



The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

# Harborfields *Highlights*

## PROPOSED BUDGET REFLECTS INPUT OF COMMUNITY, *Preserves Core Programs*

Over the course of the past several months, the Board of Education and administration have held a series of public budget workshops and business meetings, during which community residents offered their input on the budget formation for the 2011-2012 school year. The district would like to thank the community for its participation, given the difficult financial challenge that our district is facing.

The Board took all comments into consideration to form the proposed sound, educational, and realistic spending plan. The budget, which will be presented to voters on Tuesday, May 17, represents a 3.51% expenditure

increase over the current school year, which equates to an approximate 4.91% tax rate increase.

This year, the district is faced with a large reduction in revenue due to a loss in state aid. In addition, the federal stimulus funds that our district has received over the past two years will expire, which represents an additional loss in revenue for the 2011-2012 school year. At the same time, the district faces increased mandated costs over which it has no control.

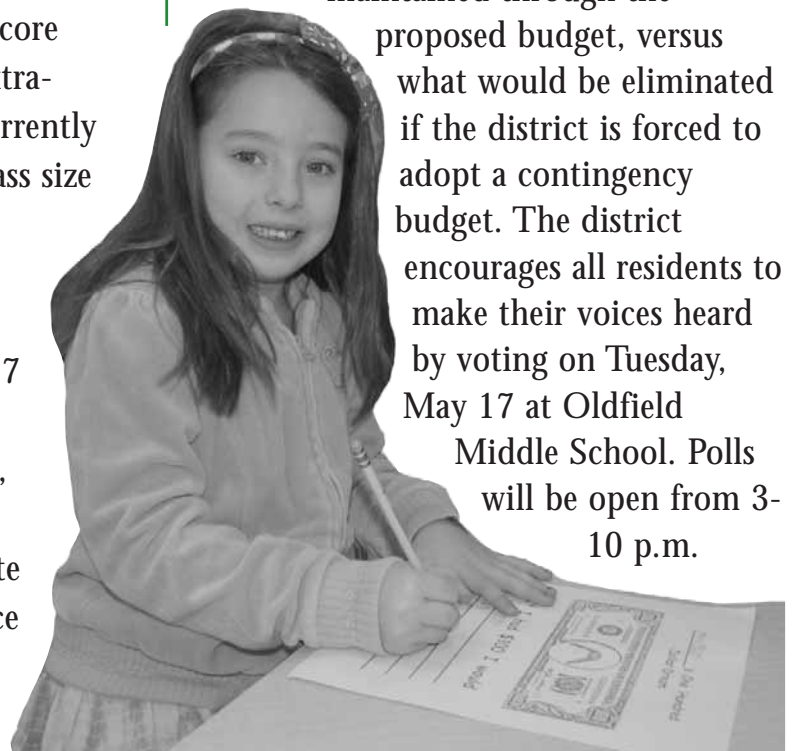
Based on community feedback, the proposed budget preserves the core academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs that are currently offered to students. Current class size guidelines are also maintained through the proposed budget. The budget does call for a reduction of approximately 11.7 staff positions; costs associated with clerical salaries and music, art, physical education, and athletic budgets; and a complete salary freeze for all central office and building-level

administrators and directors.

While it is painful for the district to lose valued staff members who contribute to the excellence of our school system, had reductions not been made, the community would be faced, based on a mere rollover budget, with a tax rate increase of approximately 7.4%. Given the current economic climate, the Board and administration felt this tax rate would not have been appropriate for our community.

Please refer to page two of this newsletter for a detailed list of what is maintained through the

proposed budget, versus what would be eliminated if the district is forced to adopt a contingency budget. The district encourages all residents to make their voices heard by voting on Tuesday, May 17 at Oldfield Middle School. Polls will be open from 3-10 p.m.



### The proposed 2011-12 budget supports:

- Current academic programs
- Existing class size guidelines
- Existing Athletic programs
- Existing Music and Art programs

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## *The* **BOTTOM LINE**

The proposed budget represents:

**4.91% ESTIMATED  
TAX RATE INCREASE**

**3.51% PROPOSED  
EXPENDITURE INCREASE**

## A PASSED BUDGET:

- Maintains existing 2010-2011 class size guidelines
- Maintains teaming structure in grade 6 at OMS
- Maintains a modified teaming structure in grade 7 at OMS
- Maintains grades 9-12 Advanced Placement courses
- Maintains existing grades 4-12 performing music groups
- Maintains existing grades 7-12 athletic teams
- Maintains modified enrichment program at TJL
- Maintains co-curricular activities OMS and HHS
- Eliminates one elective in grade 9 at HHS
- Eliminates co-curricular activities at TJL
- Eliminates coordinators at WDPS and TJL
- Reduces clerical salary costs
- Reduces music, art, P.E., and athletic budgets
- Reduces overall district maintenance budget costs
- Reduces staff by an estimated 11.7 positions
- Freezes all administrative salaries

