



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Sustaining Fiscal & Educational Accountability

### *Proposed Budget Reduces Costs While Preserving Programs*

Dear Community Residents,

Through our strategic financial planning and cost-saving initiatives, the district has developed a proposed budget that carries a 2.38% tax levy increase – an increase just over the much-discussed tax cap of 2%. By reducing staff, in many cases due to enrollment, and the allocation of nearly \$4.8 million in fund balance and reserves, we were able to create a proposed budget that maintains our educational programs while controlling expenditures.

This year, the district was faced with many challenges during the budget development process as we worked to do more with less. The ARRA funds we have received for the past two years from the federal government for salaries and to fund programs will expire at the end of the school year. Health insurance costs as well as contributions to various retirement plans, both of which are specified by the government and beyond the district's control, are set to increase by an average of 35%. These items, coupled with the operational cost increases faced by schools and individuals across the nation, created serious challenges for our Board and administration as we prepared a proposed 2011-2012 school budget.

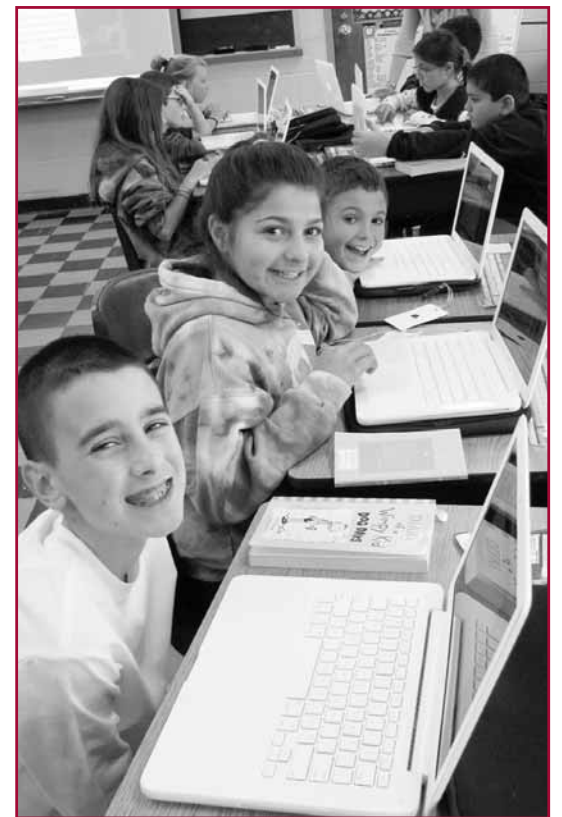
To help offset many of the rising operational costs, and in recognition of the trying state of our economy, the Deer Park Administrators Association and the Deer Park Teachers Association have both reached contractual agreements that will result in a significant cost savings next year. Administrators at both building and district levels have agreed to a hard freeze on their salaries for the 2011-2012 school year, and the agreement reached with the Teachers Association earlier this year will yield a \$1.2 million savings in expenditures for the district in the next school year. These reductions and contractual negotiations have all directly contributed to our ability to lessen the burden for taxpayers.

The district has also continued its concerted effort to not only create a proposed budget one year at a time but to look at expenses long range in order to accurately project the financial needs of our district over the next five years. We believe that by continuing with this mission, we will not only be prepared to weather the unstable economy, but also ensure that our students continue to receive a high-quality education.

Our district has made strong academic progress over the past several years and we believe the proposed budget will continue to prepare students to achieve in the 21st century. On behalf of the Deer Park Board of Education and administration, I thank you for your past and continued support and encourage all residents to please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 17, from 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at Deer Park High School.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Jimenez  
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations



### 2011-2012 Budget Supports

- All current instructional and extracurricular programs
- Current class sizes
- May Moore Autism Program recognized by New York State Department of Education
- K-12 Credit Recovery Program
- Proposal to better uniform district curricula K-12
- New math program piloted at the elementary school
- College readiness course to enhance students' abilities to enroll in courses for college credit
- Assessment system to better evaluate student progress
- Reduction in administrative staff
- Bulk purchasing opportunities to reduce costs
- Bus Replacement Plan
- Repairs and improvements to buildings and grounds
- Energy Performance Contract
- Continuation of One-to-One Apple Laptop Program
- Multi-year financial plan
- New High School bleachers and track renovations

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

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## REMEMBER TO VOTE

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**  
**Deer Park High School**  
**7 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

# Your Tax Dollars at Work

*Student achievement continues to be a great source of community pride. The 2011-12 budget was designed to build upon the district's past successes, which include the following.*

