

# STRAIGHT TALK<sub>APRIL, 2002</sub>

*FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: ROBERTA R. ZAMPOLIN*

The District welcomes input and questions from the staff and community, and at budget time it is especially encouraged. From the budget's presentation on March 19 to its public vote in May, we will make every effort to help the school community become well informed about the budget and its relationship to the District's vision and goals. Please join us at public sessions, contact us for further information, make sure you are registered to vote, and **VOTE ON MAY 21**.

For a copy of the budget, or other information, call 353-7013  
or e-mail us from our website [www.nyackschools.com](http://www.nyackschools.com) or at [info@nyackdo.lhric.org](mailto:info@nyackdo.lhric.org)

## **PROPOSED 2002-2003 BUDGET: COMMITTED TO EACH STUDENT'S SUCCESS** *Sustains All Programs, Class Sizes, Staffing, & Staff Training* *Despite Reduced State Funding and Increased Costs*

### **INSTRUCTION: 76% of the Budget**

*Supports High Expectations for Each Child As a Regents Diploma for EVERY Student Becomes A Requirement In 2003:*

#### *Highlights:*

- After school and summer support programs
- Avg. class size – K-5 (20) 6-12 (24)
- Collaborative teaching for blended classes
- Comprehensive curriculum revision and development for enrichment and to meet new NYS standards
- Conflict resolution/bias awareness programs
- Elementary level Spanish language
- Extensive staff development
- Full day kindergarten
- Differentiated instruction to meet the needs of academically and culturally diverse learners
- Family Resource Center sites in all elementary schools
- HS TV Studio
- HS Center for Success offering all-day academic support
- Individual tutorial services
- Individual Academic Intervention Services
- **New** Instructional Initiatives: *History Alive, Interdisciplinary English/Social Studies, Poetry Workshop, Real Lives, Real Literature, Drama in Literature, School to Career*
- Ongoing assessment of each child's progress for goal of continuous improvement (*Data Warehouse technology*)
- Program supports for students who choose more rigorous MS and HS courses
- PSAT given to all sophomores and juniors
- **New** Teacher Mentor Program
- Updated computer labs in each school
- Wide range of Honors and AP courses

### **BUDGET FISCAL IMPACT:**

- **BUDGET:** \$50,412,489
- **Budget Increase:** 4.92%
- **Tax Levy Increase:** 6.9%

*The levy is the total amount of revenue to be raised by taxes. **The tax rate can not be calculated until August** when final assessments and state aid figures are available.*

### **PROPOSED STATE BUDGET:**

#### *More Funding Losses*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Year of a State Aid Loss For Nyack**

- **Flex Aid:** decreases restrictions on funding use, but includes BOCES and special education aid - in effect freezing aid for these programs at 2000-01 levels
- **Building Aid:** changes in aid affect past debt and future projects. It could now cost the District \$255,000 and impede future facilities' upgrades.
- **Universal Pre-Kindergarten:** mandated by the State 2 years ago and now inadequately funded to offer to all students requiring assistance.
- **Building Aid Reimbursement:** NYS owes the District \$600,000 in Building Aid, locked in "red tape"

**★STATE AID TO NYACK IS 14.9% OF ITS REVENUE**

**★AVERAGE STATE AID TO NYS DISTRICTS IS ABOUT 40%**

**★INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS, MANDATES, AND COSTS INCREASE, WHILE FUNDING DECREASES**

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## **BUDGET INCREASE HIGHLIGHTS:**

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- BOCES Contract
- Contractual Salary Increases
- Dental Insurance
- Facilities Maintenance
- FICA
- Health Insurance
- Judgements and Claims
- State Retirement
- Transportation Contract
- Unallocated Insurance

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## **BUDGET DECREASE HIGHLIGHTS:**

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- Debt Service
- Band Uniforms (bought last year)
- Fingerprinting
- State Teachers Retirement
- Technology Payment Plan
- Tuition to Other Districts

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## **ON-GOING COST SAVING MEASURES:**

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- ✓ Joint Insurance Pools
- ✓ Cooperative Bidding
- ✓ Energy Conservation
- ✓ Pursuit of Outside Funding
- ✓ Rental of Vacant Facilities
- ✓ Retirement Incentives
- ✓ Salary Schedules Reflect CPI
- ✓ Use of Contracted Services

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## **VOTER FACTS: Tuesday, May 21**

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### **POLLS: Open from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM.**

They are at DePew Manor, the Hilltop Building and the 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 16, 2002** at the Administration Building 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) or by mail to that office.

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## **BOARD CANDIDATES ELECTION:**

- Deadline for candidate petitions is **April 22**
- **36 valid signatures** are needed for a petition
- **Three at-large**, three-year trustee positions, currently held by Bryan Burrell, Vic Czajkowski and Dr. Fletcher Johnson, will be on the ballot
- **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 can not 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.**

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## **ACCORDING TO STATE LAW:**

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### **IF THE BUDGET DOES NOT GAIN VOTER APPROVAL:**

- The Board could schedule *only* one more budget vote.
- The Board could adopt a contingency budget.
- A contingency budget **must be adopted** if after a second vote the budget is still not approved.
- A contingency budget...
  - must be **capped by formula** at a **4.16% budget increase**
  - must fulfill the District's contractual obligations
  - cannot include new equipment
  - cannot include free use of school facilities by youth groups

### **IF A CONTINGENT BUDGET IS ADOPTED THERE WILL BE:**

- **A tax levy** increase of 5.9%
- **Elimination** of all new proposed programs
- **No purchase** of miscellaneous instructional equipment, sports equipment, and musical instruments
- **Fees for youth groups'** use of facilities - PTAs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Clarkstown Recreation, Valley Cottage Indians, CYO, etc.
- **Cuts** of \$270,000 more from District expenses (to be determined)
- **An estimated average cost of a \$1.00 a week less than the proposed budget**

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## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

### **AT THE HILLTOP BUILDING:**

**Tuesday, April 23**

***Budget Workshop/Adoption***

**Tuesday, May 7**

***Budget Information Hearing***

**CALL 353-7013**

**e-mail [Info@nyackdo.lhric.org](mailto:Info@nyackdo.lhric.org)**

***COMPLETE BUDGET AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST***

***Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui 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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