

# TROY



today & tomorrow

A PUBLICATION OF THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY

BUDGET NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2007

## SAVE THE DATES!

**TUESDAY, MAY 1**

**11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Voter Registration Day  
School 1**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 2**

**6 p.m.**

**Budget Hearing  
Doyle Middle School**

**MONDAY, MAY 7**

**7:30 p.m.**

**"Meet the Candidates"  
Doyle Middle School**

**TUESDAY, MAY 15**

**10:00 a.m. — 9:00 p.m.**

**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE  
Annual BOE Election**

### POLLING SITES:

SCHOOL 1 –  
Ingalls & Sixth Ave.

SCHOOL 2 –  
Middleburgh & Tenth St.

SCHOOL 12 –  
Harrison & First St.

SCHOOL 14 –  
1700 Tibbits Ave.

SCHOOL 16 –  
Collins & Walker Ave.

SCHOOL 18 –  
Hoosick St.

CARROLL HILL –  
112 Delaware Ave.

*Call 271.5213 if you do not know  
where you are registered to vote.*

**[www.troy.k12.ny.us](http://www.troy.k12.ny.us)**

## District Budget Vote is May 15

### Dear Parents and Residents:

Our school district budget for the 2007-08 school year includes many positive characteristics. It was built during the course of several meetings over a five month period with detailed public analysis of each carefully crafted section of the budget. Two outstanding Assistant Superintendents for Business and Support Services (Interim Assistant Peter Haessig served from October 2006 to January 2007 and our new permanent Assistant Michael Ouimet started in January 2007) helped guide our school board through this detailed process. The result is an easily understood budget that keeps the property tax increase as low as possible while providing the program improvements necessary for our district to continue the academic progress we've seen in the past two years. This budget also insures that the Fund Balance and Reserves of the district remain at the levels that produced a sharp upswing in our bond rating during the past year.

### Some of the highlights of the 2007-08 budget include:

1. The property tax rate increase in this proposed budget for Troy is only 0.84 percent, while Brunswick which saw a 3.7 percent decrease in property taxes last year will see a 4.7 percent increase this year. The disparity in these two rates is caused by equalization rate differences between the two communities.
2. Enhanced alternative education programs; an alternative Secondary School Academy serving 20 additional middle school and high school students will be added to the other successful education options from last year's budget. This produced a 60 percent reduction in long term school suspensions and an improved graduation rate. Other positive academic performance statistics allowed Troy High School to meet all the requirements for a school in good standing for NYS.
3. Savings in energy costs, student transportation costs and special education (a long term commitment for the district) total over \$1 million in the proposed budget.
4. Fifteen additional teaching assistants will provide one-on-one tutoring for elementary, middle and high school students struggling to meet academic standards.

As this newsletter is written the district is interviewing for a new permanent Superintendent to start work in Troy on July 1, 2007. A strong field of applicants insures the district will get a superior leader for the central office. Our new leadership team is now in place and the mood in our district is optimistic and positive. Results are improving, our finances are sound and our support in the community grows stronger each day. I'm glad I had an opportunity to support the great team at Troy as they created these positive changes over the past two years.

Sincerely,  
Lonnie Palmer  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**The community is invited to "MEET THE CANDIDATES" for the three vacancies on the Board of Education on Monday, May 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Troy Veterans Memorial Auditorium at Doyle Middle School, 1976 Burdett Avenue. Participants can take the opportunity to ask candidates questions and hear their views on a variety of important issues. The panel will be moderated by the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County.**

# 2007-2008 Budget

## What is the budget increase?

The proposed budget of \$88.3 million represents a 6.95 percent spending increase over the current year's budget of \$82.6 million. The tax levy increase is only 1.6 percent. The city of Troy and town of Brunswick have different equalization rates, so the tax impact varies. The Troy rate increase is estimated to be 0.84 percent. Residents in Brunswick would see an estimated tax rate increase of 4.65 percent. Last year, Brunswick saw a 3.7 percent decrease in their tax rate.

## What cuts and additions are being proposed in the 2007-08 budget?

The district has reduced costs through retirements, energy conservation, a new student transportation contract and more academically appropriate and cost-effective special education services.

