

GREATER Johnstown SCHOOL DISTRICT

No increase in proposed tax levy

Residents to vote May 19 on school budget

Greater Johnstown School District residents will vote May 19 on a proposed \$27,456,100 general fund budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The proposed tax levy would be \$6,990,887, the same as 2008-09.

Educational programs maintained

Johnstown's proposed budget maintains educational programs and services with some modifications in formats to enhance outcomes and to attain greater cost effectiveness. Some additional students with disabilities will be educated in district-operated programs next fall. An upgrade and updating of the network operating system will permit greater use of educational technology at all grade levels.

Cost effective measures taken

The expense side of the budget is \$1,605,803 less than in 2008-09. Savings will be realized now that the Board of Education has decided to operate three instead of four elementary schools next year due to enrollment declines. Additional savings came from reviewing levels of all budgetary appropriations and assignments of personnel in all areas.

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Voters to decide five separate ballot issues

Proposals lay groundwork for future decisions

▶ Capital construction reserve

Voters must re-authorize reserve funds every 10 years in order to renew the current capital construction reserve and roll over any existing funds. With voter approval,

Johnstown's Board of Education can roll over the existing \$185,000 and add additional funds when available. Should a boiler or a roof need replacing, for example, voters would then be asked to authorize the use of capital reserve funds for the specific purpose. Voters will see the term "ultimate amount" of the reserve on the ballot. This is required language and means the total amount of cash flow, in and out. This means that during the entire 10-year period, the maximum amount of money reserved could be \$1 million and the maximum spent would be \$1 million. The most cost-effective way to pay for the local share of capital construction projects is through a capital reserve fund rather than additional tax levy.

▶ Crescendoe Road lease extension

Voter approval is sought to extend the lease for one more year for the district's transportation facility on



Crescendoe Road. If approved, the lease would extend through June 30, 2010, at a cost of \$97,715, which is the same amount as this year. State aid offsets a majority of the cost. By extending the contract another year, the district would have time to finalize a proposal for a permanent

solution, which then would be subject to voter approval.

▶ Lease extension on four buses

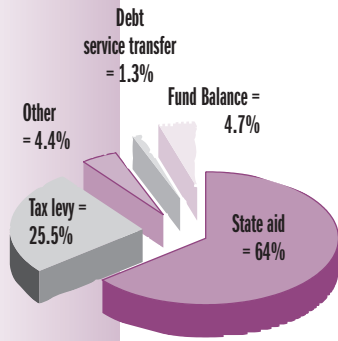
Voter approval is sought to extend for four years a lease for three 66-passenger school buses and one wheelchair bus that are used daily for regular student transportation. The district entered into an emergency one-year lease for the buses last summer. The cost may not exceed \$12,000 per year for each of the three regular buses and no more than \$13,000 per year for the wheelchair bus, for a total of \$49,000 per year.

▶ Board of Education elections

Voters will choose candidates to fill three seats on the board of education. As of press time, the slate of candidates was not finalized.

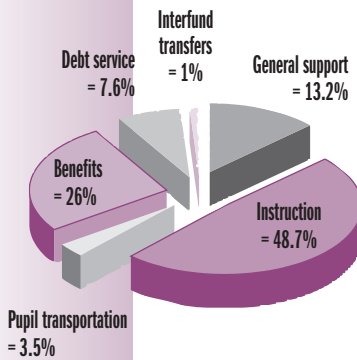
For more information, please log on to the district Web site, www.johnstownschoools.org, and check local newspapers.

REVENUES: Estimated General Fund Revenues



Source of Revenue	Actual 2008-09 Budget	Proposed 2009-10 Budget	\$ Amount Change from 2008-09	Percent Change from 2008-09
State Aid - Operating Expenses	\$18,323,023	\$17,609,356	(\$713,667)	-3.89%
Local School Taxes	\$6,990,887	\$6,990,887	0	0.00%
Other (PILOT, reimbursements, etc.)	\$1,321,500	\$1,221,500	(\$100,000)	-7.57%
Transfer from Debt Service	\$657,484	\$350,000	(\$307,484)	-46.77%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$1,769,009	\$1,284,357	(\$484,652)	-27.40%
Total	\$29,061,903	\$27,456,100	(\$1,605,803)	-5.53%

