



The Reporter

Special BUDGET Issue

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Residents,

This year's budget season was a completely unprecedented one. From the unknown future of State Aid to our nation's difficult economic climate, the planning of the district's 2009-2010 school budget was extremely challenging.

Amid these difficult factors, the district's Board of Education and administration kept two issues in the forefront of their minds throughout the budget development process: keeping the proposed impact on taxpayers to a minimum, while working to preserve the integrity of our district's educational programs.

After a five-month development process, I am proud to present a proposed budget that I believe accomplishes both of these goals.

I encourage all residents to review the information included in this publication and on our website, www.threevillagesd.org, in order to make an informed decision at the polls on Tuesday, May 19 from 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at your neighborhood elementary school.

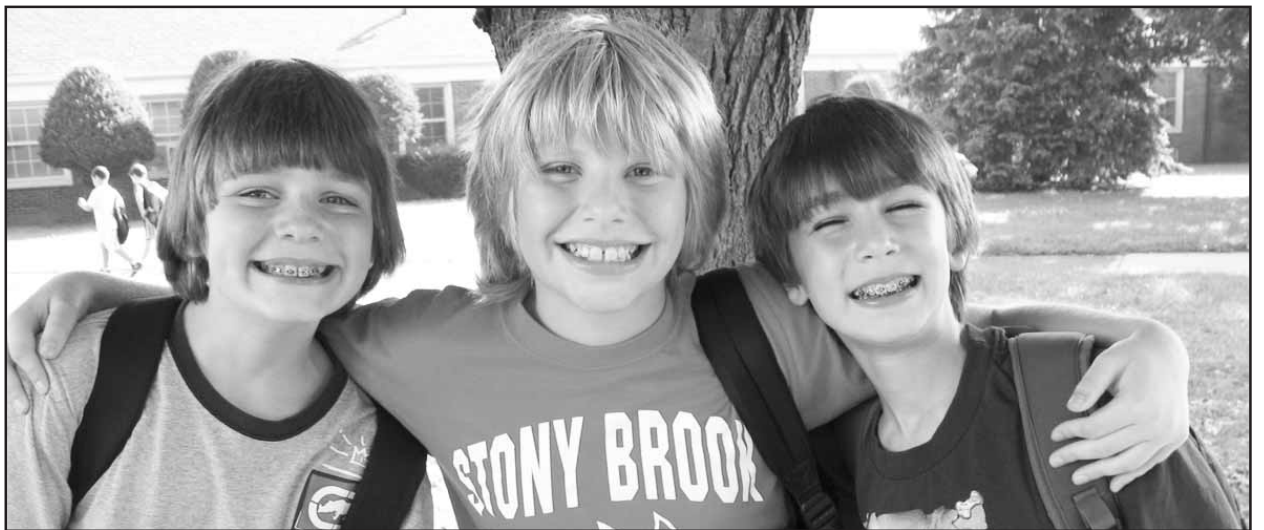
Should you have any questions about the enclosed information or the proposed 2009-2010 school budget, please contact the central administration office at 730-4000.

Thank you for your past support of our school district and our students.

Sincerely,
Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Reducing Costs While Preserving Programs

PROPOSED BUDGET IS LESS THAN CONTINGENCY



The Three Village Central School District's Board of Education unanimously adopted a proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year that carries a 2.33% spending increase and a 2.32% tax levy increase. This represents the LOWEST budget increase and LOWEST tax increase of the past decade. In addition, the proposed budget is well below the contingency budget level established by New York State for the 2009-2010 school year.

The proposed 2009-2010 school budget was shaped by the inordinate challenges of this ongoing fiscal climate, and compounded by continued underfunding of state and federal mandates, as well as the need to preserve the quality of the instructional program for our students.

In order to keep the budget impact to taxpayers to a minimum, the Board of Education directed our administrators to examine each line of the

budget and reduce spending without negatively impacting our high-quality programs.

This work resulted in nearly \$3 million in cost reductions.

Despite these challenging times, the Board of Education and administration have worked to create a proposed budget that carries a spending increase that is LESS than a contingency budget. This adopted budget preserves all of the programs Three Village has become known for, while containing the cost impact to taxpayers.

Residents are encouraged to attend the district's Budget Hearing at 8:00 p.m. on May 12th at R.C. Murphy Junior High School to hear more about the proposed budget. Complete copies of the proposed 2009-2010 Three Village Central School District budget are available in the district office, at each school, and on the district website.

