

Minisink Valley Central School District

June 2010

We teach someone you love.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On June 15, 2010, the board of education will be asking for voter approval of a new operating budget for the 2010-2011 school year. This revised budget is \$150,000 lower than the budget that was defeated on May 18 and \$1,275,412 lower than the current operating budget. As you all know, New York State is in fiscal distress which has resulted in the loss of \$2.7 million dollars in state aid to Minisink Valley School District. Our district was faced with difficult choices because of this loss.

We invite the community to visit the budget page of our web site www.minisink.com to view the presentation from the June 3, 2010 budget hearing, along with questions asked and answered about this budget revote. The most frequently asked and answered questions are given below. We hope the information shared in this newsletter and on our web site will help you make an informed decision on June 15, 2010. Thank you for your continued support of Minisink Valley and its students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray,
Superintendent of Schools

	Current Operating Budget for the 2009-2010 School Year	Proposed Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year Defeated on May 18	Revised Proposed Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year
Total Budget Amount	\$84,183,807	\$83,058,395	\$82,908,395
Percentage Decrease		-1.34%	-1.52%
Projected Tax Levy Increase	1.5%	2.4%	1.98%

Frequently Asked Questions About the Revised 2010-2011 Budget

1. Why didn't the board of education raise the budget and impose a higher tax levy as some people asked them to do?

In light of the fiscal crisis gripping our state and our nation, the board realized that many members of our community are struggling to make ends meet. They truly did not believe that the taxpayers of the district could afford a higher tax levy.

2. What was removed from the revised budget to make it lower than the budget that was defeated on May 18?

One 72 passenger bus and all field trips were removed from next year's budget for a total of \$150,000. This revised budget is 1.52% lower than the budget under which we are currently operating.

3. What happens if this revised budget is defeated on June 15?

If the voters do not approve the revised budget on June 15, then the district will operate under a contingency budget for the 2010-2011 school year.

4. What will it mean if the district has to operate under a contingency budget next year?

Under a contingency budget, the district would be unable to purchase about \$424,000 of necessary equipment (2 large buses and 3 wheelchair vans and some equipment for the buildings and grounds department). Since all of this equipment is necessary, this cost would be moved forward to next year's budget. The \$424,000 would not be eliminated, just postponed.

Also, the public use of school buildings and grounds are not considered to be an ordinary contingent expense. Therefore, the board of education must assess a fee for the use of the fields, gyms, cafeterias, libraries, auditoriums, classrooms, and the pool by all community groups. Currently, over, 90 groups use our facilities during the year. A list of these groups can be found on our web site, www.minisink.com.

How do I register to vote?

At the district clerk's office, Minisink Valley Central School District, Route 6, Slate Hill, New York, until June 14, 2010, from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on days when school is in session. Proof of residency required. Questions? 355-5115.

Absentee ballots?

Applications may be obtained at the office of the school district clerk. Absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on June 15, 2010.

Minisink Valley CSD
 PO Box 217, Rte. 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

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Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Martha Murray

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Overall Budget Proposal

Please note: This budget is presented in conformance with, and in the format prescribed by regulation for all public schools in New York State.

	Budget Adopted for the 2009-10 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2010-11 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2010-11 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 84,183,807	\$ 82,908,395	\$ 82,436,395
Decrease for the 2010-11 school year		- \$ 1,275,412	- \$ 1,747,412
Percentage decrease in each proposed budget		-1.52%	-2.08%
Change in the consumer price index		-0.4%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2010-11 school year		\$ 36,863,367	\$ 36,391,367
Administrative component	\$ 6,044,089	\$ 5,842,579	\$ 5,842,579
Program component	\$ 63,662,829	\$ 61,571,304	\$ 61,571,304
Capital component	\$ 14,476,889	\$ 15,494,512	\$ 15,022,512
<p>A. A contingency budget restricts the purchase of buses and certain equipment items. Under a contingency budget, reductions in equipment budget lines would be made, offset in part by increased contractual and supply expenses incurred in the absence of essential equipment.</p> <p>B. Under a contingency budget, the board of education must assess a fee for the use of the fields, gyms, cafeterias, libraries, auditoriums, classrooms, and pool by all community groups.</p>			

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings

Please note: The STAR exemption amount varies slightly from township to township. The projected Basic STAR Tax Savings represents the average savings for a taxpayer in the Minisink Valley CSD.

Basic STAR Tax Savings	Budget Proposed for the 2010-11 School Year	PROJECTED Tax levy increase for the 2010-11 School Year 1.98%
	\$466	

Revised Budget Vote
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 ~ Noon – 9:00 PM

Where do I vote?

Residents of District #1 (Towns of Greenville, Minisink and Wawayanda) vote in the intermediate school gym A, Route 6 campus.

Residents of District #2 (Towns of Mount Hope, Mamakating and Walkkill) vote in the Otisville elementary school.