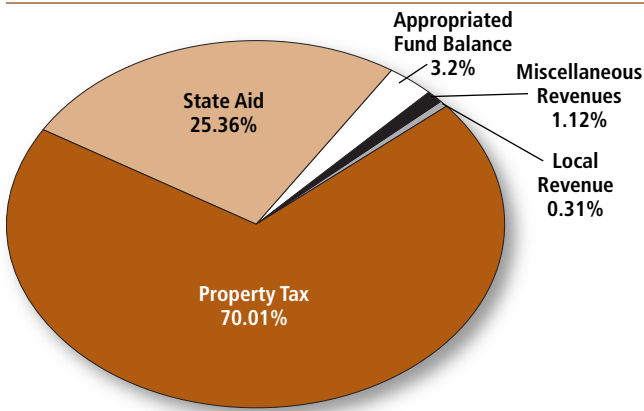
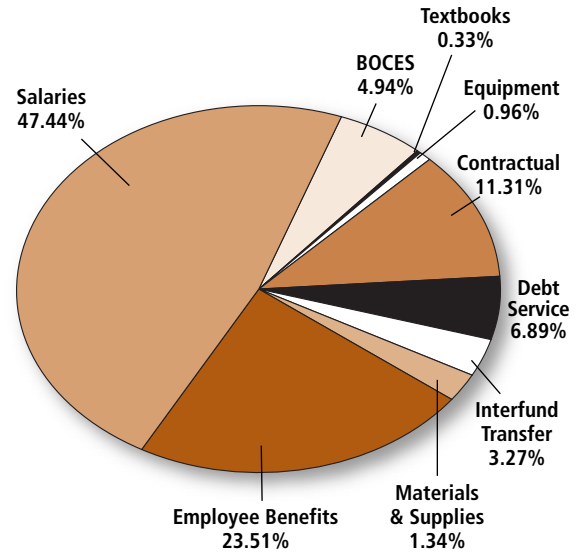


2009-2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Budget 2008-2009	Proposed 2009-2010
Instructional & Occ. Education	\$ 7,392,632	\$ 7,203,542
Special Education	2,506,360	2,449,850
Summer School	21,450	21,498
Student Services	1,524,814	1,344,997
Extracurricular	76,382	76,264
Inter-Scholastic	249,260	249,880
Community – Adult Education	32,225	25,720
Administrative/Board of Education	1,330,153	1,436,835
Supervision/Curriculum	1,162,577	1,127,937
Transportation	1,862,211	1,751,199
Operations & Management	2,190,969	2,094,980
Employee Benefits	6,055,629	6,301,893
Debt Service	1,481,376	1,846,440
Interfund Transfers	662,553	877,931
TOTAL	\$ 26,548,591	\$ 26,808,966



ESTIMATED REVENUES

	Budget 2008-2009	Budget 2009-2010
Property Tax	\$ 18,482,412	\$ 18,769,724
Local Revenue	229,500	82,620
State Aid	6,714,620	6,799,563
Miscellaneous	265,000	300,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	857,059	857,059
TOTAL	\$ 26,548,591	\$ 26,808,966

PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

Total Proposed Budget	2008-2009	2009-2010	Percent Change
	\$26,548,591	\$26,808,966	0.98%
Total Estimated Tax Levy	2008-2009	2009-2010	Percent Change
	\$18,482,412	\$18,769,724	1.55%
Public School Enrollment	2008-2009	2009-2010	Percent Change
	1,293	1,247	-3.56%
Consumer Price Index			Percent Change
			3.80%



Making Reading Fun!
Elementary students celebrate their extra reading efforts.

WHY VOTE?

Because you can. In many nations of the world, and in many states of our union, citizens do not have the right to vote on the spending plans developed by their school districts.

Because you set an example. The students we serve notice whether or not the adults in their lives exercise their civic responsibilities. We set an example whether or not we vote.

Because you show respect for what educators do. Preparing students for success in life is a very difficult challenge for educators. By taking the time to vote, you acknowledge this challenge.

