

2004-05 Budget Remains Committed to Each Student's Success While Being Fiscally Responsible to the Community

Ongoing Programs

- Advanced Placement courses (17)
- After school & summer support programs
- Athletics and Inter-scholastic sports
- Average class sizes: K-5: 19.6; 6-12: 22.4
- Co-Curricular Programs
- Collaborative teaching for blended classes
- Comprehensive curriculum revision and development
- Conflict resolution/bias awareness programs
- Academic Intervention Services
- Computer technology in each school
- Continuous Improvement model for each child
- DaVinci Media Center at the HS
- Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of academically and culturally diverse learners
- Elementary level Spanish
- Extensive staff development
- Family Resource Center sites in all elementary schools
- Full day kindergarten
- Honors courses
- HS Center for Success offering all-day academic support
- Intervention Specialists in each elementary school
- Parent Institute
- Program for students who choose more rigorous courses
- PSAT for all 10th & 11th graders
- Safety and Security in all schools: i.e. security support, MS & HS school resource officers, new staff fingerprinting, districtwide defibrillators
- Teacher Mentor Program
- Waterford Program for Kindergarten computer-based literacy

The challenge of balancing our commitment to our students' needs and our fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers in an annual budget is daunting. The District is faced with increasing costs, students' needs and State educational requirements, with inadequate State aid in a vulnerable economic climate.

We sincerely believe that we have fulfilled our commitment this year to our students and community. We have maintained all programs, staff and class sizes, while funding technology upgrades in the District that will have long lasting benefits. All this is accomplished while keeping the budget increase close to the regional consumer price index. **In fact, without impacts beyond our control, the increase would be below the index.**

We hope you will review the material in this newsletter to better understand what the budget supports, the financial factors that affect it, and how we are focusing on the best possible education for each and every child in the Nyack Schools.

*Roberta R. Zampolin, Superintendent
Dr. Don Hammond, Board President*

District budget and tax levy increases are the smallest of all the County's school districts.



Strengthening the School/Home Connection

The District is strengthening its school and home partnership this year with the launching of a Parent Institute. Free monthly information sessions, begun in January, are based on issues and needs expressed by parents, and childcare is always provided.

The goals of the Institute are to provide education and support, to focus on best practices leading to success for all children, and to build parent/school relationships based on mutual trust. Sessions take place on a rotating basis in each of the District's schools and community sites. Says PTA Valley Cottage President

Silvia Henry, "Parents feel supported by the District when critical issues that all parents face are addressed in this open give and take forum. It is reassuring to know that everyone impacting our children's lives are working as a team and supporting each other."

Topics addressed thus far this year were testing, the Middle School-age child, the student with unique needs and the odd girl out. "We are very excited about the response to the Parent Institute and are committed to its continuation," states Roberta Zampolin, Superintendent of Schools. "We are all better equipped to deal with the challenges of raising and educating children today when we are learning together."

Meetings with parents interested in assisting the institute are ongoing. Anyone with a suggestion for a future meeting or

wanting to attend planning sessions should call Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Gina Cappiello, 353-7068, or e-mail her at gcappiello@nyackschools.com.



Regina Cappiello, Director of Curriculum, (standing) works with parents at "Testing" Institute.

Nyack's State Aid Decline Continues for Past 10 years

State aid to Nyack has gone from 16.7% to 12.5% (Average aid statewide is 40%)

- If State aid had increased at the rate of the CPI, Nyack's aid now would be \$4.3 million more.
- Nyack's budgets have increased at an annual average of 3.8%, while the State's share of costs has declined 4.2%.
- Aid here is low because property values and income levels are high compared with the rest of the state: Nyack on paper is approximately 72.5% wealthier than the State average.

**More Inside:
Budget Details • Q & A • Achievements
Liberty Principal Appointed**

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

NEXT INSTITUTE: Tuesday, May 25 7:30pm at the HS

A variation on the Institute's format this evening, as it is combined with the District's annual multicultural event.

The program will focus on the 50th anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. the Board of Education decision.

Technology in Nyack Schools:

The budget supports the District's Technology mission to facilitate teaching, learning and instruction through technology with extensive initiatives and upgrades.

How was the plan to upgrade technology developed?

