



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

TEACHERS REOPEN CONTRACT TO SAVE MONEY AND PRESERVE PROGRAMS

A contract agreement with the Deer Park Teachers' Association will save the district significant money and continue to support a high level of instruction.

Through collaborative efforts among the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools and Teachers' Association, the modifications will reduce costs by \$1.2 million through the elimination of a deferred 3% raise that was set to go into effect for the 2012-13 school year. In addition, teachers have taken advantage of a retirement incentive, which will save district taxpayers an additional \$1.5 million. As a result of these substantial savings, the district will not have to excess teachers or eliminate programs in order to meet budgetary restrictions for the 2012-13 school year.

Last year the Deer Park Teachers' Association deferred a 3% raise, which freed up \$1.2 million for the district in the current school year. With the economic climate in mind, the district and teachers once again came together as an educational community to respond with a plan that is beneficial to all parties and preserves programs for 2012-13 school year.

CONTROLLING COSTS & MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE

Proposed Budget Under Tax Cap & Supports ALL Staffing and Programs

Dear Community Residents,

Through the collaborative efforts of the Board of Education, administration and community, the district is presenting a budget that preserves all academic programs and staffing through fiscally responsible planning. Throughout the planning process, every area was analyzed and discussed to create an efficient budget that prepares the district for a favorable future.

Guided by tax cap legislation, the district has made no cuts and has successfully developed a budget that carries a 2.50% tax levy increase. While the baseline number of 2% has been used in describing the new tax levy law, this number actually relates to an allowable growth factor, which is one of eight different numbers used to define each school district's cap. **The 2.50% tax levy increase is below the maximum allowable tax levy cap for Deer Park, which is 3.07%.**

We have been able to develop this budget as the result of a longstanding practice of financial stability. Substantial funds from reserves and fund balance will be applied to offset rising operational costs, while ensuring our fiscal condition for the future remains strong. Energy efficiency initiatives continue to improve learning environments districtwide and save money, most recently realized through a \$371,490 check presented by the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). These savings mark the largest energy rebate received by any school district on Long Island.

In addition, this budget supports an increase in services for students, while maintaining a variety of strong athletic and extracurricular programs. The district will also continue to advance student-learning opportunities through the deployment of instructional technology tools into classroom lessons.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 15, from 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at Deer Park High School.

Sincerely,

The Deer Park Board of Education,
Eva J. Demyen, *Superintendent of Schools*,
Marguerite Jimenez, *Assistant Superintendent for
Business & Operations*



Deer Park Union Free School District
Deer Park, New York 11729

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REMEMBER TO VOTE

Tuesday, May 15, 2012
Deer Park High School
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Achievements, Accolades & Awards

The district offers students a versatile selection of courses, programs and extracurricular opportunities, which challenge their educational growth, while allowing them to explore all areas of interest. The impressive efforts of students and teachers are highlighted with the below recognitions.

ACADEMICS

- 41 students named by College Board as Advanced Placement Scholars
- High School student named a 2012 National Merit Commended Scholar
- iPods introduced into speech therapy sessions
- Falcons Catapult Team placed second at the Suffolk County Cooperative Extension competition
- Health Education Action Team (HEAT) presented at New York Highway Safety Symposium
- Middle School student placed third in the Town of Babylon Veterans Awareness Essay Contest
- Students Against Destructive Destinations (SADD) Club hosted an islandwide "Neighbor to Neighbor" equality conference
- Earth science teacher named the Dowling College/News 12 Long Island Educator of the Month
- Middle School student named a semifinalist in "Rock the Statue Green: A Transatlantic Art Contest"

- Middle School student competed at the regional level in the Howard Scripps National Spelling Bee
- High School student selected for Students Inside Albany (SIA) Conference

ATHLETICS

- 8 fall teams & 6 winter teams earned New York State Scholar Athlete status (90+ academic average)
- 3 fall & 2 winter teams received the Section XI Sportsmanship Award
- Fall & winter teams placed in League, Regional, State and National Championships
- Student-athletes were All-County, Academic All-County, All-Conference, All-League and Academic All-League selections
- Student-athletes named Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year
- Varsity basketball player breaks records scoring her 1,000th point
- Senior student-athletes sign National Letters of Intent for collegiate play

ARTS

- Student-musicians districtwide perform with professional ensembles
- 29 students inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society
- High School student artwork featured in a Manhattan exhibit
- 10 High School juniors and seniors attended the New York State Theatre Education Association (NYSTEA) Conference
- 4 students were selected for the Long Island String Festival
- 6 district students performed at the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) and the Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA) All-County Music Festivals
- 7 elementary students chosen to participate in the Suffolk County Music Educators Association Parents, Educators and Kids Festival

AT THE FOREFRONT OF EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

MacBooks as Learning Tools



Following the successful implementation of the one-to-one student laptop initiative for fifth graders at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School, the district has expanded the program to include sixth-grade students at Robert Frost Middle School. The district

has now deployed approximately 700 Apple MacBooks, which both grade levels utilize throughout the school year to enhance curriculum and aid in research.