Three Village Central School District
200 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

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**REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 19TH
6:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.
AT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DEVELOPS INITIATIVES TO BENEFIT WHOLE COMMUNITY

The District Legislative Committee, which is chaired by Board of Education member Jonathan Kornreich and includes Board members Diane Peritore and Glen T. Whitney, has been extremely active this year working on a number of tax-saving and other beneficial legislative initiatives.

One key area of the Committee's focus has been on changing the manner in which state aid is calculated. Currently, one of the key data inputs for calculating state aid is the average per pupil income, which can lead to distorted wealth profiles due to the presence of one or more extremely high income tax filers. After a thorough research process, supported by several community members, the Committee discovered that this distortion not only affects Three Village, but also a number of school districts throughout New York State. A plan developed by the Committee, called the 99% Solution, aims to amend the state aid formula to one that provides a more equitable distribution of funding among all districts.

The Committee's proposal is to set aside the top and bottom .5% of tax returns and only utilize the middle 99% of a district's income tax returns when calculating average income. Eliminating these outliers will create a more accurate wealth profile for a district and bring taxes in line with the ability of a typical (as opposed to an "average") resident's ability to pay. To date the Committee has visited with nine upstate school districts, brought the proposal to the highest level of state leadership, and is currently working with elected officials and representatives from across New York State to explore how to implement the plan. **If passed, this calculation change could potentially generate millions of dollars in State Aid to Three Village in the future.** More information about this proposal can be found on the website www.fixtheformula.com.

In addition to their work with the 99% Solution, the Committee has also been active at the state level opposing the proposed MTA payroll tax; at the county level conducting research on tax assessments; and within the Three Village community investigating alternatives for students who cross over Nicolls Road in order to walk to or from school.

Dates and times for the Committee's upcoming meetings, which are open to the public, are located on the District's website, www.threevillagescd.org. The Committee has been gratified to find that a diverse group of community members and organizations have become more active and engaged with the school district through this work, and is thankful to them for their efforts.



Board of Education members Diane Peritore, Jonathan Kornreich, and Glen T. Whitney serve on the District Legislative Committee.

UNDERSTANDING THE TAX

THE WORD "ARREARS" IS PRINTED BELOW, SEE THE COUNTY TREASURER'S NOTICE ON THE REVERSE SIDE.

STATEMENT OF TAXES
DECEMBER 1, 2007 thru NOVEMBER 30, 2008 TAX LEVY
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK
TAXABLE STATUS DATE MARCH 1, 2008
TAXES BECOME A LIEN DECEMBER 1, 2008

TAKE FUNDS PAYABLE TO:
Louis J. Marcoccia
RECEIVER OF TAXES
ONE INDEPENDENCE HILL SUITE 110
ARMINGVILLE, NEW YORK 11738-2149

OFFICE PAYMENT HOURS
MON. TO FRI. 9 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
PHONE: 631-451-9009 FAX: 631-451-9008
taxoffice@brookhaven.org
Important for School Inquiries: **631-730-4020** School District 01

Suffolk Tax Map Number	ORPS SD	Description of Property	Exemption Description	Code	Value	Full Value
	4472201	FAIRWAY VIEW	STAR BASIC	S	560	
Type	Acreage	Tax Code	Roll Section			
Bill #	Land Asmt	Assessed Value	Uniform %	Full Value		
375		4,200	0.73%	575,342		
Physical Address						
EAST SETAUKET 11733						
2006 - 2007 Tax Payment Information				Bank & Mort. No.		
1st Half			12/28/07			
2nd Half			05/28/08			
Owner as of Taxable status date of March 1, 2007						
SETAUKET NY 11733						
Tax Billing Address				SETAUKET NY 11733		

Figure out your tax increase associated with the proposed budget by using this formula:

Brookhaven
(Assessed Value) x (0.0457)

Example Using
Average Three Village Home:

$$(4,200) \times (0.0457) = \$192$$

Your tax is based on your Assessed Value, not the market value of your home.

Figure out your tax increase associated with the proposed budget by using this formula:

Small Town
(Assessed Value) x

Example Using
Average Three Village Home:

$$(6,000) \times$$

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How much more is the Board proposing to spend for the next school year?

Last year, the community-approved budget was \$159,404,964. The proposed budget this year is \$163,117,136. The difference is an additional \$3,712,172, a 2.33% budget-to-budget increase.

Does this budget have any significant new programs or staffing that we could otherwise do without?

No. This budget maintains all programs at current levels and provides for the level of staffing necessary to provide a high-quality Three Village education.

What happens if the budget fails the first time?

The Board of Education has three options if the first budget vote is unsuccessful. It can resubmit the same budget; it can make alterations to the budget and resubmit it; or it can choose to simply accept the defeat of the first vote and go to the contingency budget. The Board will make this decision pending the outcome of the first vote.

