



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## INSTILLING RIGOR, IMPROVING PROGRAMS, & MANAGING THE INVESTMENT

**Vote May 15th  
at DPHS  
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
PROPOSED BUDGET:**

- All Instructional & Extracurricular/Athletic Programs Preserved
- Class Sizes Maintained
- Mobile Computer Workstations
- Additional Guidance Support
- New AP Math Course
- Advanced College Program Expansion
- New ELA/Math Textbook Series
- Scientific/Graphing Calculators (Mandated)
- Bridge (Student Transition) Program for Intermediate-Middle School & Middle School-High School
- Autism Program Expansion
- Lincoln Alternative School Maintained
- Continuation of PRIME Program
- Elementary Summer School Maintained
- JFK Intermediate School Roof Replacement

**A Message about the  
Proposed Budget**

Dear Residents,

On Tuesday May 15, 2007, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., the District will conduct its annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Trustee Elections at Deer Park High School. Your support of the 2006/07 school budget enabled us to preserve and add many valuable programs for students. The proposed budget for the 2007/08 school year continues that trend, adding academic rigor and new student resources, meeting state and federal (unfunded and unsupported by government) mandates, and addressing important facilities, including a new roof at JFK Intermediate School.

All of this is being proposed for an investment that is LOWER than the tax increase voters approved for the current year. After applying financial reserves and utilizing a \$1.5 million boost in State Aid, the Board has contained the estimated tax rate increase to 5.48%. Despite increasing costs such as health



insurance premiums, fuel prices, and the aforementioned unfunded state and federal mandates, reducing the tax increase has been a consistent trend the last four years, thanks to diligent efforts to seek alternate funding for our schools (grants, additional state aid) and sound fiscal management.

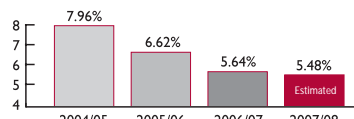
For 2007/08, the proposed budget includes funding for new mobile computer workstations at all schools, a new AP Math course at Deer Park High School, new scientific/graphing calculators (mandated), new textbooks, additional guidance support at the high school, expansion of the autism program, and a new program to help students transition between the intermediate and two secondary schools, among other important programs and services. Adding and refining the academic program is a priority and has proven to be an indicator of success as our students continue to meet and exceed tougher academic standards and are being accepted to more prestigious accredited colleges and universities.

Please read this newsletter carefully and exercise your right to vote on May 15th.

Mike Oddo,  
Board of Education President

**LOWERING THE TAX RATE INCREASE**

The District has lowered the rate increase in the past few years while still instilling rigor into the academic/extracurricular program.



## What Happens if the Budget is Not Approved? A Contingency Budget Scenario

Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 15, 2007 the budget may be presented for one more vote prior to the start of the new school year. However, a second budget vote is NOT required. If the Board of Education opts to hold a second budget vote, it could make further expenditure reductions, put the same budget up for vote, or adopt a Contingency (Austerity) Budget. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the District must adopt a Contingency Budget by law. New York State imposes a cap on a Contingency Budget based on the lesser of 4% or 120% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus some excludable expenses based on enrollment, debt service, and other factors.

A Contingency Budget for 2007/008 would be capped at a 3.84% expenditure increase and would force the Board of Education to cut approximately \$2.24 million in valuable programs and services. Programs and services that could be REDUCED or ELIMINATED include:

- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Pre-Kindergarten Program
- Athletic Teams
- Other Extracurricular Programs
- Cultural Arts Program, Marching Band, and Field Trips
- Bus Pickup and Drop-Off Points (consolidated)
- Summer School
- Academic Intervention Services
- Free Community Use of Facilities and Fields (fees for use would be required)

Your Board of Education values these programs/services and has implemented sound fiscal practices in recent years to control the tax rate and preserve the integrity of the instructional and extracurricular programs. The Board has not made any decisions on what course of action it will take should the proposed budget be defeated.

