



Voter Information

Voter Registration

To vote in Elmsford School elections, you must be registered for either school elections or general elections. If you are not registered, you may register for school voting in the District Clerk's office, Room 103, Alexander Hamilton Junior Senior High School, 98 South Goodwin Ave., between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., any day school is in session. You may register in the school district through May 13, 2010, to be eligible to vote in the May 18, 2010, election, or with the Board of Elections through the date of the vote.

Qualifications to Vote

In order to vote in the School election, a person must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be registered to vote in the School District election, and
- Be a resident of the District for at least 30 days preceding the vote.

Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots are available now for registered voters who will not be in Elmsford on May 18, 2010. Apply in person in the Instructional Services Office at Alexander Hamilton Junior Senior High School for an application. May 11 is the deadline for absentee ballot application if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. May 17 is the deadline for absentee ballot application if the ballot is to be picked up by the voter. May 18 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for absentee ballots to be received by the District Clerk. Contact Elmsford Public Schools, 98 South Goodwin Ave., Elmsford, N.Y. 10523, or call 592-3758 for further information.

Vote Tuesday, May 18

Polling Place

Music Room, Alice E. Grady School, Elmsford, New York, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Find us on
Facebook and Twitter!**

<http://facebook.com/eufsd>

<http://twitter.com/eufsd> – District Feed

<http://twitter.com/hamiltonhs> – Hamilton Only

Letter from the Board of Education

Dear Fellow Community Members:

In keeping with our commitment to you last year, the Board of Education has been meeting to present a fiscally responsible budget that is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards, as well as our mission, vision and values statements. In addition, we have been working towards making sure that our budget allows our administration, faculty, and staff the ability to meet the priority strategies outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Proposed Budget At-A-Glance 2010-2011

- Total Budget: \$29,036,512
- Budget-to-Budget Increase: 1.55%
- Property Tax Levy Change: 3.03%
- Proposed Tax Rate Increase: 3.32%
\$509.27 per \$1,000 assessed value,
an increase of \$16.50 per \$1,000 of
assessed value.

We are very aware that the current ongoing financial crisis is not over, and we have directed Dr. Peters to make sure the proposed budget is one that provides our students with the necessary tools to excel in a fiscally responsible way. We feel strongly that we have been able to accomplish this goal. In doing so, we have been able to preserve our current programming and levels of staffing.

The proposed budget is \$29,036,512. That represents a budget-to-budget increase of 1.55%, and an estimated tax rate increase of 3.32%.

Developing a sound budget without cuts to staff or programs was difficult, as there are contractual increases we are obligated to pay that are beyond our control. There are also rising costs in areas such as health care and the employee retirement system. Due to our diligence and fiscal responsibility, we may be one of the only school

districts in New York State that is debt free.

Among many other things, our proposed budget includes new, more rigorous electives at Alexander Hamilton Junior Senior High School, intensive support for our on-going work in literacy at the Alice E. Grady Elementary School and Carl L. Dixon Primary School, and several facilities upgrades. In addition, we have been able to create a new special education program at the Alice E. Grady Elementary School that will allow us to return students to their home schools in Elmsford from BOCES. In addition to ensuring quality programming for the students within our community, we have been able to save \$222,000 as well.

We have a very unique opportunity to be able to move monies that are currently being held in our Unappropriated Fund Balance into a Capital Fund, allowing us the ability to access 10% state aid on our Energy Performance Contract. You will see a second proposition asking if we may transfer these monies. This will allow us to save interest on borrowing, accelerate building projects, and reduce our carbon footprint. This opportunity is so unique, since the approval of the transfer comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Please look at the information contained in this issue of "EdNews." We encourage you to participate in the annual budget vote and board member election at the Alice E. Grady Elementary School Music Room from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our schools. We look forward to partnering with you for the benefit of the children we share.