A technology Committee composed of staff, parents, administrators and community members has been evaluating the District's technology needs and the newest hardware and software for the past two years. This year the District's new Technology Director, Ahunna Margaux Akoma, further assessed needs via a detailed survey, interviews, school visits and discussions with all stakeholders. The consensus was that state-of-the-art technology was needed to tap into the greatest potential in the District for teaching and learning. A detailed Five-Year plan was created and presented to the Board in February. The plan is supported in the budget.

Why is this the best time to upgrade all aspects of the District's technology?

The District is at a turning point. With equipment becoming obsolete, prices dropping, low interest rates for a payment plan and a new Technology Director/Department, the time is right to realize the District's vision—to build a learning community powered by state-of-the-art telecommunications services, hardware, software and optimal support. Furthermore, all State standards promote the integration of technology in teaching and learning.

How does the Plan provide greater access to computers for students and teachers?

First, the District is placing a computer in every room. In addition, the rolling laptop labs at the middle and high schools will transform any classroom into an instant lab where students have access to both a computer and all the resource/reference materials they need. Moreover, the District expects all staff to use student data to inform instruction. The easier accessibility will assist in accessing data and communicating with other staff members for consultation, etc.



Initiatives & Upgrades:

- New technology director 2003-04
- Technology needs assessment
- Network infrastructure improvements – new servers, switches, Ethernet drops, etc.
- Updated computer labs
- Minimum of one computer in every classroom – more access for students and teachers
- Additional rolling laptop labs for middle school and high school – pilot program expansion
- Nine additional media centers (Computer, LCD Projector, VD/VCR Combo Drive, Printer, Cart) – expansion of pilot
- Laptop lending program for teachers
- Infusion and integration of technology with core curricula
- Instructional software that is aligned with state standards
- Ongoing technology training for teachers and staff
- Instructional servers in elementary schools
- E-Chalk class web pages and student e-mail
- Automation of instructional support procedures: attendance, grade book, etc.
- A new student information management system to help data informed instruction
- Rockland County distance learning

The new student information system will save hundreds of thousands of dollars and be more effective and efficient.

Why is the new Student Information System better than the one we have now?

The new system, SASI (Schools Administrative Student Information), is easier, faster and will enable the District itself, rather than through BOCES, to effectively and efficiently manage data, while saving the District hundreds of thousands of dollars. All users will have access to more accurate information, which is all in one place for sharing. Attendance, grade reporting, printing of report cards / progress reports, transcripts, centralized processing of enrollment, sharing of emergency information and schedules will be automated. Most importantly, access controls will ensure data security. In Year 2 of the plan, parents will be provided access to look at grades, report cards, schedules and even input course requests with their children.

What will be the staff professional development so the technology can be best utilized?

In addition to current ongoing technology staff development opportunities, a Districtwide technology training lab will be instituted at the Hilltop building. The District will also utilize the "train-the-trainer" model in which staff liaisons will be trained at each school to provide continual support and training at each building.

How will the new technology improve communication within the District?

The District will be implementing E-Chalk, a comprehensive Internet communication tool. It will improve communication between school and home by providing student/ teacher e-mail accounts, school web pages, class pages that include a homework page, and a storage space for files to be accessed from anywhere. Teachers will be able to share data and information more easily. Linked with the District's main web site, it will provide a user-friendly connection to our learning community.

How will the new technology improve learning for students?

In addition to greater access to computers, all hardware and software in classrooms and labs will be updated. The new SASI system and computers in each room will provide teachers easier access to data on each student that will help individualize instruction. For example, PLATO, a new computer managed instructional system for students in grades K-12 will be installed in the elementary and middle schools in the first year. Plato's curriculum is aligned with the State standards, and assessments will diagnose students' abilities through its online assessment tool, and prescribe appropriate tutorials, drills and instruction. All students' data and progress reports will be available for teachers to use as a guide for differentiating classroom instruction. The student will be able to access the program from outside of school as well.



