

## **Chappaqua PTA Legislation Committee Budget Information Resource**

### **The Budget Process – Board Philosophy – Strategic Questions**

Two strategic questions guide the work of the Chappaqua Central School District, including the budget process:

- 1) How can the district ensure that all students, in addition to acquiring necessary content knowledge, learn to think deeply, support their thinking, apply problem solving skills, and actively participate in their learning?
- 2) How can the district ensure continuing excellence in academic and extracurricular programs while moderating year-to-year budget increases?

According to the district, “the first question, focused on teaching and learning, directs our administrators as they consider curriculum initiatives, professional development priorities, and equipment and materials needs. It guides our teachers as they seek to create even richer learning opportunities for their students. The second question, focused on finances, challenges district administrators to meet the academic, extra-curricular, and operational needs of our schools in a cost efficient manner. Both questions framed the development of the 2008-09 proposed budget.” Special Budget Issue, Chappaqua Schools, May 2008. Both questions will also be relevant in developing the 2009-2010 budget.

### **The Budget Process – Four Pillars of the Chappaqua School Budget**

According to Superintendent Fleishman, the four main components, or pillars, of the Chappaqua school district budget are:

1. Class size (staffing)
2. Program (curriculum and instruction, support services, professional development)
3. Infrastructure (buildings and grounds, technology, clerical)
4. Contractual obligations (collective bargaining)

### **The Budget Process – Meeting Schedule**

The following are the subset of regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings, part or all of which will be devoted to the budget. All meetings are public and will be held at 8:15 pm on the dates noted at HGHS Academic Commons.

January 27, 2009	Board Meeting – Conceptual Budget Presentation (what a 0% budget increase might look like)
February 10, 2009	Board Meeting – Public Comments on conceptual budget
March 3, 2009	Board Meeting / Budget work session
March 17, 2009	Board Meeting / Budget work session
March 24, 2009	Board Meeting / Budget work session
April 14, 2009	Budget Work Session
April 21, 2009	Board Meeting / Adopt Budget

## **Chappaqua PTA Legislation Committee Budget Information Resource**

May 5, 2009      Budget Hearing  
May 19, 2009     Budget Vote

The Board will adopt the final budget on April 21. It is expected that a printed copy of the budget will be available to the public 1 to 2 weeks later at the Education Center, each of the schools and the Chappaqua Library. The District usually mails at least one budget newsletter containing detailed information on the budget and any bond propositions. The public hearing presenting the budget will take place on May 5.

### **The Budget Process – Joint PTA / Board of Education Budget Coffees**

The PTA sponsors public coffees which present an opportunity for parents and interested community members to ask questions about the proposed budget in an informal setting. It is expected that Dr. David Fleishman, Superintendent, John Chow, Assistant Superintendent for Business and one or more board members will attend each of the coffees.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 9:30 am Bell Auditorium  
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 7:30 pm Bell Auditorium

### **The Budget Vote**

The budget vote will be held on May 19, 2009 in the HGHS gym from 7am to 9pm. At this time, voters will also be able to cast ballots for board members, the library budget and library trustees.

### **Eligible Voters – Absentee Ballots**

To be eligible to vote on May 19, residents must be registered for general political elections, or with the school district, or have voted within the past four years in a school election. Registrants must be United States citizens, residents of the school district for 30 days, and 18 years of age. Voters may register on any business day at the office of the District Clerk during normal business hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm) up to five days prior to the election. State Education Law prohibits absentee registration.

For more information or to request an absentee ballot, contact Theresa Markley, District Clerk, at 238-7225 or at [board@ccsd.ws](mailto:board@ccsd.ws).

### **Resources – Where to Get Up-to-Date Budget Information**

Chappaqua Central School District - [www.ccsd.ws](http://www.ccsd.ws)  
Sign up for e-mail news blasts from the school district – under “Quick links”

## **Chappaqua PTA Legislation Committee Budget Information Resource**

Check out [www.ccsd.ws](http://www.ccsd.ws)

School district – Budget

School district – Newsletters

Board of Education – Meeting Schedule (for minutes and agendas)

To be added: Budget FAQ's

New Castle Community Television NCCTV

[www.NCCTV.org](http://www.NCCTV.org) or Cable channels 75/77/78

NCCTV.org has streaming video on demand of the Board of Education meetings.

Meetings are also shown on NCCTV cable channels.

### **Make Your Voice Heard**

There are various ways for community members to communicate to the school board.

- 1) Attend school board meetings. All school board meetings, budget or otherwise, have time for public comment and questions.
- 2) Email the board: [board@ccsd.ws](mailto:board@ccsd.ws)
- 3) Attend budget coffees.

### **PTA Legislation Committee**

To get more involved in the PTA Legislation Committee, contact co-chairs Heather Baker-Sullivan and Laura Lennihan Kerrich at [legislation@chappaquapta.net](mailto:legislation@chappaquapta.net).