The Elmsford Board of Education
Betty Funny-Crosby, President
Debra B. Lawrance, Vice President
Michael Colasuonno
Matthew R.C. Evans
James B. Henson

Frequently Asked Questions About the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Q. What preparation went into developing the 2010-2011 budget?

A. The administration, faculty, and staff examined the programs to determine where savings can occur without affecting program. We found that if we return six high-special needs students to Elmsford from BOCES, we could save \$222,000 by running their program in the Elmsford School District.

In an effort to save the taxpayer money, the School District and Village work closely together to share services.

The District also works collaboratively with other school districts to save the taxpayer. In addition to cooperative bidding, workers' compensation and other ventures, Elmsford and Greenburgh Central 7 School Districts are working on a cooperative pupil transportation bid, which will hopefully save additional funds.



Q. Where does the money come from?

A. Revenues for the budget expenditures come from four major areas.:

- Miscellaneous Receipts – 2.07%
- Appropriated Funds – 5.17%
- State Aid – 5.42%
- Property Taxes – 87.34%

Q. Where does the money go?

A. About 80% of the proposed budget goes to program expenses, and includes teachers' salaries and benefits, instructional materials and equipment, transportation expenses for both public and non-public students, and sports and extracurricular activities. About 12% goes toward school

management, which includes the personnel in the offices of the Superintendent, and Business Official, Board of Education, planning and consulting costs directly related to student services and programs. Capital expenses, (8% of the budget), include custodian salaries and benefits, service contracts, supplies, utilities, repair and maintenance. Our school buildings are old and require frequent upgrades and repairs. However, because we have not borrowed money for new construction, Elmsford has no long-term debt.

Q. If this budget does not pass, what will happen next?

A. If the budget does not pass, the Board has the option of putting forward a second budget vote or going to a contingency budget. Because the consumer price index has not gone up, the contingency budget would be the same as last year's budget. The adjustment for a contingency would be \$444,560. We would have no choice but to eliminate certain staffing, equipment, community use of the buildings, athletics and other building maintenance items.

In addition to the budget, the Elmsford voters are being asked to vote on whether the District can transfer \$3,500,000.00, from the Unappropriated Fund Balance to the Capital Fund. These funds are for the purpose of funding energy improvements, including, but not limited to, replacing boilers and converting steam heat to hot water heat at the Alice E. Grady Elementary School; replacing lighting in all schools with high energy efficient lighting; replacing control systems in all schools; and replacing windows at the Alexander Hamilton Junior Senior High School along with other construction, maintenance, and repair projects noted in the School District Building Condition Survey.



Q. What is the District trying to accomplish?

A. The School District is looking to go "green." Our plan is to fix and replace all the items that relate to energy savings. When you replace a regular fluorescent or light bulb with a high energy efficient one, you save energy costs over the life of the bulb. We are going to replace, caulk, insulate, adjust and monitor all energy consuming items in the District. However, before we can start taking advantage of the energy savings, the items need to be purchased and replaced.

Q. If the savings are greater than the cost of these changes, why do the voters need to approve the proposition?

A. Any school District can enter into an Energy Performance Agreement without voter approval. However, by having the voters approve this proposition, the Elmsford School District will receive 10% Building Incentive Aid for selected aidable items amounting to an estimated aid of \$200,000.

Q. If I vote yes, how much more will it cost me in taxes?

A. A yes vote will not result in higher taxes. There are two ways to fund the energy performance contract. One is to use district unappropriated funds, and the other is to borrow the money. In either case, the savings generated will pay for the principal and interest. By not borrowing for the project, the District will save \$1,400,000 in interest.



