

SAVE THE DATES!

TUESDAY, MAY 6
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Voter Registration Day
School 1

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7
6 p.m.
Budget Hearing
Doyle Middle School

MONDAY, MAY 12
7:30 p.m.
"Meet the Candidates"
Doyle Middle School

TUESDAY, MAY 20
10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
SCHOOL
BUDGET VOTE
Annual BOE Election

POLLING SITES:

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 328-5070 if you do not
know where you are regis-
tered to vote.*

www.troy.k12.ny.us

District Budget Vote is May 20

Dear Parents and Residents:

We are pleased to present our budget for the 2008 – 2009 school year. This budget will enable us to continue to provide a good quality education for our students, while at the same time managing our resources in the most fiscally responsible manner. In building the budget, we employed a very transparent approach that enabled all stakeholder groups to make recommendations and contributions to the process.

Our budget was developed during the course of several meetings over a five month period with detailed public analysis of each carefully crafted section of the budget. Our administrative staff and the Board of Education reviewed each proposal and considered several alternatives prior to arriving at decisions regarding the final proposals.

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 which we have been making. This budget also insures that the Fund Balance and Reserves of the district remain at the levels that are consistent with the law, while enabling us to maintain healthy bond ratings.

Some of the highlights of the 2008 – 2009 budget:

1. A property tax rate increase of 3.99 percent. We are confident that this will not place an undue burden on our taxpayers.
2. Will allow us to maintain those programs which have proven to be successful in the past. These include, among others: 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.
3. Will enable us to pay special attention to the schools which were previously identified as being in need of improvement. By doing so, we will direct resources where they are most needed without sacrificing the welfare of students in other locations.
4. 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.

We are confident that by continuing to work together we will build on the successes of the past, and create a school district that is second to none.

Sincerely,
Fadhilika Atiba-Weza
Superintendent of Schools

The community is invited to "MEET THE CANDIDATES" for the three vacancies on the Board of Education on Monday, May 12, 2008 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.

2008-2009 Budget

What is the budget increase?

The proposed budget of \$93.2 million represents a 5.56 percent spending increase over the current year's budget of \$88.3 million. The tax levy increase is only 3.99 percent. The city of Troy and town of Brunswick have different equalization rates, so the tax impact varies.

What cuts and additions are being proposed in the 2008-09 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.

How has recent state aid affected Troy?

Troy depends on state aid for about 53 percent of its revenue. This year, the district will receive \$318,461 in state aid based on the final state budget. Part of this increase in state aid was used to reduce the property tax increase.

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\$	2.5 Million
Health Insurance\$	0.6 Million
Charter School Tuitions\$	0.5 Million
Retirement Systems\$	0.1 Million
Debt Service\$	0.2 Million
BOCES Services\$	0.6 Million
All Other Areas Increase\$	0.4 Million

Total\$ **4.9 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.

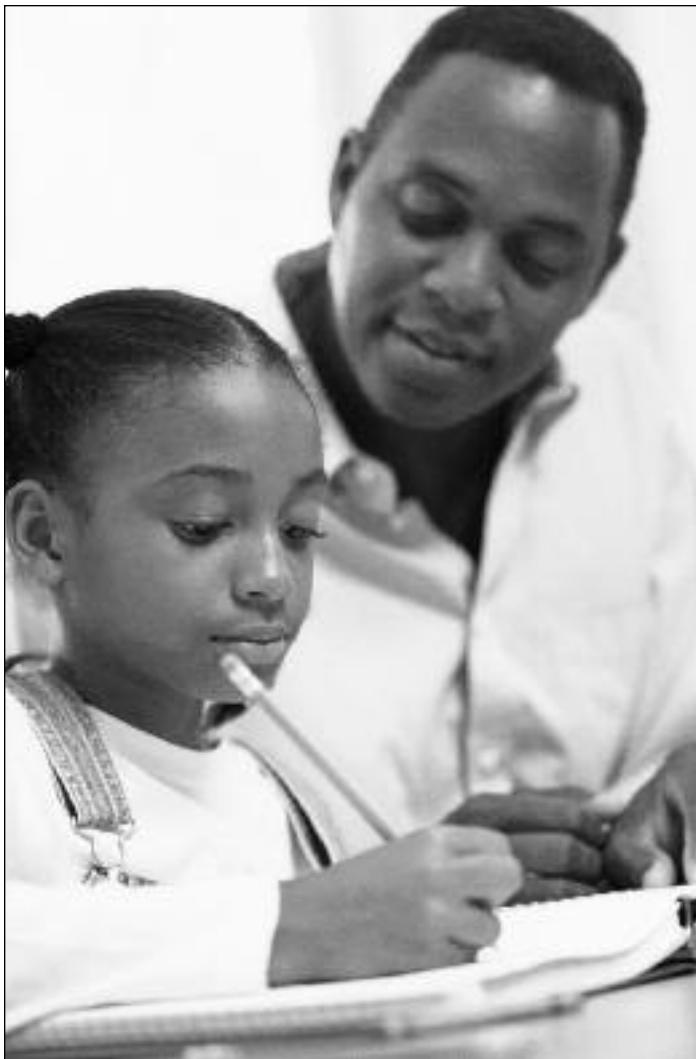
A cap prescribed by the state limits Troy's spending increase to a formula based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For 2008-09, this formula limits school contingency budget growth to 3.36 percent over last year's budget. The district would be unable to operate services or programs not considered 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 2008-09 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 328-5070 for assistance.