### Reductions

Retiree Breakage .....	\$ 232,058
Student Transportation Costs .....	\$ 364,670
Energy Costs .....	\$ 388,560
Special Ed. BOCES .....	\$ 282,700
Special Ed. Private Placements .....	\$ 140,000

**Total .....** \$1,407,988

*As a result of these cost reductions, district program improvements will be made in the areas of instruction, technology and school support.*

### Improvements

New Alternative Ed. grades 7-12 at CEO ...	\$ 200,000
New Alternative Ed. at DMS and THS .....	\$ 200,000
15 Additional Teaching Assistants .....	\$ 630,000
Technology Replacement Plan .....	\$ 188,000
Other New Technology .....	\$ 118,000
Maintenance Staff and Supervision .....	\$ 130,000
School Building Clerical Support .....	\$ 44,000

**General Fund Total .....** \$1,510,000

3 New Pre K Classes (Pre K grant funded) ... \$ 177,000

## How has recent state aid affected Troy?

Troy depends on state aid for about 56 percent of its revenue. This year, the district will receive a \$4.7 million state aid increase based on the final state budget. Part of this increase in state aid was used to reduce the property tax increase by more than two percent.

## What is driving the tax increase?

Troy faces additional costs to meet educational mandates and operating expenses. Costs rise in areas where we have little or

no control, including charter schools, health insurance and pension contributions. The major increase areas include:

Contract Salary Increase All Staff .....	\$ 1.6 Million
New Teaching Services/Positions .....	\$ 1.0 Million
Health Insurance .....	\$ 1.0 Million
Charter School Tuitions .....	\$ 0.6 Million
Teacher Retirement .....	\$ 0.4 Million
Debt Service .....	\$ 0.4 Million
Equipment and Supplies .....	\$ 0.3 Million
All Other Areas Increase .....	\$ 0.4 Million

**Total .....** \$ 5.7 Million

## What happens if the budget is defeated?

Troy would have to make significant cuts totaling \$2.3 million if the budget is defeated. According to state law, a contingency budget can only include the minimum services required to maintain an educational program, preserve property and assure the health and safety of students and staff during a 10-month period. Programs that are not mandated by the state would be cut first.

A cap prescribed by the state limits Troy's spending increase to a formula based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For 2007-08, this formula limits school contingency budget growth to 3.84 percent over last year's budget. The district would be unable to operate services or programs not considered ordinary expenses. Moreover, the district would be forced to charge outside groups a fee to use the school outside of regular business hours.

If district voters do not approve a 2007-08 budget, the Board of Education, by law, must adopt a contingency budget by July 1. It may choose to present the same proposed budget to district voters a second time; make changes in the proposed budget and present a revised budget to district voters; or move immediately to a contingency budget.

**Absentee Ballots** — Absentee ballots are available for registered voters who are unable to vote in person. Unless you are listed "permanently disabled" on the county registers, you must request an application for an absentee ballot. Call the district clerk at 271-5213 for assistance.

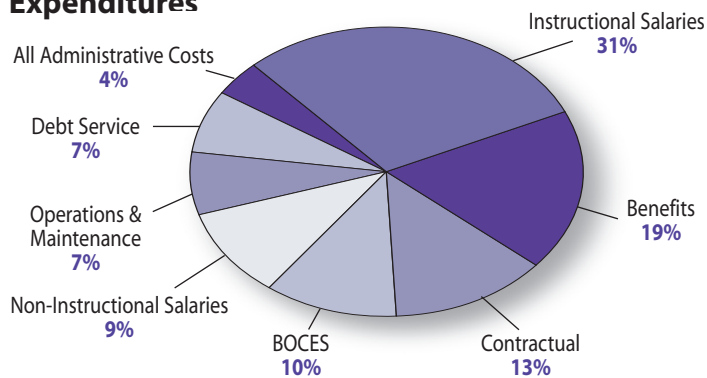
**School Board Candidates** — Voters will elect three school board members to three-year terms on Troy's nine-member board of education.

**Voter Eligibility** — Only qualified voters who are registered will be permitted to vote. To vote, you must be: a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the vote date.

