

2011-2012 Budget Survey Results

The Baldwinsville Central School District is seeking input from district residents as it develops the 2011-2012 budget. Community input is vital in the development of a fiscally responsible budget. The district seeks your ideas, concerns and opinions on how the district can create a budget that balances the needs of our students with the financial ability of the community to support those needs.

Following are the results of the district's recent online budget input survey, which was answered by 154 people.

1. Which category best describes you?

- I am a parent with a child or children in district schools - 91
- I am a community member with no children in district schools - 20
- I am a student in the district - 8
- I am an employee in the district - 49

2. What current programs, services, activities, and/or initiatives do you feel the district should maintain as a high priority for the 2011-2012 budget?

There were 139 responses to this question. Although there were many different responses, a common theme was to keep and strengthen current programs in athletics, academics, music, special education and extracurricular offerings.

3. What current programs, services, activities, and/or initiatives do you feel the district should consider eliminating or reducing in the 2011-2012 budget?

There were 106 responses to this question. Many respondents mentioned busing, specifically reducing routes, creating common stops, and changing the policy of busing all elementary students, regardless of the distances they live from their schools. Many people also commented on reducing or eliminating athletic teams, or creating a "pay to play" policy for athletic teams. *Because "pay to play" policies are illegal in New York State, the district will not consider this option for cost reductions.*

4. What programs, services, activities, and/or initiatives do you feel the district should begin supporting with the 2011-2012 budget?

There were 81 responses to this question. A common response was to consider reinstating freshman athletic teams that were cut from this school year.

5. What is your main source of budget information?

- *The Beacon* - Budget newsletter - 67
- District website - 37
- Board of Education meetings - 3
- Superintendent emails - 21
- District staff - 10
- Students - 2
- The Messenger - 3
- The Post Standard - 4
- Local television and radio - 2
- PTA - 0
- Friends and neighbors - 2

6. Do you feel that you receive enough information from the district about the budget each year?

Yes – 113 **No** - 37

7. What area(s) of the budget would you like to receive more information about?

There were 71 responses to this question. Answers included wanting more details regarding what the district will be considering cutting, if cuts are necessary, a breakdown of how much money is spent on academics, fine arts, and athletics, and a breakdown of the dollar amount spent on instruction as compared to staff salaries and benefits.

8. Do you have any suggestions for cost savings and/or for increasing efficiency measures?

This question was answered by 97 people. A common response was eliminating busing for students who live within a certain distance of their schools.

9. Do you have any ideas for increasing district revenue?

There were 69 responses to this question. Responses varied.

Question 10 asked respondents to indicate if they would like to meet with Superintendent Jeanne Dangle to discuss the 2011-2012 budget.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey.