

**VOTING WILL TAKE
PLACE ON**

MAY 19



10:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M.

**GREAT NECK ROAD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1400 GREAT NECK ROAD**



VOTER REQUIREMENTS

- You are a U.S. Citizen.
- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You have been a resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You are registered to vote in the general elections or are registered to vote in the school elections.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The District Clerk must receive applications at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. All completed ballots must be in the hands of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election. For further information, call 842-4015.

Eagle Pride!

- Continuing improvement districtwide on all New York State Assessments and Regents Diploma graduation rate.*
- Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team are New York State Champions.*
- The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has recognized the three elementary schools in the Copiague School District – Deauville Gardens, Great Neck Road, and Susan E. Wiley – as Gold-Level Team Nutrition Schools in the HealthierUS School Challenge.*
- Khang Nguyen, this year's Valedictorian at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, has been named a Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.*
- The Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Marching Band performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.*
- Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School seniors Laura Natoli and Eric Ramdas were selected to represent the District at The National Association for Music's All-Eastern Concert.*
- Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School student Nicholas Wolk is a candidate in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.*
- Eighth grader John Romano, from Copiague Middle School, placed first in the Town of Babylon Veterans Awareness Week Essay Contest.*
- Copiague Middle School eighth-grade student Roger Gonzalez has published his first novel, entitled Halloween.*
- High student involvement in community service.*
- Ieasia Walker, a senior at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, scored her 2,000th career basket and became the District's all-time leading scorer. She was also named an All-American by Parade magazine.*
- Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School senior Gabrielle Gibson scored her 2,000th career basket and became only the third student in Copiague history to achieve this feat.*
- Tatyana Bellamy-Walker, a seventh-grade student at Copiague Middle School, traveled to Washington, D.C. to witness the Inauguration of President Barack Obama and wrote an article that appeared in the New York Amsterdam News.*
- Carole Olsen, head coach of the Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team, was named AA Coach of the Year by the NYS Basketball Coaches Association.*



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Brian J. Sales, *President* Laura Gavey, *Vice President*
Michael Greb, *2nd Vice President* Doris Fischer Henry Johnson
Rosemary Natoli Everett E. Newman III

Charles A. Leunig, *Superintendent of Schools*



Copiague Public Schools
A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN



Copiague Public Schools

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

www.copiague.k12.ny.us

Proposed Budget 2009-2010

CONTROLLING COSTS - SUPPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

2009-2010 Proposed Budget is LOWER Than a Contingency Budget

“As we plan for the future, we are experiencing an economic situation on the national and state level that is unprecedented; yet despite these challenges we cannot let our children down.”

A Message from your Board of Education and Superintendent

Community support has long been the foundation of the District’s success. As the District has introduced a more rigorous curriculum, student achievement has steadily improved, with many students attending the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country. Our outstanding athletic program is the envy of school districts throughout the state, and our renowned marching band gives new meaning to Copiague Pride. We certainly have much to be proud of.

As we plan for the future, we are experiencing an economic situation on the national and state level that is unprecedented; yet despite these challenges we cannot let our children down. Throughout the process of developing the 2009-2010 proposed budget, the Board of Education and administration

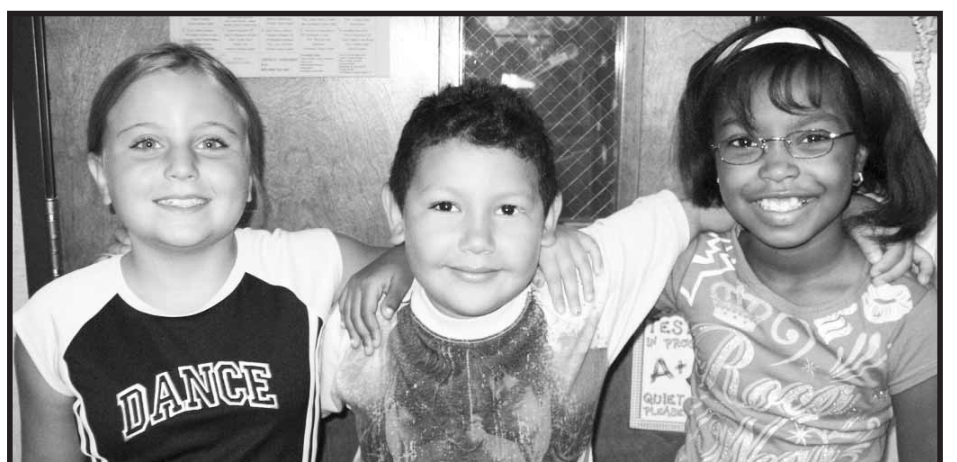
worked together to ensure that every possible opportunity to reduce spending was analyzed and implemented without jeopardizing the academic and extracurricular opportunities we must provide our children in order for them to remain competitive and successful in a global society.