**Expenditure Increase: 3.51%**  
**Tax Rate Increase: 4.91%**

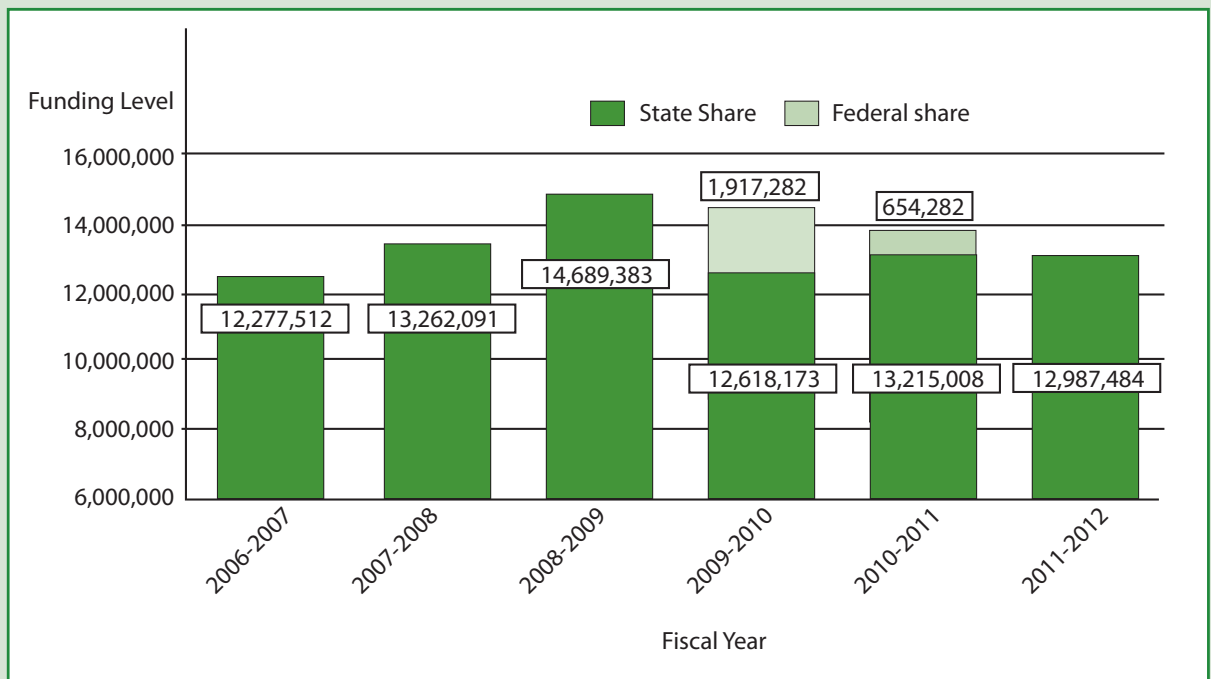
## A CONTINGENCY BUDGET:

- Begins to phase-in 2011-2012 class guidelines at all schools, which would result in higher class sizes
- Eliminates 7.5 sections in grades K-5
- Eliminates teaming in grades 7 and 8
- Further reduces staff at HHS and OMS
- Further reduces music, art, P.E., and athletic budgets
- Eliminates one social worker
- Eliminates student assistant liaison at HHS
- Eliminates grade-level coordinators at WDPS and TJL
- Eliminates co-curricular activities at TJL
- Reduces co-curricular activities at OMS and HHS
- Impacts grades 4-12 music program
- Impacts grades 7-12 interscholastic program
- Impacts Advanced Placement program
- Eliminates modified enrichment program at TJL
- Further reduces overall district maintenance budget costs
- Reduces staff by an estimated 26.2 positions

**Expenditure Increase: 1.81%**  
**Tax Rate Increase: 3.30%**

## A DECLINING RELIANCE ON STATE AID

As detailed in the chart, the percentage of Harborfield's budget that is funded through state aid has continually decreased over recent years. For 2011-12, state aid will be at its lowest level since 2006. This trend causes a shift in expenses from the state to local taxpayers, meaning that Harborfields taxpayers are assuming a greater percentage of the funding used to support its schools.



