

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We've been working on the 2007-2008 school spending plan for several months. Through a series of budget meetings open to the public, the finance committee of the board of education met with principals and program directors and listened to what those administrators needed to move our district forward. The proposed budget of \$77,516,449 that resulted from those meetings shows an increase of 8.9% over last year's budget with an average tax rate increase estimated at 5.7%. This spending plan will go before the public on May 15, 2007. Details of that vote and of the proposed budget are contained throughout this newsletter.

The increase in the budget reflects several "difficult to control" costs such as fuel and utility costs, pension and employee benefits, large equipment purchases such as buses, and payroll. But the budget number also includes good news for our students – additional support in literacy for our youngest students, an additional security position in our middle school, and new opportunities in e-learning for our high school and middle school students. The budget also provides for the implementation of an emergency notification system to inform parents quickly and efficiently in cases of school emergencies and closures.

We know that any increase in taxes can be difficult to accept. However, we also know that as a community, you've always shown strong support for Minisink Valley students. We never take that for granted.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Murray
Superintendent of Schools



Chorus/Choral Concerts:

MS - Tues., May 8, 7:00 PM

IS - Thurs., May 10, 6:30 PM & 8:00 PM

HS - Mon., May 14, 7:30 PM

ES - Tues., May 15, 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Band Concerts:

HS - Wed., May 9, 7:30 PM

IS - Tues., May 22, 7:30 PM

MOONLIGHT MAGIC

Senior Citizen Prom

Sponsored by the MV Honor Society

June 9, 2007 - 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

High School Cafeteria

Door prizes, jazz band, photos, dancing, sit down dinner, professional DJ, and much, much more

Tickets \$10 per person by May 18

For tickets or more information call 355-5149

Please do not park in the handicapped spots on our campus unless you have the appropriate license plate or tag. Thank you.

**VOTE
MAY 15
Noon - 9 PM**

Minisink Valley CSD

P.O. Box 217, Rte. 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

Board of Education

John M. Lenane, *President*, Wayne Hawkins, *Vice President*

David Dirks, Michelle McDonald, Shawn O'Connor, Gina Richichi, Joan Romanyschyn, Tracy Sutera, Victor Vignola

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martha Murray

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Newsletter
Debbie Roda

School District Budget Notice

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 2006-07 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-08 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2007-08 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$ 71,166,852	\$ 77,516,449	\$ 76,878,898
Increase/decrease for the 2007-08 school year		\$ 6,349,597	\$ 5,712,046
Percentage increase(decrease) in each proposed budget		8.92%	8.03%
Change in the consumer price index		3.2%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2007-08 school year		\$ 34,646,524	\$ 34,008,973
Administrative component	\$ 5,276,297	\$ 5,563,690	\$ 5,563,690
Program component	\$ 55,048,147	\$ 58,629,076	\$ 58,929,076
Capital component	\$ 10,842,408	\$ 13,323,683	\$ 12,386,132

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2007-08 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated:

- A. Student enrollment will increase in September 2007 by an estimated 1%.
- B. Enrollment in special education intensive needs placements will increase by eighteen students.
- C. Transportation needs will increase, reflecting increased student enrollment and placements in integrated special education settings.
- D. A contingency budget restricts the purchase of buses and equipment items.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings is Based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District having a Full Value of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000).

Please note: 1) The full value of an individual home may vary from year to year. 2) The STAR savings is calculated on a \$30,000 assessment reduction and not a % of the homeowner's tax bill.

	Budget Adopted for the 2006-07 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2007-08 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 725	\$ 750
School tax increase/decrease	\$ 84	\$ 145
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 641	\$ 605

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2007-2008 by the qualified voters of the Minisink Valley Central School District, Orange County, New York, will be held at Intermediate and Otisville schools in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 between the hours of noon and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

2007-08 Budget Proposal

2006 - 2007 2007 - 2008

Instruction

Principals, teachers, support staff, special education, academic intervention services, libraries, AV, computers, health services, pupil personnel services, extracurricular clubs and activities, and interscholastic sports. *This budget includes additional teaching and support staff to address increasing enrollment.*

\$39,766,938 \$ 42,762,264

Transportation

Transportation to our five schools, 20 or more nonpublic and special education schools, athletic and field trip events, BOCES special and occupational education programs and the purchase of seven buses and final lease/purchase payment on five buses.