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

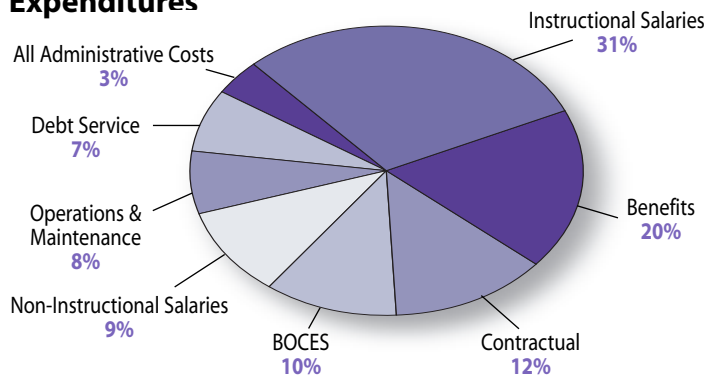
Voter Eligibility — Only qualified voters who are registered will be permitted to vote. To vote, you must be: a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the vote date.



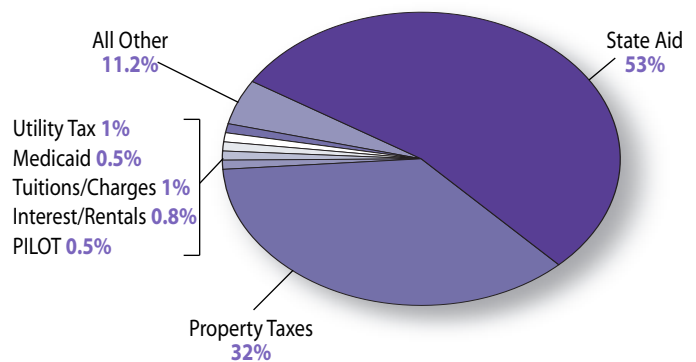
Expenditures — *How is the money spent?*

BUDGET CATEGORY	2007-2008	2008-2009	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Administrative Salaries	2,508,429	2,845,823	337,394	13.45%
Instructional Salaries	27,116,096	28,992,831	1,876,735	6.92%
Non-Instructional Salaries	7,670,370	7,960,436	290,066	3.78%
Benefits	17,243,109	18,309,313	1,066,204	6.18%
Contractual Expenses	11,170,355	11,206,500	36,145	0.32%
Materials and Supplies	888,400	852,350	-36,050	-4.06%
BOCES Expenses	8,692,672	9,325,381	632,709	7.28%
Debt Service	6,438,886	6,651,507	212,621	3.30%
Equipment	606,553	584,053	-22,500	-3.71%
Tuition	5,334,600	5,902,570	567,970	10.65%
Textbooks	406,875	406,875	0	0.00%
Transfer To Other Funds	267,300	220,000	-47,300	-17.70%
TOTALS	\$88,343,645	\$93,257,638	\$4,913,993	5.56%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — *Where does the money come from?*

REVENUE CATEGORY	2007-2008	2008-2009	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Real Property Tax Items	1,430,000	1,615,000	185,000	12.94%
Charges for Services	887,100	922,990	35,980	4.05%
Interest and Earnings	685,000	735,000	50,000	7.30%
Sale of Real Property	16,500	16,500	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	489,167	2,178,987	1,689,820	345.45%
State Aid	49,145,331	49,463,792	318,461	0.65%
Medicaid Reimbursement	500,000	500,000	0	0.00%
Real Property Tax Levy	28,411,748	29,546,570	1,134,822	3.99%
Interfund Trans Debt Service	2,153,799	2,153,799	0	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	4,625,000	6,125,000		
TOTALS	88,343,645	93,257,638	4,913,993	5.56%

Property Tax Information:

- **The District's Tax Levy will increase 3.99% from the 2007-08 school year.**
- **The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners based on a home with a full value of \$100,000 is \$547.39**
- **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.**

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).

The Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the statement of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2008-09 school year showing a proposed budget of \$93,257,638 is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget proposition to be out before voters on May 20, 2008 shall read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2008-09 school year in the amount of \$93,257,638 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

2008-09 ... \$126.24 per 1000 assessed value

Last year ... \$121.64 per 1000 assessed value

Brunswick

2008-09 ... \$78.89 per 1000 assessed value

Last year ... \$74.06 per 1000 assessed value



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

Jason Schofield, *President*
Thomas Mayo, *Vice President*
Mary Ellen Adams
Ilene Clinton
Carol Harvin
Patricia O'Grady
Michael Pollack
Stephanie Scully
Anne Wager-Rounds
Eva DeFiglio, *Clerk of the Board*

Fadhilika Atiba-Weza, *Superintendent*
Mary Capobianco,
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
Peter Hopke,
Director of Management Services
Mary O'Neill,
School Business Administrator