Elmsford 2010 – 2011 Proposed Budget

ITEM	BUDGETED 2008-2009	BUDGETED 2009-2010	PROPOSED 2010-2011	CHANGE
BOARD OF EDUCATION	30,965	38,200	53,250	15,050
District Clerk & District Meeting	3,175	7,000	7,000	0
Chief School Administrator	269,771	300,311	304,257	3,946
Business Administration	530,219	319,111	347,281	28,170
Auditing	56,276	44,000	44,000	0
Treasurer	79,588	85,300	89,168	3,868
Legal	138,509	103,075	103,075	0
Public Information & Services	32,223	37,800	40,500	2,700
Operation of Plant	717,998	1,031,238	1,038,580	7,342
Maintenance of Plant	758,762	695,496	756,135	60,639
Central Data Processing	6,480	6,180	93,375	87,195
Unallocated Insurance	91,754	102,781	102,870	89
Assessments on School Property	33,791	39,900	41,100	1,200
Refund of Real Property Taxes	9,068	100,000	153,500	53,500
BOCES Administrative Cost	81,972	85,776	88,162	2,386
Total General Support	2,840,552	2,996,168	3,262,253	266,085
Curriculum Development & Supervision	80,014	140,600	396,493	255,893
In-Service Training - Instruction	27,478	27,312	27,312	0
Supervision Regular School	978,074	1,004,711	942,012	(62,699)
Regular School	9,160,017	9,855,324	9,559,425	(295,899)
Programs for Disabled Children	3,209,150	4,111,280	4,076,552	(34,728)
Occupational Education Grades 10-12	190,992	179,046	184,417	5,371
School Library & Audiovisual	251,715	240,845	278,232	37,387
Computer-Assisted Instruction	374,633	404,357	507,371	103,014
Guidance - Regular School	272,393	303,331	320,577	17,246
Health Services - Regular School	339,758	350,431	380,419	29,988
Psychological Services - Regular School	277,964	213,670	238,918	25,248
Social Work Services - Regular School	11,543	82,029	82,029	0
Co-Curricular Services	173,322	329,658	343,896	14,238
Interscholastic Athletics	230,004	262,305	265,515	3,210
Total Supervision & Instruction	15,577,057	17,504,899	17,603,168	98,269
District Transportation Services	93,440	38,098	38,098	0
Contract Transportation	2,107,361	2,550,333	2,550,333	0
Transportation Services from BOCES	10,644	91,000	91,000	0
Total Pupil Transportation	2,211,445	2,679,431	2,679,431	0
Employee Benefits	4,603,246	5,381,454	5,461,660	80,206
Debt Service	0	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers	22,565	30,000	30,000	0
Total Undistributed	4,625,811	5,411,454	5,491,660	80,206
GRAND TOTAL	25,779,726	28,591,952	29,036,512	444,560

An Explanation of Budget Lines

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Office supplies, advertising and membership in NYS School Board Association.

DISTRICT CLERK & VOTING

Tellers, voting machines, postage, legal notices and all expenses relating to voting.

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Salaries for the Superintendent and one clerical along with office expenses.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Salaries for the Business Official, Bookkeeper/Treasurer and clerical staff and office expenses.

LEGAL

Retainer fee for the Board Attorney, litigation costs, investigation services, and employee negotiations.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Publication of a district calendar, newsletters, fliers, postage and supplies.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT

Salaries: All custodians and maintenance personnel for the district buildings and grounds, plus overtime and part-time when necessary. Operations and maintenance: fuel; electricity; gas; water; telephone; cleaning equipment and supplies; plumbing; electrical work; boiler service; maintenance projects; other services necessary for buildings and grounds; miscellaneous tools, light bulbs, glass, locks, paint, etc.

CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING

Technical support and supplies for in-house accounting and payroll system. Substantial

savings have been and continue to be realized by converting these systems to in-house.

UNALLOCATED INSURANCE

Fire, theft, liability, boiler, student accident, employee bonding and Board liability.

ASSESSMENTS AND CLAIMS

Sewer taxes paid to the County of Westchester and tax assessment refunds.

BOCES

Occupational Education and Alternative Education for secondary students; our share of BOCES facilities and administration costs; computerized attendance; census and test scoring.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Expenses relating to the Teacher Center, in-service programs for our instructional staff, testing costs for our students, and other curriculum projects. Salaries for the Deputy Superintendent and one Clerical, along with Office Expenses.

