

Tiger News

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School Budget Developed with Parent, Community Input

HOW WAS THE SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPED?

- Conducted a **parent and community survey**.
- Survey answers used to frame a **focus group** discussion with randomly selected community members.
- **Analysis of surveys results** and transcripts of focus group meeting used to develop budget priorities.
- Starting with zero dollars, every staff member was asked to **submit budget requests**.
- Budget requests submitted reviewed by either the building principal or the program manager. Revisions made at this point.
- Principals and program managers met with the Superintendent and Business Administrator to review all requests. **Additional revisions made** at this point.
- Finance Committee of the Board of Education met with the Superintendent and Business Administrator to review the budget and **revise any areas they do not believe reflect the communities' desires for the school system**.
- Budget submitted to the County School Business Administrator for review and approval.

Before the budget reaches the community for a vote, approximately \$85,000 of requested items have been removed.

WHAT IS IN THE SCHOOL BUDGET?

The majority of the school budget consists of items that are **mandated, or required costs**. More specifically, the budget contains the following mandated costs:

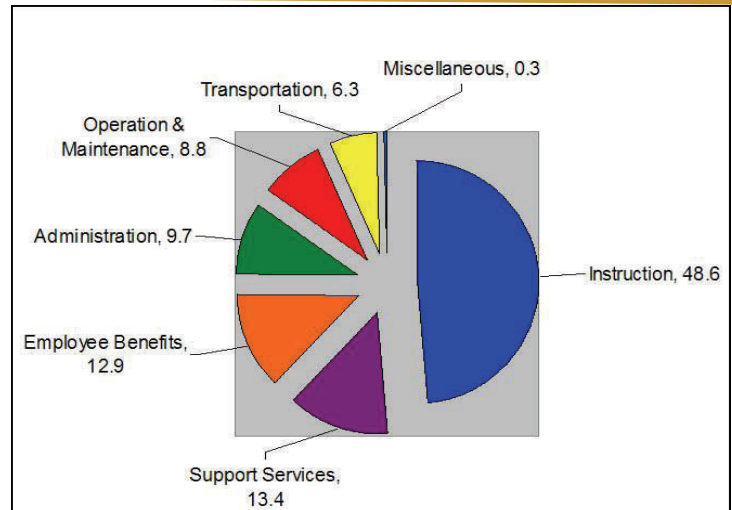
- \$4,563,435 for general education salaries
- \$1,781,658 for special education salaries
- \$908,082 for medical/dental insurance
- \$399,995 for student transportation
- \$155,500 for FICA/PERS Pension
- \$138,000 for electric
- \$107,313 for liability/property/workers compensation insurance
- \$79,000 for heat
- \$39,000 for wastewater/well water operations/testing
- \$18,500 for telephone/postage
- \$16,000 for auditor

Approximately 92% of the school budget is for mandated costs.

SO WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Appropriations can be categorized as follows:

- **48.6% for instruction** (textbooks, teacher salaries, technology, classroom supplies.)
- **13.4% for support services** (Child Study Team, Counselors, Speech, Nurses, Occupational & Physical Therapist.)
- **12.9% for employee benefits**
- **9.7% for administration** (Administrator's salaries, secretaries salaries, auditor, telephone, postage, insurance.)
- **8.8% for operations and maintenance**
- **6.3% for transportation**
- **.3% miscellaneous expenditures**



WHAT DOES THIS BUDGET MEAN FOR ME?

Despite no increase in state aid, the district has developed a budget that would result in a 1% increase compared to the 2008-2009 total budget. This translates into a \$48/year increase per \$300,000 of assessed home value.

The increase for a home owner with a property assessed at \$300,000 would be a \$4 per month increase. This is the lowest proposed increase in school taxes in four years.

WHAT HAPPENS TO A DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET?

If the school budget is defeated, it goes to the town council for review. The town council will then determine the amount of money to be removed from the budget. In addition to the amount, town council members will recommend the items to reduce or eliminate. The Board of Education will consider the recommendations and will make the required reductions in expenditures.

A budget defeat does not necessarily mean there will be no increase in property taxes. Instead, it means that the budget will be reduced by the amount required by the town council. Cuts could be made to discretionary funds such as instruction, classroom technology and professional development for teachers.

WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE?

The polling hours are between 7 A.M. and 9 P.M. Voting takes place in Alexandria Middle School's small gymnasium. Voting takes place on April 21st.



WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

You may contact either, Dr. Matthew Jennings, Superintendent of Schools, or Ms. Barbara Prowker, School Business Administrator at 908-996-6811.

**IMPORTANT
BUDGET
INFORMATION
ENCLOSED!**

**Vote on Tuesday,
April 21st
at Alexandria Middle School
7 am—9 pm**

**Alexandria Township
Schools**

557 County Road 513
Pittstown, NJ 08867

