

The Carmel Schoolhouse News

A Publication of the
Carmel School District
Volume Nine
May 2009

Teaching Children; Building Futures



2009-2010 Special Budget Issue

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS IN FISCALLY CHALLENGING TIMES

Dear Carmel Community:

Whether you pick up a newspaper, turn on the television or radio or log onto an Internet news source, it's hard to miss hearing about the state of the economy. All of us have been affected in some way, some more than others. Like you, we have had to pause and rethink our spending priorities while protecting our true bottom line—the education of all our students.

That is why we present a budget that carries a 1.53% budget-to-budget increase (the lowest in years), an estimated 2.5% tax levy increase and an estimated average tax rate increase of 3.84%*. This budget does not come without some sacrifices. Reductions have been made in staffing, professional development, materials and supplies. Yet, we have worked very hard to present a budget that minimizes impact on instructional programs while continuing to accomplish our goals of supporting student success in a climate of fiscal responsibility.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Education is the hub of economic progress. That is why we strive to provide an excellent education for students. This year we identified a number of priorities for the district and action items for each. At our Community Open Forum in December, we invited you to discuss appropriate responses for these priorities. The ideas and suggestions generated at the forum were used in developing our 2009-2010 budget. Building a budget in this manner ensures that educational opportunities mirror community expectations and values.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the past, the district has been asked to do more and be more. Now, more than ever, we must project economic stability, and sustainability. We directed district administration to keep any increase as low as possible. Every aspect of the budget was scrutinized and most areas carry little or no increase. Very little that is new has been added. When making decisions to add new items, other areas were reduced or eliminated. Additionally, working with our staff members, we have been able to project a 4% decrease in health care costs for 2009-2010. Other cost savings measures, including an energy audit, refinement of our programs and our bus replacement program, are continually reviewed and implemented.

This newsletter provides an overview of the proposed budget. Detailed copies can be found on our website (<http://www.carmelschools.com>), in each school building, at our administrative offices and in public libraries within the district. Your investment in the school district is important now and for the future. We invite you to become informed about the 2009-2010 budget, attend a presentation and ask us questions. Remember to vote on **Tuesday, May 19, 2009.**

The Carmel Board of Education

Richard Kreps, <i>President</i>	Heyam Nesheiwat, <i>Trustee</i>
Greg Riley, <i>Vice President</i>	Steve Port, <i>Trustee</i>
Jennifer Dougherty, <i>Trustee</i>	William Shilling, <i>Trustee</i>
James MacDonald, <i>Trustee</i>	



Budget Snapshot:

- Proposed Budget: \$104,124,361
- Budget-To-Budget Increase: 1.53%
- Estimated Tax Levy Increase: 2.5%
- Estimated Tax Rate Increase: 3.84%*
- Projected State Aid: \$24,625,060
- **Budget Vote: May 19
6 am to 9 pm**

* Based upon current equalization rates with a 1% decrease in assessed values.

At a glance: Quick facts

- With the state of the economy, the 2009-2010 school budget is essentially flat and very little that is new has been added. Where new items have been added to better align with district priorities, other items have been reduced or eliminated so that spending levels remain stable.
- Staffing and other reductions have minimal impact on instructional programs:
 - Lower enrollments account for some staff reductions
 - Some staff reductions are due to attrition
 - Reduced spending for
 - Outdoor education supplies
 - Professional development
 - Technology supplies
- 1.53% Budget-to-budget increase is lowest in years

Year	Budget-to Budget Increase
2009-2010	1.53%
2008-2009	4.64%
2007-2008	5.95%
2006-2007	9.48%



At a glance: What cost-savings initiatives has the district implemented?