SCHOOL SALARIES

Salary expenses for administrators teaching staff; teaching assistants; clericals; nurses; substitute teachers; interscholastic and co-curricular stipends.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED INSTRUCTION

Equipment, software, supplies and materials for the elementary and secondary computer education programs.

HEALTH SERVICES

Fees for required student medical and dental examinations.

CO-CURRICULAR, INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

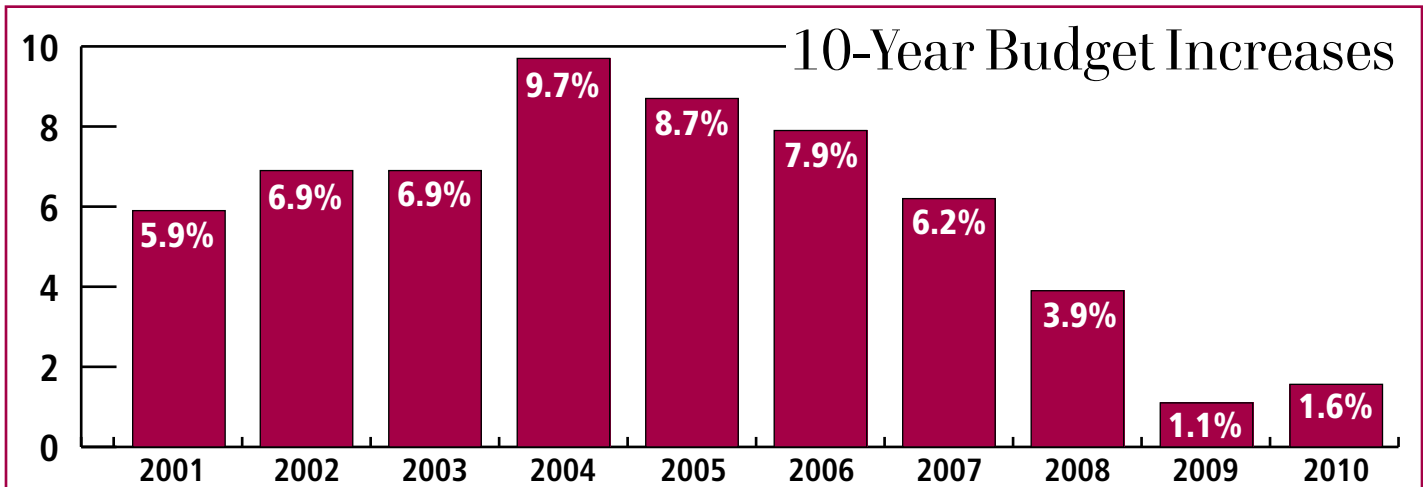
All athletic programs and clubs.

TRANSPORTATION

Busing of students to our public schools, out-of-district schools, multiply-disabled programs, Center for Career Services at BOCES, and other special programs. Funds are also included for bus monitors on all elementary bus runs.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Various benefits provided by legislation or contract to staff. The cost of pension plans, Social Security, unemployment benefits and health insurance are included. In our district, administrators, teachers and civil service employees contribute toward health insurance.



From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Elmsford School District Residents:

After a lengthy and comprehensive budget development process, this edition of Elmsford Ed News highlights information about the 2010-2011 budget and propositions. I offer many thanks to those of you who provided input into the budget process. The information was most helpful.

The Elmsford Board of Education, working in concert with district administrators as well as faculty and staff, is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the budget to district residents. The budget preparation process began last October by reviewing the following basic information:

- Strategic Plan
- Five Year Budget Comparison
- Enrollment Projections
- Staffing
- Key Factors Affecting Expenditures
- Revenue Analysis
- Expenditure Analysis
- Key Factors Affecting Revenues
- Federal Fund Analysis

Our district faces the continuing challenge of delivering a high quality, safe educational program for all of our students, while protecting taxpayers' interests in an age of increasing costs and mandates. This budget allows us to respond in a fiscally prudent manner. Our priority was to maintain our current level of staffing without eliminating any of our meaningful programs. When it came time to trim the budget, we cut things, not people.