Developing Students' Scholastic Excellence, Cultural Appreciation, and Ethical Behavior

- Meeting and exceeding state standards K–12
- Continuous progress with scores generally above NYS and similar schools
- Continuous improvement model for every child
- Providing a wide range of opportunities through art, drama, music, sports, etc. to help students become the best they can be

Ongoing Evaluation is Key to Instruction and Progress

Strong student achievement results from close alignment of curriculum, instruction and assessment. Ongoing analysis of test results by class and by individual student helps teachers plan and adjust instruction effectively. The District's data warehouse contains all test data on each student. It provides a long-term view of student progress and helps plot a continuous improvement path for each child.

Assessment in Nyack takes many forms and includes traditional State and local exams as well as other measures of our students' ability to demonstrate mastery of the New York State learning standards.



Elementary School

- Over 90% of students scored at levels 3 & 4 on Math 4 NYS Assessment
- Over 75% of students scored at levels 3 & 4 on ELA 4 NYS Assessment

Middle School

- 10% increase in number of students scoring at levels 3 & 4 on ELA 8 2004 (unofficial)
- 8% increase in number of students scoring at levels 3 & 4 on Math 8 from 2001-2003

High School

- More students are taking regents exams, scores are higher, and achievement gaps are being reduced.
- SAT scores (Math 518, Verbal 510) are above state averages with 85% of students taking exams.
- Advanced Placement Exams: 17 courses are offered and taken by a third of the senior class. 70% achieve a score of 3 or higher.

- 100% of seniors last year met the new state graduation requirements – including all special education students.
- Academic success of our special needs students.

95% of the Class of 2003 went on to higher education

Christine McCaffery Appointed New Liberty Principal



A five-month comprehensive search process for a new Liberty School principal culminated in the appointment of Christine McCaffery at the School Board meeting on March 30. Ms. McCaffery, a principal for the past 12 years in the Hilton Central School in Rochester, New York, will assume the position on July 1, replacing Alice Blueglass who is retiring.

Ms. McCaffery's breadth of teaching, administrative, collaborative and leadership experiences, as well as her passionate belief in each child's ability to succeed, impressed all participants in the search process, which included the central office team, a representative Interview Committee, and the School Board.

"A site visit to Ms. McCaffery's district confirmed our decision," says Superintendent of Schools, Roberta Zampolin, "that Ms. McCaffery is the exceptional choice to lead Liberty School. She is a master teacher, creative thinker, positive communicator and enthusiastic visionary, who will be a tremendous asset to the District."

Ms. McCaffery is currently on special assignment for Hilton Schools working on initiatives to support improved student achievement. Previously, she was Principal of the Northwood Elementary School (K-6) in Hilton, an Assistant Principal in the Webster Central Schools, and elementary teacher in the Brockport Central Schools from 1973-1990. In addition, she is an Adjunct Teacher in education graduate studies, and has presented widely on such topics as data analysis, writing process and creative problem solving for the at-risk student.

Says Ms. McCaffery, "The depth of caring about the community and its children that I encountered during the Nyack interview process was very meaningful to me. The intimate environment of the District, its educational goals, and my background and skills are a great match. I am looking forward to joining the District and the Liberty family in working with the community, parents and staff on making great things happen for all children."

"She is a master teacher, creative thinker, positive communicator and enthusiastic visionary, who will be a tremendous asset to the District."

R. Zampolin, Superintendent

DISTRICT HONORED

Once again Nyack Schools has been chosen to receive the "What Parents Want" designation by SchoolMatch, an independent, national school selection consulting firm. Only 15% of the nation's 15,000 public school districts have been so recognized. Some criteria used for selection include competitive academic test scores, small class size, and above average instructional expenditures and library services.



Focus on Excellence

■ Teachers Awarded Grants to Enhance Technology in the Curriculum



Teacher Helen Davies pictured with Carl Ali, West Nyack Best Buy store manager, and her class.

Helen Davies, fourth grade teacher in Valley Cottage School and Liberty School's fifth grade teacher, George Mrsich were recently awarded, \$2500 tech grants from the Best Buy Children's Foundation to creatively integrate technology into their classrooms in innovative science projects. They were the only two teachers in NYS to receive these grants, two of 56 awarded across the country out of thousands of applicants.

