



**Vote May 20th
at Deer Park HS
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

Proposed 2008/09 Budget Highlights:

- Preserves, Expands Instructional & Extracurricular Programs
- Maintains, Reduces Class Sizes
- Adds New Computer Workstations (JQA & MM)
- Enhances Athletic Fields
- Adds SMARTBoards for all levels
- Adds AP courses in Social Studies
- Expands AP/College-Level Programs
- Provides New World Language and Math Textbooks
- Extends ESL Program
- Expands Bridge and Autism Programs
- Adds Elementary Special Education, ESL & Physical Education Staff
- Enhances Security (staff)
- Adds 2 Elementary Assistant Principals
- Continues Professional Development
- Funds Ongoing Bus Replacements
- Preserves Summer School for Elementary, Secondary & Special Needs Students
- Provides for Capital Improvements (Building Infrastructure)
- Reduces the Tax Rate

PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCES TAXES WHILE ENHANCING PROGRAM

After months of working with our central administrators, building principals and department directors, and after considering community input, the Board of Education is proposing a budget for the 2008/09 school year that effectively instills rigor into our academic program and absorbs increasing operational costs.

The proposed budget carries an expenditure increase of 4.83%, which is reasonable considering today's educational costs. More importantly, thanks to fiscal prudence, operational efficiencies, the application of a healthy fund balance, and a better than \$3 million increase in State aid, the budget actually results in a **DECREASE** in the tax rate of 0.41%.

The Board of Education and administration are grateful for the support of the community in recent years. Earlier this school year, the Board pledged to apply a considerable portion of fund balance and every dollar of State aid toward holding the line on taxes. We are following through on this commitment.

This year, the proposed budget preserves all instructional, extracurricular, and athletic programs, while lowering class sizes in many areas. In fact, we are expanding some extracurricular and athletic activities and athletic fields. Due to enrollment, we will be adding an assistant principal at JFK Intermediate School and restoring another AP whose time will be divided between John Quincy Adams and May Moore Primary Schools.

New computer workstations will be created at both of these schools and SMARTBoards will be added at every level. Advanced Placement and College-Level offerings at the high school will be expanded, as well as the Bridge and Autism programs. ESL instruction will be enhanced. Elementary and secondary summer school will

be available, as well as summer instruction for students with special needs. New textbooks in World Languages and Mathematics will also be purchased.

There will be enhancements to security, and we are continuing to upgrade our fleet of buses. Motion sensors will be installed at our secondary schools to control lighting, continuing our mission to be more energy-efficient. Sensors for other schools will be addressed in future budgets. We also plan to install energy-efficient lighting in our schools this year and are exploring opportunities to upgrade our boilers at no cost to taxpayers, initiatives that will conserve energy, significantly reduce emissions, and yield annual utilities savings.

This is the fourth year in a row the Board has been able to propose a budget that carries a lower tax rate impact than the year before. As school leaders, we are confident that the proposed spending plan truly balances the educational needs of our children with the constraints of taxpayers, while placing our students in a position to succeed in our global society.

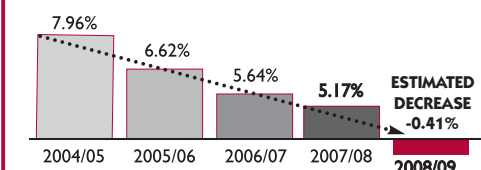
Please read this newsletter carefully for more information on the proposed budget and how your support has produced positive results!

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Ryan,
Board of Education President

A DECREASE IN THE TAX RATE

The District has lowered the tax rate increase in the last four years while still instilling rigor into the academic/extracurricular program. For the 2008/09 year, we are proposing a tax cut.



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

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How a CONTINGENCY BUDGET CAN AFFECT PROGRAMS

Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 20, the budget may be presented for one more vote prior to July. If the Board of Education opts to hold a second budget vote (which is not required), it could make further expenditure reductions, put the same budget up for vote, or adopt a Contingency (Austerity) Budget. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the District must adopt a Contingency Budget by law. This year, the New York State imposed cap for a Contingency Budget is 3.36%, which factors in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and allows for some excludable expenses based on enrollment, debt service, and other factors.

If the Board were forced to adopt a Contingency Budget, about \$1 million in valuable non-mandated programs and services would need to be cut. Extracurricular activities, athletics, and the fine arts are among the programs that the Board would have to consider cutting in such a scenario. The Board of Education values the well-rounded program that our students benefit from – and our community is proud of. History has shown it takes several years for a school district to restore all of the programs that are lost after just one year of operating under a Contingency Budget.

