



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT



Driving Forces Behind the Proposed Budget

- Maintain educational excellence and integrity in order to continue the district's gains in student achievement.
- Multi-year financial plan that considers limited resources from State and Federal government.

2010-2011 Budget Supports

- All Current Instructional and Extracurricular Programs Maintained
- Current Class Sizes that are Lower than State and County Average Class Sizes
- Additional AP/College-Level Courses
- Expanded Autism Program
- Internship and School-to-Work Program for 12th Graders
- Additional Security Systems
- Enhanced Collaboration with Suffolk Community College
- Professional Staff Development
- Bus Replacement Plan
- Summer School for Elementary, Secondary and Special Needs Students
- Repairs and Improvements to Buildings and Grounds
- Energy Performance Contract
- One-to-One Apple Laptop Program – 5th Grade

Long Range Planning

Supports Achievement & Controls Spending

Dear Residents,

Thank you for all of your past and present support. Our district continues to proceed on the right track. Over the last three years our standardized test scores – including Regents exams are up; college placements are up; and our districts facilities, grounds and fields, and gyms have never looked better. This all happens because we as a community stand behind our school district and together we have supported the budget process over the past three years. We also have a staff, administration, teachers, clerical, and buildings and grounds crew who have all done a stellar job of making the Deer Park School District one of the best in New York State and a source of community pride.

Your Board of Education takes its educational responsibility to the students and its financial responsibility to the taxpaying community very seriously. Our district's finances have been given a clean bill of health by the State Comptroller and in annual external audits, which is why you didn't see Deer Park School District in the papers. In 2008-09 we had one of the lowest tax increases in New York State, and the corresponding budget resulted in a decrease in taxes. All while maintaining sound programs for students and realizing ongoing improvement.

In preparing the 2010-11 proposed budget, the Board and administration took a hard look at the economic outlook of New York State and the dysfunctional situation in Albany. The Governor is proposing 2.2 million cut in State Aid for Deer Park in the 2010-2011 school year, and we anticipate additional cuts in 2011-2012.

It's up to us to do what's right for our children. Through long-range planning the Board and administration are making every effort to accurately project the fiscal environment for the next five years, and in the process, budgeting for the long-term so that we can preserve our fiscal health and continue to provide our children with a quality education at a manageable cost. It has been an enlightening experience and one that will leave our district better off moving into the future.

Every line item in the budget has been cut to the bone, without negatively impacting our program. We have applied some monies into the budget's capital line to ensure the safety of our students and upkeep of our school buildings. Additionally, we are continuing to apply reserves responsibly to control the tax impact

and to ensure our valuable academic, extracurricular, music and fine arts and athletics stay in place. Lastly, this budget shows a reduction in full-time

teaching staff by four positions, again without negatively impacting the classroom.

Our proposed 0.66% budget increase is once again very small compared to other districts, and the associated tax increase of 2.9% is comparable. Other districts on Long Island will propose larger increases with drastic staff reductions. Your Board and administration have already begun to seek ways of fending off those issues in the future years. As is happening in other districts across Long Island, the Board has formally asked the leadership of the Deer Park Teachers Association to reopen the contract to work together to find a way to keep the staffing levels in 2011-2012 secure, which is important to all of us. Unfortunately, while we appreciate their first offer, it provided a short-term solution with long-term financial consequences that we could not in good conscience accept on behalf of the community. I remain hopeful that we can continue to work together to find the best solution to the issues we face in 2011-2012. As promised when I became your President, negotiations will not be done in secret or behind closed doors. Since salaries are the major part of taxes for the school district I have always believed, as does the Board of Education, that what we are negotiating should be out in the open for the public to understand. This should not be a surprise to any bargaining unit or any member of this community. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

Despite a state mandated increase in the district's contributions toward retirement contributions this year, New York school districts (including ours) have made inroads to healthcare contributions and reasonable salary agreements with instructional staff, unlike in the neighboring state of New Jersey where the financial crisis, overall, is much more acute (they have an \$11 billion budget deficit).

Unfortunately, the local media would rather attempt to liken our situation to New Jersey in an effort to create negative headlines, rather than acknowledge the fact that New York taxpayers are generally more supportive of their schools systems (97% of NYS school budgets passed last year, as opposed to NJ, where routinely 25% fail). Quality school systems with supportive residents are the factors that make Long Island one of the most desirable places to live and raise a family.

Please be assured that the Board and administration will continue to operate in a responsible, and open fashion with the community. As always, we welcome your input, encourage you to read this, and future issues of *The Standard*, attend future Board meetings and please remember to vote on May 18th.