Would I save money on a contingency budget?

No. For the first time in recent history, the proposed 2009-2010 school budget is LESS than a contingency budget. A contingency budget would not only have an effect on district programs and services, but it could also RAISE taxes. This is because a contingency budget only controls the expenditures side of the budget, not the revenue side.

What is Three Village's spending cap under a contingency budget?

This year, the contingency spending cap for our district is 5.44% (including debt service). Our proposed budget increase of 2.33% is less than HALF of the budget increase that the district could seek as a minimum spending plan under a contingency budget. The Board has chosen to reduce spending below this minimum to offer necessary and meaningful tax relief to our community.



BILL

NUMBER	
State Aid	34,493,072 TWN 30,727,335
	311,084,310 SEW 0

Property has been sold or transferred after March 1, 2009. Please forward this statement to the owner or return to this office for forwarding information.

Value	Real Savings
68,493	982.27

Assessed Value is offset by the STAR program. Find STAR exemption on your tax bill.

Percentage increase associated with tax levied by using this formula:

$$\frac{\text{New Value} - \text{Old Value}}{\text{Old Value}} \times (0.0285)$$

Example Using 2008 Village Home:

$$\frac{68,493 - 66,811}{66,811} = 0.0250 = 2.5\%$$

NEWS



The Proposed Budget

A complete budget overview is available for downloading by visiting the district's website, at all schools, and at the district administration office.

Expenditures:

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Difference	% Difference
General Support	20,256,692	19,350,443	(906,249)	-4.47%
Total Instruction	88,277,685	90,379,859	2,102,174	2.38%
Pupil Transportation	7,901,513	8,431,840	530,327	6.71%
Community Service	1,294,706	1,318,807	24,101	1.86%
Employee Benefits	35,012,670	34,614,999	(397,671)	-1.14%
Debt Svc./Operating Transfers	6,661,698	9,021,188	2,359,490	35.42%
TOTAL	159,404,964	163,117,136	3,712,172	2.33%

Revenue:

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Difference	% Difference
State Aid	35,995,970	37,471,286	1,475,316	4.10%
Fund Balance	3,037,500	3,037,500	-	0.00%
Interest Income	1,250,000	900,000	(350,000)	-28.00%
Other Revenue	2,197,000	2,067,000	(130,000)	-5.92%
Tax Levy	116,924,494	119,641,350	2,716,856	2.32%
TOTAL	159,404,964	163,117,136	3,712,172	2.33%

TAX RATE PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE*

	Brookhaven	Smithtown
Projected Tax Rate	\$201.38	\$125.62
Current Tax Rate	\$196.81	\$122.77
Projected Rate Increase	2.3%	2.3%

* This rate increase assumes assessments remain constant. See table to the right.

A Historical Comparison of Three Village's Budget, Tax Levy, & State Aid

	% Budget Increase	% Tax Levy Increase	State Aid as % of Budget
2009-2010	2.3	2.3	22.9
2008-09	4.5	3.9	22.5
2007-08	5.2	5.1	22.8
2006-07	6.4	7.8	21.7
2005-06	7.6	8.9	22.3
2004-05	9.2	12.3	24.7
2003-04	5.3	7.5	26.5
2002-03	8.1	12.9	28.2

Did You Know...

Changes in the aggregate assessed value of properties have a direct impact on the tax rate. Assessment increases would cause the projected tax rate associated with the proposed budget to decrease. Conversely, if assessments were to decrease, that projected tax rate would increase.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Change in Assessments	Change in Tax Rate
0.5% decrease	2.8% increase
1.0% decrease	3.4% increase

History of Changes in Assessment

School Year	Town	% change in total assessment from previous year
2008-09	Brookhaven	0.73% decrease
	Smithtown	2.05% decrease
2007-08	Brookhaven	0.52% decrease
	Smithtown	0.07% increase
2006-07	Brookhaven	0.15% decrease
	Smithtown	6.48% increase
2005-06	Brookhaven	0.46% increase
	Smithtown	7.08% increase

DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE

- Many student-athletic teams named NYS Scholar-Athlete Teams
- Numerous teams named League, County, and Long Island Championship teams
- HS Varsity Field Hockey Team won New York State Championship for the first time
- Many athletes named All-League, All-Conference, and All-County student-athletes
- WMHS named a Grammy Signature School
- Numerous student-musicians selected for All-County and All-State Music Festivals
- Four student-musicians selected as National Student Composition Talent Search Winners
- Suffolk County and New York State Science Olympiad, Science Bowl, and Math Tournament Champions
- Eleven WMHS Seniors named Semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search: the most in New York State, and third highest of any high school in the U.S.
- 8th Place winner in Intel Science Talent Search Competition
- Support of parent organizations and educational foundation
- Student selected to present during NY State Music Conference
- Technology-integrated curriculum
- New York State Reflections Contest winner
- National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Award winners
- High percentage of students meet and exceed proficiency levels on New York State Assessments
- Thousands of dollars raised for local, regional, and national charities
- Local and state recognition for artists
- Year-round community service projects completed by grades K-12
- Students named National Merit Commended students, Semifinalists, and Finalists



VOTER INFORMATION...