Mrs. Davies will purchase hi-tech equipment compatible with a computer-activated microscope. All her students will now have the opportunity to explore and investigate key scientific concepts through interactive class presentations, projects and hands-on activities

Mr. Mrsich will be enhancing his science-based program entitled "Our Environment," which allows students to construct an audio/visual presentation on different aspects of the ecosystem. Students will be able to coordinate slides, record dialogue and include information from the database and then share the slide shows with the rest of the class.

■ Arts Council of Rockland's County Executive's Arts in Education Award



Kathy Tappenden, a 16 year District employee, and currently Nyack High School Secretary, was honored with a nomination this year for the Arts Council of Rockland's, County Executive's Arts in Education Award. Kathy has been invaluable in working on all aspects school shows at every level in the District for past 18 years. She is currently a co-advisor/producer for the High School Drama Club.



■ Science Olympiad Finalists

Nyack High School's 13 member Science Olympiad team beat all other Rockland teams to come in fifth overall in the lower Hudson regional Science Olympiad Competition. This qualified them to compete in the State championship at West Point. The team is looking forward to topping its placement next year under the guidance of their advisors, Art Browne and Kathy Trotter.

SCHOLARS

■ 13 National Merit Scholars

Nyack High School has three finalist, one semi-finalist and nine commended students in the prestigious 2004 National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC). More than 1 million students took the PSAT last October and entered the NMSC competition for recognition and awards. Only 5% enter the highest scorers' categories.

Less than 1% of all high school students in the nation reaches Finalist status. They are considered for some 8,000 Merit scholarship awards, worth \$32 million and underwritten by the National Program and about 500 business organizations and higher education institutions.

Congratulations to Finalists: **Mallory C. Dash, David Gaffney-Rosenfeld, and Joshua E. Kiss**; Semi-Finalist: **Benjamin S. Korn** and Commended students: **Pedro E. Acevedo, David Aguasca, Emily E. Aune, Roy Awabdeh, Nathan H. Bell, Ryan Fox, Daniel J. Glasel, Jonathan Miesch and Morgan C. Seag.**



Pictured (L to R) Finalists: Mallory C. Dash, David Gaffney-Rosenfeld, Joshua E. Kiss and Semi-Finalist: Benjamin S. Korn.

■ NHS Students Exhibit Work in Juried Show

Forty Nyack High School art students gained valuable "real world" experience in April participating in a juried, professional art exhibit and sale of their work in the **Firefly Farm Gallery** in Nyack. Gallery Director, Gary Davis, along with three professional artists, selected the diverse collection of paintings, photography, sculpture, and digital and mixed media from over 100 pieces submitted. Students then priced their work, with Mr. Davis' guidance.

Art Department Chairperson, Joseph Fusaro, is excited about this special, unique opportunity for the students. "Students rarely can get their work showcased in this professional manner, that is both educational and personally rewarding."

■ Excellence in Education Award



Ketty Duplan-Giorgianni, MS *English as a Second Language* Teacher, was honored with an "Excellence in Education" award, conferred upon one outstanding educator from each Rockland district by the Parent & Student Advocacy Network, Inc. It recognizes academic and professional leadership and commitment to parental involvement, and community

awareness and service, as well as personal and professional standards of high performance. It was bestowed at a gala at the Colonial Inn in March.

■ Excellence in Authentic Science Research

Jeremy Safran, NHS Junior, was honored with being the only High School level presenter at the joint meeting of the NE and SE sections of the Geological Society of America in Virginia.

Jeremy, a student in the school's *Authentic Science* course since its inception three years ago, presented his unique research on dinosaurs. As part of the course he has been doing hands-on primary research with a mentor at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, an affiliate of Columbia University. Was he nervous about being the youngest presenter at the conference? Says Jeremy, "At first the thought of it was daunting, but knowing the material so well gave me the confidence to relay the facts of my research. Everyone was interested and receptive." Jeremy hopes to develop his research into a project for submission to the distinctive Intel Science competition next year.



■ **Nyack High Grads Find Success**



Kate presented to NHS clubs recently about the Haitian Project.

