 - \$19,700.....	20%
\$19,701 - \$20,600.....	15%
\$20,601 - \$21,500.....	10%
\$21,501 - \$22,400.....	5%

PLEASE NOTE...

It is important that all Greenwich Central School District taxpayers contact their local town assessor's office **each year** to apply for this exemption. ■

REVENUES—WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Revenue Sources	Current 2006-2007 Budget	Proposed 2007–2008 Budget
Tax Levy	\$8,446,489	\$8,770,530
Penalties & Interest	6,500	6,500
State Aid	8,551,590	9,510,262
Interest Earnings/ PILOTS	345,000	345,000
Misc./Charges for Services	231,000	209,000
Fund Balance	360,000	0
Interfund Transfer	230,000	90,800
TOTAL	\$18,170,579	\$18,932,092

In the 2007 – 2008 school year approximately 50% of the revenues will come from State Aid. Property taxes represent about 46% of the total revenues, and the remaining 4% of revenues come from penalties and interest, interest earnings, PILOT programs, fund balance and miscellaneous charges for services. ■



GREENWICH

ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE:

To apply for an Absentee Ballot, voters simply complete an application setting forth the following: 1) Name and address, 2) That he/she is qualified to vote, 3) That he/she is unable to appear to vote for one of several reasons. Those wishing to apply for an Absentee Ballot may do so by contacting Denise Smith, in the District Office, or by calling 692-9542, Ext. 2202. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee Ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. ■

BALLOT INFORMATION

PROPOSITION # 1

Resolved, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the District for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$18,932,092 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law. ■

PROPOSITION #2

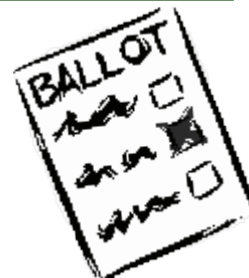
Shall the Board of Education of the Greenwich Central School District, be authorized to purchase one school bus at a total maximum estimated cost of \$86,536 to raise such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and to issue obligations of said School District in anticipation of the collection of such tax or in its discretion to finance all or any part of such purchase by entering into an installment purchase contract pursuant to the general municipal law. ■

ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Resolved, for a member of the Board of Education, Greenwich Central School District, vacated by Susan Percoco for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2012.

- **Kim Fitzgerald**
- **Susan Percoco**

A “Meet the Candidates” night is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2007. It will be held at the High School Media Center at 6:00 p.m. ■



GREENWICH

WHAT IS THE “TAX LEVY” & HOW IS IT SET?

Each summer, usually in August long after school district expenditure budgets have been voted on in May, Boards of Education throughout New York State meet to set school district tax levies. Districts must wait until late summer to set their tax levy because assessments and equalization rates are not finalized until that time. The tax levy is the total sum of taxes to be raised by the school district after subtracting out all other revenues including state aid and fund balance. Fund balance is an important component of determining the district’s tax levy. In effect, the fund balance is the District’s savings account, which by law may be up to two percent of the total budget set aside to pay for emergencies or other unforeseen budgetary needs. Fund balance occurs when districts have money remaining at the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30th for school districts. Part of the fund balance can be applied as revenues for the following year’s budget.

During the spring, as districts are developing their expenditure budgets, they must also estimate revenues that will support the expenditure budget. When the Budget Newsletter is sent to community members prior to the budget vote these projected revenues including fund balance and the **estimated** tax levy, are also provided. Although the expenditure budget is a fixed amount voted on by community members, revenue estimates are just that, estimates, and can change between the time the expenditure budget is voted on in May and when the Board of Education is required to set the tax levy in late summer. ■

NOTABLE NEWS

A SNAPSHOT OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2006

As another fine year of teaching and learning approaches a close, some reflections on the graduating class of 2006 are in order. The following are statistics that pertain to the graduating class of 2006:

Class of 2006

- ◆ 99% of potential graduates achieved commencement requirements;
- ◆ 89% of graduates earned NYS Regents Diplomas;
- ◆ 49% of these earned NYS Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation (by completing additional requirements in Science, Math and a sequence in foreign language);
- ◆ 39% of the class earned NYS Regents Diplomas with Honors, and;
- ◆ 85% of this class will continue their formal education;
- ◆ 10 students also achieved a CTE (Career Technical Education) endorsement through BOCES