EXPENSES: Estimated General Fund Expenses



Expenses	Actual 2008-09 Budget	Proposed 2009-10 Budget	\$ Amount Change from 2008-09	Percent Change from 2008-09
General Support	\$3,846,389	\$3,612,805	(\$233,584)	-6.07%
Instruction	\$15,233,755	\$13,359,783	(\$1,873,972)	-12.30%
Pupil Transportation	\$1,053,106	\$956,912	(\$96,194)	-9.13%
Employee Benefits	\$6,452,945	\$7,161,205	\$708,260	10.98%
Debt Service	\$2,205,408	\$2,095,095	(\$110,313)	-5.0%
Interfund Transfers	\$270,300	\$270,300	\$0	0.00%
Total	\$29,061,903	\$27,456,100	(\$1,605,803)	-5.53%

New attendance boundaries

Over the next several weeks, the Board of Education and school administrators will work to establish new attendance boundaries in the district. While all Jansen Avenue students will find themselves in new surroundings at the start of the 2009-2010 school year, some students from other buildings may be relocated as well. Information will be sent directly to parents, and boundaries will be posted on the district's Web site, www.johnstownschoools.org.

Special aid pays for key programs and services

New York State grants and federal aid support programs and services that are critically important in the education of our students. These Special Aid funds are not accounted for in the General Fund.

Johnstown's 2008-09 special aid includes:

Universal Pre-K (NYS)	\$276,595
Individuals w/ Disabilities Education Act	\$483,302
No Child Left Behind	\$696,846
Other Special Aid	\$184,700
TOTAL	\$1,641,443

Tax rates by municipality for the 2008-09 school year

Johnstown (City)	\$21.72
Johnstown	\$19.92
Ephratah	\$23.17
Palatine	\$24.23
Gloversville (City)	\$14.54

The 2008-2009 tax levy divided by the full (equalized) value of all taxable property in the district yields a full value tax rate of \$14.54. The Board of Education will adopt new tax rates in August after the county finalizes assessed total value and the state finalizes equalization rates.

Budget vote May 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The district maximized savings from staff reductions through agreement with teachers on a retirement benefit linked to compensated absences. As a result, the reductions in staff and faculty positions can be achieved mostly through attrition, greatly reducing the number of staff who would experience lay-offs or reductions in their levels of employment while minimizing unemployment costs incurred by the district.

National School Lunch Program

Provides nutrition for learning and funding for our schools

History and purpose

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has provided free and reduced priced meals to low-income children during the school year and over the summer. In addition to lessening hunger for low-income students during school hours, the program has also successfully limited malnutrition and increased the intake of key nutrients for the target population. Students have the opportunity to learn better when they have proper nutrition.

Eligibility and enrollment

In 2009-2010, the income limit for free meals will be \$28,665 for a family of four; and, for reduced meals, \$40,793 for four. Children who are members of households receiving food stamp benefits or cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

GJSD schools are in good standing

All of the Greater Johnstown School District's elementary and secondary schools are in good academic standing by New York State standards. At the elementary and middle levels, Johnstown students exceeded the state determined Annual Measurable Objectives in English language arts, mathematics and science by an average of 68 points.

Johnstown High School students exceeded state standards in English and math by an average of 28 points, and exceeded the state standard graduation rate by 20 percent. Among our regular education graduates, 91 percent earned New York State Regents Diplomas, which means they passed five Regents exams in addition to meeting course credit requirements. And, 55 percent earned Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designation, which means the students passed eight Regents exams, including third-year math and other credit requirements.

block grant, as well as homeless, runaway, and migrant children, also qualify for free meals.

Children can enroll in the school lunch program after their parents submit applications provided by the district and that are also available at www.johnstownschoools.org. Students enrolled during the current school year can continue to

receive meals until Sept. 30, 2009 while new applications are filed.

Funding for programs & services

Federal and state funding agencies use free or reduced price lunch enrollment figures to determine a school's eligibility for Title I funds and to establish the amount of state aid the district receives. The Greater Johnstown School District depends upon the enrollment of all eligible families in order to receive state and federal funding for programs and services that provide direct instruction in classrooms for students.

Everyone benefits from all eligible students enrolling in the National School Lunch program: Students receive nutrition to boost learning and additional educational services, and the local taxpayer benefits from federal support for required programs and services.

School news

GLEBE STREET:

Nearly 100 percent of Glebe Street students participated in this year's Academic Fair. Their projects included volcanoes, a magic show, cooking exhibits, dinosaur projects and science experiments.

JANSEN AVE:

The Jansen Avenue Going Green Club started this year to educate K-6 students about environmental issues and concerns.

PLEASANT AVE:

Through an independent reading program, Pleasant Avenue students are reading five books and writing brief summaries for each. They are then quizzed by the principal and get to write on the "Reading Makes Me..." wall with their thoughts about reading.