Kate Barch – Class of '94. Kate graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont in 1998, majoring in French and English. After teaching those subjects for five years in N.J. and Boston, she decided to spend this year in Haiti volunteering her teaching efforts at a live-in school sponsored by the non-profit American organiza-

tion, The Haitian Project. Growing up and going to school in the Nyack community," says Kate, "was the most moving impetus for my wanting to do service in Haiti. "She loved the people, students and her experiences there, but because of the disquiet in the country is back in the States for the rest of the year continuing her efforts for the Project here. She plans to get her Masters this year and to continue to do non-profit work in the future.



Christian Curto – Class of '00 Christian is graduating from American University, in Washington D.C. this May, with a double major in Political Science and History. Active in student government in Nyack (Class and Student Council President), he has further developed his leadership skills and love of politics in political campaigns and offices of political leaders in Washington. He is currently

serving as an Intern and Research Assistant with the Winston Group (a well known political consulting and polling organization) in Washington. He plans to continue there after graduation, as well as growing a business he just started with some friends, "Political PCs," the renting of computers to campaigns around the country.

Patrice Holmes – Class of '00 Patrice is a senior in a five year BA/MA combination program at Manhattan College, majoring in Education. She will receive her MA next year in Special Education. Patrice was a member of NHS *Todays' Students, Tomorrows' Teachers Program* (TSTT), a career development organization to which Nyack Schools belongs. Realizing she loved working with children, she was encouraged to join the program by NHS advisor, Tracy Smith, who became her mentor. TSTT offers to students, planning to go into education as their profession, workshops, college tours, speakers and special activities all geared to help them plan their careers, and is ongoing after high school. In addition, participants receive half their college tuition with the promise that they teach in a TSTT participating school after graduation for one year. Patrice is still supported by the program as she pursues her dream.



■ **All County / All State Musicians**



81 students, from elementary to senior levels, were chosen to participate in All County vocal, jazz ensemble, band, chorus and orchestras this year. NHS senior, **Daniel Glasel**, was honored with his selection as drummer

for the All State Vocal Jazz Ensemble, in essence naming him the second best drummer in the State. All students were selected based on their NYSSMA performance ratings and music teacher recommendations.



■ **New Hilltop Art Gallery Showcase for Student Artists**

The halls of Nyack Schools' Administration Building have always been an excellent space to showcase student artwork. Under the direction of the District's new Art Department Chairperson, Joe Fusaro, an informal display space has been transformed into a delightful Hilltop Gallery, with visual arts being rotated on a monthly basis from each school. The Gallery has official monthly "opening" receptions for students and families, complete with refreshments and music. To date several hundred families have enjoyed these openings, usually held an hour before the first School Board meeting of each month.

Says Superintendent of Schools, Roberta Zampolin, "this has been a wonderful opportunity to see the outstanding work of our students and teachers, while meeting our families on an informal social basis. We all look forward to the ongoing art shows, which bring daily pleasure to our central office staff and remind us of the wonderful work being done in our classrooms."



■ **HS Football Team: 2003 Class A Champs!**

An outstanding 12-1 season, coached by New York State Football Coach of the Year, **John Castellano**, was capped with the State championship and a memorable parade down the streets of Nyack. This is the second time in three years that Nyack has earned this honor – having been State champs also in 2001.



John Castellano

FALL/WINTER SPORTS HONORS

- 45 All League Athletes
- 12 All Section Athletes
- 16 All County Athletes
- Journal News Scholar/Athlete: **Peter Samoylo** (Football)
- League Champion Teams: Girls Basketball, Football
- Coach Honors: Journal News Coach of the Year for Football: **John Castellano**
- NYS Player of the Year: **Peter Samoylo**
- All State Girls Soccer: **Lauren Hecht**
- 1000 Points Girls Basketball: **Tanya Freeman**
- Wrestling Team 100 wins
- Inaugural member of Rockland County Track & Field Hall of Fame: **Shulton Whitley** (NHS '77 grad, 20 year Nyack Coach for Track & Field) honored for his records as County Track & Field star
- Six Scholar Athlete Teams - Teams with combined academic averages of over 90%: Girls Basketball, Fencing, Tennis, Field Hockey, Soccer and Cross Country



Peter Samoylo



Lauren Hecht



Tanya Freeman

How are the tax levy and tax rate different?

