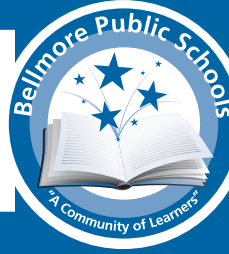


BELLMORE



BELLMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BUDGET EDITION

BUDGET VOTE MAY 17, 2011

Budget and Board Trustee Vote
Charles A. Reinhard Early Childhood Center
7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

LOWEST
BUDGET-TO-BUDGET
INCREASE IN
16 YEARS

St☆rs Shine in Bellmore

Districtwide

- The District provides a safe and secure environment that supports academic excellence and social responsibility
- The District participates in a number of cooperative contracts for goods and services resulting in cost savings
- The District implemented Solar Power which has reduced energy costs and is good for the environment
- The District established a comprehensive vision statement, mission statement, and core values
- The District maintains effective financial oversight
- The District has a high level of parental involvement in all areas

Shore Road

- Students continue to succeed in meeting and exceeding New York State standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics
- An enhanced science curriculum provides numerous opportunities to participate in the scientific process, including the Invention Convention and Science Fair
- Student-created manipulative materials enrich the mathematics curriculum along with student participation in the Mathletes program, which expands understanding of concepts and applications in areas such as geometry and algebra
- Social studies standards are reinforced through videoconferences and field trips focused on the history curriculum, including colonial life, ancient Egypt, World War I and World War II
- Students learn the importance and impact of community service on a local and global level through numerous outreach efforts which also support the District's character education values of respect, dedication, integrity, trust and teamwork



Winthrop Avenue

- The Star Power Learning Center allows students to explore solar and renewable energy by participating in data analysis, hands-on activities and SMART Board activities
- Videoconferences extend classroom learning and connect students with NASA scientists, historical societies, museum curators, and other students in distant locations
- The hands-on science curriculum involves students in the scientific process, enabling third-grade students to independently conduct experiments and display the results at the annual Science Fair
- Students participate in Core Value and Anti-Bullying assemblies which support development of socially responsible and respectful citizens

Charles A. Reinhard

- The District's earliest learners are provided with differentiated literacy instruction in small guided reading groups and literacy centers
- Interactive writing is used as an instructional tool to focus students on concepts and conventions of print, sounds in words, and sound-symbol associations
- Strong kindergarten phonemic awareness program provides students with foundational skills necessary to support early literacy development
- A focus on core values is made through classroom and principal read-alouds and recognition of students on the Reinhard Constellation of Rising Stars
- Second grade students are introduced to string instruments during a ten week introductory program
- Students are exposed to the arts through Artist-in-Residence and Drama-in-Residence programs

A Message from THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Residents,

For the past few months, the Board of Education has been working tirelessly with administration to prepare a fair and reasonable proposed budget that takes into account the current economic climate while still maintaining a competitive educational program for our students. With rising costs, declining state aid, and a struggling economy, this budget season has been a difficult and arduous process. Unfunded state and federal mandates and rising operational costs not controlled by the District have increased steadily over the years. Utility rates, health care premiums, transportation, special education services, and contributions to retirement systems continue to rise.

That said, the proposed 2011-2012 budget is \$31,503,146 and carries a 2.27% budget-to-budget increase over the 2010-2011 budget. This is the lowest budget-to-budget increase in 16 years.

Additionally, we continue to work diligently to seek new operating efficiencies and alternative sources of revenue. Through prudent fiscal management, the District is also able to offset the tax increase by utilizing reserves. We are continuously reviewing our programs to best utilize our services provided and to keep costs to a minimum. On page 3 of this newsletter you will also find ways in which the District has worked to maximize funds.

With a continued focus on comprehensive education, we are committed to helping our students become a well-rounded "Community of Learners." Despite the financial constraints we face, the proposed budget provides the funding necessary to help our students continue to build a foundation of success.