**A Contingency Budget  
would Result in A Loss of  
\$2.24 Million in  
Valuable Programs & Services**



## ELECTION OF THREE BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

You may also vote for three Board of Education Trustee seats on the May 15, 2007 ballot. The candidates are:

- Vote for One**  
John Gouskos  
Louis Hertzog

*Three-Year Term*  
*Last Incumbent: John Gouskos*
- Vote for One**  
Frank T. Wilkinson

*Three-Year Term*  
*Last Incumbent: Michael L. Oddo*
- Vote for One**  
Tracy E. Robinson  
Keith Rooney  
Joseph A. Salamone

*Three-Year Term*  
*Last Incumbent: Thomas Young*

## VOTER INFORMATION

**Voting:**

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Deer Park High School

**Voter Eligibility:**

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 15 Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election you must be:

- a citizen of the United States,
- eighteen (18) years of age or older (we encourage eligible students to exercise their right to vote)
- a resident of the Deer Park School District for 30 days prior to the vote
- registered to vote with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or registered with the school district.

Registration is required if you have not voted within four years in a general election or school election. For more information, or to obtain an absentee ballot, contact the District Clerk at 274-4013.

Deer Park Union Free School District  
Deer Park, New York 11729

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Michael Oddo, President • Thomas Young, Vice President  
Rose Bruner • John Gouskos • Robert Marino  
Dennis Ryan • Ronald Wayne  
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk  
Elizabeth Marino, Superintendent of Schools

## Kudos to... Our Students, Staff & Parents



In 2006, the New York State Education Department instituted standardized testing for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math in grades 3-8 for the first time. The percentages of students scoring at the Highest Levels (3/4) on these tests are:

- Grade 3 Math: 88% (67% Mastery)
- Grade 3 ELA: 75%
- Grade 4 Science: 99% (96% Mastery)
- Grade 4 Math: 91% (73% Mastery)
- Grade 4 ELA: 77%
- Grade 5 Math: 88%
- Grade 5 Social Studies: 97% (88% Mastery)
- Grade 5 ELA: 74%
- Grade 6 Math: 84%
- Grade 6 ELA: 60%
- Grade 7 Math: 79%
- Grade 7 ELA: 55%
- Grade 8: ELA: 54%
- Grade 8: Math: 82%

At Deer Park High School, the Regents Diploma rate has climbed and student achievement continues to improve

- **Regents Diplomas:** 85%
- **Math Regents:** 97% (8% Improvement)
- **English Regents:** 96% (12% Improvement)
- **Advanced Placement Exams:** A Combined 267 Students Participating (12 classes)
- **National Merit Scholar Qualifiers:** 2
- **Challenge Day:** 120 Student Participants (Leadership Initiative)
- **College Experiences:** Students accrue college credit from St. John's University, Syracuse University, Suffolk Community College, Farmingdale University, and Five Towns College
- **Business and Career Programs:** Opportunities for students to work with local industry leaders are unparalleled in NY State.
- **Career Day:** 300 Juniors participated for the most successful Career Day program ever.
- **DECA:** Students placed in the NY State and International Conferences
- **College Fair:** Attended by more than 80 colleges; more than 400 students and family members participated
- **College Acceptance:** Current seniors have been accepted and earned scholarships to schools such as NYU, Cooper Union, Drexel, Boston University, Brown, Wesleyan, Julliard, St. John's University, SUNY Stony Brook (Honors College), Manhattan School of Music, Vassar, and the University of Rhode Island.



## GRANTS THAT SUPPORT EDUCATION

The District continues to utilize available government monies to improve our programs and our schools:

- SmartBoards (Every School)
- Safe & Drug Free Schools Program (Peer Mediation, Personal Safety)
- Teaching Social Skills in Small Groups (JQA & MM)
- Remedial Math Help (Staff and Supplies)
- Parent Resource Center (Parenting Workshops)
- ESL Software
- Professional Development
- EXCEL Capital Improvements (Voter Approved)
- Theatre Program (RFMS & DPHS)

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SAFEGUARD THE INVESTMENT, IMPROVE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

While funding is included in the 2007/08 proposed budget to replace the JFK Intermediate School roof -- a concern expressed by many parents due to several leaks that occurred after March's ice storm -- the District continues to aggressively pursue reimbursement through a warranty with the contractor who installed the current roof. The District is also moving forward with capital projects associated with the voter-approved EXCEL initiative, which will be reimbursed in full by the State and will not result in a tax increase. Thanks to the community's support, this grant will provide new science labs and gymnasium bleachers at Deer Park High School, and technology infrastructure upgrades and new fire alarm systems at several schools at no cost to taxpayers. There is also funding in the proposed budget to renovate restrooms at the high school.