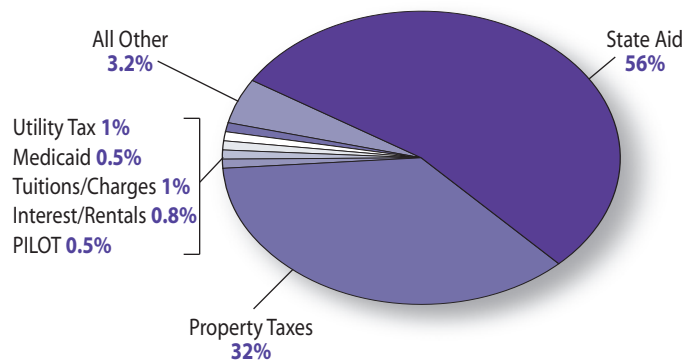
## Expenditures — *How is the money spent?*

BUDGET CATEGORY	2006-2007	2007-2008	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Administrative Salaries	2,073,725	2,058,429	434,704	20.96%
Instructional Salaries	23,857,209	27,116,096	3,258,887	13.66%
Non-Instructional Salaries	8,627,950	7,670,370	-957,580	-11.10%
Benefits	15,472,729	17,243,109	1,770,380	11.44%
Contractual Expenses	10,992,364	11,165,355	172,991	1.57%
Materials & Supplies	753,050	888,400	135,350	17.97%
BOCES Expenses	9,048,730	8,697,672	-351,058	-3.88%
Debt Service	5,991,765	6,438,886	447,121	7.46%
Equipment	366,003	606,553	240,550	65.72%
Tuition	4,833,000	5,334,600	501,600	10.38%
Textbooks	360,000	406,875	46,875	13.02%
Transfer To Other Funds	225,000	267,300	42,300	18.80%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$82,601,525</b>	<b>\$88,343,645</b>	<b>\$5,742,120</b>	<b>6.95%</b>

### Expenditures



### Revenues



## Revenues — *Where does the money come from?*

REVENUE CATEGORY	2006-2007	2007-2008	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Real Property Tax Items	1,427,000	1,430,000	3,000	0.21%
Charges For Services	870,000	887,100	17,100	1.97%
Interest And Earnings	343,000	685,000	342,000	99.71%
Sale Of Real Property	17,500	16,500	-1,000	-5.71%
Insurance Recoveries	0	0	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	269,167	489,167	220,000	81.73%
State Aid	44,426,059	49,145,331	4,719,272	10.62%
Medicaid Reimbursement	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
Fund Balance	0	0	0	0.00%
Real Property Tax Levy	27,970,000	28,411,748	441,748	1.58%
Interfund Trans Debt Ser	2,153,799	2,153,799	0	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	4,625,000	4,625,000		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>82,601,525</b>	<b>88,343,645</b>	<b>5,742,120</b>	<b>6.95%</b>

# Estimated Property Tax Rates

The following are preliminary tax increases for the City of Troy and Town of Brunswick for residences with a Basic STAR exemption:

<b>\$20,000 Assessment</b>	<b>Troy</b>	<b>Brunswick</b>
Est. 2007-2008 Full Value	114,286	69,565
2006-2007	\$1,656.66	\$668.07
2007-2008	<u>\$1,708.25</u>	<u>\$738.38</u>
Change	\$ 51.58	\$ 70.31

<b>\$40,000 Assessment</b>	<b>Troy</b>	<b>Brunswick</b>
Est. 2007-2008 Full Value	228,571	139,130
2006-2007	\$4,069.86	\$2,083.47
2007-2008	<u>\$4,141.65</u>	<u>\$2,219.58</u>
Change	\$ 71.78	\$ 136.11

<b>\$60,000 Assessment</b>	<b>Troy</b>	<b>Brunswick</b>
Est. 2007-2008 Full Value	342,857	208,696
2006-2007	\$6,483.06	\$3,498.87
2007-2008	<u>\$6,575.05</u>	<u>\$3,700.78</u>
Change	\$ 91.99	\$ 201.91

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).

## The Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the statement of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2007-08 school year showing a proposed budget of \$88,343,645 is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget proposition to be out before voters on May 15, 2007 shall read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2007-08 school year in the amount of \$88,343,645 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.

## Estimated Tax Rates

### Troy

**2007-08** . . . \$121.67 per 1000 assessed value

**Last year** . . . \$120.66 per 1000 assessed value

### Brunswick

**2007-08** . . . \$74.06 per 1000 assessed value

**Last year** . . . \$70.77 per 1000 assessed value



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

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