We are proud of the school-community partnership we maintain and are extremely appreciative that Bellmore residents display strong support for our school district and its programs. All residents are encouraged to participate as informed voters in the 2011-2012 Budget Vote and Trustee Election. Polls will be open at the Charles A. Reinhard Early Childhood Center from 7:00 am-10:00 pm.

Sincerely,

Jay L. T. Breakstone, President
Steven I. Traum, Vice President
Marion Blane, Trustee
Brian Desmond, Trustee
Janet Goller, Trustee
Maryanne Kelly, Trustee



Board of Education members are volunteers and do not receive any compensation.

Required and UNFUNDED

Board of Education members and administrators often speak of unfunded mandates that affect the escalating cost of education. These are federal or state requirements that the District must comply with and implement without adequate funding from the government. The following list shows a portion of the diverse unfunded mandates:



- **No Child Left Behind Requirements**
- **New York State Assessments Grades 3-6**
- **Academic Intervention Services**
- **Aligned Curriculum Writing**
- **Health and Safety Requirements**
- **Special Education**
- **Professional Development Plan**
- **Auditing (i.e., Claims, Internal, and External)**
- **Professional Mentoring Program**
- **Buildings Condition Survey**
- **Automated External Defibrillators**
- **Character Education**
- **New Teacher Mentoring**

STRETCHING TAXPAYER DOLLARS

The Bellmore School District is committed to maintaining high-quality educational services while keeping the budget as low as possible. Some of the innovative cost-saving measures used by the District to maximize use of taxpayer dollars include:

- **In-district Special Education:** The District has created in-district special education classes that more effectively address the academic and social needs of these students, while saving the District tuition and transportation costs.
- **In-district Staff Development:** The District has implemented a staff-to-staff development program with Bellmore teachers facilitating workshops for one another. The program helps the District keep staff development costs to a minimum while still maintaining the high standards of teacher training.
- **In-district Repairs:** It has always been a top priority in the District to keep buildings properly maintained and to conserve energy, enhance

learning and protect the community's investment. To that end, the District utilizes the expertise of in-house custodial and maintenance staff to save significant funds on costly repairs such as boilers, heating systems, and many other facilities projects.