The proposed budget increase of 2.44%, which is actually lower than a contingency budget, represents a commitment to providing a high-value education and the Board’s dedication to continued fiscal responsibility on behalf of our residents. This budget preserves the core curriculum, maintains appropriate class sizes, provides needed services for students at risk, and also supports the arts, athletics, extracurricular activities, and community service, while also building toward long-term financial stability.

After several revisions that continued to lower costs, we believe this budget achieves our goals and is in the best interests of our students and our community. We encourage all residents to read the budget information contained in this publication and to vote on Tuesday, May 19th. Together we have overcome challenges in the past, and we can do it again if we continue to work together for the benefit of our children.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Education & Superintendent of Schools



Copiague School District
Copiague N.Y. 11726

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Copiague, N.Y. 11726
Permit No. 42

ECRWSS
Resident
Copiague School District

BUDGET OBJECTIVES

The District provides services for more than 4,600 students with various academic, emotional, and social needs. Over the past several years, student achievement across the District has steadily improved. It is the belief of the Board of Education that the District must continue to provide a safe and secure environment, maintain reasonable class sizes, have the ability to recruit and employ a highly qualified, professional staff, and provide a quality education so that student achievement can continue to improve. The 2009-2010 proposed budget reflects the funding needed to support a challenging curriculum that addresses students' needs, provides a well-rounded educational experience including athletics, the arts, and extracurricular activities, and is sensitive to the needs of our community.

The 2009-2010 budget must provide adequate funding to:

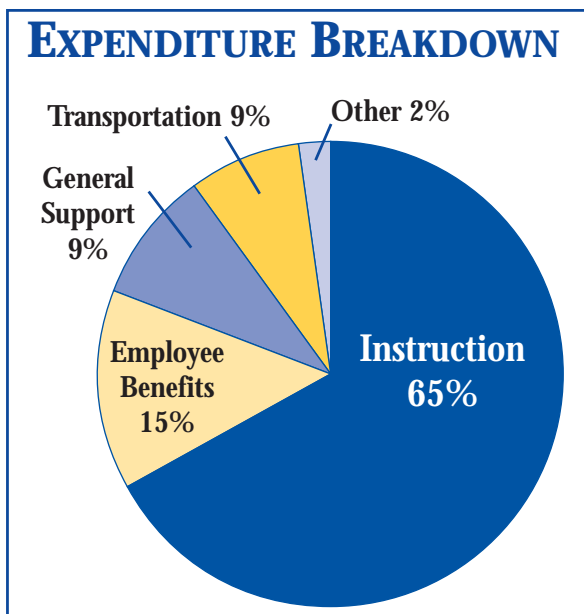
- Maintain the Core Educational Program:
 - Continue to raise student achievement
 - Maintain current class size guidelines where possible
 - Comply with "Contract for Excellence" (C4E)
- Provide Safe, Secure, Modern Educational Facilities
- Maintain Financial Stability Through Challenging Economic Times



2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

| | Budget 2008-2009 | Proposed 2009-2010 | Increase (Decrease) |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Salaries | \$47,458,089 | \$47,977,502 | \$519,413 |
| BOCES | 18,151,060 | 18,653,591 | 502,531 |
| Fringes | 14,140,164 | 14,919,366 | 779,202 |
| Transportation | 8,322,648 | 8,836,409 | 513,761 |
| Contractual | 2,365,371 | 2,375,760 | 10,389 |
| Utilities | 1,148,550 | 1,267,300 | 118,750 |
| Tuition | 1,181,000 | 1,222,500 | 41,500 |
| Debt | 600,000 | 1,040,000 | 440,000 |
| Interest | 1,031,000 | 998,375 | (32,625) |
| Supplies | 1,047,548 | 988,639 | (58,909) |
| Books | 937,605 | 765,315 | (172,290) |
| Repairs | 582,250 | 565,900 | (16,350) |
| Insurance | 405,400 | 379,000 | (26,400) |
| Transfers to Other Funds | 185,000 | 185,000 | 0 |
| Maintenance and Service | 162,550 | 167,425 | 4,875 |
| Lease | 161,506 | 160,969 | (537) |
| Equipment | 280,877 | 70,000 | (210,877) |
| Conferences | 64,300 | 49,900 | (14,400) |
| Advertising | 13,500 | 13,500 | 0 |
| Staff Development | 12,000 | 8,000 | (4,000) |

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL | \$98,250,418 | \$100,644,451 | \$2,394,033 |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|



