



SACHEM



2011-2012 Proposed Budget

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2011

A Message From Your Board President

Dear Residents,

For the past several years, every annual budget for the Sachem schools has focused on improving our learning programs for Sachem students. Committed to providing the children of our school district with a first-rate educational program, we expanded instructional technology, introduced new support programs, strengthened learning-based curricula, provided training for staff and upgraded our school buildings. We were successful; Sachem schools have improved, year after year. However, with the severe cuts in state aid to the Sachem School District for 2011-12, we have had to restrict our focus and concentrate on simply preserving and protecting the excellent programs and services already in place.

The downturn in the economy has affected all of New York State, including the residents of our school district. In Sachem, we understand the need to restrict tax increases – and we know that we cannot pass on the loss in state aid to our community to be absorbed by taxpayers. For this reason, the design of the 2011-12 proposed budget is different from the budgets of past years. In order to control taxes and spending, we have proposed a number of program cuts and staffing reductions. Where possible, spending is capped or reduced.

The priority in preparing the 2011-12 budget has been to preserve the learning programs that have permitted our children to excel academically and to maintain the courses that have resulted in our students' outstanding performance, locally, regionally and nationally. The proposed budget retains class-size levels and continues academic services for students in need. Overall, this budget ensures that Sachem students will

still have the learning opportunities that have traditionally made a difference in their educational experience.

The proposed 2011-12 budget addresses both the learning needs of our students and the financial interests of our residents. Since the very start of the budget development process, we have focused on preserving the quality instructional programs this community has come to expect for our children, and at the same time, ensuring a reasonable tax rate for district residents. We believe that the budget to be presented to our community on May 17 achieves both of these goals.

Please review the information in this budget newsletter carefully, and cast an informed vote on Tuesday, May 17.

Sincerely,
Robert Scavo, *Board President*



Sachem Central School District

WALTER C. DUNHAM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
245 Union Avenue, Holbrook, NY 11741-1890

2010-2011 BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Budget Summary

	2010-11 Modified Budget	2011-12 Proposed	Percent Change
Administration	24,187,302	25,427,921	5.13%
Program	215,452,405	220,722,218	2.45%
Capital	42,471,958	41,683,986	-1.86%
	282,111,665	287,834,125	2.03%

Comparison of Taxes

Taxes for average home:	2010-11 Modified Budget	2011-12 Proposed Budget	2011-12 Defeated Budget*
Brookhaven (AV=\$3,500)	\$5,912.90	\$6,178.55	\$6,076.70
Islip (AV=\$40,000)	\$4,984.00	\$5,208.00	\$5,120.00
Smithtown (AV=\$6,000)	\$6,615.60	\$6,913.20	\$6,799.20

* 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 2011-12. You may also view the full line-by-line budget information and appendices on the district website.

MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS 2011-2012

In order to increase savings, Sachem plans to continue with multi-year contracts for pupil transportation services (large buses and school van services).

Sachem plans to enter into a \$1.5 million, 5-year multi-year technology lease agreement with Eastern Suffolk BOCES. This shall be payment year 1 of 5 at \$300,000 per year.

BUDGET VOTE: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011 • 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 10, 2011, until 3:00 p.m. There will be extended hours for registration on Wednesday, May 4, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Samoset Middle School and Saturday, May 7, 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 4 • Samoset Middle School • 7:30 p.m. **Last Day to Register** Tuesday, May 10 • 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.