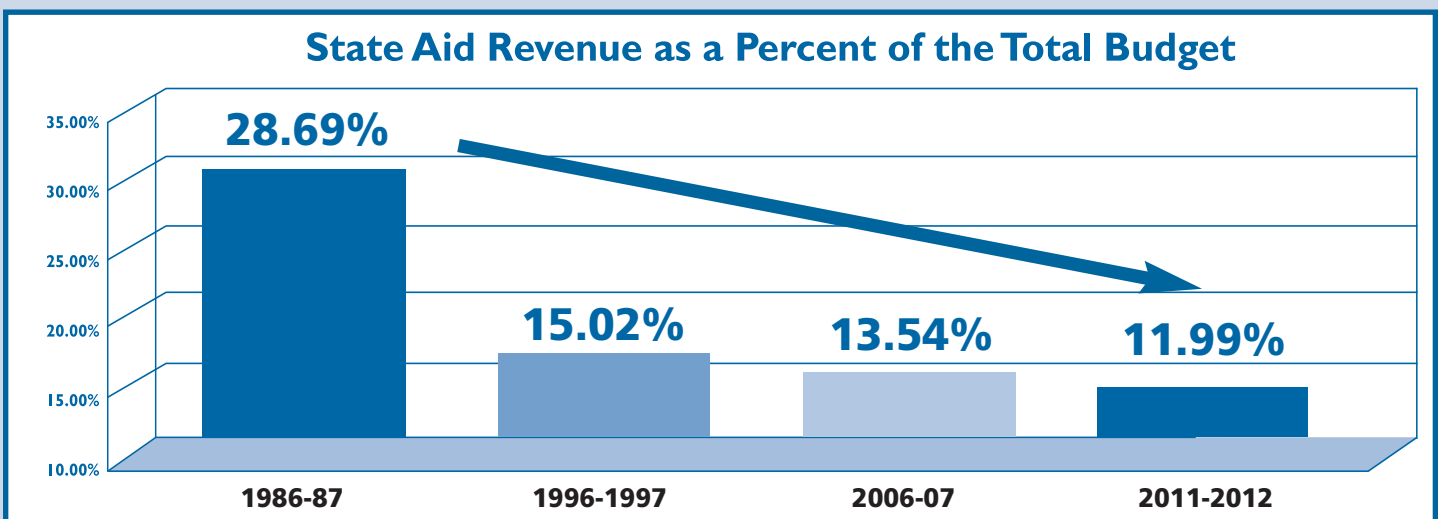


- **The Capital Reserve Fund:** Already approved by the voters in 2001, at no additional tax rate increase, this fund also protects the District from having to increase the budget for future building improvement projects.
- **Cooperative Bidding:** Through cooperative bidding with neighboring elementary districts and the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District,

the District can secure the lowest possible prices for fuel, insurance, and transportation. The District has also expanded its cooperative bidding to include the Nassau County School Directors of Facilities Purchasing Cooperative. This cooperative includes 40 districts which jointly purchase items, such as instructional and custodial supplies/services, resulting in lower prices and savings to the District.

- **Oil versus Natural Gas:** The District has the unique ability to switch between natural gas and fuel oil at all three schools. The District contacts Keyspan each month to get the current cost of natural gas, compared to the current fuel oil price, and then uses the lower priced service, which results in a considerable savings to the District.
- **Solar Energy System:** A solar energy system has been installed at the Winthrop Avenue School at no cost to the District. This has reduced the District's energy costs and has become an energy and cost-saving program.

State Aid: *Never Fully Recovered*



The Bellmore School District is dependent upon state aid to help support a quality learning environment in each of its schools. Since 1986-1987, the District has experienced a significant loss of State aid. In spite of these losses, the District is able to maintain high-quality services and present voters with one of the lowest budget increases in 16 years.