## TAX CALCULATOR

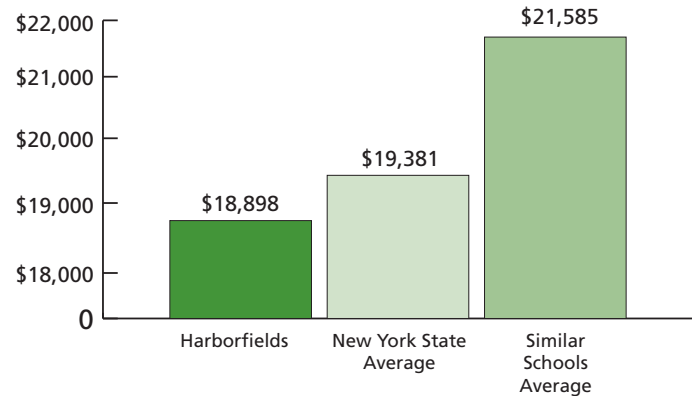
A complete copy of the proposed budget and a tax calculator are provided on the district's website, [www.harborfieldscsd.net](http://www.harborfieldscsd.net). Residents can log onto the website and use the tax calculator to determine the impact of the proposed budget. For those who don't have access to the web, listed below is the formula for calculating your estimated tax increase for the proposed 2011-2012 budget. When using the formula listed below, please be sure to include the assessed value, after all exemptions, including STAR. If you are unsure of your assessed valuation, please contact the Town of Huntington or log onto Harborfields' website, [www.harborfieldscsd.net](http://www.harborfieldscsd.net), which provides access to the Town of Huntington's tax receiver's website.

**Estimated Tax Increase:**  
**Assessed Valuation x 0.1021**

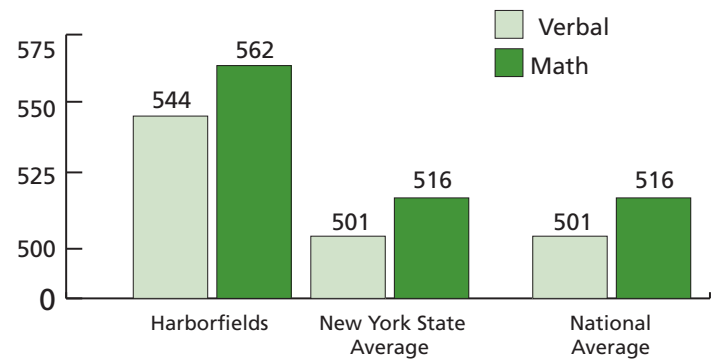
**Example: For a property assessed at \$4,000:**  
**Estimated Tax Increase: \$4,000 x 0.1021 = \$408.40**

# Spending Less, *Achieving More!*

### COMPARISON OF PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES



### COMPARISON OF 2010 SAT SCORES



As detailed above, Harborfields spends LESS per student than the average of all schools in the state. Meanwhile, Harborfields' students perform better than our peers on standardized testing and assessment scores. For example, Harborfields students continue to score higher on the SAT than our peers. The Harborfields School District was rated high on its "return on educational investment" by the Center for American Progress, which evaluated 9,000 districts throughout the country. This study evaluated how much "learning" the district produces for every dollar it spends. Our excellent ranking means we continue to do MORE with LESS!

