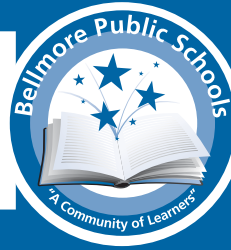


BELLMORE



BELLMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BUDGET EDITION

BUDGET VOTE MAY 19, 2009

LOWEST
BUDGET-TO-BUDGET
INCREASE IN
14 YEARS

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



BELLMORE'S SUPER STARS

- Comprehensive vision statement, mission statement and core values.
- Passing Rate of 100% on Fifth-Grade NYS Social Studies Assessment
- Districtwide Character Education Program working to create a "Community of Learners"
- 30 Shore Road students selected as All-County Musicians
- Shore Road students participated in the Long Island String Festival
- Technology-integrated instruction - Use of SMART Board Technology
- Winthrop Avenue students selected to participate in Recorder Festival
- Student artwork displayed at local bank
- Effective financial oversight
- High student involvement in community service
- High level of parental involvement in all areas
- Use of Solar Energy to lower energy costs' purchased through grant monies

A Message from

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Residents,

On Tuesday, May 19, community members in the Bellmore School District will be asked to vote on the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The Board of Education has worked cooperatively with the administration and has thoroughly examined current expenditures and revenues, reviewed projected enrollment and staffing needs, and monitored expenditure increases outside of the district's control. The proposed 2009-2010 budget maintains the district's core academic program in the most cost-effective and efficient manner, while minimizing the cost impact for taxpayers.

The proposed 2009-2010 budget stands at \$29,913,226 and carries a 3.43% budget-to-budget increase over the 2008-2009 budget, resulting in the lowest increase in fourteen years.

The proposed budget will not only continue to support our students' success and improve facilities, it will actually cost taxpayers less than a Contingency Budget.

As our educational program keeps growing stronger and places us amongst the best of Nassau County on New York State Assessments, our Character Education Program continues to expand. This year, our students have reached out to the members of our community – locally and globally – by raising funds, and collecting food, clothing, and supplies. We are proud of our strong school-

community partnership, and working together as a "Community of Learners" we can continue to excel. We thank you for your support as we move forward in preparing our students for the world that awaits them.

Residents are also encouraged to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday, May 19. Polls will be open at the Charles A. Reinhard Early Childhood Center from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Sincerely,

Marion Blane, President
Janet Goller, Vice President
Jay L. T. Breakstone, Trustee
Richard Narby, Trustee
Ted Tanenbaum, Trustee
Steven I. Traum, 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

DOING MORE WITH LESS

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

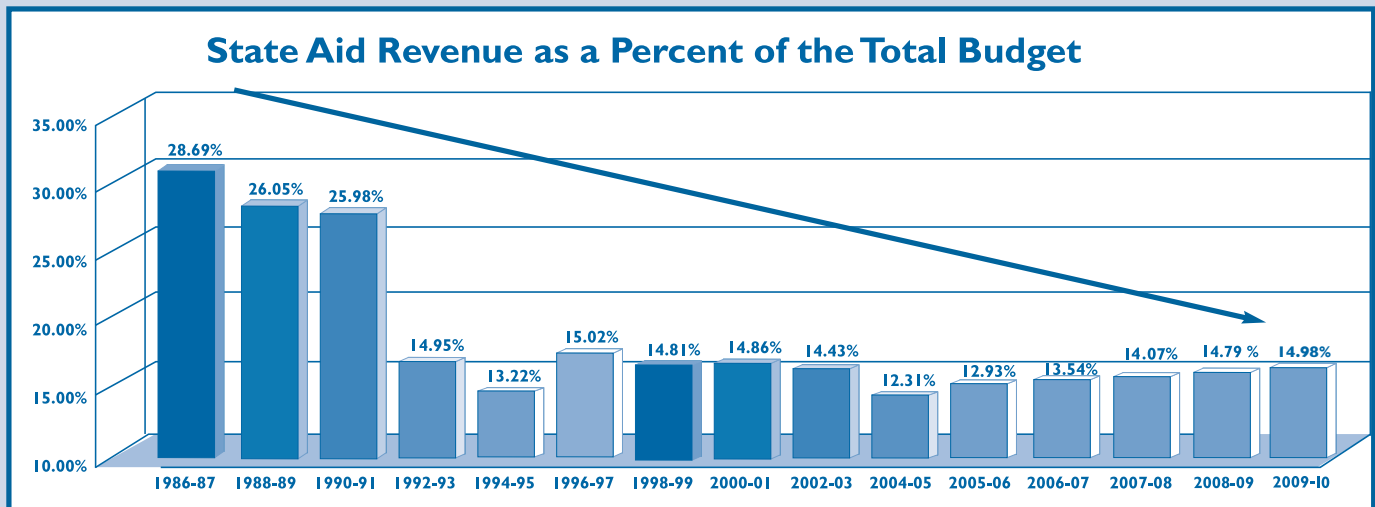
- **In-district Special Education:** The district has created in-district special education classes that more effectively address the academic and social needs of these students, while saving the district tuition and transportation costs.
- **In-district Staff Development:** The district has implemented 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.
- **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 minor building improvement projects.
- **Cooperative Bidding:** Through cooperative bidding with