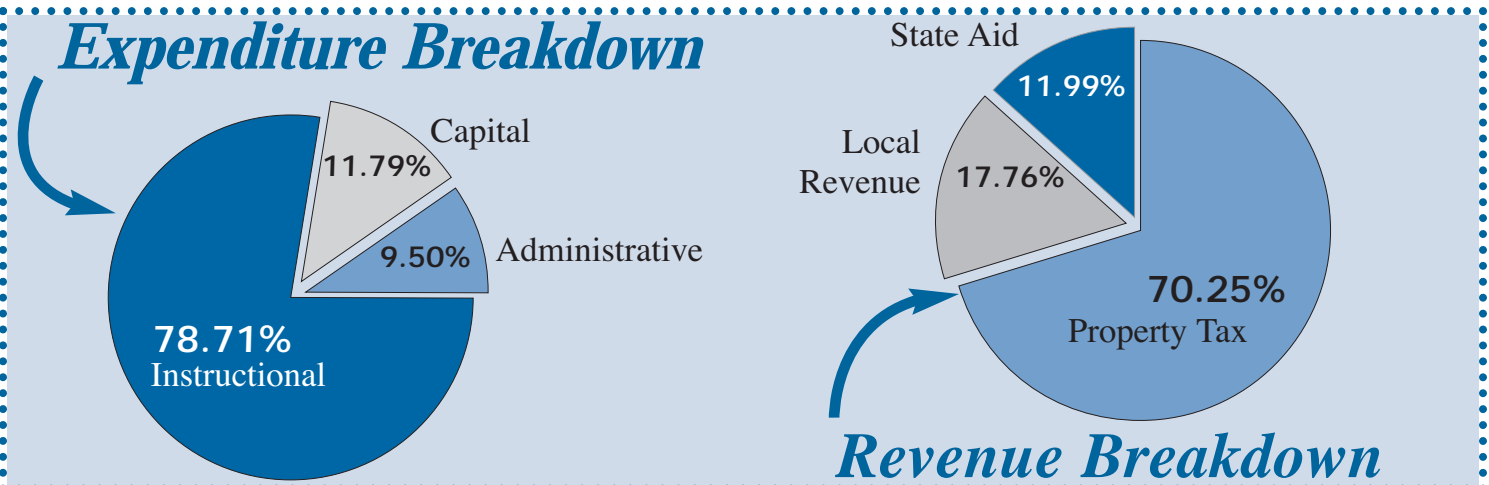
PROGRAM BUDGET

	2010-2011 Budget	2011-2012 Proposed Budget	Difference
ADMINISTRATIVE			
Board of Education* & District Clerk	\$57,242	\$58,442	\$1,200
Central Administration	328,793	335,228	6,435
Business Administration	658,236	654,331	-3,905
Legal Services	59,937	63,684	3,747
Public Information, Insurance, Association Dues, & MTA Tax	277,123	276,625	-498
BOCES Administrative Services	177,667	186,550	8,883
Curriculum	745,786	741,276	-4,510
Employee Welfare - Contractual	508,176	576,438	68,262
TANS Interest	183,333	100,000	-83,333
TOTAL	\$2,996,293	\$2,992,574	-\$3,719

INSTRUCTION			
Instructional Program	\$10,531,970	\$10,381,869	-\$150,101
Special Education	4,217,931	4,278,089	60,158
Computer & Library Program	993,058	976,608	-16,450
Student Services	735,067	766,010	30,943
Student Transportation	1,694,412	1,704,399	9,987
Census	-	-	-
MTA Payroll Tax	43,500	45,675	2,175
Employee Welfare - Contractual	5,963,700	6,644,627	680,927
TOTAL	\$24,179,638	\$24,797,277	\$617,639

CAPITAL			
Operations	\$1,164,813	\$1,189,971	\$25,158
Maintenance	246,755	246,755	-
Utilities	785,626	812,907	27,281
MTA Payroll Tax	3,500	3,675	175
Employee Welfare - Contractual	531,197	566,522	35,325
School Debt	834,827	833,465	-1,362
Transfer to Special Aid	60,000	60,000	-
TOTAL	\$3,626,718	\$3,713,295	\$86,577

TOTAL BUDGET	\$30,802,649	\$31,503,146	\$700,497
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* Board of Education members are volunteers and do not receive any compensation.

ESTIMATED REVENUE

	2010-2011 Revenue	2011-2012 Estimated Revenue	Change
STATE REVENUE			
Foundation Aid, Excess Cost Aid	\$2,374,171	\$1,973,469	-400,702
Hardware and Technology	9,720	10,182	462
Library, Software, & Textbooks	99,420	99,307	-113
Transportation	250,000	307,014	57,014
Building Aid	550,000	572,284	22,284
Tax Limitation Aid	413,153	413,153	-
BOCES & Special Services Aid	420,000	400,144	-19,856
TOTAL STATE REVENUE	\$4,116,464	\$3,775,553	-\$340,911
LOCAL REVENUE			
Fund Balance	\$4,027,525	\$4,356,000	\$328,475
Appropriation of Reserve	400,000	400,000	-
Health Services	200,000	200,000	-
Interest	100,000	50,000	-50,000
Tuitions	300,000	200,000	-100,000
Refund Prior Year	60,000	60,000	-
Rental Music Instruments	6,000	6,000	-
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	290,000	324,000	34,000
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	\$5,383,525	\$5,596,000	\$212,475
TOTAL REVENUE (BEFORE LEVY)	\$9,499,989	\$9,371,553	-\$128,436
TAX LEVY	\$21,302,660	\$22,131,593	\$828,933
TOTAL REVENUE	\$30,802,649	\$31,503,146	\$700,497