## ACADEMICS

- 41 Deer Park Students named by College Board as Advanced Placement Scholars
- JFK fifth-grade class launched 1:1 Apple MacBook Program
- 16 Model Classrooms equipped with instructional technology tools (MacBooks, iPod Touches, Document Cameras, Airliners/Slates, Smart Responders and Video Cameras)
- High School student named a National Merit Commended Scholar
- High School Business students captured first and second place at Adelphi University's Apprentice Competition
- Class of 2011 Valedictorian named a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar
- High School student received President's Volunteer Service Award
- SMART Boards supported distance learning and virtual field trips
- DPHS Keep The Drive Team named winners in Allstate Foundation's "Act Out Loud" contest

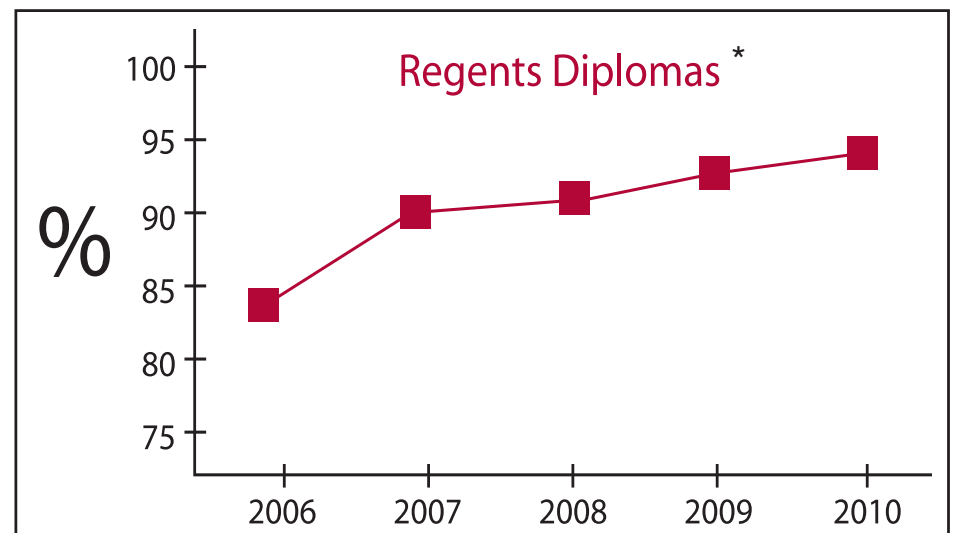
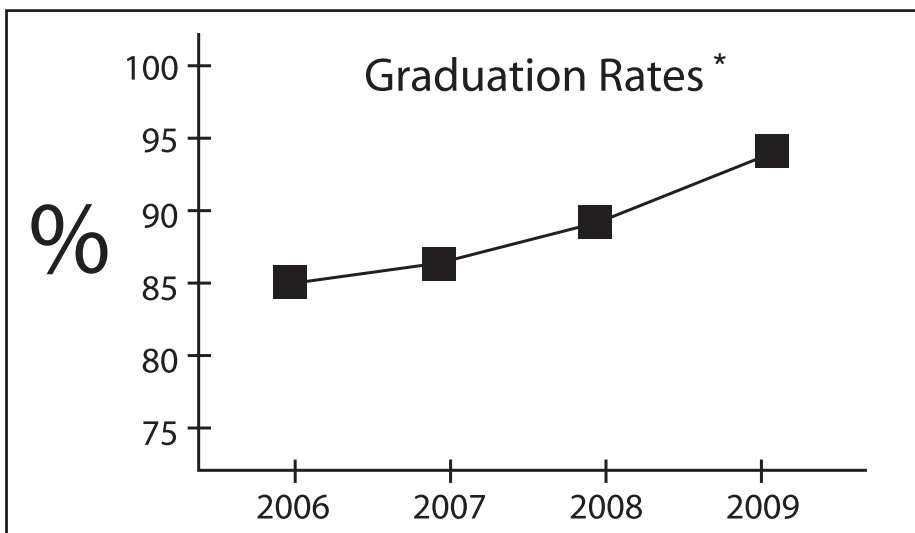
## THE ARTS

- 4 students districtwide performed at the Long Island Strings Festivals
- 9 elementary student-musicians selected to participate in Suffolk County Music Educators Association Parents, Educators and Kids Festival
- 19 students districtwide selected for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association All-County Music Festivals
- 17 High School students inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society
- 2 students received acting excellence awards from the Babylon Citizens Council on the Arts