The Board has implemented sound fiscal practices to control the tax rate, and our community has been supportive so that programs are preserved and the learning environment continues to improve.

VOTER INFORMATION

**Voting:
Tuesday, May 20, 2008
7 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Deer Park High School**

Voter Eligibility:

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 20 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 the 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. For more information, or to obtain an absentee ballot, contact the District Clerk at 274-4013.

ELECTION OF TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES

You may also vote for two Board of Education Trustee seats on the May 20, 2008 ballot. The candidates are:



**Vote for One
Magda Parvey
Dennis P. Ryan**

*Three-Year Term
Last Incumbent: Dennis P. Ryan*



**Vote for One
Ronald Wayne
Nick Cangero**

*Three-Year Term
Last Incumbent: Ronald Wayne*



Dennis P. Ryan, President • John Gouskos, Vice President
Rose Bruner • Robert Marino • Keith Rooney
Ronald Wayne • Frank Wilkinson
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk
Elizabeth Marino, Superintendent of Schools

PRIDE SOARS

The proposed 2008/09 budget was designed to build upon our successes; further improving teaching and learning and assuring that state and federal mandates are met. Included is a strong complement of offerings that enhance students' social and physical development. Here are some accomplishments from this past year and programs we are most proud of:

- 3 Deer Park High School students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a Semifinalist, Commended Student, and Scholar-Finalist of the National Hispanic Scholarship Program.
- World Language students interact with May Moore and JQA Elementary students in distance learning videoconferencing curriculum.
- Advanced Placement Macroeconomics students participated in the first Hofstra/New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) Commodities Challenge.
- Chemistry and physics students built a detector station with technicians from Brookhaven National Laboratory to house a cosmic ray analytical device.
- Robert Frost Middle School Theatre and Arts classes participated in the 15th Annual New York City Student Shakespeare Festival.
- High School hosted 17 schools for competition in the 3rd Annual Deer Park For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Invitational in conjunction with the School-Business Partnerships of Long Island.
- High School e-CommerceEd and Small Business Management students won the award for "Best Written Business Plan in New York State" for their ScoresUp websites.
- Environmental Club students competing in Long Island Regional "Envirothon."
- John F. Kennedy students presented with award from Long Island Blood Services for participation in the Little Doctors program.
- High School student received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award from the University of Rochester.
- 7 Deer Park staff members and school officials were recognized by the Suffolk County Organization for the Promotion of Education (SCOPE).
- 48 students were chosen for the Honors Choir of the New York City Young People's Chorus. Deer Park is the only school district from Long Island to participate in the program.
- 10 students from Deer Park High School were chosen to have their artwork displayed in the Long Island Media Arts Show.
- All 4th grade students participated in a program, funded by the New York State Music Fund, that taught them about world music and diverse cultures.
- JFK Intermediate School and JQA Elementary School received Honor School status from the Suffolk Reading Council for the promotion and advancement of student development in literacy.
- Marching Falcons won their 6th USSBA New York State Championship; will perform in Washington D.C. on July 4th.
- May Moore and JQA Elementary students participated in Parents As Reading Partners (PARP), tallying book titles read, meeting authors, and creating literacy projects.
- SMARTBoard technology in being integrated across the curriculum at every grade level, engaging students and enhancing classroom instruction.
- JFK Intermediate School students are enjoying a new piano lab, donated by Five Towns College.
- DPHS was awarded \$1,000 grant from Allstate insurance company due to efforts to encourage safe teenage driving.
- DECA Students placed in the NY State and International Conferences.
- College Fair: Attended by more than 65 colleges, more than 400 students and family members participated.
- DPHS earned 2nd place honors out of 26 schools in the SUNY Stony Brook Protein Folding Team Challenge.
- DPHS earned Blue Star School honors for its performance on the 2007 Financial Literacy Certification Test.
- Advanced Placement course offerings: 24 classes, 379 students (up from 12 and 267).
- Leadership/Decision-Making initiatives:
 - 125 students/staff members participated in Challenge Day.
 - Grades 9-12 participated in Rachel's Challenge program.
 - Grades 9-12 participated in 10 Seconds program.
- 15 Scholar-Athlete Teams to date this year with 90+ academic avg. (Spring TBA)



GRANTS THAT SUPPORT EDUCATION

The District continues to utilize available government monies to improve our programs and schools:

