

TROY



today & tomorrow

A PUBLICATION OF THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY

BUDGET NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2009

SAVE THE DATES!

TUESDAY, MAY 5
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Voter Registration Day
School 1

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

MONDAY, MAY 11
7:30 p.m.
"Meet the Candidates"
Doyle Middle School

TUESDAY, MAY 19
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 19

Dear Parents and Residents:

The 2009-2010 budget for the Enlarged City School District of Troy was developed over the course of several months and it utilizes the public input received during monthly Board of Education meetings, budget workshops and town hall meetings. We realized that in order to build a sound budget for the 2009-2010 school year, we must decrease expenditures, while increasing revenue at a reasonable rate.

In meeting this challenge, recommendations which were made to the Board of Education included a retirement incentive, consolidation of services and programs, and an institutional review process for all current and future contracts, vacancies and expenditures; as well as a freeze of the Superintendent's salary.

On April 1st 2009, the Board of Education unanimously (8-0) adopted a budget of \$95.1 million for the 2009-10 school year. At the beginning of the school year, the Board made a commitment to the tax payers that it would not increase the tax levy more than four percent this year. This was despite some of the harshest economic climates that school districts and the state government have experienced in several years.

As a consequence of the dire financial situation of our state, school districts like ours – those which are heavily dependent on state aid - have been particularly challenged by the task of providing educational programs of the best quality without placing undue financial burdens of the tax payers of their communities.

Projections show tax rate increases of only 3.84 percent for the City of Troy and 3.85 percent for the Town of Brunswick. The 2009-10 budget shows an increase of 1.99% from last year's budget of \$93.2 million.

We are thankful that our local legislators were able to provide the District with some additional funding during the final stages of the New York State budget negotiations. This enabled us to restore some programs and maintain some positions we otherwise would have lost.

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Doyle Middle School Media Center. District residents will vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at various designated polling locations.

I am confident that in spite of the difficulties which we face in our endeavors to provide the best education in times of declining financial resources, our school community will rise to the challenge on behalf of our children.

We thank you for your support.

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 11, 2009 at 7:00 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.

2009-2010 Budget

What is the budget increase?

The proposed budget of \$95.1 million represents a 1.99 percent spending increase over the current year's budget of \$93.2 million. The tax levy increase is only 4 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 2009-10 budget?

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

How has recent state aid affected Troy?

Troy depends on state aid for about 54 percent of its revenue. This year, the district will receive an additional \$2,139,017 in state aid based on the final state budget. The 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 changes from last year include:

Benefits	\$ 1,262,145
Salaries	\$ (791,318)
Tuitions	\$ 1,298,656
Debt Service	\$ 748,235
BOCES Services	\$ (474,216)
All Other Areas	\$ (183,862)
Total	\$ 1,859,640

What happens if the budget is defeated?

Troy would have to make significant cuts totaling \$393,605 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 2009-10, this formula limits school contingency budget growth to 4 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 2009-10 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.

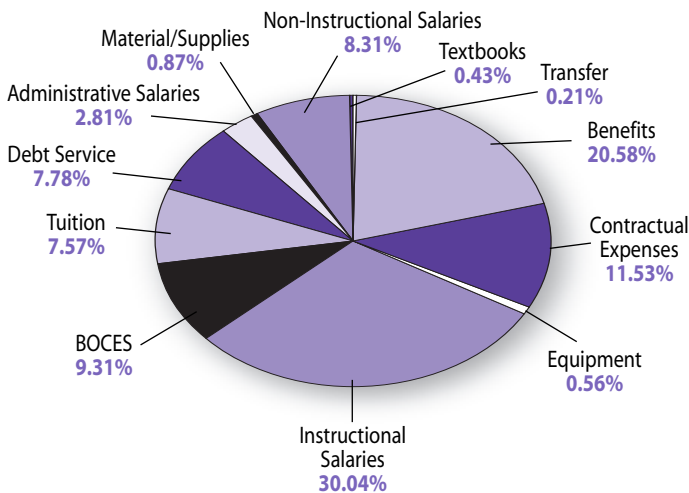
Voter Eligibility — Only qualified voters who are registered will be permitted to vote. To vote, you must be: a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the district for at least 30 days preceding the vote date.