The tax levy is the total amount of funds to be raised by local taxes to support the budget. The levy is known at the time the budget is adopted. The average tax rate is dependent on variables that are not available until the summer, such as the exact State aid amount, property assessment rolls and equalization rates for the two towns that are within the District. In the past the tax levy percent increase and ultimate tax rate have been very close.

What will happen if the school budget is not approved?

According to State law if a school budget is not approved the Board:

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

Did You Know
70% of the budget increase is due to contractual obligations

What is a contingency (austerity) budget?

According to State law, a contingency budget must be adopted after voters have not approved a budget.

- It has an increase limit determined by a State formula at a 2.76% budget increase. (This is 120% of the January Consumer Price Index)
- It must fulfill the District's educational and contractual obligations
- It requires a fee for use of school facilities by community youth groups

What is the effect of an austerity budget?

Approximately, \$596,000 would have to be removed from the budget to meet the required State increase limit. All areas of the budget would be reviewed for cuts. In addition, youth groups would have to be charged for their use of the schools and grounds, i.e. PTAs, Girl and Boy Scouts, Clarkstown Recreation, CYO, Valley Cottage Indians, Nyack/Valley Cottage Little League, etc.

On Austerity all youth groups would have to be charged to use school facilities.

Did You Know

How will an austerity budget affect taxes?

There will still be a tax levy increase of 4.43% since all educational program needs and contractual obligations must be met in a budget. Per week a contingency budget would cost \$1.70 less than the full budget.

How does the District reduce costs?

The District has many ongoing cost-saving measures and is constantly looking for new opportunities to reduce costs to lessen the tax burden. Highlights include:

- Joint Insurance Pools
- Cooperative Bidding (paper, transportation, supplies, textbooks, etc.)
- Pursuit of Outside Funding Sources (i.e. competitive grants)
- Retirement Incentives
- Salary Schedules Reflective of the Consumer Price Index
- Performance Contracting – Upgrades to buildings funded through energy savings
- Rental of Vacant District Facilities/Sale of Property

Did You Know
78% of the budget is for instruction

How do State & Federal Mandates affect the Budget?

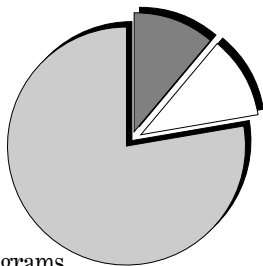
Mandates affect every aspect of the school district in such complex ways that is extremely difficult to estimate their cost. There are constantly increasing requirements to be met in instruction, testing, monitoring reports, safety and security measures, and staff development. The new federal *No Child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

What Affects My Residential School Taxes besides District Expenditures?

- State Aid Amount: 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. By formula Nyack appears to be about 72.5% more wealthy than the State average, and thus receives much less aid (12.5%) than the NYS 40% average.
- Lack of businesses in the community to share the tax burden
- Property assessment rolls
- STAR residential property tax exemption

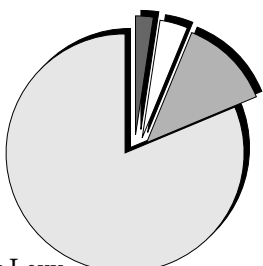
Expenses

- 77.7% Programs
- 11.1% Capital
- 11.2% Administration



Revenue

- 81.3% Tax Levy
- 12.5% State Aid
- 3.8% Miscellaneous
- 2.4% Fund Balance



This notice format is required by New York State law.

| Nyack School District Budget Notice Overall Budget Proposal | Adopted Budget for 2004 School Year | Proposed Budget for 2005 School Year | Contingency Budget for 2005 School Year |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Total Budgeted Amount | \$52,780,346 | \$54,831,842 | \$54,235,765 |
| Incr/Decr for 2005 School Year | — | \$2,051,496 | \$1,455,419 |
| Percentage Incr(Decr) in proposed Budget | — | 3.89% | 2.76% |
| Change in Consumer Price Index | — | 2.30% | — |
| Resulting Est. Prop. Tax Levy for 2005 School Year | — | \$44,558,037 | \$43,961,960 |
| Administrative Component | \$5,670,126 | \$6,145,007 | \$5,905,007 |
| Program Component | \$40,614,641 | \$42,577,121 | \$42,247,120 |
| Capital Component | \$6,495,579 | \$6,109,714 | \$6,083,638 |