- Employees agreed to new Health Care plan contribution structure and to a new third party administrator for the district's plan that has resulted in a **4% spending decrease**.
- Purchasing agent to oversee all purchasing procedures and to ensure that the district is securing goods and services at the best possible price.
- Implemented MealPay Plus, an online account payment system to simplify and streamline student food purchases.
- New Temptaker food and equipment monitoring devices have been installed in each kitchen to ensure proper temperatures are maintained.
- Preventive maintenance plan to improve boiler and HVAC systems efficiencies.
- Bus replacement plan keeps bus fleet in good running condition. Because we have been able to maintain this plan over the past few years, this year's bus request is lower than past years. This budget calls for 4 new 66-passenger buses; 2 new 20-passenger buses and 1 Chevrolet Suburban.
- Although there has been an increase in overall square footage due to the new additions to the high school and middle school, the district burns less fuel per square foot. This is due to system updates to improve efficiencies.
- An energy audit and energy education program will identify areas for improvement.
- Pursue grants for such programs as the Kindergarten Academic Intervention Services program and others.
- Increase "turn-key" staff development to reduce consulting services and utilize BOCES staff development services (NYS reimburses the district for a portion of BOCES costs).
- Continue refinement of our Special Education program so that students can remain or return to district schools.
- Computerized progress monitoring system will help track academic progress more efficiently.
- Implementation of e-Copy File System that will reduce record storage, maintenance recovery and retrieval costs.
- Recycling toner cartridges in exchange for free peripheral products.
- Toner and printer maintenance program that allows the district to buy in bulk and track usage.
- Student helpers employed by Technology Department reduce the need for outside consultants.
- Utilize Education Data Services, BOCES and State Contracts for bulk ordering and more competitive bid pricing for a variety of materials, supplies, equipment and services.
- Educating staff members to power down computers and peripherals nightly to conserve energy.
- Installation of Fuel Master System is less expensive to operate and helps avoid unauthorized use of fuel.
- New tools, equipment and added safety measures in bus garage improve productivity.
- Addition of motion sensors for lighting for classrooms, bathrooms and offices to save on energy costs.
- Bulk postage arrangement with Pitney Bowes that allows the district extra savings on bulk mailings.

Connecting the dots between district priorities, community values and the budget

Early in the 2008-09 school-year, the Board of Education and district administrators developed a framework for district priorities that are reflective of the values of the Carmel Central School District community.

Carefully crafted to align district and community goals with taxpayer expectation, the 2009-2010 budget continues to provide resources for a high quality education for students as demonstrated in these priority areas.

Communications — A variety of channels will be used to keep our community involved in and aware of the district’s mission, convictions and priorities.

Identified action	District response
Provide information to internal (staff) and external (parents, students, community) constituencies. Continue to improve the quality of district publications. Conduct community forums to obtain feedback.	The district will continue to provide our communities with opportunities for two-way communication.
Expand the use of the district website and other electronic media.	The district’s website was completely re-designed in 2008-2009 for ease of use and to provide enhanced information for our community. In 2009-2010, updates to the website will be ongoing and new sections will be added.
Enhance efforts to promote district initiatives and accomplishments.	Using various medium such as the district’s cable TV channel, the website, the weekly e-mail newsletter and the printed newsletter, student achievements and district initiatives will continue to be reported.

Curriculum & Instruction — Resources and effective strategies are essential in challenging and supporting every student in a modality consistent with individual learning styles. The district will continue to develop programs and train staff to ensure improved academic performance throughout the district.

Identified action	District response
Review grades K-8 ELA and Response to Intervention (RTI) strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue data analysis of NYS ELA 5-8th grade assessments to identify gaps in curriculum. •This year, Lifeline units of instruction were fully implemented in Grades K-4. Grades 5 & 6 will be added for 2009-2010. •Reading and Special Ed staff have been trained in leveled literacy intervention program. •Aimsweb, a computer based student benchmarking and progress monitoring tool will be fully operational in grades K-4 in 2009-2010. This will allow teachers to identify student learning needs throughout the school-year.
Monitor effectiveness of Differentiated Instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Professional development will be provided for staff at all grade levels.

