



SAVE THE DATE

Budget presentations in your community

Learn more about the school budget and ask questions!

Monday, May 9

6:00 p.m. School 14
6:00 p.m. School 16
6:30 p.m. School 2
7:00 p.m. School 12
7:15 p.m. School 18
7:15 p.m. Carroll Hill

Tuesday, May 10

7:30 p.m. Troy High School

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Annual BOE Election

POLLING SITES:

SCHOOL 2 –
470 Tenth Street
SCHOOL 12 –
475 First Street
SCHOOL 14 –
1700 Tibbits Avenue
SCHOOL 16 –
40 Collins Avenue
SCHOOL 18 –
417 Hoosick Street
CARROLL HILL –
112 Delaware Avenue

Call 328-5070 if you do not know your polling location.

www.troy.k12.ny.us

District Budget Vote is May 17

Dear Residents:

In spite of the challenges which we encounter, the 2010 – 2011 school year was a good one for the Enlarged City School District of Troy. Student outcomes are improving; our facilities are in decent shape; all of our schools, except one, made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP); our high school graduation rate continues to improve; and student disciplinary incidents are being addressed. In a community which prides itself on the value we place on public education, I am pleased to say that we are doing our best to justify the trust you place in us as we work with your children.

The downturn in the national and state economies presents school districts and other municipal bodies with tremendous challenges as we endeavor to provide all of our students with the quality of education which they and their parents/guardians have come to expect. At the same time, we are cognizant of the need for us to do so in the most fiscally responsible manner. This requires tremendous care and judicious thought as we balance the need to do what is right for our students, while respecting the community's need for us to exercise restraint.

As we approach the budget season, it is important for us to demonstrate that we are effective stewards of your resources as we plan for the next school year. How the school district spends the community's tax dollars is as important as the programs which we develop and implement. In the Enlarged City School District of Troy, as in many districts which are characterized as high tax/poor wealth districts, aid from New York State has historically accounted for more than fifty percent of our annual budget. This means that any reduction in state aid places a greater burden on our taxpayers should we choose to make up the difference.

Arriving at this budget required us to make tough choices. We did so through a lot of hard work across the district with the dual intent of minimizing layoffs for next year while ensuring that critical elements of our educational program were preserved. The administration accomplished this by creatively managing our efficiencies as we leveraged the resources that are available to us. In addition, several individu-

als made the decision to forgo their annual salary increases, thus making it possible for us to keep some programs for next year. As part of the process at arriving at our decisions, we employed the following principles: recognition of the importance of education to our district and community; maintenance of high quality instruction across all grade levels and subject areas; and the protection of the educational integrity of the classroom. In addition, recognizing the important role of the arts, sports and music, we are committed to ensure that we protect the programs which enable our students to partake in activities which enrich their lives beyond the academic classrooms.

As you read this newsletter, you will see evidence of our efforts to preserve the educational quality of our school district as we grapple with the challenges which are occasioned by the rapid decline of resources.

During times of declining resources, we must continue to provide the best educational opportunities for all of the children in our school system. To continue to do so will require being able to do more with less. This budget is based on that necessity as we keep the needs of our students and the community foremost in the decision making process.

We thank you for your support.

Respectfully,
Fadhilika Atiba-Weza, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



School 2 students perform Nigerian folklore

2011-2012 Budget

How much is the proposed budget?

The proposed budget is \$92,416,493. This represents a decrease from the current budget of \$2,098,762 or -2.22%.

How does this financially impact the tax payer?

The proposed budget will require an increase of 2.99% in the tax levy. The tax levy represents the total amount of property taxes the District needs to raise. As the City of Troy and the Town of Brunswick have different assessment practices and different equalization rates, the impact of the increase in the tax levy may vary.

What is the average estimated increase for Troy residents?

The average property assessment for Troy taxpayers for 2010 was \$17,309. Based on this average it is estimated that the taxpayer will see an increase of \$70.54 for next year. This does not include any exemptions or STAR savings.

What is the average estimated increase for Brunswick residents?