Good Luck and God Bless,
Dennis P. Ryan
President, Deer Park Board of Education

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

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BE PART OF THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE

Budget Vote
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Deer Park HS
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

What Makes Deer Park a High-Value School District?

- Visionary Board of Education and Administration
- Highly professional and dedicated staff
- Supportive and involved community
- Curriculum exceeding New York State Standards
- Local, state and national academic recognition
- A safe and secure environment that supports academic success and social responsibility

- Effective long-range financial planning
- District fiscal accountability and stability
- Award-winning music and fine arts programs
- Technology-integrated instruction
- Exemplary Foreign Language, ESL and Special Needs Programs
- Districtwide Character Education Program and Community Service
- Extensive athletic program



Your Tax Dollars at Work

Student achievement continues to be a great source of community pride. The 2010-11 budget was designed to build upon the district's past successes.

ACADEMICS

- 37 Deer Park Students named by College Board as Advanced Placement Scholars
- The past two HS Valedictorians have been accepted to Harvard
- Recent graduates were accepted to several Ivy League schools, including Harvard, Yale, Brown, Duke, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania
- Technology integrated into curriculum prepares students for 21st Century learning
- 75% of classrooms will be equipped with SMART Boards
- Continued rise in student performance in the areas of ESL and World Languages
- 40 DPHS students inducted into the National Honor Society
- MM Elementary Autism Program awarded \$50,000 Grant
- Enhanced Special Education services helps to return Deer Park students to district
- Expanded Special Education Social Skills Program
- Comprehensive Character Education and enrichment programs throughout district
- 7 MM and JFK students honored in NYS Assemblyman Rai's "There Ought to Be a Law" Poster Contest
- 25 DPHS DECA chapter members competed in the State Career Conference
- DPHS *Keep The Drive Team* named a finalist in Allstate Foundation's "Act Out Loud" contest
- 2 DPHS students won "Honoring Our Future Leaders" Essay Competition
- RFMS students participated in the Scholastic Books Summer Reading Challenge
- DPHS students partner with MSG Varsity network for real world media experience
- 5 DPHS students attended first annual "Compassion Without Borders" leadership summit
- RFMS Catapult Team placed second at regional Pumpkin Fling competition
- Continuous districtwide community service projects

THE ARTS

- 18 students performed in SCMEA All-County Music Festival
- 3 students performed in NYSSMA All-State Music Conference
- DPHS Women's Chorus selected to perform at Carnegie Hall
- District musicians performed with United States Army Field Band

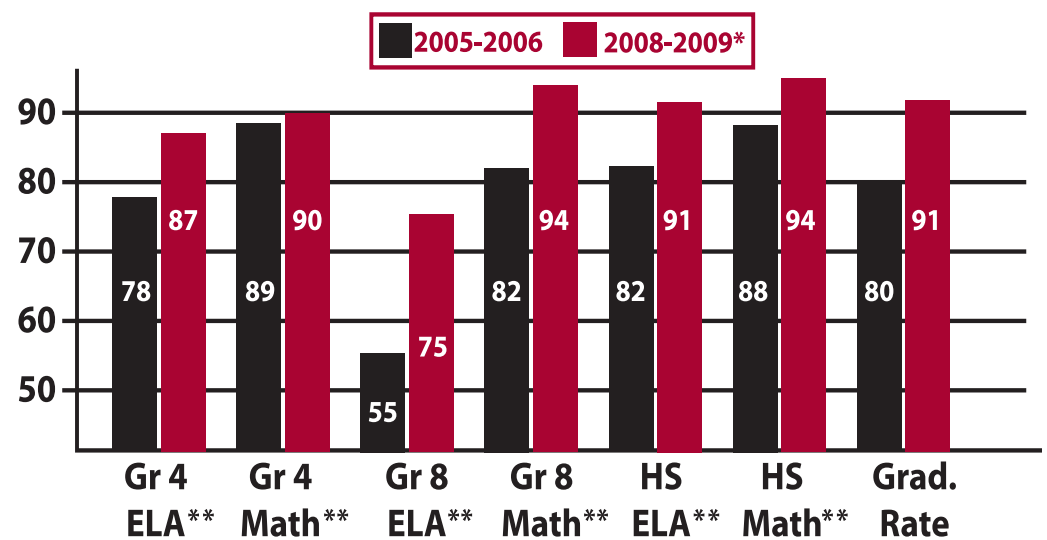
ATHLETICS

- 5 DPHS student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent
- 8 Fall and 7 Winter Athletic Teams named by Section XI as Scholar-Athlete Teams (90+ academic average)
- 2 Fall and 1 Winter Athletic Teams named Section XI Sportsmanship Teams
- 2 DPHS students won Suffolk Zone Award for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