Monitor effectiveness of Co-Teaching Model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data to track the success of special needs student placement in Co-Teaching classrooms will continue to be closely monitored.
Implement PSAT administration and SAT preparation opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Professional development will continue for administrators and teaching staff.
Monitor distribution of placements for classified students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The district has met and exceeded State/Federal requirements for mainstreaming students and will continue in 2009-2010. •We continue to refine our Special Education programs to suit student needs so that students can remain in or return to the district.
Explore establishing a cycle for ongoing curriculum review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Teachers are developing activities to align curricula for students going from 4th grade to 5th grade and 8th grade to 9th grade. •Strategies for Success, a new course for incoming freshman, will emphasize study skills, including research and writing abilities. •Collaboration between elementary, middle and high school department and committee chairs ensures students are prepared for transitions from grade to grade and school to school. •An additional Guidance Counselor was added at CHS in 2008-09. This has reduced case-loads to allow for more individual student/counselor contact time.

Continued on page 4

BUDGET HOTLINE

Questions about the
2009-10 budget?
Call the Carmel Central
School District
Budget Hotline
845-878-2094 ext. 215



Finances — The district is committed to providing a high quality education to students while seeking cost savings opportunities that help hold the line on taxes. We continue to review and fine tune our policies and business procedures and to fully comply with state auditing standards. We are working to communicate a climate of fiscal responsibility to our staff.

Identified action	District response
Respond to findings of the NY State Comptroller's Audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An action plan has been implemented and will continue to address all findings in the audit. Most issues have already been addressed and corrected.
Monitor district reserves and fund balance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through careful planning, the district has set up and maintained a fund balance and reserve accounts that can be used to help offset unforeseen expenses. An appropriate and relatively stable fund balance is one sign of sound financial management and positively affects a district's credit rating.
Implement purchasing procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every staff member with purchasing authority has been trained by the Assistant Superintendent for Business and the Claims Auditor on the proper purchasing procedures. As recommended by the NY State Comptroller's audit, a full-time Purchasing Agent will be hired in 2009-2010 to oversee the purchasing process and to ensure that the district receives the best possible price on goods and services.
Establish a self-imposed cap for the coming fiscal year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a 1.53% budget-to-budget increase and an estimated 2.5% tax levy increase the 2009-2010 budget remains well below the allowable contingency budget amount and below the 4% cap suggested by some NY State lawmakers.

Facilities & Transportation — The school district buildings are a source of pride to the community. In recent years, with the approval of our voters we have made many improvements that allow the district to provide the best possible environment for learning. We will continue to maintain and improve upon our grounds and facilities and to maximize energy efficiencies.

Identified action	District response
Complete current capital improvement projects and the EXCEL project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bids have been awarded for the EXCEL project and work is expected to begin over the summer. There is no cost to taxpayers for this project and items include education technology, accessibility enhancement, school construction/expansion, energy consumption or cost reduction, and health and safety risk reduction or elimination.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2009-2010 budget includes funds to address ongoing repairs and replacement of building infrastructure, new PA & intercom systems in all 3 elementary schools, and a kitchen exhaust upgrade at KPS.
Review of the high school property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The district's architect, Sammel Architecture, has reviewed the high school property and has made recommendations for current and future projects that maximize facility and grounds use.
Provide an updated five-year capital plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The five-year plan has been updated and projects identified in priority order. A maintenance schedule has been implemented that keeps our buildings in good repair and operating as efficiently as possible.
Conduct energy efficiency study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An energy audit has begun and will continue in 2009-2010. Additionally, energy education will be provided for staff members in an effort to reduce energy consumption.

Technology — Recognizing that the use of technology can enhance instruction, provide relevant data regarding our instructional programs and improve district efficiencies, we are committed to the necessary support for a fully integrated Technology Department.

Identified action	District response
Restructure technology department into three areas: instructional technology, data and technical support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While this was accomplished in 2008-09, the Instructional Technology position remains open. As a cost savings measure, for 2009-2010, the position will be filled by utilizing BOCES services and in-district resources.
Expand working relationship with BOCES Regional Information Center to take advantage of systems efficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The district has begun to explore several new initiatives with BOCES including video streaming pilot and website and email maintenance.
Review our technology network infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New security systems and servers have been installed and will continue to be maintained and upgraded as necessary.
Expand technology integration in instructional programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of technology such as SMARTBoards, is ongoing and opportunities for staff training is provided throughout the year. The district has joined the Model School Consortium (LHRIC) to provide specific technology focused professional development.