neighboring elementary districts and the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, the district is able to 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 School Facilities Purchasing Cooperative. This cooperative includes 38 districts who jointly purchase items, such as instructional and custodial supplies/services, which results 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, compares it to the current fuel oil price, and then uses the lowest price service, which results in considerable savings to the district.

- **Solar Energy System:** The district will install a solar energy system at the Winthrop Avenue School for the 2009-2010 school year at no cost to the district. This will reduce the district's energy costs and be 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 percentage tax increases in Nassau County as a result of prudent fiscal management.

TAXES AT A GLANCE

2009-2010 Anticipated Tax Levy Increase:

2.60%

Among lowest in Nassau County

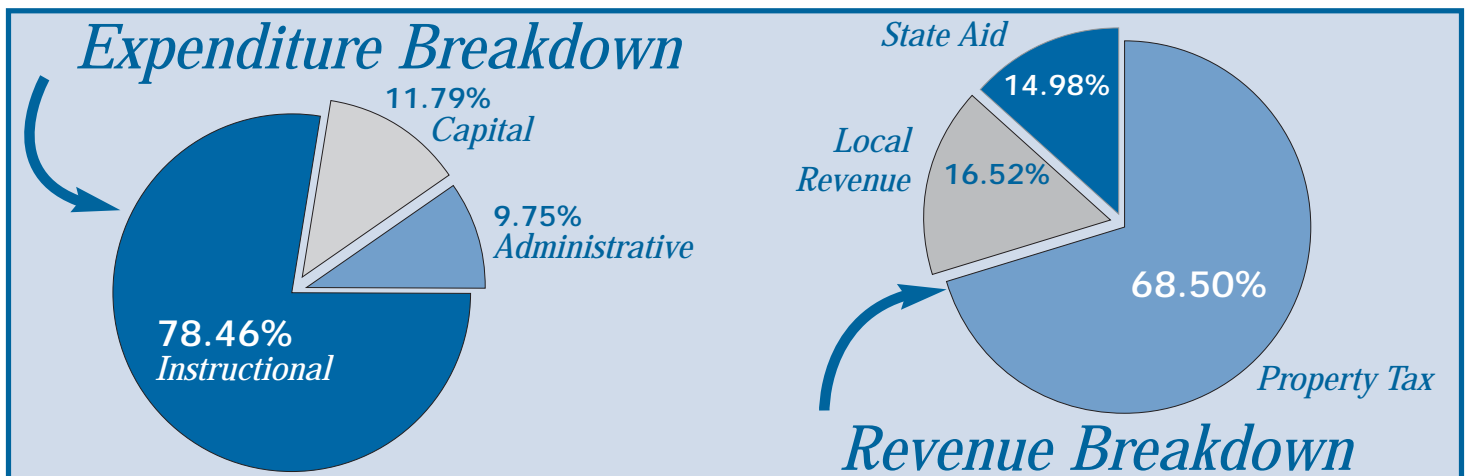
Estimated increase in dollars on an average house assessed at \$538,400** =