VOTER REGISTRATION

Registration will be conducted on an ongoing basis at the office of the District Clerk at the Administration Building and Office of Student Registration at North Country from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. on days when school is in session. A special districtwide voter registration day will be held on May 6th at Ward Melville HS from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The last day to register for this year's school budget vote is May 7th. Questions? Call the District Clerk at 730-4067. If you are a resident of this district who is registered to vote with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, then you are automatically qualified to vote in the school election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots must be submitted at least (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed, or up to one day before if a voter picks up the ballot. For further information, contact the District Clerk's office. Absentee ballots will be issued beginning in early May. Completed ballots must be returned to the office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2009.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

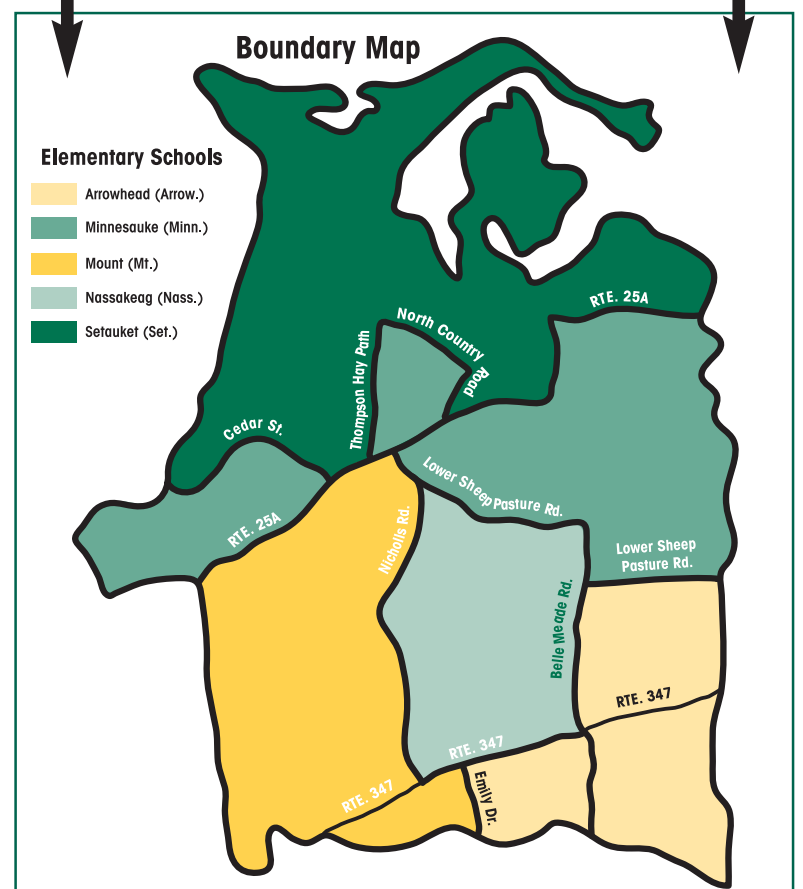
In addition to voting on the proposed school budget, voters will cast their ballots to fill two trustee seats on the Board of Education. The two candidates seeking election on May 19, 2009 are the incumbents John K. Diviney and Carol A. Leister.

TIME AND DATE / POLLING PLACE

The budget vote and trustee election will be held on **Tuesday, May 19 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at each of the district's five elementary schools.** A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, May 12th, 8 p.m. at R. C. Murphy Junior High School.

UNSURE OF WHERE TO VOTE?

For polling boundary lines, please check the map below or visit the District's website www.threevillagecsd.org to locate your polling location.



REMEMBER TO VOTE

**May 19, 2009 • 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
At Your Neighborhood Elementary School**



BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: John K. Diviney

Vice President: David A. Micklos

*Trustees: Jonathan Kornreich; Carol A. Leister; Frank McIntosh;
Diane Peritore; Glen T. Whitney*

Superintendent of Schools: Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed. D.