These are impressive statistics. They represent a substantial return on our school community's investment in education. Most important, these numbers represent young people whom we know and about whom we care. ■

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The award winning High School Business and Marketing Education department continues to be a leader in the Region. In particular, the GCS FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), now in its fourth year, is leading FBLA's District V into reactivation. Previously our chapter and several others in District V (North Country) have been combined with District IV (Capital District area) due to low membership and lack of member leadership in our district. Over the last few years FBLA District V has added new chapters and increased membership allowing for the opportunity for District V to stand on its own again. **Stefon Stilwell**, GCS Junior, GCS FBLA Chapter Reporter and FBLA District IV / V Public Relations Officer, campaigned at the State Leadership conference April 23 and April 25 at the Nevele in Ellenville, NY. He was elected to the position of New York State District Vice President for District V. Ms. Brenda Lee, GCS Business and Marketing Education teacher and FBLA Co-advisor, was appointed as FBLA New York State District V Trustee.

FBLA is just one avenue for GCS Business and Marketing students to put classroom theory into practice. For more information on innovative and technologically driven courses and assignments, visit the GCS Business and Marketing Education website at <http://www.greenwichcsd.org/hs/businessed/> or contact Mrs. Belden or Ms. Lee, Business and Marketing Education teachers. ■

READING RECOVERY

In 1991 the District began looking into a powerful reading program called Reading Recovery. Reading Recovery is a short term intervention program intended to serve at risk students in first grade. Students are chosen for Reading Recovery by qualified staff and selection is based on prior reading achievement, diagnostic testing, and teacher recommendation. The goals of Reading Recovery are to promote literacy skills and reduce the number of first grade students who are struggling to read. The program supplements classroom teaching with one to one lessons. These lessons are instructed by trained Reading Recovery teachers and take place daily for 30 minutes over 12-20 weeks. In 2001, Greenwich Elementary School became a fully implemented Reading Recovery site and now serves approximately 30% of first grade students yearly. ■

REASONS TO BE PROUD OF OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

MEASURING SUCCESS, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Every year, the New York State Education Department releases district report cards to let the public know how schools are performing. Measuring success at Greenwich Central Schools is an ongoing process, and it is one that goes far beyond the New York State Report card. What follows is the district's own report card of sorts, examples of how our schools are meeting the District's mission statements. These are just a few examples of the many reasons we can be proud of our schools!

- There are wonderful **Band and Chorus Concerts** to attend seasonally!
- **Running Club** is offered in fall and spring at the elementary level. This club helps students to set personal goals and to increase their love of running and fitness.
- **Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Speech, and School Psychological Services** are all offered district wide. These staff members work in both the classrooms and in therapeutic settings in accordance with individual student needs.
- **Physical Education Club** is an elementary program offered to boys and girls in grades 3-6 that encourages healthy eating habits and activity levels.
- **Wee Deliver** is an elementary mail delivery service. Students K-6 are encouraged to write letters to students, faculty and staff which are then delivered weekly.
- **Girls are Great** is a program for sixth grade girls promoting empowerment and self esteem.
- **Special Education** services are offered district wide to students with **Individualized Education Plans**. These services are provided in and out of the classroom .
- **Author's Express** is an after school program to students needing extra writing support.
- **Cultural Arts Programs** are offered at the elementary level. Some programs offered this year include:
 - ♦ *Saratoga Children's Museum*
 - ♦ *Scotia Glenville Children's Museum*
 - ♦ *Cliff Mealy's - Underground Railroad Walking Tour*
 - ♦ *Lake George Opera's - Little Red's Most Unusual Day*
 - ♦ *Susan Trump - "Life Back Then" Musical Residency*
 - ♦ *Jim Bruchac - Native American Storyteller*
 - ♦ *Jeff Bennett - Historical Presentations*
 - ♦ *Buffalo Days - Native American Program*
 - ♦ *Red Grammer - Grammy Nominated Performer*
- **Academic Intervention Services** is a program for struggling learners in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. This program reinforces the learning of strategies to better prepare our students for classroom instruction.
- **Reading Recovery** is a short term intervention program intended to serve at risk students in first grade. Students are chosen for Reading Recovery by qualified staff and selection is based on prior reading achievement, diagnostic testing, and teacher recommendation.
- Greenwich Elementary School participated in the **Glens Falls Hospital Dairy Program**. Sixth grader, **Joanna Wilbur's** cookbook cover entry took first place and will be featured on Glens Falls Hospital's Dairy cookbook throughout the northeast.
- Our Elementary students consistently **meet or exceed** New York State and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) standards as demonstrated by performance assessments. ▣

GREENWICH

REASONS TO BE PROUD OF OUR JUNIOR - SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL...