Lowest Budget Increase in 16 years

	Budget 2010-2011	Proposed 2011-2012	Difference	Percentage
Budget	\$30,802,649	\$31,503,146	\$700,497	2.27%
Tax Levy	\$21,302,660	\$22,131,593	\$828,933	3.89%*

* \$2.88/week estimated increase on an average house assessed at \$434,000 (Nassau County data)

EXPLANATION OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Board of Education		\$6,805
	Includes expenditures incurred by members of the Board of Education for dues, conferences, and educational workshops and meetings.	
District Clerk		\$44,712
	Includes supplies, materials, and the salary for the District Clerk.	
District Meetings		\$6,925
	Includes salaries, supplies, materials, and legal advertising for the budget vote, bond vote, and special meetings.	
Central Administration Services		\$335,228
	Includes the salaries for the Superintendent of Schools and central office personnel. Also includes conferences, supplies, and materials for the central office.	
Business Administration Services		\$533,208
	Includes the salaries of the School Business Administrator and business office personnel. Also includes supplies, materials, and computerized accounting and payroll systems costs.	
District Treasurer and Auditors		\$121,123
	Includes the District Treasurer's salary, banking services, and the cost of the internal and claims audits, as well as the annual external audit.	
Legal Services		\$44,500
	Includes the retainer fee for the School Attorney and litigation expenses.	
Negotiations		\$19,184
	Includes the salary of the Labor Negotiator, cost of BOCES Negotiation Information Services, and litigation expenses.	
Public Information		\$55,545
	Covers the cost of preparing parent and community mailings, public information services, printing YOUR SCHOOLS, website hosting and maintenance, and calendars, required public notices and special education mailings.	
Operations and the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds		\$2,249,633
	Custodial Salaries	\$1,060,021
	Utilities	\$812,907
	Contractual Repairs, Services, Materials, Supplies, and Equipment	\$376,705
Liability Insurance		\$204,680
	Includes the cost of liability insurance, as well as general insurance, auto, boiler, and machinery, as well as student accident insurance.	
School Association Dues		\$11,150
	Includes membership fees for local and state educational organizations.	
MTA Tax		\$54,600
	Payroll tax imposed for the Metropolitan Transit Authority.	
BOCES Administrative Charge		\$186,550
	Each district is charged a fee based on the number of children attending public schools within the district.	
Building, Administrative, and Curriculum Improvement		\$1,040,636
	Includes the salaries of the building principals and office staff, equipment, materials, and supplies. Also includes part of the salary of the Assistant to the Superintendent and costs of in-service training and curriculum development.	
Instructional Salaries, Supplies, and Equipment		\$10,007,324
	Salaries	\$9,386,596
	Materials and Supplies	\$244,869
	Textbooks	\$122,405
	BOCES Services	\$253,454

Home Teaching		\$3,500
Includes the salaries and travel expenses for home teachers of children with long-term illnesses.		
Program for Students with Special Needs		\$4,349,774
Salaries	\$3,379,222	
Materials, Supplies, and Contractual Services	\$450,652	
Tuition - Other Districts and Private Schools	\$330,000	
Tuition - BOCES	\$189,900	
<i>Salaries include special education director, special education teachers, teaching assistants, clerical, and administrative staff. Tuition is for special education students attending programs out of the district. A portion of these costs are offset by state aid.</i>		
School Libraries		\$387,886
Includes the salaries for librarians and library clerks, library books, periodicals, materials, and supplies for the school libraries.		
Instructional Technology		\$588,722
Includes salaries, hardware, software, materials and supplies, and BOCES support services for the technology/computer education program. A portion of the cost of the computer education program is offset by state aid.		
Support Services		\$766,010
Health Services	\$251,197	
Psychological and Social Work Services	\$514,813	
<i>Health Services include those students attending St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, as well as Bellmore Public Schools.</i>		
Transportation		\$1,704,399
The school district provides transportation for all resident kindergarten students and students in grades 1-6 living one-half mile or further from school. In accordance with State law, transportation is also provided to private and parochial schools located at least one-half mile and no further than fifteen miles from the students' homes and for children with disabilities attending special schools.		
Employee Benefits		\$7,787,587
N.Y.S. Employee's Retirement System	\$444,430	
N.Y.S. Teacher's Retirement System	\$1,578,964	
Social Security	\$1,320,690	
Worker's Compensation	\$230,910	
Life Insurance	\$16,141	
Disability Insurance	\$50,736	
Hospitalization, Medical & Dental Insurance, and Employee Assistance	\$4,145,716	
Debt Service - Principal		\$650,000
Includes principal payments for the 2007 School Bond and 1997 Technology Bond Issues.		
Debt Service - Interest		\$183,465
Includes interest payments for the 2007 and 1997 Bond Issues.		
TANS Interest		\$100,000
Tax Anticipation Notes. The District must borrow funds to meet initial expenditures until it begins to receive tax dollars in November.		
Transfer for Special Aid		\$60,000
Covers transfers of funds for District share of Handicapped Summer School costs.		
TOTAL		\$31,503,146