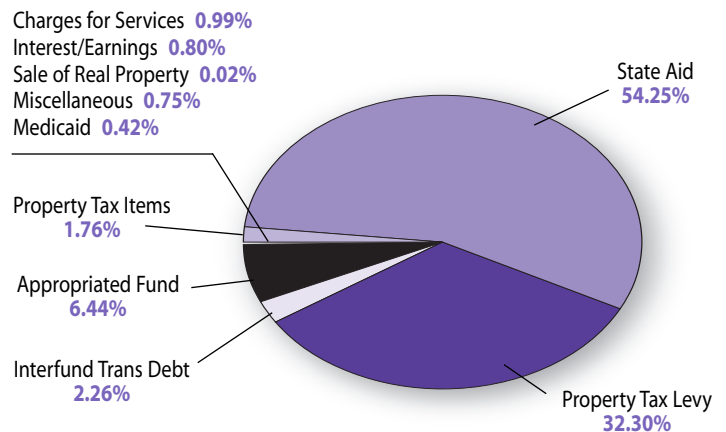
Expenditures — *How is the money spent?*

BUDGET CATEGORY	2008-2009	2009-2010	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Textbooks	406,875	406,875	—	0.00%
Benefits	18,309,313	19,571,458	1,262,145	6.89%
Contractual Expenses	11,036,749	10,971,778	(64,971)	-0.59%
Materials and Supplies	868,100	824,780	(43,320)	-4.99%
Instructional Salaries	29,106,677	28,576,987	(529,690)	-1.82%
BOCES Expenses	9,330,381	8,856,165	(474,216)	-5.08%
Non-Instructional Salaries	7,980,436	7,907,250	(73,186)	-0.92%
Debt Service	6,651,507	7,399,742	748,235	11.25%
Administrative Salaries	2,860,977	2,672,535	(188,442)	-6.59%
Equipment	584,053	528,482	(55,571)	-9.51%
Tuition	5,902,570	7,201,226	1,298,656	22.00%
Transfer To Other Funds	220,000	200,000	(20,000)	-9.09%
TOTALS	\$93,257,638	\$95,117,278	\$1,859,640	1.99%

Expenditures



Revenues



Revenues — *Where does the money come from?*

REVENUE CATEGORY	2008-2009	2009-2010	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Real Property Tax Items	1,615,000	1,670,000	55,000	3.41%
Charges for Services	922,990	945,940	22,950	2.49%
Interest and Earnings	735,000	760,000	25,000	3.40%
Sale of Real Property	16,500	16,500	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	2,178,987	716,000	-1,462,987	-67.14%
State Aid	49,463,792	51,602,809	2,139,017	4.32%
Medicaid Reimbursement	500,000	400,000	-100,000	-20.00%
Real Property Tax Levy	29,546,570	30,727,230	1,180,660	4.00%
Interfund Trans Debt Service	2,153,799	2,153,799	0	0.00%
Appropriated Fund Balance	6,125,000	6,125,000	0	0.00%
TOTALS	93,257,638	95,117,278	1,859,640	1.99%

Property Tax Information:

- **The District's Tax Levy will increase 4.00% from the 2008-09 school year.**
- **The estimated basic STAR tax savings for homeowners is \$590.79**
- **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 2009-10 school year showing a proposed budget of \$95.1 million is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget proposition to be out before voters on May 19, 2009 shall read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget of expenditures of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2009-10 school year in the amount of \$95.1 million 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

2009-10\$134.27 per 1000 assessed value

Last year\$129.11 per 1000 assessed value

Brunswick

2009-10\$74.60 per 1000 assessed value

Last year\$71.72 per 1000 assessed value



The Enlarged City School District of Troy
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Troy, New York 12180

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