## ATHLETICS

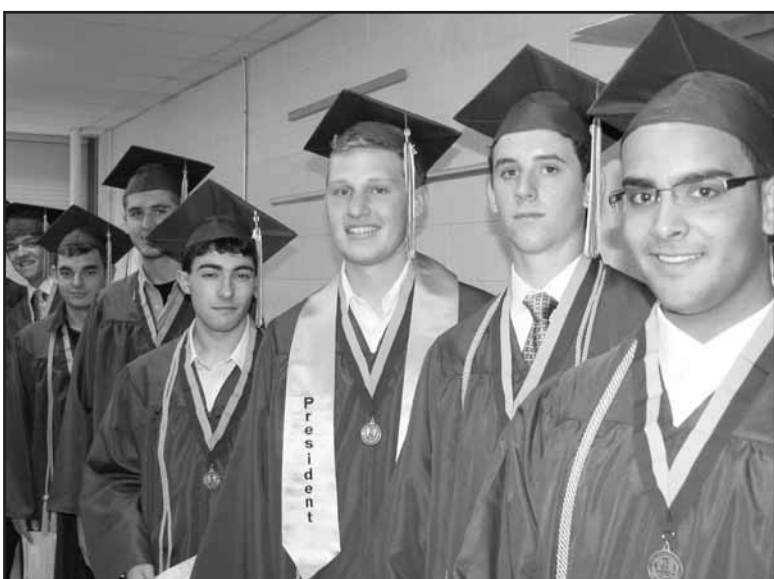
- 4 DPHS student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent
- 6 Fall and 6 Winter Athletic Teams named by Section XI as Scholar-Athlete Teams (90+ academic average)
- 7 Fall and Winter Athletic Teams named Section XI Sportsmanship Teams
- 2 DPHS students won Suffolk Zone Award for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
- Girls Varsity Basketball Team won Suffolk County Championship

# STUDENTS ON THE RISE



*\*Based on the latest data from the New York State Department of Education*

## What Makes Deer Park a High-Value School District?



- Visionary Board of Education and Administration
- Highly professional and dedicated staff
- Supportive and involved community
- Curricula exceeding New York State Standards
- Local, state and national academic recognition
- A safe and secure environment that supports academic success and social responsibility

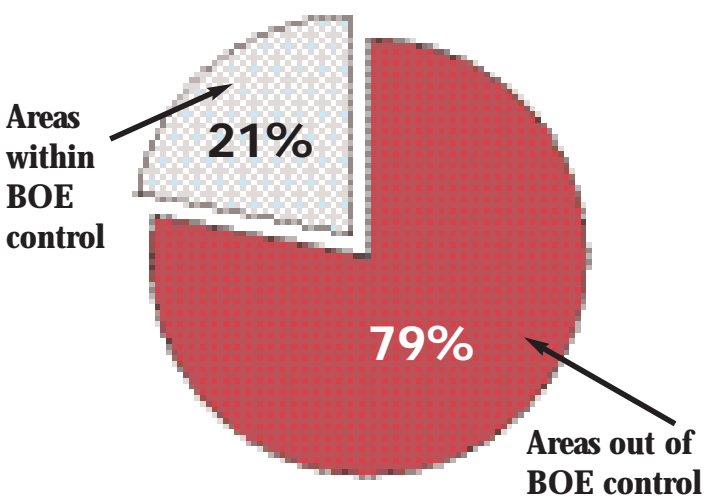
- Effective long-range financial planning
- District fiscal accountability and stability
- Award-winning music and fine arts programs
- Technology-integrated instruction
- Exemplary Foreign Language, ESL and Special Needs Programs
- Districtwide Character Education Program and Community Service
- Extensive athletic program

# E X P E N D I T U R E S

## 2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

	PRESENT 2010-11 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2011-12 BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
<b>GENERAL SUPPORT</b>			
BOE/ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$65,865	\$63,918	-2.96%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	291,063	283,158	-2.72%
FINANCE	875,276	1,010,714	15.47%
STAFF	576,370	547,562	-5.00%
CENTRAL SERVICES	7,555,229	6,980,554	-7.61%
SPECIAL ITEMS (BOCES, MTA Payroll Tax, Insurance)	1,133,689	1,092,644	-3.62%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$10,497,492</b>	<b>\$9,978,550</b>	<b>-4.94%</b>
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>			
ADMINISTRATION & IMPROVEMENT	\$3,702,929	\$3,646,268	-1.53%
TEACHING	30,890,097	31,363,804	1.53%
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	13,816,993	13,924,633	0.78%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	222,250	96,250	-56.69%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	2,505,613	2,142,948	-14.47%
PUPIL SERVICES	4,803,339	4,861,969	1.22%
<b>TOTAL INSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$55,941,221</b>	<b>\$56,035,872</b>	<b>0.17%</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<b>TOTAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$4,419,756</b>	<b>\$4,339,331</b>	<b>-1.82%</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$21,365,000	\$24,218,076	13.35%
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	800,000	800,000	0%
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$22,165,000</b>	<b>\$25,018,076</b>	<b>12.87%</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICES</b>			
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,186,342</b>	<b>\$2,429,242</b>	<b>11.11%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$95,209,811</b>	<b>\$97,801,071</b>	<b>2.72%</b>