Because your response is needed. Your school board has developed a spending plan based on input from district employees and community members. These individuals have spent countless hours considering options and making spending decisions for your consideration. Please respond by voting.

Because your community and its children depend on you. The folk wisdom that "it takes a whole community to raise a child" fits here. You share the responsibility to see that all children are educated. While you may not be actually in the classroom, you can make your opinion known on what happens there by voting.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. Lee Bordick 392-1501
Interim Superintendent

Ms. Diane Malecki 392-1503
School Business Administrator

Dr. Jean Scheriff
Director of Pupil Services 392-2417

Dr. Phyllis McGill 392-1535
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Charlotte J. Frye 392-2255
Mary E. Dardess Elementary School Principal

Mr. Gordon Fitting 392-1560
Chatham Middle School Principal

Mr. Ronald Davis 392-4142
Chatham High School Principal

BOARD MEMBERS

John Wapner 2009
President

Elizabeth Macfarlane 2011
Vice President

Michael Clark 2012

Denise Dapice 2010

Fred Hutchinson 2013

Francis Iaconetti 2011

David O'Connor 2012

James Toteno 2011

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2008 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2009(+1) School Year	Contingency budget for the 2009(+1) School Year
Total budgeted amount	\$ 26,548,591	\$ 26,808,966	\$ 26,060,733
Increase/decrease for the 2009 (+1) school year		\$ 260,375	\$ (487,858)
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		0.98%	-1.84%
Change in the consumer price index		3.80%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2009 (+1) school year		\$ 18,769,724	\$ 18,021,491
Administrative component	\$ 2,697,147	\$ 2,481,845	\$ 2,412,559
Program component	\$ 19,149,000	\$ 19,337,212	\$ 18,797,511
Capital component	\$ 4,702,443	\$ 4,989,909	\$ 4,850,663
* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2009(+1) school year, should the proposed budget be defeated. ¹			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR ² Exemption Savings:	Budget Proposed for the 2009(+1) School Year
Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$ 357.91

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2009-2010 by the qualified voters of the Chatham Central School District, Columbia County, New York, will be held at the Mary E. Dardess Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 19th, 2009 between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, prevailing time in the Mary E. Dardess Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

¹ Provide a statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of the Education Law.
² the basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax law.

BUDGET DETAILS ARE ON THE WEB!

www.chathamcentralschools.com



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Chatham Connections

SPRING 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHATHAM STUDENTS, PARENTS & COMMUNITY



The Mission of the Chatham Central School Community is to nurture and challenge students to become self-directed learners who contribute positively to a culturally diverse world.



VOTE:

May 19
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

*Mary E. Dardess Elementary
School Gymnasium*

A LOOK INSIDE:

PAGE 2:
Proposition Information

PAGE 3:
Budget Q & A

PAGE 4:
School Board Candidates

PAGE 6:
Property Tax Report Card

AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION:

2009-2010 Proposed Budget

On May 19th, Chatham Central School District voters will go to the polls to decide on a \$26,808,966 budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The proposed budget is a 0.98 percent increase over the current budget and will result in a tax levy increase of 1.55 percent.

The Chatham School community has worked diligently since October 2008 to prepare a budget that minimizes expenditures, protects the core educational program, and provides for several enhancements to the educational program. Built into next year's budget is the continuation and expansion of several education initiatives such as:

- the continuation and expansion of Columbia-Greene College courses which will provide our high school students with excellent college credit-bearing course options;
- expansion of our Middle School Panther Plus program into the eighth grade, which has proven its success for our sixth and seventh graders;
- expansion of the "Model Congress" program where our high school students have won the coveted "Best Bill Award" at the regional Model Congress competition for the past two years. This expansion will increase the number of students participating and create experiences and opportunities for their participation in a variety of Congressional roles;
- continuation of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), an educational opportunity that empowers our students to demonstrate leadership and model respect for diversity to help us meet the goals and objectives of our School District's Mission.

New educational initiatives that have been budgeted for next year include an MST Based Program in the eighth grade that demonstrates to students the connection between mathematics, science and technology, and a financial literacy course in the high school that will educate our students for a better understanding of the financial world and personal banking. The staff required to institute these new initiatives, as well as the introduction of a Technology Integration Teacher, will be generated through District reassignments.

