



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

Issue 91

May 2011

2011-2012 Budget News

VOTE: May 17, 2011

Baker High School Auditorium, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

	<u>'10-'11</u>	<u>'11-'12</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Budget	\$93,669,512	\$92,679,249	-1.06%
Tax Levy	\$47,822,714	\$48,683,523	1.8%

The total budget for 2011-2012 is 1.06% less than the 2010-2011 budget.

Dear Baldwinsville Central School District Community:

This newsletter details the district's 2011-2012 budget proposal. The proposed budget is \$92,679,249. The proposed tax levy is 1.8%, or \$860,809, which is approximately \$41.10 for a \$100,000 assessed property value. Despite the continuing national and state economic crises, the Board of Education and the district's administrators and staff members are committed to continuing to provide Baldwinsville's students with the best possible education, balancing our students' needs with the financial ability of the community to support those needs. The future of our community, state and country depends on the education of our children. The Baldwinsville Central School District remains dedicated to providing its students with a quality education that will prepare them to compete with their peers nationally and globally.

For details on the proposed budget, please attend the public budget hearing on May 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Baker High School. The budget vote will be held in the auditorium of the high school on May 17, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Board of Education,

Victor Jenkins, President

In this issue

Budget expenditures.....p. 2	Tax impact.....p. 4	Contingent budget.....p. 7
Budget revenues.....p. 3	Budget highlights.....p. 5	Points of Pride.....p. 8
Bus purchase.....p. 4	School board elections.....p. 6	

Budget Expenditures

State law requires the 2011-2012 budget to be presented in three parts: program, capital and administrative. Please see page 4 for information on the projected tax impact, and page 5 for budget highlights.

	2011-12 proposed budget	2010-11 final appropriation	Dollar difference	Percent difference
Program	\$70,417,002	\$71,630,318	\$1,213,316	-1.7%

The program component is intended to provide every student with educational experiences and opportunities to foster the full development of his or her potential. This budget category includes all instructional personnel and programs: regular school, special education, library, media, instructional technology, guidance, student health services, school psychologists, attendance and census costs, music, co-curricular activities, athletics, in-district and out-of-district pupil transportation, and staff development.

Capital	\$13,948,658	\$14,059,588	\$110,930	-.76%
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The capital component is intended to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and the community. This budget category includes all personnel, equipment, supplies and materials for the operation and maintenance of district facilities. Any judgments and claims, refunds of real property taxes, and all payments of principal and interest on short- and long-term obligations are included in this category.

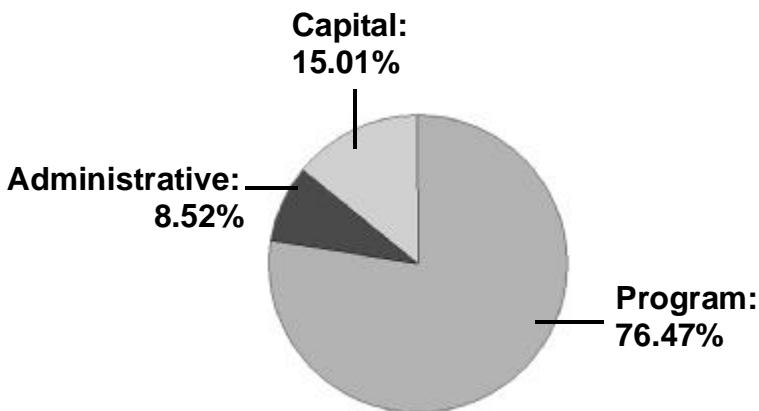
Administrative	\$8,313,589	\$ 7,979,606	\$333,983	+4.2%
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The administrative component is intended to provide the necessary support for district functions. This category includes all expenses for the Board of Education, superintendent, business office, auditor, tax collection, fiscal agent, legal services, personnel office, records management, public information, central printing and mailing, property and casualty insurance, school association dues, BOCES administrative share, and supervision of instruction.

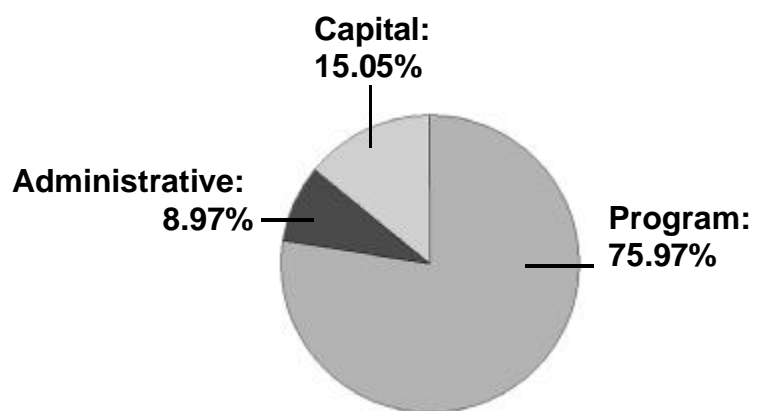
Total Budget	\$92,679,249	\$93,669,512	\$990,263	-1.06%
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Appropriations Comparisons