- More SMARTBoards (Every School)
- Safe & Drug-Free Schools Program (Peer Mediation, Personal Safety)
- Remedial Math Help (Staff and Supplies)
- Parent Resource Center (Parenting Workshops)
- Professional Development
- Administrative Mentor Program
- Teacher Mentor Program
- EXCEL Capital Improvements (Voter Approved)
- Theatre Program (RFMS & DPHS)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: An Eye on Efficiency

The Board of Education is in the process of moving forward on a number of initiatives to conserve energy, enhance services and facilities, and save taxpayers money.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

An energy audit was completed at all 9 District buildings **at no cost to taxpayers.** The Board is working with Keyspan Energy to secure 4 new high-efficiency boilers at Deer Park High School, producing thousands of dollars in LIPA rebates and saving the district a projected \$400,000 per year in utility costs. These boilers would also be provided **at no cost to taxpayers** and would reduce natural gas and fuel oil consumption (going from a 70% efficiency rating to 95%). The recommissioning of 6 cogeneration units, already in place at our buildings, will utilize natural gas to generate electricity. Deer Park High School is currently operating at a 93% energy efficiency level, an impressive number when compared to similar school facilities around the country, and considering the age of the building. **These changes will also reduce the amount of carbon emissions by 752 cubic tons (current levels meet EPA safety standards).** With regard to climate change, this is the equivalent to planting 1,000 trees.

The Board of Education is also exploring opportunities for solar energy, working with its Green Committee, as well as weighing the benefits of converting (not replacing) the existing bus fleet to "clean air" buses that run on natural gas. Light sensors will be installed at every school in the District, beginning with the largest schools: Deer Park High School and Robert Frost Middle School next year. The sensors will automatically turn off lights when a room is unoccupied, conserving electricity. This project will pay for itself after just two and a half months. Energy efficient Gymnasium lighting has also been installed at JFK Intermediate School.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The State Education Department has accepted the plans for all projects associated with the community-approved, grant-funded EXCEL initiative. The District awaits approval on the following projects, **all of which will not impact taxes:**

- Technology infrastructure upgrades and additional SMARTBoard purchases
- Science lab renovation (new tables, sinks, furniture, and other science equipment)
- Fire alarm replacement (multiple schools)

Additionally, a major roof restoration project was undertaken at JFK Intermediate School last summer. The Board aggressively pursued the contractor and validated a warranty on the original roof, saving approximately \$1 million. The Deer Park High School Gymnasium bleachers were replaced earlier this year as well. These bleachers were originally to be funded through the EXCEL initiative; however, their condition became a cause for safety concerns that needed to be addressed more expeditiously.



EXPENDITURES

2008-2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2007-08 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2008-09 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$70,700	\$93,350	32.03%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$279,400	\$295,900	5.90%
FINANCE	\$806,100	\$887,400	10.08%
STAFF	\$605,950	\$636,000	4.95%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$6,846,500	\$7,819,450	14.21%
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$1,093,850	\$1,200,950	9.79%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$9,702,500	\$10,933,050	12.68%
INSTRUCTION			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,224,950	\$3,458,950	7.25%
TEACHING	\$27,182,685	\$29,169,550	7.30%
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	\$13,370,700	\$13,111,450	10.09%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	\$282,350	\$295,800	4.76%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	\$2,221,750	\$2,669,950	20.17%
PUPIL SERVICES	\$4,048,550	\$4,725,050	16.71%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$50,330,985	\$53,430,750	6.15%
TRANSPORTATION			
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$3,972,750	\$4,296,150	8.14%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$21,409,050	\$21,907,550	2.32%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$1,601,500	\$783,000	-51.10%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$23,010,550	\$22,690,550	-1.39%
DEBT SERVICES			
TOTAL DEBT SERVICES	\$3,099,200	\$3,120,650	0.69%
GRAND TOTALS	\$90,115,985	\$94,471,150	4.83%

2008-09 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY/RATE

Expenditures	\$94,471,150
Revenues	- \$31,433,195
Use of Fund Balance	- \$ 2,701,082
Tax Levy	\$60,336,873
Projected 2008-09 Tax Rate	\$165.79
Present 2007-08 Tax Rate	- \$166.48
Difference	\$ -0.69 or -0.41%

Last year's tax rate increase was 5.17%

ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2007-08 BUDGET	2008-09 PROPOSED
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
LOCAL REVENUES	\$3,195,800	\$2,789,800
STATE AID TOTAL	\$21,958,184	\$25,943,395
USE OF RESERVES	\$0	\$0
FUND BALANCE	\$1,675,000	\$2,701,082
TAX LEVY	\$60,587,001	\$60,336,873
TOTAL REVENUES	\$90,115,985	\$94,471,150