The average property assessment for Brunswick taxpayers for 2010 was \$45,653. Based on this average it is estimated that the taxpayer will see an increase of \$98.92 for next year. This does not include any exemptions or STAR savings.

How has state aid affected Troy?

The state aid projections for 2011-2012 (based on the budget proposed by the Legislature) estimate that the District will receive \$2,195,827 less in state aid than in the current year. This represents a decrease of 4.6%.

What are the major items that increase from the current year to the 2011-2012 year?

The major items that have increases are health insurance, retirement costs, charter school tuition, and equipment needs resulting from previous contingent budgets wherein equipment could not be replaced.

What is Charter School tuition?

The District is required by law to pay tuition established by New York State for any of our residents who attend a charter school. The budget for charter schools increases \$1,329,854 or 16.78%. The total expenses for charter schools represent 10% of the District budget.

What is the District doing about the number of students we have attending Charter Schools?

A district Open House will be held on Tuesday, May 17 inviting all prospective families to learn about educational opportunities provided by Troy's NYS certified faculty. Each elementary building will open its doors to the community as a polling site and welcome parents to tour the school.

What does contingency budget mean to the District and students?

A contingency budget still results in a 2.01% tax increase to taxpayers. It will prohibit the purchase of student supplies and equipment. Currently maintenance vehicles have not been replaced in several years. Snow removal will be difficult without adequate equipment which could affect the opening of schools during inclement weather.

How will the District achieve savings in the budget?

The District achieved savings in several areas. These include offering a retirement incentive; closing an elementary building; reduction in BOCES services; closure of elementary pools, refinancing current debt to a lower rate and reductions in supplies, materials and equipment.

What were the savings from the retirement incentive?

The District offered a retirement incentive to all bargaining groups within the District. We received 7 instructional retirements in which we will replace 5 of these positions. The total savings generated was \$251,733.

What was the reduction in BOCES services?

The District has determined that we can return students from BOCES to the District by establishing our own in-district program. This program will result in retaining 4 positions and creating 8 new positions. The total savings generated from creating the new program is \$277,135.

Will there be any staff reductions?

Yes, there will be staff reductions District-wide. However, retirements, current vacancies and the creation of a new program decrease the number of reductions. The actual number of reductions is:

Administration	2.0
Non-instructional Staff	3.5
Teachers/Teaching Assistants	15.5
Central Administration	1.0

Including retirements what is the reduction in staffing levels?

Administrators	- 7.0%
Non-instructional Staff	- 1.6%
Teachers/Teaching Assistants	- 1.7%

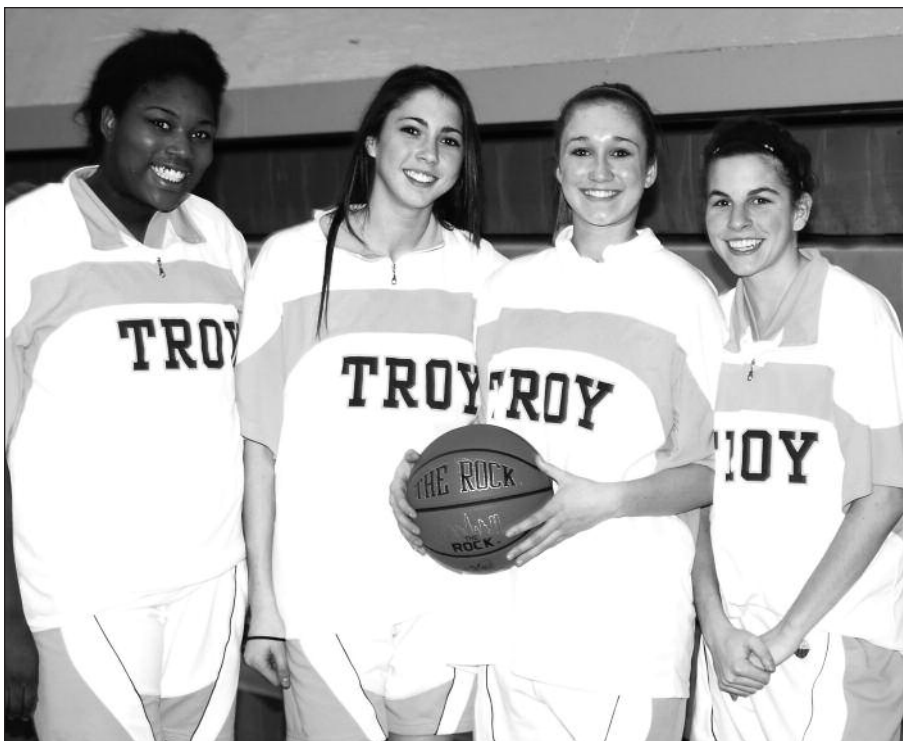
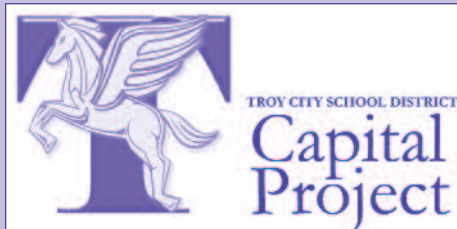
Capital Project Update