On the Ballot

You will be asked to vote on the following on May 17, 2011:

Member, Board of Education -
Three-year term expiring June 30, 2014
(Vote for one)
Jay L.T. Breakstone

PROPOSITION NO. 1 - BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET PROPOSITION FOR 2011-2012

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of thirty-one million, five hundred three thousand, one hundred forty-six dollars (\$31,503,146) for the 2011-2012 school year and to levy the necessary tax thereof.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 - BELLMORE-MERRICK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET PROPOSITION FOR 2011-2012

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund appropriate of one hundred thirty one million, three hundred fifty

five thousand, six hundred seventy two dollars (\$131,355,672) to be raised through taxation in the several districts included within the Central High School District after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 - CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, county of Nassau, is hereby authorized to expend the sum of two million four hundred sixty-two thousand three hundred fifty-five dollars (\$2,462,355) representing the balance of monies in the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 20, 2008, and unencumbered and unexpended capital funds from Proposition No. 2 in the 2001-02, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 school fiscal years, and unencumbered and unexpended capital funds in the school district budget for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years for the following purposes: completion of roof work at Sanford H. Calhoun High School, Wellington C. Mephram High School, and Merrick Avenue Middle School, roof replacement at Grand Avenue Middle School, and track resurfacing at both Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue Middle Schools in order to extend warranties. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund and from the consolidation of existing unencumbered and unexpended capital funds from prior school fiscal years, approval of this proposition will not require a tax levy upon the real property of the district. This Proposition shall be independent of Proposition No. 2.

What Will Happen if *the Budget Fails?*

If the budget is defeated on May 17, state law allows the Board to present either the same budget or a revised budget for one more vote. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the Board must, by law, adopt a Contingency Budget.

A Contingency Budget would have a negative impact on the quality of education the District has experienced over the past several years.

In the event the District is required to adopt a Contingency Budget, the Board will be forced to examine the following areas:

- Class Size
- Music Program
- Art Program
- Foreign Language Program

- Field Trips
- Use of Buildings (for outside groups, after school, before school and weekends)
- Use of Fields (after school, evenings, weekends)
- Maintenance & Custodial Projects
- Elimination of New Equipment

VOTER INFORMATION

VOTER REQUIREMENTS

- You are a U.S. Citizen.
- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You have been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You have been registered to vote in the general elections or have been registered to vote in the school elections.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The District Clerk must receive applications at least 7 days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. All completed ballots must be in the hands of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election. For further information, call 516-679-2910.

BELLMORE 

www.bellmoreschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jay L.T. Breakstone, *President*

Steven I. Traum, *Vice President*

Marion Blane, *Trustee*

Brian Desmond, *Trustee*

Janet Goller, *Trustee*

Maryanne Kelly, *Trustee*

Dr. Joseph S. Famularo, *Superintendent of Schools*