* **Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2005 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.** The District calculated a contingency budget by adhering to the contingency budget cap with exclusions, maintaining the administrative cap, excluding equipment, (other than health and safety), and excluding any costs associated with the use of facilities by outside organizations.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2004-2005 by the qualified voters of the Nyack School District, Rockland County, NY, will be held at Nyack School(s) in said District on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 7:30 pm prevailing time OR between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in Nyack School(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

| Basic STAR Exemption Impact | Budget Adopted for 2004 School Year | Budget Proposed for 2005 School Year |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Basic STAR Savings | \$1,081.77 | \$1,087.95 |
| School Tax Incr/Decr | \$84.92 | \$106.17 |
| Net Basic STAR Savings | \$996.85 | \$981.78 |

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings based on a hypothetical home value within the School District with a full value of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

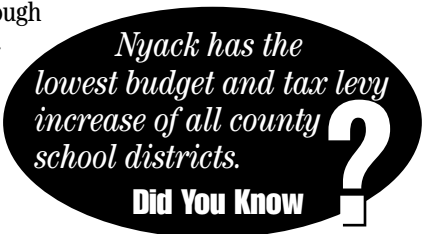
What is the Income from the District's vacant Facilities/ Property?

Rental fees for the old High School (rented to BOCES) and part of the Hilltop Building (rented to Nyack College) are about \$740,000 annually. Income from the old High School's rental over the past 10 years was \$4.5 million. The District still retains the use of the building's MacCalman Field and the auditorium.

How is Staff Development Supported in the District and in the Budget?

Students' instructional needs and professional development are closely aligned. Training this year continues to focus on teaching to different learning styles, reading in content areas, integrating technology into instruction, student data analysis to inform instruction, and reaching and teaching culturally diverse learners.

Teachers receive training at conferences, workshops inside and outside the District, by consultants, by the District's instructional leaders and through collaborative countywide projects. In addition to the staff development budget line, training is supported through grants, substitute teacher costs, and administrators' salaries. All totaled staff development funding is about \$1.6 million, reflecting 7% of the teachers' salaries.



Budget Impacts Beyond the District's Control

1.8% of the budget increase

- Major increases in health and retirement benefits
- Contractual obligations that are 70% of the budget
- More and more partially funded State & Federal mandates
- Rising costs: A regional consumer price index (CPI) of 3.2%
- Loss of State Aid over multiple years
- Loss of interest in District accounts
- Poor economy
- Prior years' State Aid owed to District = \$558,372

2004-05 Budget Information

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2004-05 Budget | \$54,831,842 |
| Budget to Budget Change | 3.89% |
| Estimated Tax Levy Increase* | 5.85% |

* 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.

Category Breakdown Required by the State

| Budget Area | Proposed Budget | Budget Change |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Program | \$42,577,121 | \$1,962,480 |
| Capital | 6,109,714 | - 385,865 |
| Administrative | 6,145,007 | 474,881 |
| TOTAL | \$54,831,842 | \$2,051,496 (+3.89%) |

Who Can Vote?

A citizen, 18 or older who has lived in the District for at least 30 days, having voted in a school or general election in the past four years or having newly registered

How do I Register?

You can register at the Board of Elections (in New City, 638-5172) until the day of the vote, or in District Hilltop Office until Thursday, May 13 (8am – 4pm)

How do I get an Absentee Ballot?

This is for those eligible to vote who cannot vote in person on May 18. Applications are available from the District Clerk (353-7013) at the Hilltop Building or (e-mail info@nyackschools.com)

District Wins Settlement with NYSED to Correct Data

With the high stakes established for schools and districts by the nation's *No Child Left Behind* legislation, the accuracy of data required for submission to the State by districts is of paramount importance. This month, after being caught in a web of data reporting red tape, the District won a legal settlement with New York State Education Department (NYSED) to correct wrong data published in the State's annual Report Card.

The Board's decision to seek an injunction to correct the published data was the culmination of months of inquiry, protest and appeals involving the District, NYSED, the Rockland Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), and the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC). The situation began in September, 2003 with NYSED's notification to the District that it did not make the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status for High School English, since the sub-group, students with disabilities, did not achieve its acceptable performance index. The District realized, upon review of the original data it submitted, that several students had been misidentified as students with disabilities.