Approval of 2010 referendum permitted the state-funding of 92% of project costs with minimal impact on our taxpayers. These state funds must be applied to capital construction projects only and cannot offset any other budgetary deficit.

Reconstruction of the Doyle Middle School will benefit every elementary student as they pass to middle school grades. The renovations will create a new identity and greatly improved learning environment for middle school students and the greater Troy community. Design plans are underway and construction will begin in the late summer or early fall depending on SED review process. Work in the building will be done in several phases to allow for occupancy of the school while different areas are under construction. The completion of all work is scheduled for December 2013.

Upgrades to athletic fields shared by DMS and THS and the renovations to the high school are currently being reviewed by the State Education Department. Construction is scheduled to begin in May and continue through the summer. A synthetic turf field, lighting for evening games, rebuilt track and other improvements are planned to be ready for mid-September 2011.

DMS Principal Brian Dunn, architects and engineers have held monthly meetings at each elementary building to inform parents of the improvements planned for the middle school and discuss the educational impact during reconstruction. Please see District website www.troy.k12.ny.us for future dates.



Troy High School girls basketball

Around the District

Our teachers continue to challenge students to do their best work each day. In addition to high academic achievement and character development, the following programs additionally enrich the education of Troy's students:

Adopt-a-Scholar	Junior Achievement of Northeastern NY
Albany Symphony Adopt-a-School	Multi-cultural activities
All County Chorus & Band	National Honor Society
Alternative Learning Center	Odyssey of the Mind
Career Exploration Internship Program	Parent outreach programs
Drama Club spring & fall musicals	Parents as Reading Partners
Extended-day clubs	Peer Mediation
Foreign Exchange Program	Performing Arts concerts
Future Cities	STEP (Science Technology Entry Program)
Homeless student services	Sunset Program
HVCC college credit to THS seniors	Universal Pre-Kindergarten
HVCC Mentor Program	Youth Construction Initiative Program
Interscholastic Sports	

Gold Stars:

- District Spelling Bee – winner: Nora McClenahan (PS 18)
- District Math Competition – winning team:
Ryan Tariquea (CHS), Brian Cowin (PS 12), Louise Metz (PS 18)
- Future Cities – “Most Accessible City” Award (DMS)
- Odyssey of Mind Teams – Regional OM winners (2 THS teams)
- Regional Shakespeare Contest winner: Ryan Palmer (THS)

