



SACHEM



2010-2011 Proposed Budget

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2010

Keeping Costs Down, Despite Unprecedented Challenges

Dear Residents,

For the past three years, the Sachem Board of Education has been able to present a school district budget with no tax increase. We have been continuously mindful of the economic constraints on our community members, and are determined to keep costs as low as reasonably possible while providing a budget that meets our students' educational needs.

Unprecedented challenges ...

This year, every school district on Long Island faces unprecedented challenges. State mandates for school districts have continued to increase, and, at the same time, rather than providing the funds to offset the cost of these new requirements, the governor has proposed drastic cuts in state aid. Along with other local districts, we have lobbied in Albany for our fair share of state aid.

Still keeping costs down ...

Despite the obstacles, however, we are able to present a proposed budget that features one of the lowest weighted tax rate increases on Long Island. The proposed 2010-11 budget represents a weighted tax rate increase of just 1.94% and a budget-to-budget increase of just 1.09%.

Please read this newsletter for additional information on the proposed 2010-11 budget, and do not hesitate to contact Superintendent James J. Nolan (jnolan@sachem.edu or call 471-1336) or Associate Superintendent for Business Bruce Singer (bsinger@sachem.edu or call 471-1321) with your questions.

Sincerely,
Anthony Falco, *Board President*



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Budget Summary

	2009-10 Modified Budget	2010-11 Proposed	Percent Change
Administration	\$23,385,004	\$24,187,302	3.43%
Program	210,730,537	215,452,405	2.24%
Capital	43,579,399	41,071,958	-5.75%
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	\$277,694,940	\$280,711,665	1.09%

Comparison of Taxes

Taxes for average home:	2009-10 Modified Budget	2010-11 Proposed Budget	2010-11 Defeated Budget*
Brookhaven			
(AV=\$3,500)	\$5,854.45	\$5,968.20	\$5,781.65
Islip			
(AV=\$40,000)	\$4,980.00	\$5,076.00	\$4,920.00
Smithtown			
(AV=\$6,000)	\$6,210.00	\$6,330.60	\$6,132.60

* When the community does not approve a proposed budget, the state requires the district adopt a "contingency budget." The state forbids certain expenditures under a contingency budget.

Please go to our website – www.sachem.edu, where you will find a tax calculator to estimate your taxes for 2010-11. You may also view the full line-by-line budget on the district website.

Multi-Year Contracts

In order to increase savings, Sachem plans to continue with multi-year contracts for pupil transportation services (large buses and school van services). In addition, the district plans to enter into the following BOCES agreements:

BOCES multi-year technology project: Lease agreement for instructional technology equipment at a total cost of \$3 million to be paid over five years. The annual cost is \$600,000 per year, and first of five payments is included in the budget.

BOCES multi-year copy machine project: Multi-year lease agreement for copy machines to be paid over five years. The total cost has yet to be determined, but \$665,000 for the first of five payments is included in the budget.

BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010 • 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. AT ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Voter Eligibility

In order to vote, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, and must have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Eligible voters include those who have voted in federal, state, county or school district elections within the past four years, those who are registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections and residents who registered during the school district's registration period.

Voter Registration

District residents may register to vote on any school day during school hours at any one of the district's schools or at the district office. The last day of voter registration at the district office is May 13, 2010, until 3:00 p.m. There will be extended hours for registration on Wednesday, May 5, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Samoset Middle School and Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at district office.

Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots may be used by eligible voters for voting on the budget and Board candidates. Applications for absentee ballots are available in the office of the district clerk and on our website (www.sachem.edu). To obtain an absentee ballot, an individual should complete the written application form and submit it to the district clerk at least one day before the vote if the ballot is personally delivered by the voter. This application must be received by the district clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Persons designated by the Suffolk County Board of Elections as "permanently disabled" need not make an application, since they will automatically receive an absentee ballot by mail.

Where to Vote

Voter lines mirror the established elementary school boundaries.

Public Hearing Wednesday, May 5 • Samoset Middle School • 7:30 p.m.

Last Day to Register Thursday, May 13 • 3:00 p.m.

Residents should direct any questions regarding voter eligibility to District Clerk Carol Adelberg at (631) 471-1331.

Residents should direct any questions regarding the budget to Associate Superintendent for Business Bruce Singer at (631) 471-1321.