## PROPOSED 2011-2012 BUDGET

CODE		Approved Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2011-2012	CODE		Approved Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2011-2012
<b>1000</b>	<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			<b>2000</b>	<b>INSTRUCTION (CONT'D)</b>		
1010	Board of Education	\$45,300	\$45,300	2280	BOCES - Occupational Education	\$403,050	\$382,200
1040	District Clerk	\$36,323	\$35,736	2330	Teaching - Special Schools	\$3,000	\$3,000
1060	District Meeting	\$33,789	\$33,789	2610	School Library/Audiovisual	\$367,367	\$386,503
1240	Central Administration	\$316,407	\$316,407	2630	Computer-Assisted Instruction	\$598,014	\$588,592
1241	Personnel Administration	\$397,314	\$396,406	2810	Guidance	\$1,186,241	\$1,170,846
1310	Business Administration	\$683,422	\$682,687	2815	Health Services	\$420,079	\$426,278
1320	Auditing	\$114,023	\$113,661	2816	Diagnostic Screening	\$8,000	\$8,000
1325	District Treasurer	\$18,882	\$18,557	2850	Co-curricular Activities	\$225,331	\$205,331
1345	BOCES Services - Purchasing	\$8,000	\$8,000	2855	Interscholastic Athletics	\$869,456	\$849,353
1420	Legal Services	\$159,000	\$159,000	<b>2000</b>	<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$38,738,198</b>	<b>\$39,249,053</b>
1430	BOCES Services - Personnel	\$69,705	\$75,136	<b>5000</b>	<b>DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION</b>		
1460	Records Management Officer	\$0	\$15,000	5510	District Transportation Office	\$81,370	\$81,370
1480	Public Information Services	\$116,863	\$116,863	5540	Contracted Transportation	\$4,270,341	\$4,338,623
1620	Operation of Plant	\$4,592,008	\$4,593,660	5581	BOCES Transportation Services	\$20,600	\$20,600
1621	Maintenance of Plant	\$870,091	\$860,818	<b>5000</b>	<b>TOTAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$4,372,311</b>	<b>\$4,440,593</b>
1670	Centralized Duplicating Services	\$37,500	\$37,500	<b>9000</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, DEBT SERVICE, AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS</b>		
1680	BOCES - Central Data Processing	\$197,500	\$197,500	9010	NYS Employees' Retirement	\$755,765	\$990,000
1910	Districtwide Insurance	\$334,630	\$339,630	9020	NYS Teachers' Retirement	\$2,796,564	\$3,654,529
1920	Dues	\$23,320	\$23,320	9030	FICA - Social Security	\$2,905,687	\$2,899,161
1980	MTA Payroll Tax	\$129,142	\$128,864	9040	Workers' Compensation Insurance	\$286,573	\$282,274
1981	BOCES - Administrative Charges	\$240,236	\$240,236	9045	Life Insurance	\$80,968	\$68,000
1989	Unclassified - Insurance Recovery	\$5,000	\$5,000	9050	Unemployment Insurance	\$57,000	\$150,000
<b>1000</b>	<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$8,428,455</b>	<b>\$8,443,070</b>	9055	Long-Term Disability	\$17,500	\$11,700
<b>2000</b>	<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			9060	Employees' Health Insurance	\$7,760,672	\$8,454,178
2010	Curriculum Development and Supervision	\$429,143	\$430,742	9065	Employees' Dental Insurance	\$276,870	\$272,548
2020	Instructional Supervision	\$2,426,445	\$2,484,678	9089	Other Employee Benefits	\$131,578	\$109,000
2060	BOCES - Planning	\$29,500	\$29,500	9760	Debt Service - Interest on Short-term Notes	\$630,000	\$630,000
2070	Staff Development	\$80,100	\$80,000	9901	Interfund Transfers	\$4,229,464	\$4,321,514
2110	Teaching	\$21,017,295	\$20,435,148	<b>9000</b>	<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, DEBT SERVICE, AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$19,928,641</b>	<b>\$21,842,904</b>
2112	Districtwide Music	\$253,248	\$239,763				
2113	Districtwide Art	\$143,927	\$138,443				
2130	Gifted and Talented	\$7,600	\$7,600				
2140	English as a Second Language (ESL)	\$365,673	\$374,488				
2150	Curriculum Development	\$52,000	\$52,000				
2170	New Programs	\$108,000	\$108,000				
2250	Special Services - Pupils with Handicapping Conditions (PHC)	\$3,691,354	\$4,263,604				
2251	PHC Evaluation	\$627,697	\$627,697				
2252	PHC Direct Services	\$1,528,705	\$1,530,775				
2253	Inclusion	\$2,334,704	\$2,792,541				
2254	PHC Resource Room	\$917,585	\$772,362				
2255	PHC Special Classes	\$644,684	\$861,610				
				<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$71,467,605</b>	<b>\$73,975,620</b>

A detailed line-by-line budget may be accessed on the website at [www.harborfieldscsd.net](http://www.harborfieldscsd.net) or at the District Office.

# VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 17

Please remember to vote on  
Tuesday, May 17.  
Polls will be open  
from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the  
Oldfield Middle School auditorium.

## Voter Information

A person shall be entitled to vote if he/she is 18 years of age or older; a citizen of the United States; and a resident of the school district for thirty days preceding the meeting at which the person offers to vote. No registration is required.