The institution of a one-bell system of transportation in September is an additional area of savings. After much discussion and debate, the Board adopted a one-bell system whereby all schools will operate on the same schedule with greater transportation department efficiency by way of a single bus run. The Board of Education, administrators and transportation staff are committed to making the transition seamless for parents and students.

Additional savings totaling \$901,000 are derived from reductions and reassignments of staffing in all areas, including administration, instructional, and non-instructional staff. Most of the reductions are the result of seventeen retirements and several employee resignations. The responsibilities of the Assistant Superintendent's position that was cut from the budget will be assigned to other administrative staff.

Chatham will receive \$654,819 in restored State Aid from the State's share of Federal Stimulus money. The Board has recommended that \$100,000 be put toward upgrading and modernizing instructional equipment such as scientific microscopes and instructional technology

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continued from the front page

equipment. The remaining \$554,819 will be placed into the Capital Reserve Fund for future construction project needs.

We hope the information provided in this budget newsletter is helpful in

explaining the 2009-10 budget and encourage everyone to come out to vote on May 19th.

From the Board of Education:



Dr. John Wapner, President

Q HOW WAS THE BUDGET DEVELOPED?

A The administration and the Board of Education began the 2009-2010 budget development process in October 2008. The three underlying goals of the 2009-2010 budget process were to 1) preserve the core educational programs 2) reduce positions based on enrollment without affecting staff and 3) enhance the educational program using cost effective measures.

In December 2008, we were notified that Chatham's state aid would be cut by \$700,757, a decrease of 11.57% from the 2008-2009 revenues. From December 2008 through March 2009, the goal of the administration and the Board was to provide a budget that would minimize the tax impact yet maintain the core educational program and staffing while addressing future enrollment decline, in light of state aid reductions.

By March 10, 2009, the unveiling of the Baseline Operating Budget for 2009-2010 with reduced state aid revenues was presented. Included was the one-bell transportation system which was determined to have \$194,061 in savings implications for the 2009-2010 budget. Additional savings were found in staffing reductions through attrition and elimination of a few positions to the sum of \$901,750. Conferences and travel funds were cut in half for all departments in anticipation of federal grant money supporting a portion of the 2009-2010 professional development costs in the coming school year. Materials and supplies funds were reduced by 15% across the board with the exception of utilities and fuel. The Baseline

Operating Budget presented to the Board of Education and the community in March had a \$444,444 or 1.67% decrease in expenditures as compared to the 2008-2009 budget and a 1.55% increase in the tax levy.

The Board of Education and the District administration continued to "scrub" the operating budget to effectively enhance the educational program without increasing expenditures. In March 2009, the state announced that the impact of the federal stimulus package on Chatham Central School District would mean an additional \$654,819 in revenues to be received from New York State in 2009-2010.

The stimulus funding will be received partially in 2009-2010 and the final payment in 2010-2011, with several restrictions attached to the use of the stimulus money regarding what types of purchases and construction projects can be funded. With these constraints in mind, it was agreed that \$100,000 would be added to the budget to cover the purchase of state of the art scientific microscopes and additional instructional hardware for the classrooms. The remaining \$554,819 would be placed in the Capital Reserve account.

On April 21, 2009, the Board of Education adopted a \$26,808,966 school budget, increasing the overall tax levy by 1.55% over the 2008-2009 budget. The Board of Education believes that the proposed budget meets the District's goals of maintaining educational excellence within reasonable financial expectations.

Q WHAT PROPOSITIONS ARE WE VOTING ON?

A In addition to voting on the district's 2009-2010 proposed school budget, residents will also have the opportunity to vote on one proposition this year. The following is a summary of the proposition:

Proposition #1- Ex-Officio Student Member Serving on the Board of Education

Voters will be asked to vote on allowing a high school student to serve on the Board of Education. The student will sit with Board members at all public meetings of the Board and be allowed to participate in all Board hearings and meetings, providing input and voicing opinions on

behalf of the high school student body on matters brought before the Board. According to NYS Education Law, the ex-officio student member will not be allowed to vote, attend executive session, or receive compensation of any form for participating at Board meetings. The District will establish a procedure, consistent with law, for the selection of the student representative.