In recent years we have budgeted for capital improvements to maintain our building's infrastructure, ensuring they operate efficiently and effectively. The goal remains to provide the best possible resources and learning environment for students while protecting the taxpayers' investment in the school system.

## EXPENDITURES 2007-2008 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2006-07 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2007-08 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$70,800	\$70,700	-0.14%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$291,000	\$279,400	-3.99%
FINANCE	\$691,650	\$806,100	16.55%
STAFF	\$566,300	\$605,950	7.00%
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$6,497,800	\$6,846,500	5.37%
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$1,120,050	\$1,093,850	-2.34%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$9,237,600</b>	<b>\$9,702,500</b>	<b>5.03%</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,438,730	\$3,224,950	-6.22%
TEACHING	\$24,941,282	\$27,182,685	8.99%
SPECIAL APPOINTMENT PROGRAMS	\$13,180,850	\$13,370,700	1.44%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	\$333,150	\$282,350	-15.25%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	\$2,182,750	\$2,221,750	1.79%
PUPIL SERVICES	\$3,249,700	\$4,048,550	24.58%
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$47,326,462</b>	<b>\$50,330,985</b>	<b>6.35%</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<b>TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$3,741,430</b>	<b>\$3,972,750</b>	<b>6.18%</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$19,435,900	\$21,409,050	10.15%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$570,000	\$1,601,500	180.96%
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$20,005,900</b>	<b>\$23,010,550</b>	<b>15.02%</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICES</b>			
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$3,534,050</b>	<b>\$3,099,200</b>	<b>-12.30%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$83,845,442</b>	<b>\$90,115,985</b>	<b>7.48%</b>

## How Revenues, Assessed Valuation Affect Taxes

Local taxes make up the majority of revenues to support our school district. The District will receive an increase of \$1.5 million in State aid this year (including \$437,000 dedicated to meet the needs of an expanding Pre-K enrollment) that the Board of Education will use to offset expenditures and contain the tax rate at the estimated level. The assessed valuation of the District has been declining due to tax certiorari judgments and other assessment adjustments. **This decline has had an adverse effect on the District's revenues and makes it more challenging to contain the tax impact.** Total Assessed Valuation for the District has decreased from \$37,773,912 in the 2004/05 school year to an estimated \$36,285,057 for 2007/08.

## ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2006-07 BUDGET	2007-08 BUDGET
PAYMENTS IN LIEU/TAXES	\$1,000,000	\$2,700,000
LOCAL REVENUES	\$2,890,200	\$3,195,800
STATE AID TOTAL	\$19,705,731	\$21,958,184
USE OF RESERVES	\$0	\$0
FUND BALANCE	\$1,100,000	\$1,675,000
TAX LEVY	\$59,149,511	\$60,587,001
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$83,845,442</b>	<b>\$90,115,985</b>

## 2007-08 ESTIMATED LEVY/RATE

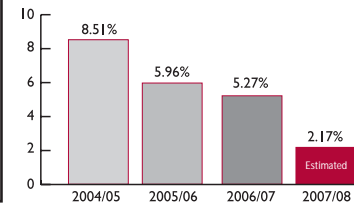
Expenditures	\$90,115,985
Revenues	- \$27,853,984
Use of Fund Balance	- \$ 1,675,000
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$60,587,001</b>

Projected 2007-08 Tax Rate	\$166.98
Present 2006-07 Tax Rate	- \$158.30

<b>Increase</b>	<b>\$8.68 or 5.48%</b>
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Last year's tax rate increase was 5.64%

## Lowering the Tax Levy Impact



The District's percentage increase in supporting the tax levy has been lowered in recent years. The District has been able to limit the impact of the declining assessed valuation by applying State aid, seeking alternative revenues and implementing sound internal fiscal controls.