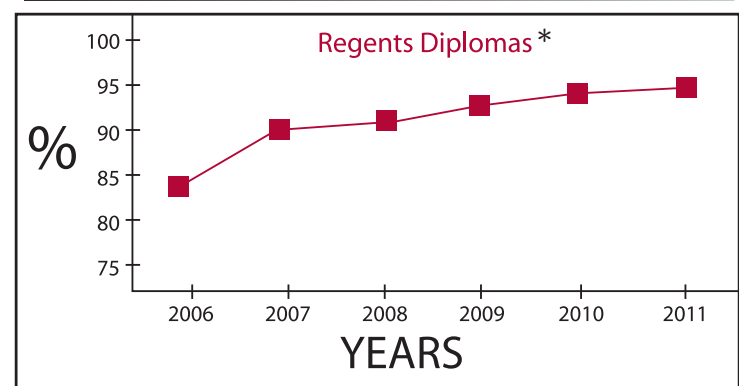
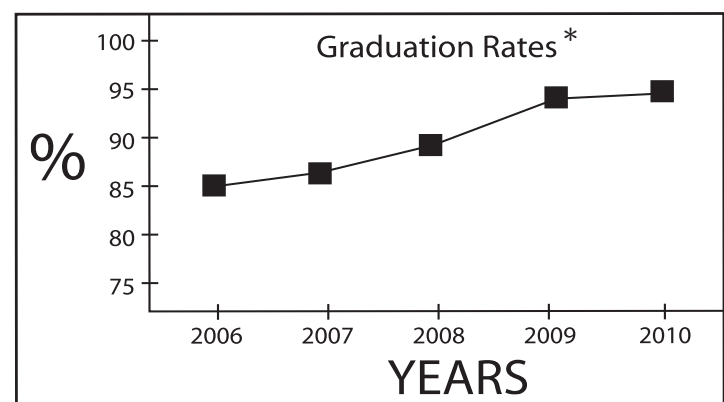
Students have the opportunity to explore academic websites, design interactive presentations and expand their general knowledge. In addition, teachers are able to streamline classroom activities through electronic assessments and encourage collaborative learning.

District a Model for iPad Use

District teachers, speech therapists and students were part of a team of educators, administrators, iPad app developers and camera crew members that came together to showcase what students have learned using the iPad ShowMe application. John F. Kennedy Intermediate School was selected to be featured in this promotional video to illustrate the exemplary use of its application and for its successful integration of the program into the classroom.



CHARTING SUCCESS



*Based on the latest data from the New York State Department of Education

The Skills of Life

The district has opened a groundbreaking facility for its special needs population. The Life Skills Center, located in the Washington School, features a multi-room design that simulates a home setting. Each of the rooms, which include a kitchen, bedroom and living space, provides a platform for students to learn specific skill sets and encourages them to become independent problem solvers. This hub of education allows students to take on everyday tasks in an interactive learning environment. Students have the ability to work to their full potential and assist one another through the process.

E X P E N D I T U R E S

2012-2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2011-12 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2012-13 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT			
BOE/ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$63,918	\$67,520	5.64%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	283,158	285,176	0.71%
FINANCE	1,010,714	1,032,562	2.16%
STAFF	547,562	516,325	-5.70%
CENTRAL SERVICES	6,980,554	6,919,220	-0.88%
SPECIAL ITEMS (BOCES, MTA Payroll Tax, Insurance)	1,092,644	899,443	-17.68%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$9,978,550	\$9,720,246	-2.59%
INSTRUCTION			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,646,268	\$3,856,855	5.78%
TEACHING	31,363,804	31,974,662	1.95%
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	13,924,633	13,111,637	-5.84%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	96,250	95,850	-0.42%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	2,142,948	2,266,859	5.78%
PUPIL SERVICES	4,861,969	6,304,771	29.68%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$56,035,872	\$57,610,634	2.81%
TRANSPORTATION			
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$4,339,331	\$4,482,100	3.29%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$24,218,076	\$25,814,291	6.59%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	800,000	660,000	-17.50%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$25,018,076	\$26,474,291	5.82%
DEBT SERVICES			
TOTAL DEBT SERVICES	\$2,429,242	\$2,931,454	20.67%
GRAND TOTALS	\$97,801,071	\$101,218,725	3.49%

Efficient Facilities = Savings

All components of the district's energy efficiency plan have been installed and the educational community is benefiting both financially and environmentally.



To date, the district has earned \$371,490 in rebates, the largest of any school district on Long Island, and was presented with a check from LIPA. Savings will continue to grow while students and teachers are enjoying a more environmentally sound workplace. Facility upgrades can be seen throughout the district. Highlights include:

- Energy Management Systems
- Heat Distribution Systems
- Computer Power Management Systems
- Water Conservation
- Lighting Fixture Controls
- Renewable Energy Systems
- Univent Radiators

The proposed budget includes bus purchases and a provision for various capital improvement projects.

ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2011-12 BUDGET	2012-13 PROPOSED
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$3,187,081	\$4,028,143
LOCAL REVENUES	\$4,993,415	\$3,569,780
STATE AID TOTAL	\$22,825,630	\$23,436,653
USE OF RESERVES	\$660,000	\$2,000,000
FUND BALANCE	\$4,125,000	\$4,625,000
TAX LEVY	\$62,009,945	\$63,559,149
TOTAL REVENUES	\$97,801,071	\$101,218,725

2012-13 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY/RATE

Expenditures	\$101,218,725
Revenues	\$31,034,576
Use of Fund Balance	\$4,625,000
Use of Reserves	\$2,000,000
Tax Levy	\$63,559,149

Tax Levy % Increase 2.50%

Projected 2012-13 Tax Rate	\$184.17
Present 2011-12 Tax Rate	\$177.78
Tax Rate Increase	\$6.39
Estimated Tax Rate % Increase	3.60%

Deer Park
below
maximum
allowable
tax levy rate
3.07%



Questions and Answers

Q: What are the main components of a school district budget?

A: There are two accounting segments that comprise the district budget—expenditures and revenues. Expenditures are calculated for instruction, central services, transportation, and other categories listed in the chart entitled “Expenditures.” The district derives revenue to fund expenditures from the tax levy, State Aid, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from Suffolk County for businesses operating in Deer Park, interest on account balances, BOCES reimbursements, and related services as seen on the chart entitled “Estimated Revenues.” The budget must be structured to balance expenditures with anticipated revenues.

Q: Does the proposed tax levy increase comply with the NYS tax cap?

A: Yes. The commonly referred to “2% property tax cap” is not technically a 2% restriction. Rather, it is a calculated percentage that may fall below or rise above 2% and still be within a district’s allowable “cap” guidelines. There is an eight-step formula that determines each school district’s respective “cap” or tax levy limit. The maximum allowable tax levy cap for Deer Park is 3.07%. Since we are not planning to exceed the cap with a proposed 2.50% levy increase, our budget will require the standard majority vote of 50% + 1 for approval. If the proposed budget carried a tax levy increase greater than our limit, it would require a supermajority of 60% voter approval. This is not the case. Just because we are below the cap does not mean the proposed budget is automatically adopted. Voter approval is still required.

Q: What is the difference between tax levy and tax rate?

A: The tax levy is the amount of money the Board of Education requests from the Town of Babylon in order to balance the budget after state aid and other revenues are taken into consideration. The tax rate is not set by the Board of Education. The Town Assessor calculates the assessed valuation of the properties in the Town of Babylon from which the tax rate is calculated. It is important to note that the new tax levy limit applies only to the school district’s tax levy, NOT to tax rate or individual tax bill.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 15th:

- The budget may be presented for one more vote prior to July.
- If the Board opts not to have a second vote, it can immediately adopt a Contingency (austerity) Budget, which this year would force the district to operate with a 0% tax levy increase under the new tax cap law.

If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district MUST adopt at 0% by law.

Q: How would a 0% tax levy affect the district?

A: As in the past, under a normal Contingency Budget, free community use of buildings, equipment purchases, non-emergency capital projects and spending on certain non-mandated student programs would be prohibited. In addition, class size, athletics, co-curricular clubs, after-school busing, student supplies, instructional supplies, field trips, and all summer school programs would be subject to reductions.

ELECTION OF TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES

You may also vote for two Board of Education Trustee seats on the May 15, 2012, ballot. The candidates running unopposed are:

Donna Marie Elliott Robert Marino

BUDGET HEARING

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the District Office Boardroom located at 1881 Deer Park Avenue.

VOTER INFORMATION

Voter Eligibility & Registration:

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 15 Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election you must be:

- a citizen of the United States
- eighteen (18) years of age or older (we encourage eligible students to exercise their right to vote)
- a resident of the Deer Park School District for 30 days prior to vote
- registered to vote with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or registered with the school district

Registration is required if you have not voted within four years in a general election or school election. Registration will be held on:

- Thursday, May 3, 4:00-8:00 pm at JFK Intermediate School
- Monday, May 7, 4:00-8:00 pm at Deer Park HS
- Wednesday, May 9, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at JQA Elementary School
- Thursday, May 10, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at May Moore Elementary School

For more information, or to obtain an application for an absentee ballot, contact the District Clerk at 631-274-4013 or visit the district’s website, www.deerparkschools.org to download a form.



John Gouskos, President • Frank T. Wilkinson, Vice President
 Donna Marie Elliott • Donna Gulli-Grunseich • Robert Marino
 Keith Rooney • Ronald Wayne
 Lisa Brennan, District Clerk
 Eva J. Demyen, Superintendent of Schools