SOARING RESULTS

District Assessment Scores Continue to Climb

**Percentage of DP students scoring in Levels 3/4, thus meeting/exceeding NYS standards.



* Latest Figures Available

COST-SAVING INITIATIVES

- Reduction in administrative staff
- Energy Performance Contract
- Bus replacement plan to reduce costly repair expenses on older buses
- Returning our own special education students from out-of-district to in-district programs
- Bulk purchasing and review of vendor contracts

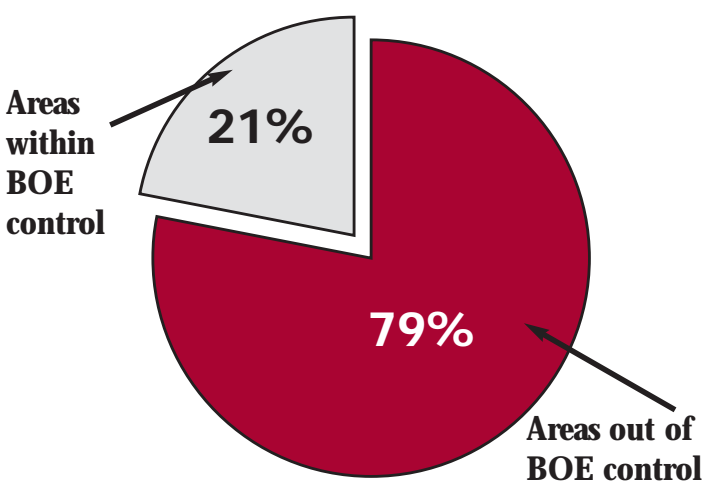


E X P E N D I T U R E S

2010-2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2009-10 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT			
BOE/ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$97,450	\$65,865	-32.41%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$276,950	\$291,063	5.10%
FINANCE	\$897,640	\$875,276	-2.49%
STAFF	\$644,140	\$576,370	-10.52%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$7,460,700	\$7,555,229	1.27%
SPECIAL ITEMS (BOCES, MTA Payroll Tax, Insurance)	\$1,252,230	\$1,133,689	-9.47%
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	\$10,629,110	\$10,497,492	-1.24%
INSTRUCTION			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,698,350	\$3,702,929	0.12%
TEACHING	\$29,840,150	\$30,890,097	3.52%
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	\$14,026,130	\$13,816,993	-1.49%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	\$214,450	\$222,250	3.64%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	\$2,541,900	\$2,505,613	-1.43%
PUPIL SERVICES	\$4,605,050	\$4,803,339	4.31%
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$54,926,030	\$55,941,221	1.85%
TRANSPORTATION			
TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$4,206,570	\$4,419,756	5.07%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$20,603,000	\$21,115,000	2.49%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$1,455,000	\$1,050,000	-27.84%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$22,058,000	\$22,165,000	0.49%
DEBT SERVICES			
TOTAL DEBT SERVICES	\$2,764,850	\$2,186,342	-20.92%
GRAND TOTALS	\$94,584,560	\$95,209,811	0.66%

Percent of Budget Set by BOE



Did You Know...

Over the past 3 years, the district's tax rate has only increased an average of 1%!

ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2009-10 BUDGET	2010-11 PROPOSED
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
LOCAL REVENUES	\$2,892,100	\$2,746,700
STATE AID TOTAL	\$25,973,417	\$24,494,568
USE OF RESERVES	\$0	\$1,100,000
FUND BALANCE	\$3,400,000	\$3,000,000
TAX LEVY	\$59,447,443	\$61,168,543
TOTAL REVENUES	\$94,412,960	\$95,209,811

State & Federal Unfunded Mandates Impact Tax Levy

The State and Federal governments impose directives upon the school district. These requirements are often unfunded or underfunded, forcing taxpayers to assume the financial costs associated with the mandate. For the Deer Park School District these mandates amount to:

\$1,923,505

2010-11 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY/RATE

Expenditures	\$ 95,209,811
Revenues	\$ 29,941,268
Use of Fund Balance	\$ 3,000,000
Use of Reserves	\$ 1,100,000
Tax Levy	\$ 61,168,543

Projected 2010-11 Tax Rate	\$172.09
Present 2009-10 Tax Rate	\$167.25
Tax Rate Increase	\$4.84

Tax Rate % Increase 2.9%

Proposition #3: Transportation Uniformity (No Tax Increase)