- **Community Connections Program** operates in conjunction with the Business and Marketing, Agriculture, Technology, Home and Careers, and high school Life Skills class curriculum. The goal of this program is to mobilize youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service, to support youth on a life long path of service and civic engagement, and to educate the public about contributions of our young people as community leaders.



- Greenwich High School offers college level **Advance Placement** courses in Biology, Calculus, US History, European History, Government, and Literature.
- **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** competes at state Leadership Conferences and District Conferences.
- **Special Education** services are offered district wide to students with **Individualized Education Plans**. These services are provided in and out of the classroom.
- Our Secondary students consistently **meet or exceed** New York State and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) standards as demonstrated by performance assessments and New York State Regents examinations.
- **E-Commerce** is a Business class that explores different aspects of business through a virtual experience. All aspects of starting an e-business from the ground up, as well as building and maintaining a website are utilized. Real world skills are stressed in this class as students need to work strongly as individuals and as teams.
- **Carrie Smith**, a member of the **Girls Basketball** team, was featured as a *Post Star* MVP.
- **The Greenwich Chapter of FFA** is state and nationally recognized and frequently competes successfully at both levels. These students are active members of the community as well.
- Students at the High School recently performed *Seussical the Musical*, to a full house in March.
- **University in the High School** allows students to receive college credit for sequences in Spanish and Authentic Science Research.
- **Project Lead the Way** is a program offered at the High School in conjunction with the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) affording our students with higher level course work in Engineering.
- **Boys Basketball** team member, **Tim Morris** reached 1000 points during the winter season!
- **Academic Intervention Services** is a program for struggling learners in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. This program reinforces the learning of strategies to better prepare our students for classroom instruction.
- 7th grade students recently had their poetry published in the **Poetry Zone (UK)**.
- **Community POPS Concert**
- **Girls Cross Country** members **Brittney Lane, Chelsea Borbolla, Emily Fung and Kaitlyn Lane** set a national record in the 4 x 1500 meter and the 6000 meter relay races.
- The **Work Experience Program** provides valuable career exploration opportunities to high school students. ■

GREENWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL
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PHONE: 518-692-9542

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- JOHN MCGUIRE

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

- MATTHIAS E. DONNELLY

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY

- KENNETH I. HUGHES

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

- BENJAMIN A. PISANI

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY

- JENNIFER R. PAYET

DIRECTOR, PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

- ALISON NEARY

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

- WESLEY CLARK

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**THE GREENWICH
 CONNECTION**

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 (518) 692-9542

WRITE: To send information
 10 Gray Avenue
 Greenwich, New York 12834

CLICK: Visit us on the web
www.greenwichcsd.org

◇ SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE ◇

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2006-07 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-08 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2007-08 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 18,170,579	\$ 18,932,092	\$ 18,986,472
Increase/decrease for the 2007-08 school year		\$ 761,513	\$ 815,893
Percentage increase(decrease) in each proposed budget		4.19%	4.49%
Change in consumer price index		3.20%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2007-08 school year		\$ 8,770,530	\$ 8,824,910
Administrative component	\$ 1,726,521	\$ 1,855,528	\$ 1,865,528
Program component	\$ 13,175,699	\$ 13,603,841	\$ 13,638,221
Capital component	\$ 3,268,359	\$ 3,472,723	\$ 3,482,723

By law, if there is a failed budget, the district can expend 3.84% above the 2007-2008 expenditure level. A contingent budget may result in the loss of academic and extracurricular program components, elimination of community services and reduction of professional development.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact - Estimated STAR Savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of \$100,000.			
	Budget Adopted for the 2006-2007 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-2008 School Year	
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$575.10	\$597.30	
School tax increase/(decrease)	(\$35.00)	\$74.00	
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$610.10	\$523.30	

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