This year we focused on the goals established in our District Strategic Plans. We are extremely proud of the progress that we are making toward achieving the targets set in our various performance measures. Our teachers have done a commendable job of creating Professional Learning Communities that monitor students' progress

and seek to improve student achievement on a continuing basis.

At Dixson Primary School, we have implemented a Readers' and Writers' Workshop coordinated with LitLife. This program has resulted in a significant improvement in student reading and written communication skills. We have also noticed a considerable decrease in the number of struggling readers at the primary level.

On the most recent Grade 5 Social Studies NYS Assessment, 54% of the Elmsford students achieved mastery, compared to only 19% three years ago. Based on the current New York State School Report Cards, Elmsford students have made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in all areas.

At the high school level, we have added many new electives and advanced level courses to add rigor to our program. Many of our courses have been built to promote higher level mastery performance on Regents examinations. We are also encouraging more students to graduate with an Advanced Designation Diploma.

We encourage you to be informed by reviewing details of the budget and the propositions in this newsletter. Above all, please exercise your privilege as citizens and taxpayers and vote on Tuesday, May 18th.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Barbara Peters
Superintendent of Schools



ON THE BALLOT for the Board of Education:

1. A proposition appropriating \$29,036,512 to meet the estimated expenditures for school purposes for the fiscal year 2010-2011, said sum to be raised by tax upon the taxable property of the district.
2. A proposition authorizing the Board of Education to transfer a sum not exceeding \$3,500,000.00 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance to the Capital Fund for the purpose of funding energy improvements.
3. Election of Board of Education members to two open seats:

Vote for two of the following three candidates: Matthew R.C. Evans, Michael Colasuonno, or Josephine Iris Bazan-Bass, to fill the vacancies created by the expiration of the term of Michael Colasuonno and Matthew R.C. Evans.



Elmsford Public Schools
Elmsford NY 10523

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
White Plains, NY 10610
Permit #2013

Resident Elmsford NY 10523

Anne-Marie Annunziato, Editor • Maria Haridi, Art Director

Elmsford Union Free School District Budget Notice

	Budget Adopted for the 2009-2010 School Year	Proposed Budget 2010-2011 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year*
Total budget amount	\$28,591,952	\$29,036,512	\$28,591,952
Increase from the 2009-2010 school year		\$444,560	—
Percent increase in each proposed budget		1.55%	0.00%
Change in the consumer price index		0.00%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2010-2011 school year		\$25,361,876	\$24,917,316
Administrative component	\$3,346,470	\$3,419,748	\$3,346,470
Program component	\$22,899,508	\$23,029,137	\$22,899,508
Capital component	\$2,345,974	\$2,481,259	\$2,345,974

*The contingent budget is equivalent to a 0% budget cap. The contingent budget is calculated by removing all non-contingent expenses from the proposed budget. If necessary, cuts to the proposed budget would be made by the Board of Education pursuant to Section 2023 of Education Law.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact —

(As authorized by Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law)

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

	Budget Adopted for the 2009-2010 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2010-2011 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$1,333	\$1,187
School tax increase/decrease	\$40	\$60
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$1,293	\$1,127

The budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 by the qualified voters of the Elmsford Union Free School District, Westchester County, New York, will be held at the Alice E. Grady School in said district on May 18, 2010 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

New York State Required School Budget Notice

New York State Law requires that each school district mail a School Budget Notice to all qualified voters of the District after its Annual Budget Hearing, but no later than six days prior to its Annual Budget Vote. This notice needs to follow a specific format, and cannot include any additional information other than that stipulated by the State. While a copy of this notification is presented for your review, we have chosen to further identify the dollar cost differential between the budget as adopted by the Board of Education on April 7 and the realities of a contingency budget if the community declines to approve a school budget for the 2010-2011 year.