2010-2011



2011-2012



Budget Revenues

Non-Property Tax Revenues

Account	2010-2011	Estimated 2011-2012
In lieu of tax	\$2,929,412	\$2,088,714
County sales tax	\$965,250	\$446,875
Tuition -- other districts	\$50,000	\$50,000
Interest income	\$170,000	\$140,000
State aid (including BOCES aid)	\$30,720,117	\$28,118,605
State aid -- building aid	\$4,623,503	\$4,630,242
Federal Jobs Money		\$1,800,000
All other income	\$356,500	\$356,500
Subtotal	\$39,814,782	\$36,010,936

Real Estate Property Tax

Budget	\$93,669,512	\$92,679,249
Less: Estimated revenues	\$39,814,782	\$36,010,936
Less: Appropriated fund balance	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Less: Appropriation from reserves	\$2,821,702	\$4,864,790
Amount to be raised by tax levy:	\$47,822,714	\$48,683,523

Major Influences on the 2011-2012 Budget

4 Staff reductions

- ✓ 24 reductions in total, most due to attrition
- ✓ 6 actual layoffs
 - a 2 teacher aides
 - a 1 mechanic
 - a 2 custodial floaters
 - a 1 food service driver

Other Influences:

- 4 Decrease in state aid - an estimated \$2,581,512 less
- 4 Drop in interest income - an estimated \$30,000 less
- 4 Drop in county sales tax - about \$500,000 less
- 4 Increase in expenses
 - a salaries
 - a health insurance
 - a retirement

Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- 1.) Eighteen years of age or older;
- 2.) A citizen of the United States; and
- 3.) A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots can be obtained by calling the district office at 638-6055, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional Proposition; Tax Impact

In addition to voting on the 2011-2012 budget proposal, district residents are also asked to vote on one additional ballot item:



Proposition Two: Annual Bus Purchase

Annual bus purchase and replacement program

The bus fleet consists of 79 large (54-70 passenger) buses, 27 medium (15-48 passenger and wheelchair capable) buses, and seven 8-passenger buses. Large buses are used for about 12 years, the medium buses for about 10 years, and the 8-passenger buses for about 7 years. In order to maintain a consistent replacement schedule, approximately 11 to 14 buses should be replaced per year. However, given the economic pressure facing the district, we are proposing the purchase of fewer buses.

The district would like to purchase:

- 4 Six 65-passenger buses
- 4 One 42-passenger (with wheelchair lift) bus
- 4 Two 8-passenger vehicles

The total maximum cost of Proposition 2 = \$881,108

- State aid = \$748,060

Local cost = \$133,048

Estimated Tax Rate

In Lysander and VanBuren, the tax rate is projected to increase by 1.8% as assessments are not expected to rise. The estimated tax rate will be as shown below. Please note that the district will not receive assessments and equalization rates for the towns of Van Buren, Lysander and Clay until August. At that time, **the actual tax levy and tax rates will be calculated.**

	Change in tax bill on a \$100,000 house, without STAR (no change in assessed value)	Change in tax bill on a \$100,000 house, with STAR (no change in assessed value)	Estimated tax rate increase
Lysander and VanBuren (assuming equalization rate remains at 100%)	\$41.10	\$28.77	+1.8%
Clay (assuming equalization rate remains the same)	\$41.10	\$28.77	+1.8%

About Equalization Rates

An equalization rate represents the average level of assessment in each community. For example, an equalization rate of 50% means that, on average, the property is being assessed at 50% of its market value. The equalization rates are determined by the New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment. One of the most important uses of the equalization rate is to divide the tax levy fairly among municipalities in the same school district. In the Baldwinsville Central School District, the municipalities are the towns of Lysander, Van Buren and Clay.

About "STAR," School Tax Relief Program

The state's School Tax Relief Program, or STAR, provides a basic exemption that allows property owners with income under \$500,000 to receive a \$30,000 full-value exemption on their school tax bills. Senior citizens with incomes of less than \$36,400 gross are eligible for larger exemptions on a sliding scale; senior citizens with incomes of less than \$79,050 (not including IRA distributions) are eligible for the state's "enhanced" exemption of \$60,100.