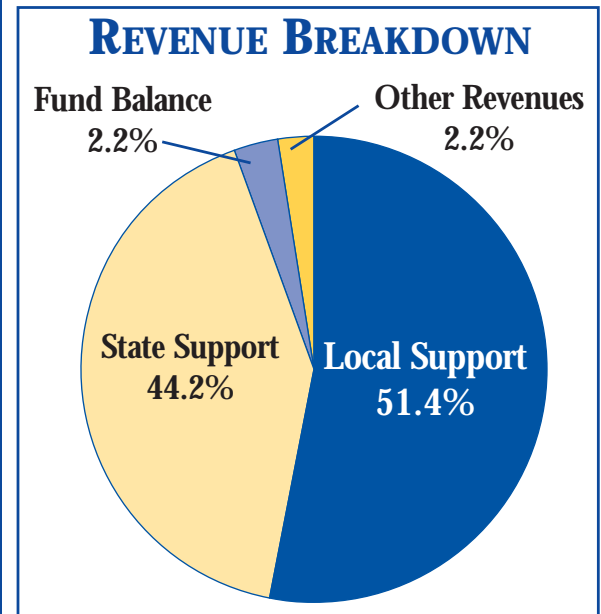
Proposed Budget Summary

Proposed Budget
\$100,644,451

Budget Increase
2.44%

Estimated Average Annual Increase
(Average Home Assessed at \$3,600)
\$160.53

**44¢
Per Day Increase**



Cost Containment Efforts

To address the unprecedented economic challenges being faced across the country, the District has taken additional steps to reduce spending where applicable. Below is a list of areas in which the District has reduced expenditures in order to further contain costs:

- Combined and consolidated a number of staff and administrative positions
- Reduced staff through attrition
- Consolidated weekend practice schedules for athletic teams
- Consolidated building usage for all weekend activities
- Eliminated travel to out-of-state professional conferences
- Curtailed overtime where possible
- Pursued additional grant opportunities to offset budget expenditures
- Reduced telephone costs
- Replaced roofs on all buildings with energy efficient membranes *at no additional cost to taxpayers*
- Installed new hot water heater at Wiley with a fuel oil savings of more than \$10,000 *at no additional cost to taxpayers*
- Installed energy-efficient windows at Wiley
- Conducting an energy audit of the plant and facilities in order to identify energy-saving possibilities.
- Initiated a new retirement incentive that will save more than \$900,000 in salaries in 2009-2010 *at no additional cost to taxpayers*
- Reviewed every line item in the budget with reductions in supplies, repairs, conferences, utilities, BOCES costs, insurance, and equipment

Budget Challenges

While constructing the 2009-2010 proposed budget, the District had to overcome the following challenges in order to bring the lowest possible budget-to-budget increase to residents.

- Uncertain Economic Times
- State Aid Reductions
- Reduced Interest Revenue
- Continued Unfunded Mandates
- Increased Retirement Costs
- Contractual Obligations
- Aging Facilities
- Alternate Education Programs
- Contract for Excellence Regulations

COMPUTATION OF ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2009-2010 Proposed Budget | \$100,644,451 |
| Less Estimated Revenue | \$46,709,036 |
| Subtotal | \$53,935,415 |
| Less Appropriated Fund Balance | \$2,230,000 |
| Estimated Tax Levy 2009-2010 | \$51,705,415 |

PROPOSED BUDGET:

WHAT WILL 44 CENTS A DAY PROVIDE?

Below is a sample of courses, services, and staffing that will be maintained next year if the proposed 2009-2010 budget is approved.

- **Maintain Class Sizes Across the District**
- **Maintain Academic Intervention Services**
- **Extracurricular Activities**
- **Advanced Placement Courses**
- **Full Complement of School Security Staff**
- **Summer School Program, Including Two-Week In-District Summer Camp Opportunity for Middle School Students**
- **Professional Development Opportunities for Staff**
- **Support for Children in Need**
- **The Opportunity for Every Child to Succeed!**

IMPACT OF A CONTINGENCY BUDGET

The negative effects of a Contingency Budget would be devastating to a school district such as Copiague. In 2005-2006 the District was forced to operate on contingency and, as a result, student achievement was negatively impacted, programs were affected, staff was reduced and class sizes were increased. It was several years before the negative effect of this one-year contingency budget was reversed and conditions began to improve. It will be doubly difficult to recover from a contingency budget in these challenging economic times. Operating on a contingency budget would impact services, demoralize staff, place students at a disadvantage when compared to their peers, and could potentially negatively impact the value of homes in the community.

The District's proposed budget increase is actually less than allowable under a contingency budget, due to prudent financial planning. However, the District would still be required by law to operate under the restrictions of a contingency budget, including:

- Charging a fee for the use of buildings and fields by community and outside groups
- Elimination of summer school enrichment programs
- No purchasing of student supplies
- No purchasing of equipment