WARREN STREET:

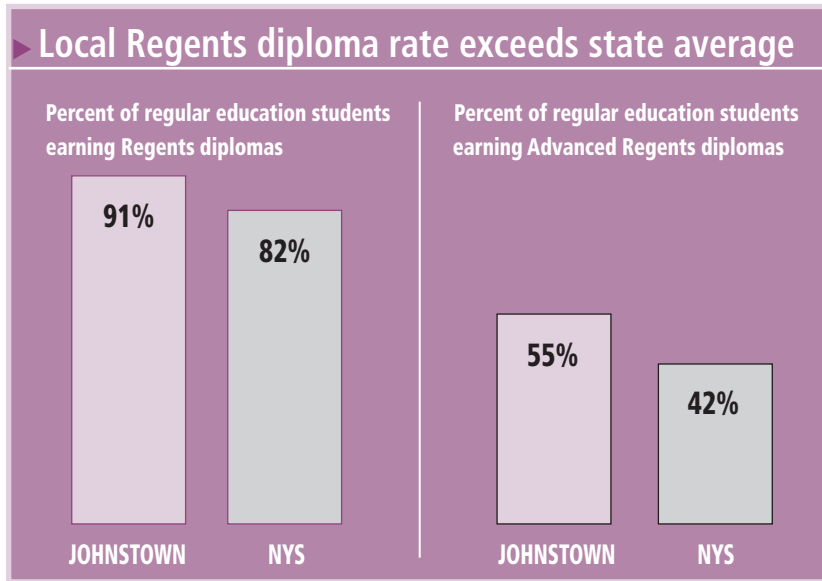
Warren Street partnered with three agencies – Catholic Charities, Family Counseling Center, and the HFM Prevention Council – to provide students meaningful experiences in the areas of character education, leadership and teamwork.

KNOX JR. HIGH:

The GenerationYES program at Knox is funded through a grant from HFM BOCES and encourages students to meet eighth grade NCLB standards for technology literacy while still in the seventh grade.

JOHNSTOWN HIGH:

To celebrate Arbor Day, the Johnstown High School Green Club planted a black walnut tree in front of the high school. The tree was donated by the Johnstown Celebrates 2008: Time Marches On committee to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Sir William Johnson's clearing of land.



SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

May 19, 2009 • 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

TWO POLL LOCATIONS

- **JOHNSTOWN RESIDENTS** vote in the Johnstown High School auditorium lobby. (Enter on Pearl Street and park in a designated area near the lobby entrance in the main lot.)
- **TOWN OF EPHRATAH RESIDENTS** vote at the Ephratah Fire Department

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2009-10 by the qualified voters of the Greater Johnstown School District in Fulton County, New York, will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote.



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School districts are required by state law to mail this information to all households within the district.

If you would like additional information about the proposed budget, please call the Business Office at (518) 762-4611, ext. 113.

Greater Johnstown SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall budget proposal	Budget adopted for the 2008-09 school year	Budget proposed for the 2009-10 school year	Contingency budget for the 2009-10 school year*
Total budgeted amount	\$ 29,061,903	\$ 27,456,100	\$ 27,321,887
Increase for the 2009-10 school year		\$ (1,605,803)	\$ (1,740,016)
Percentage increase in each proposed budget		-5.53%	-5.99%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.8%	
Resulting estimated property tax levy for the 2009-10 school year	\$ 6,990,887	\$ 6,990,087	\$ 6,990,087
Administrative component	\$ 3,036,150	\$ 2,320,143	\$ 2,275,338
Program component	\$ 20,675,065	\$ 20,793,547	\$ 20,772,889
Capital component	\$ 5,530,688	\$ 4,342,410	\$ 4,273,660

* The district's contingency budget for the 2009-10 school year is based on eliminating expenses for certain equipment/supplies and non-essential maintenance, capping certain salaries, and charging community groups to use school facilities, as required by state law.

Basic STAR exemption impact

Estimated basic STAR exemption savings based on a hypothetical home within the school district with a full value of \$100,000.

	Budget proposed for the 2009-10 school year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$436.35

* The basic STAR exemption for 2009-10 is based on the prior year's assessment and equalization rates.

Who may vote?

In order to vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the Greater Johnstown School District for at least 30 days prior to May 19. Advance registration is required.

Where do we vote?

Johnstown High School auditorium lobby
Ephratah Fire Department

- ▶ Polls are open from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Still have questions?

Visit the school district Web site

- ▶ www.johnstownschoools.org

Call the District Clerk's Office

- ▶ (518) 762-4611, ext. 119

VALUE of STAR to LOCAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

In 2008-2009, the STAR exemption offset \$1,789,009 in school taxes that would have been paid by local property owners. This represents real savings in the local property tax.