Board of Ed proposes budget that is lower than the State established contingent budget

New York State requires that school districts establish a contingency spending plan in the event the Board of Education's proposed budget does not receive voter approval.* The law is very specific regarding the limit of the contingent budget-to-budget increase. Should Carmel be required to adopt a contingency budget for the 2009-10 school year, it would carry an increase of no more than 4%.

Under a contingent budget, the district must continue to honor all contracts, all state-mandated items and all items necessary for the educational program, health and safety of students and staff, and the preservation of district property. **Because Carmel's budget-to-budget increase is well below the 4% cap, if the district is obligated to operate under a contingency budget the overall budget amount would not be reduced significantly.** However, the purchase of all equipment including SMART boards and school buses would be eliminated.

What does that mean to the average homeowner in the district? The difference between the proposed budget and the contingent budget is minimal.

** In the event the proposed 2009-10 school budget does not receive voter approval, by law, the Board of Education has two options:*

- The proposed budget may be placed before the voters with or without changes, for a second vote.
- The Board of Education may adopt a contingency budget.

Q&A

What is the difference between budget-to-budget, tax levy and tax rate?

People often confuse the words budget-to-budget, tax levy and tax rate. **Budget-to-Budget** is the amount the budget increases/decreases from one year to the next. The **tax levy** is the amount of money the district needs to generate from the local taxpayers to meet its budget demands. The **tax rate** is the actual amount per thousand that will be used with an individual's property assessment to determine the amount each taxpayer will pay. We cannot state accurately what the tax rate will be until August. This is because the tax rate required to produce the funds required by the tax levy is dependent upon state-provided equalization rates and county provided assessments that are not complete until late summer.

Why do we maintain a fund balance?

The fund balance is very important to the overall financial health of any school district. First, it provides a cushion, or safety net, against the financial uncertainties that affect every organization. It is available to help offset unforeseen expenses such as when utility bills or fuel prices skyrocket. The fund balance allows the district to pay those bills without having to cut other areas of the budget mid-year. Because school revenue does not arrive in equal payments throughout the year, the fund balance also allows us to pay regular monthly expenses such as payroll, supplies, and materials without

having to borrow money during the year. Maintaining a fund balance is also important because it is closely watched by the credit reporting agencies.

What effect do State and Federal mandates have on my taxes?

Extraordinary demands are made on school systems because of these mandates; demands largely implemented only in the past 20 years. These mandated items account directly or indirectly, for a large part of the budget increase and are rarely fully aided. Foremost among these mandates are almost all of Special Education services, employee benefits and pension funding, transportation and books for resident children who attend other schools, and court ordered certiorari payments resulting from a reduction.

NY is doing away with the STAR Rebate program this fiscal year. Is there a difference between the STAR program and the STAR Rebate program?

Yes. The STAR program (New York State's School Tax Relief program) includes the Basic and Enhanced STAR Property Tax Exemptions. Basic STAR is available to anyone who owns and lives in his or her own home. Enhanced STAR is available to senior homeowners whose incomes do not exceed the statewide standard. **These programs will remain intact this year.**

A couple of years ago, NYS initiated the STAR Rebate program, whereby homeowners received a rebate check based upon household income. This rebate program and only the rebate program, will be discontinued by New York State. For more information, visit the New York State Office of Real Property Services website at: <http://www.orps.state.ny.us/star/index.cfm>

Got questions?

