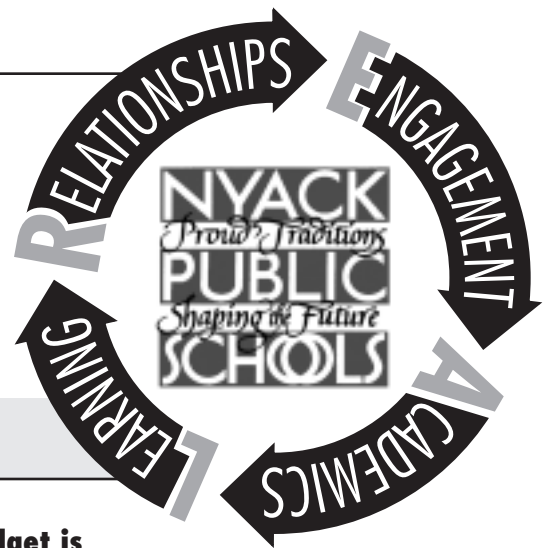


2006-07 BUDGET INFORMATION

Budget Costs Beyond the District's Control

- Mandated NYS Employee Retirement Rates: increased more than 60%
- Health Insurance double digit increases
- Utilities: Rising fuel and electricity costs
- Cumulative loss in State aid*
- Contractual obligations: 73% of the budget
- State and Federal mandates that are only partially funded by aid

**If Nyack's State aid had increased at the level of the annual Consumer Price index over the past 10 years, aid for 2006-07 would be over \$2 million more, reducing taxes by 4%.*



The budget sustains all programs, staffing, class size, professional development and technology upgrades.

2006-07 Budget	\$62,011,204
Budget to Budget Change	7.39%
Estimated Tax Levy Increase*	7.94%

** The tax levy is the total amount to be raised by taxes. It is not the tax rate, which cannot be set until August when needed financial data is available.*

? What new efforts are funded in the budget?

- An **additional elementary Spanish teacher** - one assigned to each school allowing Spanish to be taught in grades 1-5 (currently grades 2-5)
- A **teacher on special assignment** to the Superintendent to help develop and implement intramural activities and science and math competitive programs
- **Lead teachers** in each elementary school, to be available to respond quickly to emergency situations when the principal is out of the building
- **New telephone system** to increase efficiency, and reduce breakdowns and maintenance costs
- A **part-time grant writer** to assist the District in obtaining grants

? What besides District expenditures affects my residential school taxes?

- Amount of State Aid
- Lack of businesses to share the tax burden
- Property assessment rolls
- STAR residential property tax exemption

? Why is the District considered "rich" in State Aid formulas?

Nyack's property values and income levels are high in comparison with the rest of the State. Formulas for aid are based on both these factors. **Based on the formula Nyack appears to be about 78% more wealthy than the State average**, thus receiving much less aid (11.3%) than the NYS district average (40%). There has been ongoing extensive lobbying by School Boards and local officials, to get the funding formula changed to at least include a regional cost factor.

? What will happen if the school budget is not approved?

According to State law the Board:

- could schedule one more budget vote for the same or a reduced budget
- could adopt a contingency (austerity) budget after a first vote defeat
- must adopt a contingency budget after a second vote if the budget is still not approved

? What is a contingency (austerity) budget by law?

- It has an increase limit determined by a State formula using 120% of the January Consumer Price Index and certain costs that are excluded from the cap.
- It must fulfill the District's educational and contractual obligations.
- It requires a fee for use of school facilities by community youth groups.

? If the budget is not approved will there still be a tax increase?

YES – an increase of 5.6% will still be necessary since all educational program needs, utility costs and contractual obligations must be met by law.

? How do State & Federal Mandates affect the Budget?

Mandates affect every aspect of the school district in such complex ways that it is extremely difficult to estimate their cost. There are constantly increasing requirements to be met in instruction, testing, monitoring reports, safety and security measures, and staff development. The new federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation has created a new layer of mandates that are still evolving.

? How is the District Saving Money?

There are many ongoing cost-saving measures and new opportunities are constantly sought to lessen the tax burden. Some highlights are :

- **Technology Initiatives:** Saved about \$533,000 over the past three years, while creating an infrastructure that best supports technology in the classroom and for administrative functions.
- **Energy Performance Contract:** Saved about \$285,000 annually by having building energy conservation upgrades. These extensive projects were funded with savings from utility bills, maintenance, and receipt of State Building Aid.
- **New Telephone System:** Ongoing savings of \$27,000 with new less expensive, and problematic lines. In addition, the reduction of maintenance and ability to reroute the system in case of breakdown increases efficiency.
- **Rental of vacant facilities:** Fees from rental of the old High School and part of the Hilltop facility are about \$770,000 annually.
- **Also:** cooperative bidding, joint insurance pools, retirement incentives, contracted services, outside funding sources and salary schedules reflecting the Consumer Price Index.

DID YOU KNOW: that if the Budget is NOT approved ...

... *There would still be a tax increase of 5.6%.*

... *\$1.1M will have to be removed to meet the required State increase limit.*

... *All non contractual obligations, about 27% of the budget, would have to be reviewed for cuts. These include programs, staffing, class sizes, courses, co-curricular activities and athletics.*

... *Youth groups will have to be charged for their use of school buildings and grounds, i.e. PTAs, Girl and Boy Scouts, Clarkstown Recreation, CYO, Valley Cottage Indians, Nyack/Valley Cottage Little League, etc.*

For questions or a copy of the complete budget call the Public Information Office, 353-7013, or check the District website, www.nyackschools.com

NYACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2006 BUDGET/TRUSTEE VOTE

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

POLLS OPEN: 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Polls are at DePew Manor, Hilltop, Upper Nyack and Valley Cottage Schools.

REGISTRATION:

Persons registered with the County Board of Elections or having voted in the school or general election in the last four years may vote without registering.

TO REGISTER a person must be a citizen, at least 18 years of age and have resided in the District for a minimum of 30 days.

Registration may be done in person until Thursday, May 11, 2006 at the Administration Building, District Clerk Office, 13A Dickinson Avenue, in Nyack from **8:30 AM to 4:00 PM** Monday through Friday. General registration (for all votes) is also done at the **Board of Elections in New City (638-5172)** through **the day of the vote or by mail to that office.**

BOARD CANDIDATES:

The Petition **deadline to appear on the ballot was Monday, April 17.**

21 valid signatures were needed for a petition to be accepted. Two at-large trustee positions will appear on the May ballot currently held by Claudette Clarke and Pierre Davis. The two incumbents are running as well as Michael Lagana and Dewitt Rulon. The two top vote getters will assume their three year terms, beginning July 1, 2006.

Candidates in Nyack are elected at-large, meaning a person does not run for a particular seat, rather, candidates receiving the most votes fill the positions open.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

A registered voter who cannot get to the polls, or will not be present in the county on voting day, may file for an absentee ballot. Applications and ballots may be obtained from the District Clerk. **Ballots must be returned to the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on the day of the vote.**

*Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044.
Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llame a Nancy Rodriguez al 353-7106.*

For information please call the District Clerk
(353-7013) or check www.nyackschools.com