Budget Highlights

The 2011-2012 budget proposal continues the district's efforts to move ahead in areas such as instructional technology integration, continued K-12 curriculum development, advanced data analysis for instructional decisions, Safe School legislation training, and professional development. In general, the budget seeks to support the district's long-range plan, which strives to provide quality academic programs, maintain facilities, and continue to provide a quality education while being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

Program Highlights

- 4 Continue to offer college-credit courses at the high school;
- 4 Maintain most existing student program opportunities (instructional and extra-curricular);
- 4 Continue to minimize the number of displaced students;
- 4 Maintain effective class sizes;
- 4 Support differentiated instruction to meet the learning needs of each student;
- 4 Continue the district's data-analysis process; and
- 4 Ensure continued improvement in teaching through the district's mentoring program and other professional development initiatives.



Technology

In the area of technology, the budget continues to support ongoing needs in the district to include general network hardware and software upgrades, centralization and virtualization of our server and backup capacity, the programmed replacement of older equipment and installation of various peripheral instructional equipment to include video projectors, SMART Boards, Sympodiums, visual presenters, instructional television and other presentation devices.



Equipment and Maintenance

The budget supports the district's cleaning and preventative maintenance program and the community use of buildings. It also supports necessary repairs, including building infrastructure, mechanical and electrical repairs, HVAC upgrades, athletic field maintenance, and energy conservation upgrades. Examples of new equipment include lawn maintenance and athletic field equipment, and building maintenance and floor care equipment.



School Board Elections

The order of the candidates is ***the order in which they will appear on the ballot***. Three seats on the Board of Education are up for election. They are for three-year terms. The three candidates who receive the three highest vote totals will be elected to the three-year terms.

Jeff Marier



Jeff Marier has lived in Lysander since 2006 with his wife, Sue, and his 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. He received his M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Syracuse University and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toledo. He is currently an Engineering Manager at Lockheed Martin in Liverpool. He is an advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) outreach, visiting schools throughout Central New York to actively engage students in hands-on activities and to promote STEM-related career fields. Jeff is a U.S. Air Force Persian Gulf veteran, an Eagle Scout and a member of Leadership Greater Syracuse Class of 2009.

Roman Diamond



Roman Diamond is currently a senior at C.W. Baker High School. As a student at the high school, he formed and led a group of students whose goal was to raise political awareness around the community as well as around the high school. He has been a member of the high school's mock trial team, student council, chess club and SADD. Last year he was a candidate for the ex-officio student member position on the Board of Education.

Roman is an Eagle Scout, an assistant den leader for Cub Scout Pack 248, and a member of the Baldwinsville Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. He is currently employed part time at Lock 24. He will attend Onondaga Community College in the fall with plans to eventually transfer to a four year school to pursue a degree in law and political science.

Cheryl Cowen



Cheryl Cowen has been a resident of the Baldwinsville Central School District for 20 years. She has four children who have graduated from Baker High School. Cheryl has a diverse career background, including real estate and banking.

Contingent Budget

What happens if the budget is defeated?

State laws regarding defeated school budgets were changed in 1998 as follows:

- 1.) There is a limit of two votes.
- 2.) The Board of Education may adopt a contingent budget after the first vote, and it must adopt a contingent budget if the second vote does not pass.
- 3.) Under state law, a contingent budget would require budget cuts of approximately \$331,450 in equipment and \$47,500 in other cuts. Plus, community use of facilities would be limited to those who could pay the full cost for such use. Further cuts may be required to conform to spending caps and would come from programs as determined by the Board of Education at the time of adoption.

Copies of the budget can be reviewed in the district business office at 29 E. Oneida St., Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar

R Public hearing:

Tuesday, May 10

7:00 p.m., Baker H.S. cafe

R Annual vote:

Tuesday, May 17

6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Baker H.S. aud.

R Absentee Ballots:

Can be obtained by
calling 638-6055.



Points of Pride 2010 - 2011



4 Academic Excellence:

2011 AP Achievement List District

National Merit Recognition:

Finalist - 1

Semi-finalists - 1

Commended students - 9

AP Scholars:

51 students from Baker High School earned the designation of AP Scholar from the College Board in recognition of their achievements on the college-level Advanced Placement exams last spring.

4 Artistic Achievement:

2011 CNY Scholastic Art Awards

Gold Key - 1

Silver Key - 4

Honorable Mention - 12

4 Athletic Honors:

Scholar-athletes:

Nearly every varsity athletic team in Baldwinsville receives the Scholar/Athlete Team Award from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for achieving a team composite grade average of 90% or better.

State Champions

Girls Varsity Volleyball

Regional Champions:

Varsity Football

Boys & Girls Varsity Soccer

Girls Varsity Volleyball

4 Music Honors:

Baker High School is a GRAMMY Signature School finalist for the 2nd consecutive year.

Each year, student musicians are invited to participate in the county and state music festivals. This school year was no exception.

All-State:

Baker High School - 6

Area All-State:

Baker High School - 17

Durgee Junior High - 24

All-County:

Baker High School - 38

Durgee Junior High - 23

Ray Middle School - 20

Elementary Schools - 18

The Beacon is an official publication of the Baldwinsville Central School District.

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