



2011-2012 Budget Development

Our current reality and discussions on next budget

Voting No in April 2010

- Votes cast for School Elections in April 2010 resulted in a failure of the high school district's 2010-2011 budget.
- The defeated budget was reviewed by our 12 municipalities' governing bodies, who at first unanimously agreed to a \$406,000 cut. Tewksbury Twp , Union Twp & Lebanon Twp, however, reneged on the agreement. Consequently, the budget went to the N.J. Dept. of Education for a final reduction decision.
- Budget was reduced by \$1,411,297

Total Reductions This Year Alone

- Cut in State Aid for 2009-2010 school year = \$2.1 million
- Cut in State Aid for 2010-2011 (so far) = \$2.83 million
- Reduction to Local Tax Levy in 2010-2011 Budget made by NJDOE = \$1,411,297
- Total loss of revenue in less than a year = \$6.3 million
- How has this loss of revenue affected our high achieving school district?

Loss of Revenue = Budget Cuts

- The following **cuts** were made for the 2010-2011 school year to account for the loss of revenue from state aid and local taxes:
 - Reduction in staffing by 29.5 positions (3 Administrators, 14.5 Certificated Staff, 12 Support Staff)
 - Elimination of summer school
 - Elimination of Freshman Discovery Program (one day orientation instead)
 - Elimination of student summer hours in technology and facilities depts.
 - Elimination of summer library hours and hours after 3:10pm during the year
 - Elimination of many assistant coaching positions
 - 15% reduction in budget for athletic supplies
 - Reduction in number of games, and therefore transportation costs, for freshmen sports
 - 48% reduction in technology equipment and supplies budget
 - 74% reduction in construction services
 - Elimination of some student clubs and advisors (\$30,000 budget reduction for each high school)
 - 50% reduction in employee travel expenses for professional workshops/seminars (i.e. workshop registration fees, mileage reimbursement)

Current Reality

- We have made cuts in areas that, so far, have not hurt our students directly. This will not be the case if we continue to have state aid cuts and failed budgets.
- Less staff is doing more, or attempting to do more
- Class sizes have increased in many core curriculum areas
- Cut in state aid in 2009-2010 has left little surplus to start building 2011-2012 budget – **about \$2.5 million in cuts have to be found to cover lost revenue and cost increases for next year**



Current Reality, continued

- More people than ever came out to vote in April 2010, and we had a large increase in the number of No votes.
- To those who voted No because they disagree with salaries for our staff – please understand that failing a budget does not decrease salaries; they have to be negotiated. Failed budgets result in cuts, which cannot come from areas mandated by law or contract (i.e. salaries). However, positions can and often times are eliminated.



Comparative Spending Guide

- Administrative costs and staff salaries in our district are lower than many similar districts in the state, which is contrary to the belief of some across our communities.
- Each year, the NJ Dept. of Education compares the spending of school districts which are similar in size and grades. NH-V District is compared to 46 other 7-12 or 9-12 grade districts in the state.

Comparative Spending Guide, cont...

- Spending areas in which we are at or below the median: (meaning half on the list spend more, half spend less than us)
 - Total Classroom Instruction
 - Classroom Salaries & Benefits
 - Classroom General Supplies & Textbooks
 - Classroom Purchased Services & Other
 - Total Administrative Cost
 - Salaries & Benefits for Administration
 - Employee Benefits
 - Student/Teacher Ratio
 - Median Teacher Salary
 - Median Administrator Salary
 - Median Support Service Salary



Comparative Spending Guide, cont...

- While ranking at or near the median is noteworthy, too many cuts in spending can lead to a deterioration of what makes a school district great, i.e. the excellence of its staff and faculty, outstanding guidance and special education services, and the strength of its curriculum, athletic programs and other co-curricular activities.
- A district can only cut so much out of non-instructional areas, such as facilities and co-curricular activities. It is important to remember that aging buildings need to be cared for as much as a student's curriculum.



2011-2012 Budget Goals

- To maintain the rigor and breadth of our curriculum
 - Our extensive curriculum and how well our students achieve are important factors in 1) assisting our students to be accepted into exceptional colleges and universities, 2) preparing them for the future whether in higher education, the military or the workforce, and 3) helping students to score well on standardized tests. Additional cuts will lead to a deterioration of academic programs.
- To maintain co-curricular and athletic offerings
 - We know the importance and benefit of co-curricular activities, however, they are not mandated by the state and may be affected in the 2011-2012 budget.



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- Because of state aid cuts and lack of voter support, the revenue to support all our current programs & services plus cost increases next year is simply not there.
- Discussions on future budget cuts have begun (we need to find between about \$2.5 million before this budget is set)
- Areas being discussed:
 - Staffing in all areas – any further cuts to teaching staff will continue to increase class sizes
 - Altering supervisory structure
 - Outsourcing of custodial services and/or aides
 - Co-curricular activities and sports may see additional cuts



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- Financial factors of which to be aware:
 - Tax levy increase cannot be more than 2%
 - State aid figures for 2011-2012 not released until February 23 or 24 – state aid could decrease from current school year
 - Contract with NH-V Education Association has not yet been settled (salaries would have to be estimated in budget if no contract is settled soon)



Why Support Our District?

- Our high schools rank among the best in the state and nation.
- Families move to Hunterdon County for the school systems. If schools deteriorate, both structurally and academically, it will affect property values when people stop moving to this area.
- Doing more with less is not conducive to maintaining our high standards of learning and teaching.
- Please think about these reasons when you cast a vote in April 2011.



2011-2012 Budget

- Please continue to check our district website for more information on the development of next year's budget. We will post information as it becomes available.

These are your schools...
Please protect them