Recalculation with the corrections brought the performance index 10 points above the required objective.

The corrected data was reported, before the NYSED September deadline, to the LHRIC as required by the

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R. Zampolin, Superintendent

State. In additional reports in November the data remained incorrect. Finally, in February, the LHRIC accepted full responsibility for not sending the corrected data in on time. The District was then told that it was too late to make the correction.

Adds Superintendent of Schools, Roberta Zampolin, "It is unconscionable that the NYSED would insist on publishing school accountability data knowing that it is inaccurate. The implications of this problem go far beyond New York State. If State data is inaccurate, the integrity of the *No Child Left Behind* educational policy is seriously compromised. It is unfortunate that it took legal action, and the amount of time, energy and legal fees, to get where we should have been in the first place."

Settlement Highlights: The State...

- has accepted the amended data files sent in by the September deadline
- has formally acknowledged that the data meets the adequate yearly progress (AYP) goal with the Superintendent
- has amended the district's accountability status in the State's data base
- will provide the amended data to the United States Department of Education
- will not consider 2002-03 as the first year that the District failed to make AYP in English. (According to the *No Child Left Behind* Legislation, if a district fails to meet the AYP, for any sub-group on the same test, in an area for two consecutive years, it is identified as a *District in Need of Improvement* (DINI) a designation that has serious consequences for a district.) 7 ■

ON THE BALLOT

Tuesday, May 18, 2004 • Polls are open from 7:00am to 9:00pm

BUDGET PROPOSITION ONE

- YES NO Shall the Board of Education of the Nyack UFSD, Towns of Orangetown and Clarkstown, be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$54,831,842 during the 2004-05 school year and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

What will happen if the budget is not approved?

See questions on page 6-7



BUDGET PROPOSITION TWO

- YES NO Shall the Nyack Board of Education allow a Nyack High School student to serve as a non-voting member of the School Board.

PLEASE NOTE: The Nyack School Board has had a Student Representative on the Board for over 20 years. This year a new State law requires that voters approve such a position. It also requires that the representative be the President of the School's Student Government.

BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION

There are TWO at-large Board positions on the ballot. Voters may cast two votes for Trustees. The two top vote-getters will take office July 1. Candidates drew lots for their order on the ballot.

| Bridget Scott | Philip DeLorenzo, Jr. | Michael Mark | Amy Applebaum |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse • 18 year Nyack resident • 1 child: Nyack graduate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VP, Real Estate Engineering • 26 year VC resident • 4 children: 2 HS, 1 VC, 1 Nyack graduate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving 2nd term • Musician • 17 year VC resident • 2 children: 1 HS, 1 Nyack graduate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Specialist • 14 year VC resident • 3 children: 2 VC, 1 going to HS next year |

You can vote... If you are 18, a citizen, a resident for at least 30 days *and Registered* with the Board of Elections or the District. Absentee ballots are also available. Call 353-7013

For voting information, call the District Clerk at 353-7013.

Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradwi an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044

Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llama a Marie Montañez al 353-7108



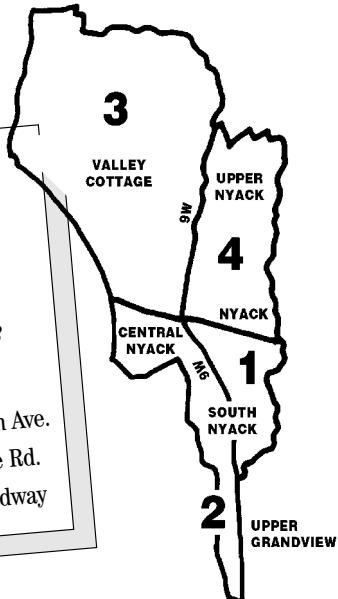
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VOTE:
Tuesday, May 18

For voting information,
call the District Clerk at 353-7013

Poll 1: Depew Manor: 60 Depew Ave.
Poll 2: Hilltop Building: 13A Dickinson Ave.
Poll 3: Valley Cottage School: 26 Lake Rd.
Poll 4: Upper Nyack School: 336 Broadway



To: POSTAL CUSTOMER