Come to a presentation of the 2009-2010 proposed budget on the follow dates:

- **Monday, May 4** – Kent Elementary School (Cafeteria), Route 52, Carmel, NY – 9:30 a.m. (sponsored by the KES Parent Teacher Organization)
- **Tuesday, May 5** – Carmel High School (Library), 30 Fair Street, Carmel, NY – 7:30 p.m. (sponsored by the CHS Parents Association and the GFMS Parent Teacher Association)

- **Wednesday, May 6** – Matthew Paterson Elementary School (Cafeteria), 100 South St., Patterson, NY – 9:30 a.m. (sponsored by the MPES Parent Teacher Organization)
- **Thursday, May 7** – Kent Primary School (Cafeteria), Route 52, Carmel, NY – 7:00 p.m. (sponsored by the KPS Parent Teacher Organization)
- **Tuesday, May 12** – BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING, Board of Education Work Session, Carmel High School (Library), 30 Fair St., Carmel, NY – 7:30 p.m.



Signs of Success: Is the investment paying off?

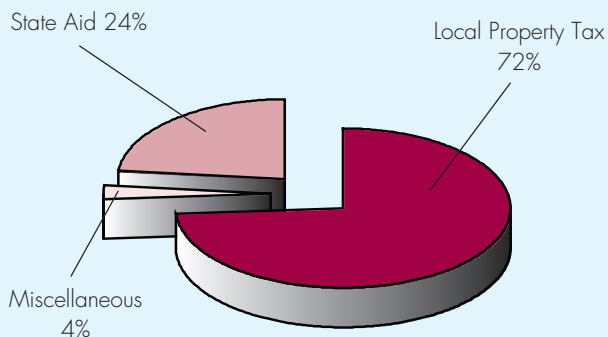
With all the talk about the high cost of education, it's only fair to ask, "Is the investment paying off?" Consider the following as you decide:

- Carmel High School placed among the top 5% of all high schools nationwide. The ranking, published in Newsweek magazine, is based upon the number of students who take Advanced Placement exams. CHS offers 26 AP and college credit courses. Over 31% of CHS juniors and seniors are taking at least one AP or college credit course. Thirty-eight students were named AP Scholars in 2008: 14 were Scholars, 11 were Scholars with Honor and 13 were Scholars with Distinction.
- Four-year graduation rates are up. In the past five years, our one-time four year graduation rates have increased from 75% to 92.6%. This is attributed to careful cohort tracking, increased monitoring of at-risk students and additional academic intervention services in the high school.
- High School academic performance continues to be strong. Last year, our students were successful in passing Regents exams all academic areas including English (99% passed), Math A (92% passed), Math B (92% passed), Integrated Algebra (99% passed), Biology (99% passed), U.S. History and Government (94% passed), French (100% passed), Spanish (99% passed) and Italian (99% passed).
- Academic programs are very rigorous throughout the District. At a time when national business and political leaders warn that the nation must strengthen academic performance, Carmel students shine:
 - ◆ CHS students continue to select higher level math and science courses such as AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Calculus, and AP Statistics.
 - ◆ Students in the CHS Science Research class have earned numerous state and national recognitions. Since its inception six years ago, the class has produced an Intel Science Talent Search finalist and four semi-finalists. This year, Kyle Steike, a high school senior has won numerous awards for his work entitled, "The Effect of Global Warming on the Barnes Ice Cap."
 - ◆ Last year, of the 106 middle school students who took Earth Science, a high school course, 100% passed the Regents exam and of those, 81% achieved mastery with a score of 85% or better.
- ◆ This past year, the percentage of students passing Physics Regents improved from 77% to 86% and the percentage of students passing Math B went from 71% to 92%. This is attributed to the collaborative effort by staff members during their Professional Learning Communities monthly meetings to analyze prior testing information to identify gaps and increasing the level of rigor in the curriculum. Additionally, Math B reviews were offered over the summer for those retaking the Math B Regents exam.
- ◆ Over 96% of our fourth grade students met or exceeded the NY State benchmarks on the science assessments.
- ◆ Last year, 91% of our fourth grade and 94% of our third grade students met or exceeded the standard on the math assessments.
- ◆ From 2007 to 2008, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on mathematics assessments at George Fischer Middle School improved by 13-15 percentage points for each grade level.
- ◆ The percentage of George Fischer Middle School students meeting or exceeding standards on ELA assessments improved by 6-9 percentage points for each grade level from 2007 to 2008.
- Academic support programs and staff development efforts pay off for students at risk of failure.
 - ◆ In the second year of our extended day kindergarten for at-risk students 100% have made significant progress towards grade level benchmarks and 9 improved so much that they exited the program mid-year.
 - ◆ One hundred percent of students who attended the Elementary Summer Reading program have maintained or made progress.
 - ◆ Ongoing work with LiLife continues to strengthen our ELA program. District 4th grade scores increased another 5 points last year.
- ◆ With the addition of the Response to Intervention (RTI) program, literacy benchmarking and progress monitoring ensures that student needs are identified early and that effective programs are in place to aid learning.
- Carmel continues to provide a well-rounded education for all students.
 - ◆ Over 3300 students are involved in music classes each day. Middle school and high school music students participate in winter and spring concerts, the annual Mooney Memorial Pops concert, the Chris Canniff Memorial Scholarship concert, as well as numerous community and extra-curricular groups and ensembles. Many students are selected for regional and state performances.
 - ◆ Student artwork is recognized throughout the area, the State and the nation and students consistently win top honors in the Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest, the National Duck Stamp Contest, the Putnam Arts Council All-County Student Art Show, the Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce Art Exhibit, the Katonah Museum Artists Exhibit and the Garrison Art Center Student Art Show.
 - ◆ Carmel fields 69 athletic teams involving almost 1,400 students. Several teams go onto post-season play. Since spring 2008 teams participating in varsity post-season play included Softball, Boys & Girls Track, Baseball, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Football, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Gymnastics, Boys & Girls Winter Track, Boys & Girls Skiing and Boys Bowling. Members of the teams for Wrestling, Boys & Girls Winter Track, Boys & Girls Skiing and Boys Bowling participated in State competitions.
 - ◆ Many students are involved in a host of after-school activities and clubs in both the high school and the middle school. These include Dance, Art Academic Triathlon, Student Organizations, Yearbook, Digital Media Club, Foreign Language clubs, Future Business Leaders of America, the Human Rights Club, National Honor Society, Interact, Italian-American Club, Peer Assistance Leaders, Photography, Science, Rock Club, and student newspapers.