\$ 4,334,926 \$ 5,012,529

Additional bus runs will be needed to accommodate increasing enrollment.

General Support

Board of education, central administration, business functions, facility operation and maintenance, legal services, insurance, data processing, and BOCES costs. *This budget reflects increased costs for utilities.*

\$ 6,514,981 \$ 6,785,107

Community Services

Includes \$500 for school/community collaborative projects.

\$ 500 \$ 500

Employee Benefits

Costs for employees' retirement systems, social security, workers' compensation and health insurance. *Employer contribution rates remain relatively level. Increase is payroll-driven.*

\$15,357,707 \$ 15,831,182

Debt Service, Misc.

Debt service on outstanding bonds which finance school building construction. *The increase reflects the first phase of financing for the new elementary school in Otisville and improvements to the K-5 building on our Route 6 campus. New building aid will offset much of this increase.*

\$ 5,191,800 \$ 7,124,867

TOTAL Budget Increase Over Prior Year: 8.92%

\$71,166,852 \$ 77,516,449

PROJECTED Tax rate increase: 5.7% (average)

SPECIAL PROPOSITION

In a special proposition, voters will be asked if they want to change the length of a school board member's term of office from five years to three years.

VOTE MAY 15 ~ Noon - 9 PM

Community Members

Running for the School Board

(listed in alphabetical order)

Ethel Crow, David Dirks, Robert Prokopchak, Paul Rickard, Tracy Sutera, Lewis Szymanski, Vil Vaitas

Read our blog and listen to our podcast at www.minisink.com.

Census Information- *Attention Parents of Preschoolers of any age...*

Please fill out this form so that we can update our census information and be sure that your family is on our mailing list. If you have any questions, call Mrs. Ann Shand at 355-5812.

Preschooler's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Complete Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Parents' Names: _____

Note: If you have more than one preschooler, please include the same information on an additional sheet of paper and mail to Ann Shand, Registrar, Minisink Valley CSD, PO Box 217, Slate Hill, NY 10973.

Annual Budget Vote Information

Who may vote?

To vote, you must be a district resident for 30 days and U.S. Citizen - 18 years of age or older and must be registered for either a general election or a school board election.

How do I register?

At the district clerk's office, Minisink Valley Central School District, Route 6, Slate Hill, New York, until May 11, 2006, from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on days when school is in session. Please provide proof of residency. Any questions, call 355-5115.

When is the vote?

Tuesday, May 15, Noon to 9:00 PM

Where do I vote?

Residents of District #1 (Towns of Greenville, Minisink and Wawayanda)

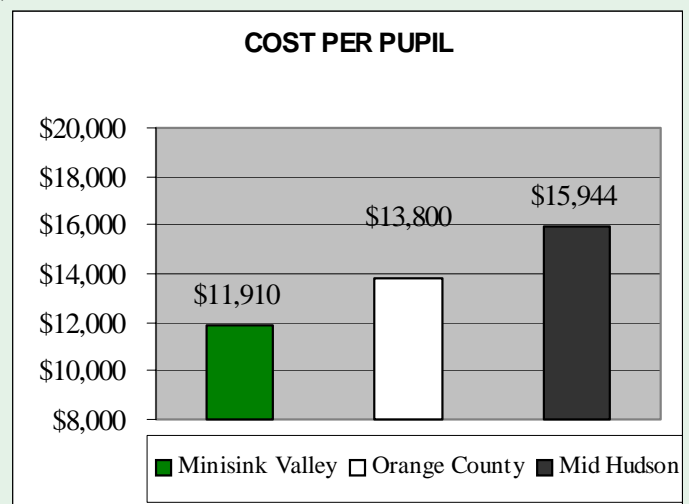
Vote in the Intermediate School Gym A, Route 6 campus.

Residents of District #2 (Towns of Mount Hope, Mamakating and Wallkill)

Vote in the Otisville Elementary School Gym.

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 May 15.



Source: Mid Hudson School Study Council



Memorial Day Weekend - School Closed Friday, May 25 and Monday, May 28