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are provided upon proper application to any qualified voter who will be unable to vote in person due to illness or physical disability, hospitalization, incarceration (unless incarcerated for conviction of a felony), travel outside the voter's county of residence for employment or business reasons, studies, or vacation on the day of the election.

Absentee ballot applications must be received by the District Clerk or designee at least seven 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 issued to the voter in person. For more information, please contact the District Clerk's office at 754-5320, ext. 321.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Voters will have the chance to elect two members to the Board of Education, each for a three-year term. Candidates run at-large, meaning that the two candidates who receive the largest number of votes will be elected.

**Nicholas Giuliano\*** - Position #1 on the Ballot  
**Samantha Smith** - Position #2 on the Ballot  
**Michael Banks\*** - Position #3 on the Ballot  
*\*incumbent*

# Questions & Answers

## Q. What is the proposed budget increase?

A. The proposed 2011-2012 school budget carries an expenditure increase of 3.51% over the current year's budget. This translates to a tax rate increase of approximately 4.91% for each homeowner. To calculate what the increase in your taxes would be, please refer to the "Tax Calculator" on page 2 of this newsletter. Had the district proposed a "rollover" budget, meaning all programs and staffing levels would remain the same as the current school year, the tax rate increase would have been approximately 7.4%.

## Q. What has been preserved through the proposed budget?

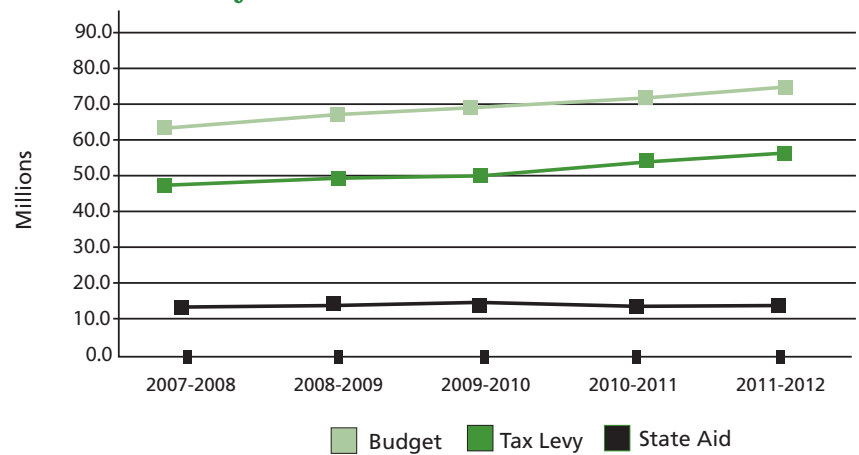
A. While the proposed budget does include a reduction in approximately 11.7 staff positions, most of the current academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs have been maintained. This is in response to community input that the Board of Education and the administration received over the course of several budget workshops.

## Q. How does the possibility of a tax cap for 2012-2013 impact this year's budget?

A. With the likely possibility that a 2% tax levy cap will be imposed by the state for the 2012-2013 school year, it is important that the Board of Education plan accordingly this year. Such a cap would force the district in the future to eliminate programs and staff, as our district - like all others throughout the state - would only be able to increase our tax levy by 2% over the 2011-2012 levy. If such a cap was in place this year, Harborfields would be limited to a budget-to-budget increase less than that of a contingency budget.

## Harborfields Budget and Tax Change History

The following chart illustrates recent and proposed Budget, Tax Levy, and State Aid values for Harborfields.



## PROPOSITION #1: BUDGET

RESOLVED that the annual school district budget for the 2011-2012 school year adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with section 1716 of the Education Law of \$73,975,620 be approved and the necessary taxes therefore be levied upon the taxable property of the school district.

# POINTS OF PRIDE

- Harborfields High School was recognized as a School of Excellence and placed on the Advanced Placement Achievement District Honor Roll for 2011, which includes 388 schools nationally and eleven schools on Long Island.
- From the Class of 2010, 74.2% of graduates received an Advanced Regents diploma
- One HHS student was named as an Intel semifinalist and a National Merit finalist
- The Boys' Basketball team was League, County, Section XI, Long Island Champions, in addition to New York State Finalist.

- Oldfield Middle School was nominated by the New York State Education Department as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence for its outstanding performance on State assessments.
- Over 75 5 - 12 students were chosen for SCMEA, All-County, LISFA, and NYSSMA All State honors for the 2010-2011 school year.
- WDPS and TJL were recognized as Honor schools by the Suffolk Reading Council



Publications Coordinator:  
Beth Izzo

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