Ms. Cheryl Nuciforo

District Names New Superintendent

On April 21, the Board of Education named Cheryl Nuciforo as the Superintendent for the Chatham Central School District. Ms. Nuciforo is an experienced educator who served as Assistant Superintendent for the Saugerties Central School District for the last five years. Prior to working in Saugerties, Ms. Nuciforo was an English teacher at East Greenbush Central Schools for 18 years and before that she was the Coordinator of Humanities at Troy City Schools and an Adjunct Professor at Russell Sage Colleges.

At a recent Board of Education meeting, Ms. Nuciforo said she is looking forward to joining the District, and that she and her family want to be part of the community. "As I went through the process, I became more and more impressed with the people I met. The thoroughness of the process and the interest people took in having a quality educational program for their students made me realize that this would be a good fit."

Ms. Nuciforo will begin working at the Chatham School District on July 1.

Q WHAT PARTS OF THE BUDGET ARE CHANGING THE MOST & WHY?

A The proposed 2009-2010 Budget is \$26,808,966 which is a 0.98% increase over the 2008-2009 budget. The limited increase in expenditures is a result of the efforts made by District Administration to restructure staffing and reduce expenditures while maintaining a quality educational program.

Employee Health and Dental Benefits: It is typical for any employer in today's economy to experience increasing costs for employee health benefits. The increase in health insurance, prescription drug and dental insurance for the 2009-2010 school year is \$385,259, or 10.43% above 2008-2009 costs. The District's involvement in a 20-district health insurance consortium controls these costs as much as possible. All District employees contribute to the cost of their health and dental benefits.

Salary Compensation: The 2009-2010 salary compensation is experiencing a decrease

of \$44,107 or 0.63% as a result of retirements, resignations and restructuring of remaining staff. The district continues to maintain quality instructional and non-instructional staff to continue the quality educational program provided to our students at Chatham CSD.

Total Compensation: Education is a "people" oriented business and, as such, the major expenditure in a public school's budget is comprised of salaries and employee benefits. In 2009-2010, 70.95% of the budget is comprised of salaries and benefits for all District employees. As a result of increasing contractual obligations which includes employee benefits and salaries, the District will have an overall increase in total compensation of 0.62% over the 2008-2009 budget.

Fuel: Diesel fuel for the Transportation Department has been projected to decrease by 6.10% due to the impact of the one-bell

transportation system. Utilities have been budgeted to increase by 9.5% to accommodate any spike in usage or increase in the cost for fuel or electricity.

Special Education: The return of several special needs students to our District classrooms will provide an opportunity to save \$56,510 or reduce costs by 2.25% while providing these students with "the least restrictive environment" within their own District. These students are Chatham residents and will now be educated in their home school.

Public Library Budget: The Chatham Public Library budget reflects an increase of \$79,762 or 38.17% over the 2008-2009 school year. The added expense is a transfer of the District's operating expenses to the Chatham Public Library where the costs are incurred, as per the auditor's recommendation.

Q WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BUDGET IS DEFEATED? HOW WOULD A CONTINGENT BUDGET AFFECT OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES?

A If the proposed budget is defeated on May 19th, NYS law gives the Board of Education three options. The Board may decide to put the same budget before voters a second time, put a revised budget before the voters, or go directly to a contingent budget. If the voters defeat the budget a second time, the Board must go to a contingent budget as defined by State regulations.

In a contingent budget, the 2009-2010 budget would decrease the property tax levy by 2.49%, or \$748,233, as compared to the 2008-2009 budget.

The State regulations for a contingent budget are as follows: The District cannot purchase furniture, equipment, student supplies, allow

community use of buildings and grounds, approve non-contractual salary increases, or initiate new capital projects.