**Nassau County Data

\$145 annually or \$2.79/week

PROGRAM BUDGET

	2008-2009 Budget	2009-2010 Proposed Budget	Difference
ADMINISTRATIVE			
Board of Education* & District Clerk	\$55,887	\$55,577	(310)
Central Administration	304,775	320,557	15,782
Business Administration	616,650	647,469	30,819
Legal Services	44,480	59,704	15,224
Public Information, Insurance, & Association Dues	258,375	264,690	6,315
BOCES Administrative Services	161,225	169,287	8,062
Curriculum	687,761	717,491	29,730
Employee Welfare - Contractual	475,976	497,586	21,610
TANS Interest	183,333	183,333	0
TOTAL	\$2,788,462	\$2,915,694	\$127,232
INSTRUCTION			
Instructional Program	\$9,770,290	\$10,133,593	363,303
Special Education	3,628,060	3,989,185	361,125
Computer & Library Program	964,200	984,617	20,417
Student Services	699,925	722,807	22,882
Student Transportation	1,688,178	1,734,704	46,526
Census	5,000	2,000	(3,000)
Employee Welfare - Contractual	5,658,400	5,904,632	246,232
TOTAL	\$22,414,053	\$23,471,538	1,057,485
CAPITAL			
Operations	\$1,109,032	\$1,167,260	\$58,228
Maintenance	237,285	237,755	470
Utilities	712,025	752,588	40,563
Employee Welfare - Contractual	483,774	507,369	23,595
Library Debt	96,930	0	(96,930)
School Debt	1,050,000	830,022	(219,978)
Transfer to Unemployment Fund	15,000	15,000	0
Transfer to Special Aid	16,000	16,000	0
TOTAL	\$3,720,046	\$3,525,994	(194,052)
TOTAL BUDGET	\$28,922,561	\$29,913,226	990,665



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

ESTIMATED REVENUE

	2008-2009 Revenue	2009-2010 Estimated Revenue	Change
STATE REVENUE			
Foundation Aid, Excess Cost Aid	\$2,715,948	\$2,708,399	(7,549)
Hardware and Technology	9,008	9,492	484
Library, Software, & Textbooks	107,736	103,359	(4,377)
Transportation	277,249	250,000	(27,249)
Building Aid	367,616	550,000	182,384
Tax Limitation Aid	413,154	413,153	(1)
BOCES & Special Service Aid	387,477	447,577	60,100
TOTAL STATE REVENUE	\$4,278,188	\$4,481,980	\$203,792

LOCAL REVENUE			
Fund Balance	\$3,445,000	3,625,000	\$180,000
Appropriation of Reserve	0	100,000	100,000
Health Services	200,000	200,000	0
Interest	100,000	100,000	0
Tuitions	400,000	300,000	(100,000)
Miscellaneous Health Insurance	300,000	350,000	50,000
Refund Prior Year	80,000	60,000	(20,000)
Rental Music Instruments	7,500	6,000	(1,500)
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	140,000	200,000	60,000
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	\$4,672,500	\$4,941,000	\$268,500
TOTAL REVENUE (BEFORE LEVY)	\$8,950,688	\$9,422,980	\$472,292
TAX LEVY	\$19,971,873	\$20,490,246	\$518,373
TOTAL REVENUE	\$28,922,561	\$29,913,226	\$990,665

What is the proposed tax levy?

	Budget 2008-2009	Proposed 2009-2010	Difference	Percentage
Budget	\$28,922,561	\$29,913,226	\$990,665	3.43%
Tax Levy	\$19,971,873	\$20,490,246	\$518,373	2.60%

EXPLANATION OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

FOR THE 2009-2010 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		\$42,147
	Includes supplies, materials, and the salary for the District Clerk.	
District Meetings		\$6,625
	Includes salaries, supplies, materials, and legal advertising for the budget vote, Bellmore Memorial Library vote, and special meetings.	
Central Administration Services		\$320,557
	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		\$535,966
	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		\$111,503
	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		\$41,000
	Includes the retainer fee for the School Attorney and litigation expenses.	
Negotiations		\$18,704
	Includes the salary of the Labor Negotiator, cost of BOCES Negotiation Information Services, and litigation expenses.	
Public Information		\$55,750
	Covers the cost of preparing parent and community mailings, public information services, printing YOUR SCHOOLS and calendars, required public notices and special education mailings.	
Operations and the Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds		\$2,157,603
	Custodial Salaries	\$1,027,827
	Utilities	\$752,588
	Contractual Repairs, Services, Materials, Supplies, and Equipment	\$377,188
Liability Insurance		\$198,580
	Includes the cost of liability insurance, as well as general insurance, auto, boiler, and machinery, as well as student accident insurance.	
School Association Dues		\$10,360
	Includes membership fees for local and state educational organizations.	
BOCES Administrative Charge		\$169,287
	Each district is charged a fee based on the number of children attending public schools within the district.	
Building, Administrative, and Curriculum Improvement		\$1,011,614
	Includes the salaries of the building principals and office staff, equipment, materials, and supplies. Also includes part of the salary of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services and costs of in-service training and curriculum development.	
Instructional Salaries, Supplies, and Equipment		\$9,766,170
	Salaries	\$9,124,045
	Materials and Supplies	\$284,859
	Textbooks	\$127,266
	BOCES Services	\$230,000

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		\$4,058,985
Salaries	\$3,036,172	
Materials, Supplies, and Contractual Services	\$429,645	
Tuition - Other Districts and Private Schools	\$393,168	
Tuition - BOCES	\$200,000	
<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		\$346,355
Includes the salaries for librarians and library clerks, library books, periodicals, materials, and supplies for the school libraries.		
Instructional Technology		\$638,262
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		\$722,807
Health Services	\$240,426	
Psychological and Social Work Services	\$482,381	
<i>Health Services include those students attending St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, as well as Bellmore Public Schools.</i>		
Transportation		\$1,734,704
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.		
Census		\$2,000
Census enumerator and supply costs		
Employee Benefits		\$6,909,587
N.Y.S. Employee's Retirement System	\$308,100	
N.Y.S. Teacher's Retirement System	\$1,222,185	
Social Security	\$1,299,495	
Worker's Compensation	\$220,000	
Life Insurance	\$16,141	
Disability Insurance	\$50,736	
Hospitalization, Medical & Dental Insurance, and Employee Assistance	\$3,792,930	
Debt Service - Principal		\$595,000
Includes principal payments for the 2007 School Bond and 1997 Technology Bond Issues, as well as the 1988 School Bond.		
Debt Service - Interest		\$235,022
Includes interest payments for the 2007 and 1997 Bond Issues, as well as the 1988 School Bond.		
TANS Interest		\$183,333
Tax Anticipation Notes. The district must borrow funds to meet initial expenditures until it begins to receive tax dollars in October.		
Insurance Reserve Funds		\$15,000
Covers transfers of funds into unemployment insurance reserve.		
Transfer for Special Aid		\$16,000
Covers transfers of funds for district share of Handicapped Summer School costs.		
TOTAL		\$29,913,226

WHAT IS A CONTINGENCY BUDGET?

A contingency budget is the maximum amount authorized by law that a district can impose on the community if the school budget is voted down. New York State imposes a cap on a Contingency Budget, which would result in a 4.0% expenditure increase plus an allowance for such excludable expenses as enrollment increases.

This year, the district's proposed budget is already LOWER than the 4.0% State Cap.

What Will Happen if the Budget Fails?

If the budget is defeated on May 19th, State law allows the district to present either the same budget or a revised budget for one more vote. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district 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.

On the Ballot

You will be asked to vote on the following on May 19, 2009:

Member, Board of Education - Three-year term expiring June 30, 2012

(Vote for two)

Marion Blane (incumbent)

Brian Desmond

Fredric Hertzberg

PROPOSITION NO. 1:

BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT 2009-2010 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

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 twenty nine million, nine hundred thirteen thousand, two hundred twenty six dollars (\$29,913,226) for the 2009-2010 school year and to levy the necessary tax thereof.

PROPOSITION NO. 2:

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, by and the same hereby is authorized to expend the sums in the General Fund Appropriate of one hundred twenty two million, six hundred ninety two thousand, four hundred twenty nine dollars (\$122,692,429) 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:

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 one hundred eleven thousand dollars (\$2,111,000) representing EXCEL Aid and Capital Reserve Fund monies for the following purposes: districtwide generator and switch gear replacement (six buildings), continuation of ceiling & lighting replacement at Merrick Avenue Middle School and throughout the district, continuation of sidewalk & curb replacement at Grand Avenue Middle School and throughout the district, and replacement of outdoor bleachers at WC Mephram High School. Since the funds to be expended hereunder come from the Capital Reserve Fund and from EXCEL Aid, 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.

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 679-2910.

BELLMORE



www.bellmoreschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Marion Blane, *President* Richard Narby, *Trustee*
Janet Goller, *Vice President* Ted Tanenbaum, *Trustee*
Jay L.T. Breakstone, *Trustee* Steven I. Traum, *Trustee*
Dr. Joseph S. Famularo, *Superintendent of Schools*