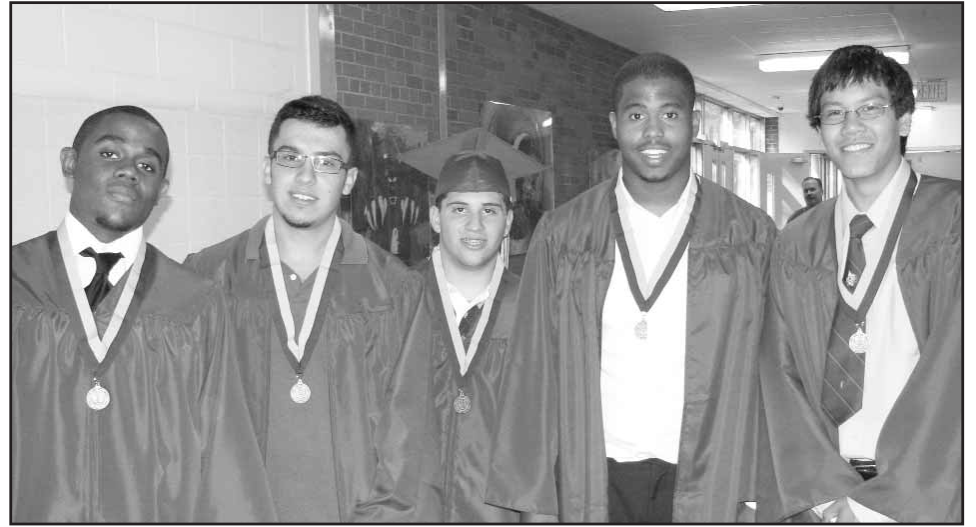
In addition to voting on the proposed budget, residents will also have the opportunity to vote on a proposition to change the district's Transportation Mileage Requirements. **If approved, this change would NOT increase transportation costs nor the number of buses or stops. Rather, this change would provide more uniform busing for district students.** If approved, the new requirements, which would become effective for the 2010-2011 school year, would be:

Current Mileage Limits		Proposed <u>NEW</u> Mileage Limits	
Grades	Mileage	Grades	Mileage
K	1/4 Mile	K-2	1/4 Mile
1-3	1/2 Mile	3-5.....	1/2 Mile
4-8	1 Mile	6-8.....	1 Mile
9-12	1.5 Miles	9-12.....	1.5 Miles

ELECTION OF THREE BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES

You may also vote for three Board of Education Trustee seats on the May 18, 2010 ballot. The candidates are:

John Gouskos
Keith Rooney
Frank T. Wilkinson



VOTER INFORMATION

Voter Eligibility & Registration:

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 18 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: Monday, May 10 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm @ Robert Frost Middle School and Tuesday, May 13 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm @ John F. Kennedy School. For more information, or to obtain an application for an absentee ballot, contact the District Clerk at 274-4013 or visit the district's website, www.deerparkschools.org to download a form.

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 revenue. Expenditures are made 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, and other sources including utility sales taxes, 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 revenue.

Q: With a Budget-to-Budget Increase of 0.66% why are taxes increasing by 2.90%?

A: Revenues have decreased. The district's overall State Aid will decrease and the amount of Federal Stimulus money has diminished. As a result of these actions the district taxpayers are forced to absorb and fund a greater portion of the budget.

Q: If we are preserving ALL student programs, what has the district done to try and control expenditures?

A: All areas have been reviewed and reductions have been made to several categories to make for a leaner budget. The district will save money on some employee salaries and benefits by restructuring staff and replacing retiring teachers with lower-salaried personnel. We are also reducing instructional staff based on enrollment in certain courses. Additionally, we have been able to achieve savings through the installment of more energy-efficient building systems, including heating and lighting.

Q: Will the transportation proposition increase the budget?

A: No, the proposed transportation changes will not increase the budget. If approved, the changes will help to provide more uniform busing for district students without a cost impact or increasing/decreasing the number of buses or stops.

Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?

A: Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 18th:

- The budget may be presented for one more vote prior to July or the Board can adopt a Contingency Budget.
- If the Board opts not to have a second vote, it can immediately adopt a Contingency (austerity) Budget. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district MUST adopt a Contingency Budget by law. Contingency budgets are restricted, and if the district were forced to adopt such a budget, spending would be greatly restrictive. Equipment purchases, non-emergency capital projects and spending on certain non-mandated student programs would be prohibited.

Q: How would a Contingency Budget affect the district?

A: A Contingency Budget could affect class size, athletics, co-curricular clubs, after school busing, equipment, student supplies, instructional supplies, field trips, building use and all summer school programs.

Would you like to ask a Question?

Log onto the Board of Education website at www.deerparkboe.com and register for our blog. You may also log on through www.deerparkschools.org by clicking on the Board of Education link. You may also ask questions at the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at District Office Boardroom located at 1881 Deer Park Avenue.



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