Proposed Budget 2009-2010

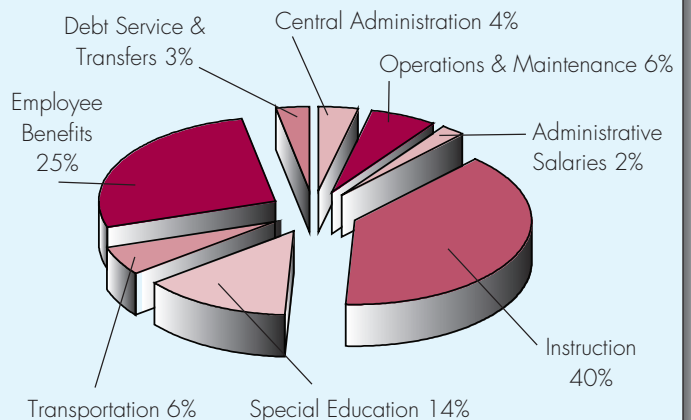
Administrative	2009-2010	2008-2009	VARIANCE	% CHANGE
Board of Ed	41,538	38,835	2,703	
Central Admin.	294,023	280,771	13,252	
Finance	1,197,231	1,053,530	143,701	
Legal Services	180,000	110,000	70,000	
Personnel	452,250	455,500	-3,250	
Records Mgmt.	30,100	29,600	500	
Public Information	117,411	114,145	3,266	
Other Cent. Serv.	358,171	356,471	1,700	
Other Spec. Items	1,099,045	1,012,989	86,056	
Curriculum Devel. & Support	341,147	373,751	-32,604	
Supervisory Reg. School	2,177,500	2,179,765	-2,265	
Research, Eval. & Plan.	126,600	141,600	-15,000	
Employee Benefits	1,925,010	2,089,698	-164,688	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	8,340,026	8,236,655	103,371	1.26%
Program	2009-2010	2008-2009	VARIANCE	% CHANGE
Legal Services	50,000	30,000	20,000	
Instruction	55,183,255	53,405,486	1,777,769	
Other Dist. Transportation	4,708,250	4,456,267	251,983	
Garage Bldg.	609,200	603,460	5,740	
Community Service	126,500	120,000	6,500	
Employee Benefits	22,654,583	23,518,869	-864,286	
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	83,331,788	82,134,082	1,197,706	1.46%
Capital	2009-2010	2008-2009	VARIANCE	% CHANGE
Operation of Plant	6,540,800	6,271,066	269,734	
Judgements & Claims	95,000	30,000	65,000	
Refund of Taxes	300,000	200,000	100,000	
Purchase of Buses	496,000	654,000	-158,000	
Debt Service	3,257,725	3,259,581	-1,856	
Transfer to Capital	100,000	0	100,000	
Employee Benefits	1,663,021	1,769,458	-106,437	
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET	12,452,546	12,184,105	268,441	2.20%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$104,124,361	\$102,554,842	\$1,569,519	1.53%