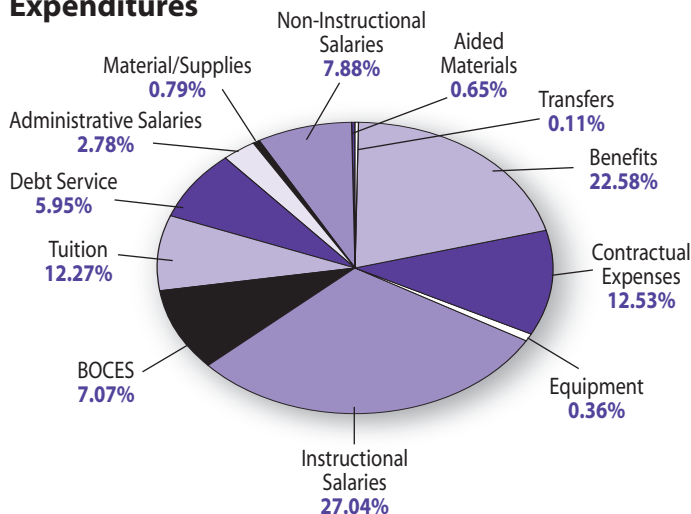
Flying Horses:

- Football – Section II Champs, Regional Champions, NY State Finalist
- Girls Varsity Cross Country – Big 10 Champions
- Boys Varsity Soccer – Big 10 Champions
- Girls Varsity Indoor Track – Big 10 Champions
- Boys JV Basketball – Big 10 Champions

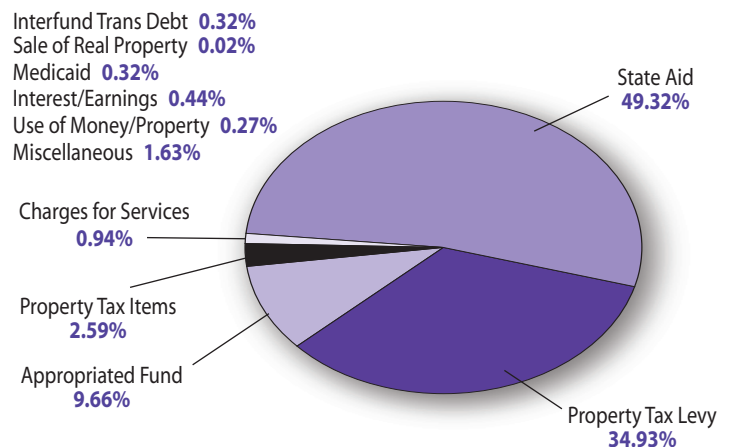
Expenditures — *How is the money spent?*

BUDGET CATEGORY	2010-2011	2011-2012	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Administrative Salaries	2,924,181	2,531,366	(329,815)	-12.30%
Aided Materials	608,875	604,739	(4,137)	-0.68%
Boces Expenses	7,306,727	6,537,848	(768,879)	-10.52%
Contractual	11,184,026	11,639,691	455,665	3.57%
Debt Service	7,358,461	5,497,905	(1,860,556)	-25.28%
Employee Benefits	19,736,170	20,863,256	1,127,086	5.71%
Equipment	241,314	316,934	75,620	37.03%
Instructional Salaries	26,859,351	24,997,869	(1,861,482)	-6.97%
Interfund Transfers	100,000	100,000	—	0.00%
Non-Instructional Salaries	7,617,946	7,278,838	(339,109)	-4.45%
Supplies	611,162	706,153	94,991	18.84%
Tuition	9,967,040	11,341,894	1,374,854	13.79%
TOTALS	94,515,255	92,416,493	(2,098,762)	-2.22%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — *Where does the money come from?*

REVENUE CATEGORY	2010-2011	2011-2012	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Real Property Tax Items	2,390,000	2,390,000	—	0.00%
Charges for Services	956,315	864,370	(91,945)	-9.61%
Use of Money & Property	419,000	254,000	(165,000)	-39.38%
Sale of Property & Comp for Loss	19,000	20,600	1,600	8.42%
Miscellaneous	726,000	1,505,494	779,494	107.37%
State Aid	47,771,056	45,575,229	(2,195,827)	-4.60%
Federal Aid	1,963,047	300,000	(1,663,047)	-84.72%
Interfund Transfers	—	300,000	300,000	100.00%
Fund Balance	8,925,000	8,925,000	—	0.00%
Real Property Tax Levy	31,345,837	32,281,800	935,963	2.99%
TOTALS	94,515,255	92,416,493	(2,098,762)	-2.22%

What does this mean for the tax payer?

