

COPIAGUE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION



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Dear Copiague Schools Community Member,

As you are more than aware, our state and nation are suffering from an unprecedented economic situation. Considering the economic challenges that our residents have been facing, the Copiague Public Schools has worked hard over the past two years to reduce certain expenditures and present them at or below current levels wherever possible as we built our annual budgets. This has resulted in a net budget increase over the past two years of only 1.24 percent. Our priority has been to present budgets that are manageable to our taxpayers in the absence of real growth in government aid, limit growth in expenditures, and maintain core instructional programs to enable students to continue obtaining higher levels of achievement.

As we begin to build a budget for the 2012-2013 school year, we will continue our efforts at cost containment. However, the recently enacted cap on the property tax levy increase will significantly impact the budget building process. The net effect will be that our revenue stream can no longer keep pace with our expenses, resulting in a budget deficit, or hole, that needs to be filled. Due to the restrictive nature of the cap on the tax levy, eliminating the deficit to balance the budget could result in program reductions, modifications and potential eliminations, with reductions in staffing likely making up a significant portion of this looming deficit.

As a concerned Copiague Schools Community member, we share all of this with you to assist you in your understanding of the situation currently facing the district. With this in mind, this year we will begin the budgeting process earlier than ever before and weave into the process our planning for the future. To that end the district will host a series of budget and planning workshops; we invite you to attend and offer your input, suggestions and questions. Time will be devoted during these meetings to providing a picture of where we've been as a school district and where we are now, and discussing how to preserve as much as we can for our students moving forward. Additionally, we hope to provide a full explanation of the new tax levy cap and its implications as we work through the budget process.

Attached you will find a schedule of these meeting dates, all of which will be held in the Copiague Middle School Cafeteria and begin at 7:30 pm. For the most updated information, please visit the district's website at www.copiague.k12.ny.us.

Be assured that despite all the obstacles in front of us, we will do everything in our power to assist our students and continue to make Copiague "A Great Place to Learn, Live, and Work."

Sincerely,

Michael L. Greb
President, Board of Education

Charles A. Leung
Superintendent of Schools

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Copiague, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013

November 7		Adopt Board of Education Budget Goals and Budget Development Calendar
November 15		Budget Preparation Packets Distributed to Schools & Departments
November 21*		Budget Work Session / Long Range Planning
December 19*		Budget Work Session / Long Range Planning
January 23*		Budget Work Session / Long Range Planning
February 13*		Budget Work Session / Long Range Planning - First draft (3 part format) of proposed expenditure budget to Board of Education.
March 1		Property Tax Calculation Submission Deadline to NYS Comptroller's Office
March 7*	Wednesday	Budget Work Session / Long Range Planning
March 19*		Budget Work Session / Long Range Planning
March 28, April 11, 25 May 9	Wednesdays	Publication of legal notice of the date of the Public Hearing of the 2012-2013 School Budget and the date of the 2012-2013 Annual Vote on Budget and Trustees shall be in two newspapers of general circulation four times, the first notice being 45 days preceding the date of the Annual Vote
April 2*		Budget work Session / Long Range Planning
April 16		Report on estimated revenues and property tax rate. Tentative date for adoption of budget & property tax report card
April 16		Last day for filing petitions for Board of Education members (30 days preceding meeting at which members are to be elected - 5:00 PM deadline)
April 20	Friday	Latest date by which budget must be adopted. Tax report card submitted to local paper and State Education Dept. (the earlier of 24 days prior to budget or the day following adoption of the budget)

***Budget meeting dates – Middle School Cafeteria**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013**

May 7	Monday	Public hearing to present and discuss budget proposal
May 8	Tuesday	Deadline for application for absentee ballot to be received by District Clerk if ballot is to be mailed out
May 8	Tuesday	School Budget Notice (postcard) mailed (at least 6 days prior to Annual Vote but after Public Hearing)
May 14	Monday	Deadline for application for absentee ballot to be received by District Clerk if ballot is to be personally delivered
May 15	Tuesday	Deadline for completed absentee ballot to be returned to District Clerk (5:00 PM deadline)
May 15	Tuesday	Vote on Budget and Trustees - Great Neck Road School 10 AM to 10 PM

PHM/ng
10/12/11