

North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

Cost Savings Initiatives

Over the last couple of years, the high school district has doubled its efforts to find ways to save money. The following is a list of cost-savings initiatives that have been implemented in the last two years:

- District refinanced remaining debt from 2001 referendum, reducing debt service in local taxes by \$220,000.
- Joint bidding on transportation routes with some elementary districts has saved the high school district \$36,010 over the last two school years.
- Cost of subscription to National Weather Service will be shared with Franklin Township Department of Public Works, which saves the district \$700 starting next school year.
- Cancellation of annual subscription to NJSchoolJobs.com, saving \$2,000. Our new online application service includes the posting of any open positions nationwide.
- In December 2010, the district changed its prescription plan provider, which saved about \$100,000 (coverage is same or better than previous plan).
- All copiers through the district's buildings were changed, which will save about \$36,000 per year with the new vendor contract.
- Salary for Treasurer of School Monies was cut in half, saving \$3,782
- Facilities:
 - Replaced old boys gym at North Hunterdon High School using a grant from the state, which covered 40% of the cost
 - Replaced boilers at both high schools using a 40% grant from the state
 - Chose to move date of referendum to coincide with April 2010 School Elections – a separate election for the referendum would have cost about \$70,000
 - Electric generation services now purchased through Alliance for Competitive Energy Services
 - Installation of motion sensor lights in district administration and technology offices will help save electricity
 - Through modification of scheduling for custodial services, overtime costs have been greatly reduced during the 2010-2011 school year.
- Reduction of mailings, saving money on postage and paper:
 - Almost all mailings are being sent by email (unless a parent email is not available), progress reports have been eliminated which eliminates 4 mailings a year, parents can opt out of receiving paper report cards for first three marking periods
 - Board of Education paper meeting agendas have been eliminated – all Board agendas and meeting documents are online
- Energy Savings Plan:
 - District had an energy audit conducted of all its facilities in 2009. The NJ Clean Energy Program reimbursed the district 75% of the cost of the audit.
 - District has entered into a contract with Honeywell International. Honeywell has created an energy savings plan for the district related to recommendations from

the energy audit. The Board of Education has adopted the plan and the district is beginning implementation of projects this school year.

- All upgrades/improvements to our facilities to increase energy efficiency will be paid for through cost savings realized in utility bills. No additional cost to taxpayers.

- Safety Grants:

- In December 2009, the district received a \$15,000 safety grant from NJ School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG). Grant was used to install additional exterior lighting and security cameras at both high schools.
- In December 2010, the district received a \$42,400 safety grant from NJSBAIG. Grant will be used for either increasing parking lot safety, purchasing additional communication devices to be used during emergencies, increasing building security, or to help with medical response.
- District will be applying for a \$41,400 grant through another round of NJSBAIG safety grants to be awarded during the 2011 calendar year.

- Contracts:

- Board of Education negotiated new three-year contract beginning July 1, 2010 with Supervisors Association. With concessions given by supervisors, contract resulted in a zero increase to district's budget.
- Administrators Association negotiated a new three-year contract beginning July 1, 2010 with the Board of Education. Administrators agreed to a six-month freeze for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Staff members who are not part of a bargaining unit, and the Superintendent, also took six-month wage freezes for 2010-2011 school year.