Average estimated tax increase for TROY residents is **\$70.54** per year. Average estimated tax increase for BRUNSWICK residents is **\$98.92**. This does not include STAR savings.



Troy's Drama Club performs musical "Anything Goes"



School 16 students build wind turbines



Grades 4-6 "Mathletes" participate in District math competition

Property Tax Information:

- The District's Tax Levy will increase 2.99% from the 2010-11 school year.
- The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners is \$591.00
- The tax rates will be established upon receiving the equalization rates from the New York State Office of Real Property Services and the final assessments from the City of Troy and Town of Brunswick.

The Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the statement of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2011-12 school year showing a proposed budget of \$92,416,493 is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget proposition to be out before voters on May 17, 2011 shall read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2011-12 school year in the amount of \$92,416,493 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources as provided by the law.

Voter Eligibility: To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the Troy City School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote date.

Absentee Ballot Information: To vote by absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. Please contact the Board of Education Office at 328-5070. If you want a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by May 10. If you plan to pick up your ballot, your application must be received by May 16. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk by 5 p.m. on May 17, the day of the vote.

School Tax Relief Program:

STAR is New York State's School Tax Relief Program that includes a school property tax rebate program and a partial property tax exemption from school taxes. All New Yorkers who own and live in their one-, two-, or three-family home, condominium, cooperative apartment, manufactured home, or farm dwelling are eligible for STAR on their primary residence.

For information about the STAR rebate program, please visit the website of the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance or call 1-877-6-STAR-NY (1-877-678-2769).

Enlarged City School District of Troy: SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for 2010-2011 School Year	Budget Proposed for 2011-2012 School Year	Contingency Budget for 2011-2012 School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 94,515,255	\$ 92,416,493	\$ 92,111,154
Increase/decrease for the 2010-11 school year		\$ (2,098,762)	\$ (2,404,101)
Percentage increase(decrease) in each proposed budget		-2.22%	-2.54%
Change in consumer price index		1.60%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2010-11 school year		\$ 32,281,800	\$ 31,976,461
Administrative component	\$ 4,394,658	\$ 4,383,895	\$ 4,209,455
Program component	\$ 74,378,396	\$ 74,707,965	\$ 74,590,796
Capital component	\$ 15,742,204	\$ 13,324,633	\$ 13,324,633
By law, after certain expenditures are excluded, the overall budget can not exceed 1.92% above the 2010-2011 expenditure level. If the District's budget is defeated this will result in loss of equipment to support educational programs and maintain district property. The District will not be allowed to purchase student supplies, support the athletic banquet or the honor society banquet. The Tax Levy increase on a contingent budget is 2.01%.			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic Star Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for 2011-2012 School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$ 591.00

The box above is our annual School District Budget Notice which we are legally required to send out to district residents. For more detailed information regarding the 2011-12 budget, please read this budget newsletter.

A report of tax exemptions, which shows the total assessed value on the final assessment rolls used in the budgetary process is exempt from taxation, and is annexed to the actual budget document, this information is available at the district's business office at 2920 Fifth Ave, Troy, NY 12180.



The Enlarged City School District of Troy
2920 Fifth Avenue
Troy, New York 12180

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROY, NY
PERMIT NO. 652

Board of Education 2010-11

Thomas Mayo, *President*
Anne Wager-Rounds, *Vice President*
Mary Ellen Adams
Ilene Clinton
Carol Harvin
Mary Marro-Giroux
Jason Schofield
Michael Tuttmann
Martha Walsh
Mary Beth Bruno, *Clerk of the Board*

Fadhilika Atiba-Weza, *Superintendent*
Lorraine Colistra, *Interim Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction*
Mary O'Neill,
Assistant Superintendent for Business
Kathleen Culligan,
Coordinator of Human Resources