### Percent of Budget Set by BOE



### ESTIMATED REVENUES

ACCOUNT NAME	2010-11 BUDGET	2011-12 PROPOSED
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$2,700,000	\$3,187,081
LOCAL REVENUES	\$2,746,700	\$4,993,415
STATE AID TOTAL	\$24,494,568	\$22,825,630
USE OF RESERVES	\$1,100,000	\$660,000
FUND BALANCE	\$3,600,000	\$4,125,000
TAX LEVY	\$60,568,543	\$62,009,945
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$95,209,811</b>	<b>\$97,801,071</b>

### State & Federal Unfunded Mandates Impact Tax Levy

The State and Federal governments impose directives upon the school district. These requirements are often unfunded or underfunded, forcing taxpayers to assume the financial costs associated with the mandate. For the Deer Park School District these mandates amount to:

**\$1,932,498**

### 2011-12 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY/RATE

Expenditures	\$97,801,071
Revenues	\$31,006,126
Use of Fund Balance	\$4,125,000
Use of Reserves	\$660,000
Tax Levy	\$62,009,945
Tax Levy % Increase	2.38%
Projected 2011-12 Tax Rate	\$177.70
Present 2010-11 Tax Rate	\$171.75
Tax Rate Increase	\$5.95
Estimated Tax Rate % Increase	3.47%



## ELECTION OF TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION TRUSTEES

You may also vote for two Board of Education Trustee seats on the May 17, 2011, ballot. The candidates are:

**Donna Gulli-Grunseich**  
**Ronald Wayne**

\*Current Board of Education Trustee candidates at time of print.

## VOTER INFORMATION

### Voter Eligibility & Registration:

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 17 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 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.

Registration will be held on: Tuesday, May 3, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at Deer Park High School; Wednesday, May 4, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at May Moore Elementary School and Thursday, May 12, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at Deer Park High School. For more information, or to obtain an application for an absentee ballot, which will be available May 5, contact the District Clerk at 631-274-4013 or visit the district's website, [www.deerparkschools.org](http://www.deerparkschools.org) to download a form.

## BUDGET HEARING

The community is encouraged to attend the public budget hearing on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at District Office Boardroom located at 1881 Deer Park Avenue.

# Questions and Answers

**Q: What are the main components of a school district budget?**

**A:** There are two accounting segments that comprise the district budget—expenditures and revenues. Expenditures are calculated for instruction, central services, transportation, and other categories listed in the chart entitled “Expenditures.” The district derives revenue to fund expenditures from the tax levy, State Aid, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from Suffolk County for businesses operating in Deer Park, and other sources including utility sales taxes, interest on account balances, BOCES reimbursements, and related services as seen on the chart entitled “Estimated Revenues.” The budget must be structured to balance expenditures with anticipated revenues.

**Q: If we are preserving student programs, what has the district done to try and control expenditures?**

**A:** All areas have been reviewed and reductions have been made to several categories to make for a leaner budget. The district will save a significant amount of money in the area of salaries due to the contractual concessions made by the teachers' union and administrators. We are also reducing instructional staff based on enrollment in certain courses. Additionally, we have been able to achieve savings through the installation of more energy-efficient building systems, including heating and lighting. Lastly, the district was able to reduce the tax levy increase by allocating \$660,000 from reserves and \$4,125,000 from the fund balance to offset rising costs.

**Q: What happens if the budget is defeated?**

**A:** Should voters defeat the proposed budget on May 17th:

- The budget may be presented for one more vote prior to July.
- If the Board opts not to have a second vote, it can immediately adopt a Contingency (austerity) Budget. If a second proposed budget is defeated, the district MUST adopt a Contingency Budget by law. Contingency budgets are restrictive, and if the district were forced to adopt such a budget, spending would be greatly limited. Equipment purchases, non-emergency capital projects and spending on certain non-mandated student programs would be prohibited.

**Q: How would a Contingency Budget affect the district?**

**A:** A Contingency Budget could affect class size, athletics, co-curricular clubs, after-school busing, equipment, student supplies, instructional supplies, field trips, building use and all summer school programs.

**Q: What is the difference between tax levy and tax rate?**

**A:** The tax levy is the amount of money the Board of Education requests from the Town of Babylon in order to balance the budget after state aid and other revenues are taken into consideration. The tax rate is not set by the Board of Education. The Town Assessor calculates the assessed valuation of the properties in the Town of Babylon from which the tax rate is calculated.

### Would you like to ask a Question?

Log onto the Board of Education website at [www.deerparkboe.com](http://www.deerparkboe.com) and register for our blog or contact the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations at 631-274-4000.



John Gouskos, President • Frank T. Wilkinson, Vice President  
Donna Marie Elliott • Robert Marino • Keith Rooney  
Dennis P. Ryan • Ronald Wayne  
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk  
Eva J. Demyen, Superintendent of Schools