

# For Learning

## Greenwich Central School District Update January, 2010

### Invitation to Participate



Last Year, we began an open discussion on the budget. The input of the various groups was instrumental in developing a budget that kept our tax levy at 0% but still preserved the things that the community knew were important. Once again, we face difficult economic times. The Board of Education and Matt Donnelly, our school Superintendent will again call on the parents, students, community leaders and school staff to gather to discuss the school budget, school programs and what is essential for our students.

Each meeting will focus on issues of concern for the invited group for the evening. However, all community members are invited to attend all meetings and provide input. **Please consider attending every meeting.**

The dates for these forums will be:

- **Thursday, January 21, 2010, 7:00 PM**, JSHS Media Center - School Employees and Unions.
- **Monday, January 25, 2010, 7:00 PM**, JSHS Media Center - Chamber of Commerce and Local Government.
- **Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 7:30 PM**, Primary Cafeteria - PTSA and Parents (following the scheduled PTSA Meeting).

### School Budget Calendar

The proposed 2010-2011 School Budget will be presented at regular Monday School Board meetings over the next several months. The Department Heads, Principals and the Superintendent will present to the public details regarding expenditures in their respective areas of responsibility.

<b>January 11, 2010</b>	<b>Regular Board Meeting</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Budget Review: Review of <u>Budget Guidelines</u> and <u>Debt Service</u> .
<b>February 8, 2010</b>	<b>Regular Board Meeting</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Budget Review: Review of <u>Elementary</u> , <u>Special Education</u> , <u>Technology</u> , <u>Secondary</u> , <u>Inter-scholastic Athletics</u> and <u>Extracurricular Activities</u> Budgets.
<b>March 15, 2010</b>	<b>Regular Board Meeting</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Budget Review: Review of the <u>Operations and Maintenance</u> , <u>Transportation</u> , <u>Employee Benefits</u> , and the <u>BOCES Services Budget</u> , and <u>Estimated Revenues</u> .
<b>April 5, 2010</b>	<b>Budget Work Session</b> Board conducts a Community Dialogue on Budget at the High School Media Center from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.
<b>May 10, 2010</b>	<b>Budget Hearing</b> - High School Media Center, 7:00 PM.
<b>May 18, 2010</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b> - Budget Vote and election of school board member(s) – Primary Grade Cafeteria.

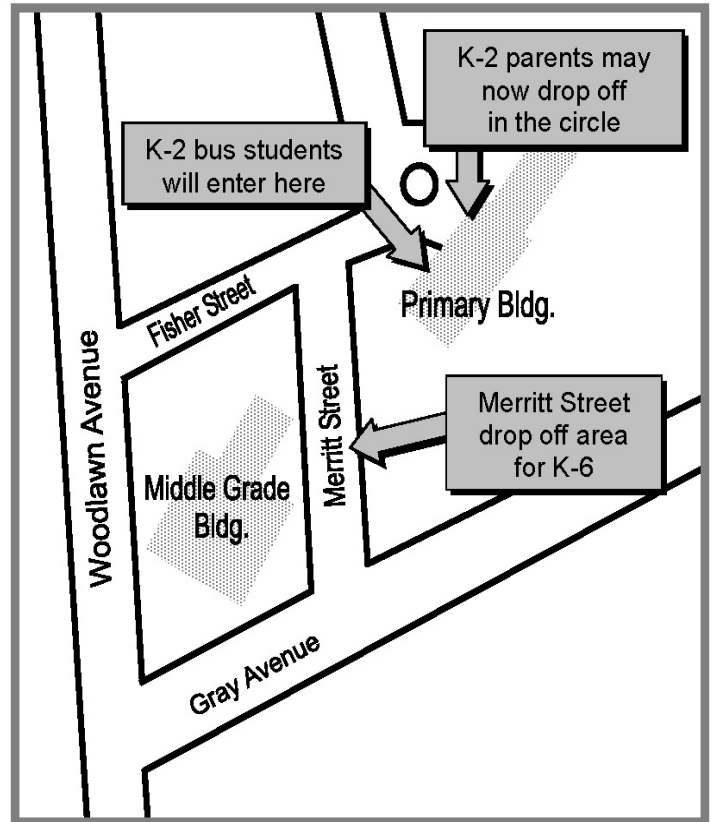


## New K-6 Drop Off / Pickup Procedures and Locations

Since the opening of school, we have been in communication with parents and the school staff to develop a solution to the loss of instructional time and our ongoing traffic congestion during morning drop off and end-of-the-day pickup. The buses will begin dropping off and picking up students in grades K-6 on Merritt Street between the Primary and Middle Grade Buildings on February 1, 2010.

In the morning, after the 8:00 AM drop-off at the Junior-Senior High School, the buses will move together to Merritt Street and drop off all of the K-6 students at approximately 8:08 AM. This procedure will clear the parking lots of buses, reducing the time that K-6 students have been waiting to enter school. The K-2 bus students will enter the building at the doors by the Kindergarten classes.

At the end of the school day, after the buses have picked up the students at the JSHS at 2:30 PM, they will move together and stack on Merritt Street. When all of the buses are in place, at approximately 2:35 PM, the bus students in the K-6 will be released together with one announcement. When the buses are filled, they will be given the signal to leave.



### Watch the Web for Budget Information

As the budget is presented, the documents and information in the presentations will be placed on the school's webpage. The link is <http://www.greenwichcsd.org/BudgetInformation.html>. The website has information and calendars for all of the schools programs and functions. Check it out!

### Superintendent's Conference Day

The school calendar lists two Superintendent's Conference half days; one in February and one in March. This has changed so that we can participate in a regional conference featuring Heidi Hayes-Jacobs, a world renowned consultant in curriculum mapping. **We will now have one full Superintendent Conference Day on March 22, 2010.** This is a fantastic opportunity for our school at a time when we are working very hard on curriculum mapping with our staff.

### School Messenger

As a part of our long term plan to upgrade our data connections for both the internet and our telephones, we will have a new service available for our community. It is called "School Messenger". This system will allow us to make emergency phone calls, text messages and emails to our families and staff in a very short period of time. Once the system is in place, it will enable snow day warnings, early closing details, emergency information calls, attendance calls and other contacts by an automated system.

It is important that the school have up-to-date contact information for all families for this system to operate efficiently and accurately. If, in the near future, you find that we have contacted a number in error, please call the main office secretary in the building that your child attends and let us know how to fix the contact information.