Where does the money come from?



* Miscellaneous includes facilities use fees, tuitions, sale of property and BOCES refunds

Where does the money go?



BUDGET VOTE MAY 19, 2009 – 6 AM TO 9 PM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To vote, you must be registered for school elections (separately from general elections). To be eligible to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.

REGISTRATION DATES:

1. Regular business days between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM through Thursday, May 14th at the District Office, 81 South St. Patterson, NY.
3. If registered for general elections, you are eligible to register for the school vote in person at the district office by Thursday, May 14, or at the voting polls on the day of the vote (May 19) during voting hours. NOTE: You must be registered for general elections with the Board of Elections in your county of residence (either Putnam County or Dutchess County) by May 14, 2009. Putnam Co. Board of Elections: 845 278-6970; Dutchess County Board of Elections: 845 486-2473.

If you have any questions, please call Susan Dieck at 845-878-2094, ext. 202.

VOTING LOCATIONS:

Residents of the town of Patterson
Matthew Paterson Elementary School, South Street, Patterson. 845 878-3211

Residents of the towns of Kent and East Fishkill
Kent Elementary School, Route 52, Carmel. 845 225-5029

Residents of the towns of Carmel, Putnam Valley and Southeast
Carmel High School, 30 Fair Street, Carmel. 845 225-8441

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

A more detailed copy of the proposed budget that includes an administrative salary statement, the school district report card, a tax exemption report, and a property tax report card is available for inspection at each school building and in the district office during the school day and at public libraries within the district. The proposed budget in detail can be found on our website at <http://www.carmelschools.com> It will also be available at the Annual Public Hearing scheduled for 7:30 pm, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in the Carmel High School Library.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

Registered voters can apply for absentee ballots by calling Susan Dieck, District Clerk at 845 878-2094, ext. 202.

ABSENTEE APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- By mail: Application must be received by the district clerk by May 12, 2009.
- In person: Application must be received by the district clerk by May 18, 2009.

After confirmation of the applicant's registration status, a ballot will be issued. Completed ballot must be received by 5 pm on May 19, 2009.



School Board Candidates

Two seats are up for election. All residents may vote on the two available seats, as well as the district's budget. The seats are for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012 and will be filled by the candidates who receive the most votes.

Check our website at <http://www.carmelschools.com> for a listing of candidates.

Our parent organizations are hosting "Meet the Candidates" on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the George Fischer Middle School Auditorium, 281 Fair St., Carmel, NY

The Carmel Schoolhouse News 

Carmel Central School District
Administration Building
81 South Street, P.O. Box 296
Patterson, New York 12563

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

- Richard Kreps, *President*
- Greg Riley, *Vice President*
- Jennifer Dougherty
- James MacDonald
- Heyam Nesheiwat
- Steve Port
- William Shilling

Dr. James M. Ryan, *Superintendent of Schools*
Susan Dieck, *Editor/Photographer*

RURAL OR CITY ROUTE
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