These regulations mean that in a contingent budget the Board would have to eliminate \$748,233 from the proposed budget. Because 70.95% of the budget is dictated by staffing costs, there is a potential that portions of these cuts could come from the elimination of staff positions, along with the elimination of any projected purchase of new equipment. In addition, certain non-mandated and enhanced programs in 2009-2010 programs could be lost should the District be forced to go to a contingent budget. However, all state-mandated programs, whether funded by state aid or not, would be retained.

The Buckling Linebackers

The Battle of the Belts Competition encourages fellow students to make the right decisions and raise awareness about safe driving habits by putting on their seat belts when they get into a car. "The Buckling Linebackers" won the competition with the fastest time.



ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Last year the voters approved a term change for newly elected Board members from 5-year to 3-year terms of office. This year there are two candidates running for one 3-year seat and one 1-year seat. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to the 3-year term, and the candidate with the next highest votes will fill the remaining unexpired 1-year term of Ric Campbell.

The candidates (in ballot order, determined by a random drawing) are Jeannean Cheney and John Wapner. Each candidate was asked to submit a brief biography for publication in this newsletter. These unedited biographies express each candidate's qualifications and motivation for wanting to serve on the School Board. Please vote on May 19th to show your support!

JEANNEAN CHENEY - Hello, my name is Jeannean Cheney. I have two children in Chatham's Elementary School and am a district tax payer who, like many of us, cannot afford her taxes. My daughters are currently in Kindergarten and Third Grade. I moved to this area with my family just over six years ago and love being a part of such a wonderful community. I'm running for School Board because I want to be a part of this community on another level. We have a school district that has provided a high quality education for our students for many years. There are many changes and challenges currently facing our community. I feel a great need to become involved in insuring the continued success of our Chatham Schools.



I will bring to the school board a varied professional background. I previously consulted as a senior business analyst and project manager for companies across the country. I also worked for a global corporation serving as their North American Human Resource Information Systems Manager. I'm a local small business owner and am currently the office manager for a non-profit organization. These experiences together with having two children in the district have provided me with the tools and perspective necessary to be a productive member of the board.



JOHN WAPNER - I have lived in the district for 31 years. Both my children attended the Chatham Central Schools K-12. When my kids were in school I volunteered to assist in my son's first grade class. When my daughter was in 8th grade I served as the parent representative for the 8th grade team. I also worked as a community member for a selection committee charged with recommending a previous high school principal. In my own professional role as a psychologist I have worked with many children and families who have kids in our schools.

I have been a school board member for the last five years and have served as president for the last four years. Over the years I have learned how to listen to our school community and be aware that a board member has two constituencies: Children who depend on us for an education that is an essential part of their development; and taxpayers who expect their tax dollars to be spent carefully and wisely.

Our school community is faced with a challenging but exciting agenda: How do we continue to provide an educational experience for our children that offers the foundation for what they need to move forward in the 21st century, and at the same time, faces the problem of decreasing student enrollment and an antiquated funding system? To meet this challenge our school community needs to work on a varied agenda. We need to refine our planning mechanism so that all voices can be heard and practical results are achieved. We need to continue to be watchful financially and maintain our facilities. We need to develop the Columbia County School Boards Association to begin to address ways to share educational and support services. We need to support and develop teachers who are devoted to their profession and are dedicated to our children and schools. Finally, we need to support administrators who recognize the goals of our school community and will work K-12 to make these goals a reality.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE ON MAY 19?

There are a few qualifications that must be met in order to be eligible to vote at the May 19th Annual District Meeting and Election of Board Members.

You must be...

- a citizen of the United States,
- 18 years of age or older,
- a resident of the Chatham Central School District for a period of 30 days or more preceding the day of the vote,
- registered to vote with either the School District or with Columbia County Board of Elections.

If you have not previously registered and you would like to vote in this election, you must register with the School District Board of Registration. The next Voter Registration Day is Wednesday, May 13th from 1:00-6:00p.m. in the M.E.D. Elementary School Lobby. Those individuals who are not on either the County list or the School District Register List will not be allowed to vote. Make sure to register so you can exercise your right to vote!

